

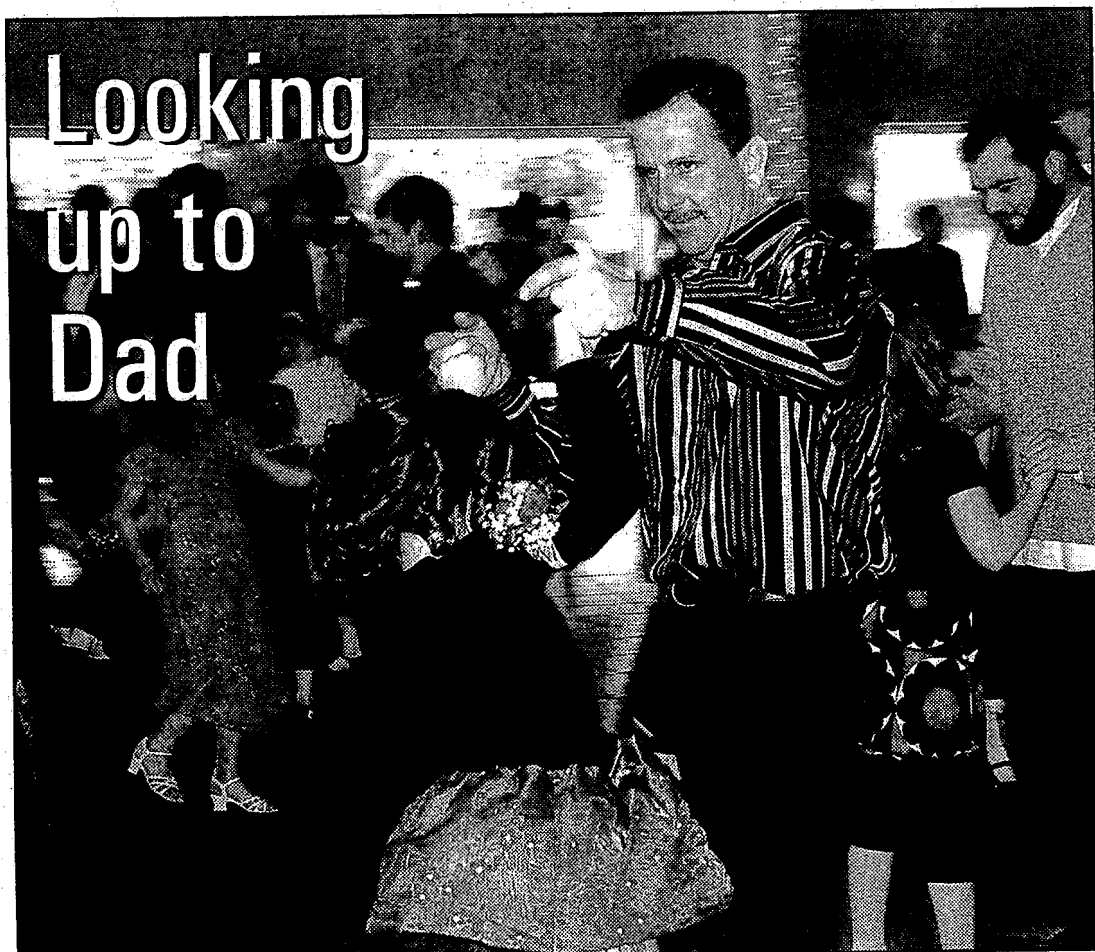


Local skater overcomes obstacles to make world competition, page 1B

Vol. 80 No. 18 Wed., February 11, 2009

2 Sections 48 pages 50¢

Looking up to Dad



Tom Purves swings his daughter Alley around the dance floor at Clarkston school's Daddy-Daughter Dance. Please see more photos on page 28A. Photo by Trevor Keiser

School board resistant to change

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
 Clarkston News Editor

Trustee Susan Boatman was surprised when her motion to reschedule school board elections was tabled.

"I brought it up in October," Boatman said at Monday's Clarkston Board of Education meeting. "People asked for additional time to think about it, and I set a January date."

The board voted 5-2 to table her proposal to change May elections to November. Boatman and board Treasurer Joe Armstrong voted against.

"We don't have enough information," said board Secretary Ronald Sullivan, who moved to

table. "We've had one set of information, one discussion. This decision doesn't have to be made right now. Other things take higher priority."

Trustees Joan Patterson and Barry Bomier said their vote to table does not mean they oppose the idea.

"I was ready to support it, but if any member wants extra time, I support that," Patterson said.

"I tend to support it, but I want to make sure we make the right decision," said Bomier. "Should we have elections in even years, off years, every year?"

The issue isn't tabled indefinitely, he said.

Terasa Harris, Clarkston

school's parent and Oakland County government employee, and Chris Ward, representing Oakland County Clerk's office, addressed the school board in support of the change.

The change would save more than \$30,000 per election and increase voter turnout, they said.

"Change is never easy, but the public deserves to have every tax dollar valued as much as possible," Ward said.

"Your vote tonight will let people know how responsible you are with their money," said Harris.

A good time to revisit the issue is this summer at the board's organizational meeting, said board President Stephen Hyer.

Snow patrol coming to town

BY LAURA COLVIN
 Clarkston News Staff Writer

Clear your sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall or we're coming after you.

That's the message from the Clarkston City Council, who once again addressed a sidewalk ordinance that isn't being enforced.

"I'm looking for a consistent approach so the message is clear," said Councilman Jim Brueck at Monday's meeting. "We expect people to understand and respond to the ordinance; if the snow's not off the sidewalk in 24 hours, there's going to be an ordinance enforcement officer knocking on the door, or a letter in the mail, indicating they have an obligation to remove the snow. Otherwise

we'll do it, and we'll charge them."

Last May, the council adopted Ordinance 140, part of which requires removal of snow from sidewalks:

"It is the responsibility of all owners or occupants of property adjacent to public sidewalks to maintain them free of ice, snow or other hazardous conditions and obstructions that hinder the use of the sidewalk as a means for public pedestrian traffic, and to remove ice, snow and other obstructions or hazardous conditions within 24 hours of their initial occurrences," the document reads.

Language in the revised ordinance, members say, is similar to language from previous Ordinance

Please see Snow on page 4A

Serving students

BY LAURA COLVIN
 Clarkston News Staff Writer

Superintendent Al Roberts wants to know why so many Clarkston kids are identified with special education needs.

Of the approximate 8,200 students currently attending Clarkston Community Schools, 1,162 children and young adults—14.11 percent of the district's student population—qualify for and receive special education services.

"I've asked Jodi (Yeloushan) to study this a little further," Roberts told the school board during a recent presentation on special education in the district.

"It seems, in comparison to districts nationwide, we're a little high in our identification."

Locally, Lake Orion and Oxford had lower numbers by comparison, as well; each provides special ed services to 12 percent of their respective populations.

Yeloushan, student support services executive director, presented the numbers both with and without students receiving speech therapy—roughly half of elementary-age students who receive special education services only qualify for help with speech difficulties. When the problem is corrected, they no longer receive services.

Still, Roberts said, the higher percentage was worth looking into.

"I'm sure other districts count speech in the numbers," he said. "I'd like to know what our speech numbers are in comparison to other districts."

But while numbers in Clarkston are higher, students undergo an extensive, multi-stage process before qualifying for services, Yeloushan said.

"As an educator, you don't go seeking out special education students. There are very specific guidelines. Please see Learning on page 27A

Faded Ink

The Clarkston News

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Tune in Springfield Township, says Trout

BY LAURA COLVIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Want to watch as budget amendments, ordinance revisions and site plan reviews unfold at the hands of local elected officials?

As plans to broadcast township board meetings and other events approach fruition, Springfield Township officials hope it won't be long before residents will tune in the local cable channel and watch from the comfort of home.

"It's something most people agree needs to be done," said township Supervisor Mike Trout. "I think it's important we get the word out; the more information we can get to the public, the better. We have a cable station and we should maximize use of it to benefit the community."

The township currently has about \$270,700 in its cable fund. The money—public, educational, and government (PEG) funds—come from franchise agreements with cable television providers.

In Springfield, Comcast, and to a lesser extent, AT&T, pay a quarterly percentage based on gross annual receipts in the community.

But there's a catch: the money can only be used for certain things, such as the purchase of equipment and production of PEG programming.



"I think it's important we get the word out; the more information we can get to the public, the better."

- Mike Trout

Trout said he was looking into a number of different avenues for getting the meetings on cable.

The township, he said, could make an investment and use PEG funds to purchase its own equipment and do the recording and editing in-house, or contract with an outside vendor.

While the Springfield Township Civic Center was originally equipped to record meetings, the electronics have gone out of date since building completion in 2002, he said.

"We're trying to inventory and evaluate what we have in terms of equipment," Trout explained. "The problem is that most of it is old now; some is even VHS equipment. Obviously that's not something we want to get into in the digital age. Even the cameras in the board room are basically just surveillance cameras."

The rapid pace at which such equipment goes out of date, said Trout, was one reason he preferred to contract the service out.

"I'm leaning toward someone who has the equipment and can film it, edit it, and provide it to us," he said. "That way, we can at least see what's involved before we get into a huge investment."

Contracting the service out, he said, would likely cost "a couple hundred dollars" per meeting, while purchasing cameras and other equipment could quickly add up to \$50,000 or more.

Springfield Township Treasurer Jamie Dubre said she agrees with the idea of broadcasting meetings and other events on cable, but thinks the options should be evaluated carefully.

"We do have money we could spend, and we've been talking about it for years," she said. "The question is how to go about it. It needs to be slow; I'd hate to see us spend a significant amount of money on equipment or service that isn't going to be any good."

Dubre said she thought the township would be best served by initially purchasing cameras, and exploring options from there.

"We talked about looking to see if we could get someone from the schools (to record meetings)," she said. "I haven't seen any evidence that anyone's done that yet."

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Briefly . . . Hyer runs for school board re-election

Clarkston Board of Education President Stephen Hyer is signed up to run for re-election, while board Trustee Ronald Sullivan was still undecided, Monday evening.

"I don't know yet. I'll make the decision tomorrow," Sullivan said.

Hyer is running for his third term.

"When I joined the board, there were a lot of veteran board members who helped get me up to speed," Hyer said. "Now I have a lot of training and experience that I think I can bring to the table and pass on to others."

Campaigning for a seat will also be Michelle Beck of Davisburg.

Candidates had until 4 p.m., Tuesday, to register with the county. Two four-year seats on the school board are up for a vote in the May 5 election.

Parks survey seeks opinions

As part of updating the Independence Township Parks and Recreation's Master Plan, the Parks and Rec department is asking residents to take the online survey to know what people think about programs it offers.

A link to the survey will be on the Parks and Rec's website, www.itpr.org, or www.twp.independence.mi.us.

Civil War collection up for auction

The Walter A. Gamble lifetime collection of Civil War firearms and memorabilia will be sold at auction, 12 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 21, at Sedows Auction Galleries, 20 W. Washington St., Suite 9.

Previews of the collection, which includes 48 pistols and revolvers, 30 rifles, and 21 sabres and knives, are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 18-20.

For more information, call 248-625-7755.

Call us with news,
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Expert teaches tax tribunal tips

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

When it comes to filing an appeal on your assessment value of your house, it helps to know what you're talking about.

"Don't appeal your value unless you know what you're appealing," said Michael Lohmeier.

Lohmeier, Michigan Certified General Real Estate Appraiser and former tax tribunal judge, hosted a Feb. 5 seminar, "Understanding Property Assessments and Appeal Procedures" at the Carriage House, Clintonwood Park.

When people receive their assessment notice, they should check it as soon as possible.

"You know your house," he said. "And if you know your square footage, your bathroom count, finished basements or whether you have a basement or not, check the records to see what they say."

Your assessment notice will have your assessed and taxable values.

"Assessed value times two is what they think the market value is. Tax value times two is the pocketbook value," he said.

Questions to keep in mind when reviewing the assessment notice include:

What is the disparity between assessed and taxable value? Is assessment record correctly reflecting property? What do you believe property is worth and in terms of taxable value?

"Don't go in there and say 'my assessment is wrong and let me compare my as-



Michael Lohmeier presents information on how to take on tax issues. Photo by Trevor Keiser

essment to my neighbor's assessment because that's where it should be," he said. "You have to bring in some price and cost information. Bring in some factual information that supports your contention of the properties value."

According to Michigan law, property assessment must not exceed 50 percent of the true cash value.

"You never have a second chance to make a good first impression," Lohmeier said. "So always prepare before you appeal, prepare for your appeal, and prepare an appeal of your appeal"

Important dates: Dec. 31, for end-of-the-year taxes, local boards of review meet in March, and July 31, the deadline to file for the Michigan tax tribunal.

"It's your responsibility to know those dates (of the March board of review) and to

make an appearance," said Lohmeier. "Some municipalities accept in writing appeals and some municipalities don't."

The tax tribunal's small-claims division handles residential, poverty, and PRE exemption cases. The entire tribunal handles complex, commercial, and industrial appeal cases, as well as personal property classification and valuation cases.

"A lot of times, if you don't have an attorney in a full-tribunal case, petitioners like to volunteer stuff so much earlier than they have too. They give so much more information than they should, and they do all these things that they ought not," said Lohmeier. "A good property tax attorney will do things timely, properly, and appropriately."

For more information, visit www.michigan.gov and type tax tribunal in the search box.

Local leaders thinking of stimulus ideas

BY KATHLEEN QUANDT
Clarkston News Intern Writer

While the federal government argues over billions in stimulus, local leaders prepare lists of possible projects just in case.

Clarkston Schools and Springfield and Independence Townships have been compiling lists of projects they would like to pursue if they received federal stimulus money.

It is uncertain what funding they will receive, but the focus is on sending in the paperwork in hopes to qualify.

Springfield Township Supervisor Mike Trout said they are focusing on non-transportation projects such as Dixie Highway, trail ways, and pathways.

"I wanted to put some projects on the radar screen," Trout said.

Although the locations have not been finalized and the projects are not ready to go, Trout wanted to put some projects on the radar screen. He is not confident that anything will happen, he said.

David Wagner, supervisor of Independence Township, said two main projects are a highway bridge and roundabout on Sashabaw Road, and sewer reconstruction around some lakes.

Estimated cost of the bridge and roundabout, infrastructure work for McLaren's Health Care Village project, is \$12-14 million. The sewer project costs \$15-20 million.

"Those are our two biggest things that we would really like to get done," Wagner said. "The sewers are something you need when you talk about pollution in the lakes from the septic systems. It is pretty impor-

tant to see if we can get something accomplished there."

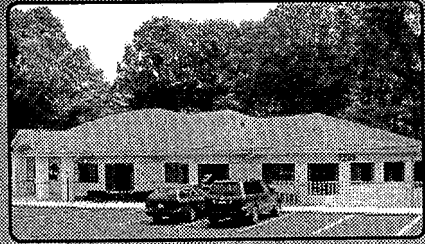
Clarkston Community Schools' projects would be in six areas, Title I grants, technology, teacher incentives, special education, and school repair and modernization, said Anita Banach, director of communications and marketing.

State Rep. Eileen Kowall requested the project list from Clarkston and other local school districts.

Kowall said she is politically against federal stimulus.

"It will just create more debt," she said. However, she wants a list in case funds became available.

"I hope the money is distributed equally across the state, not just to one city or region," she said.



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Sewer project blocked

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Workers got 27 feet into a drain-repair project on Washington St. before they had to stop.

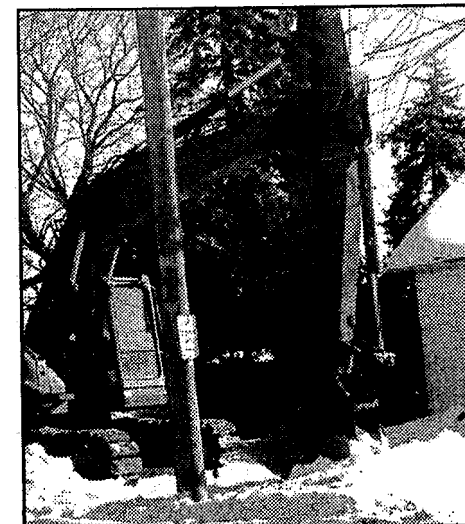
"There's a 15-inch diameter piece of concrete that's flowed downstream from the failure and gotten crossways in the sewer. The only way to fix it is with excavation," said Gary Tressel of Hubble, Roth, and Clark engineering firm at Monday's Clarkston City Council meeting.

Clarkston won in court easement rights this past Wednesday to fix the collapsed drain on homeowner Norm Cristea's property.

Independence Township Water and Sewer contractors removed trees and dug test holes, discovering a blockage north of the property, upstream from the catch basin on the Clarkston Mills property.

"They came back and tried to go again to the north and were unable to do that," said Tressel, who called Tri-County Power Rodding to clear it, but they couldn't.

"The upstream manhole is not available to drop the cable down and pull the rodder through," he said. "They tried to do a sewer jet through it and weren't able to get through."



Equipment stands ready to work.

With new obstacles, the city may have to get an easement agreement from Clarkston Mills property owner Ed Adler, who is in Florida, after all. His partner, Bob Roth, who has not seen any site plans, agreed to meet with all involved to get the drain fixed.

"We appreciate everyone's cooperation," said Mayor Stephen Arkwright. "It is a serious issue and we do need to move on it."

Clear snow, city warns

Continued from page 1A

8, adopted in 1915

"It's been on the books for years," Brueck said. "The way it's enforced now, there's no consequence for not shoveling, so, with some people, if they don't feel like it, they just don't shovel. Maybe after they get a bill for, say \$100, they'll think 'maybe I'll do that next time.'"

Brueck, who noted he wasn't trying to be "onerous," said he, like others, enjoys walking about the city with his dog.

"It's frustrating," he said. "A lot of us like to walk. We have an aging population, and many people who use sidewalks are a means of getting around. In some places, the snow hasn't been shoveled for weeks and you literally have to walk in the street. The safety and liability of our citizens is at risk and if we're not taking due diligence, then shame on us."

Members of the council discussed particular areas of concern, including the corner of Miller and Holcomb, parts of West Washington, and sections of Church Street. Homes and businesses near Clarkston Road and Main Street were also an issue.

"The house on the east corner of Clarkston Road and Main Street is close to impassable," said Councilman Cory Johnston, who rewrote the 1915 ordinance and worked to push it through the adoption process. "They plowed snow from their driveway on Clarkston Road over the sidewalk and people have trudged a

path through it."

The council, who were all in agreement the ordinance needed stricter enforcement, discussed a number of ideas for promoting compliance.

City Attorney Tom Ryan recommended keeping the operation in-house. He also suggested making a focused effort, rather than trying to attack the whole problem at once.

"Maybe what you need to do is pick the top 10 worst offenders, and hopefully word will get out," he said. "It's frustrating, I know, but to address every issue would take a lot of intensive man hours."

Ordinance violators, Ryan noted, would be charged with a civil infraction and required to appear before a judge in the 52-2 District Court.

Mayor Steve Arkwright asked that meeting minutes reflect the council's direction to City Manager Dennis Ritter: increase observance, involve the police more and monitor the situation for improvement. The downtown business area will be addressed later, Arkwright added.

Ritter told the council a lien could be placed on offending properties until the matter was cleared up.

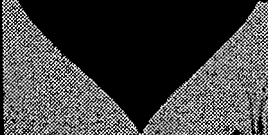
Elderly or physically handicapped residents who need assistance with snow removal can call Clarkston City Councilwoman Kristy Ottman, who works with St. Daniel's Catholic Church to assign the work to local volunteers. Ottman can be reached at 248-625-0584.

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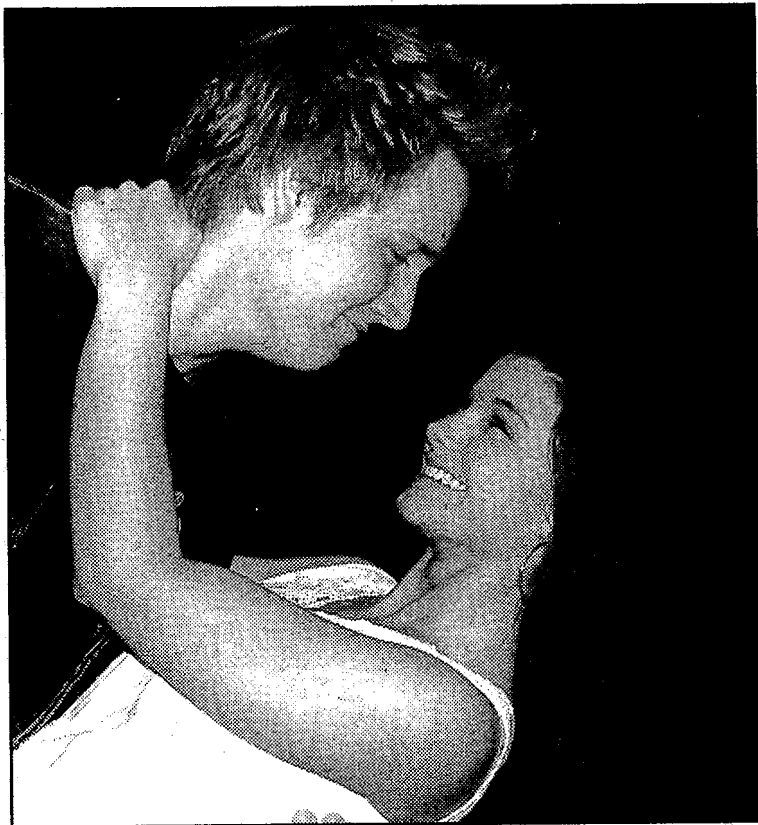
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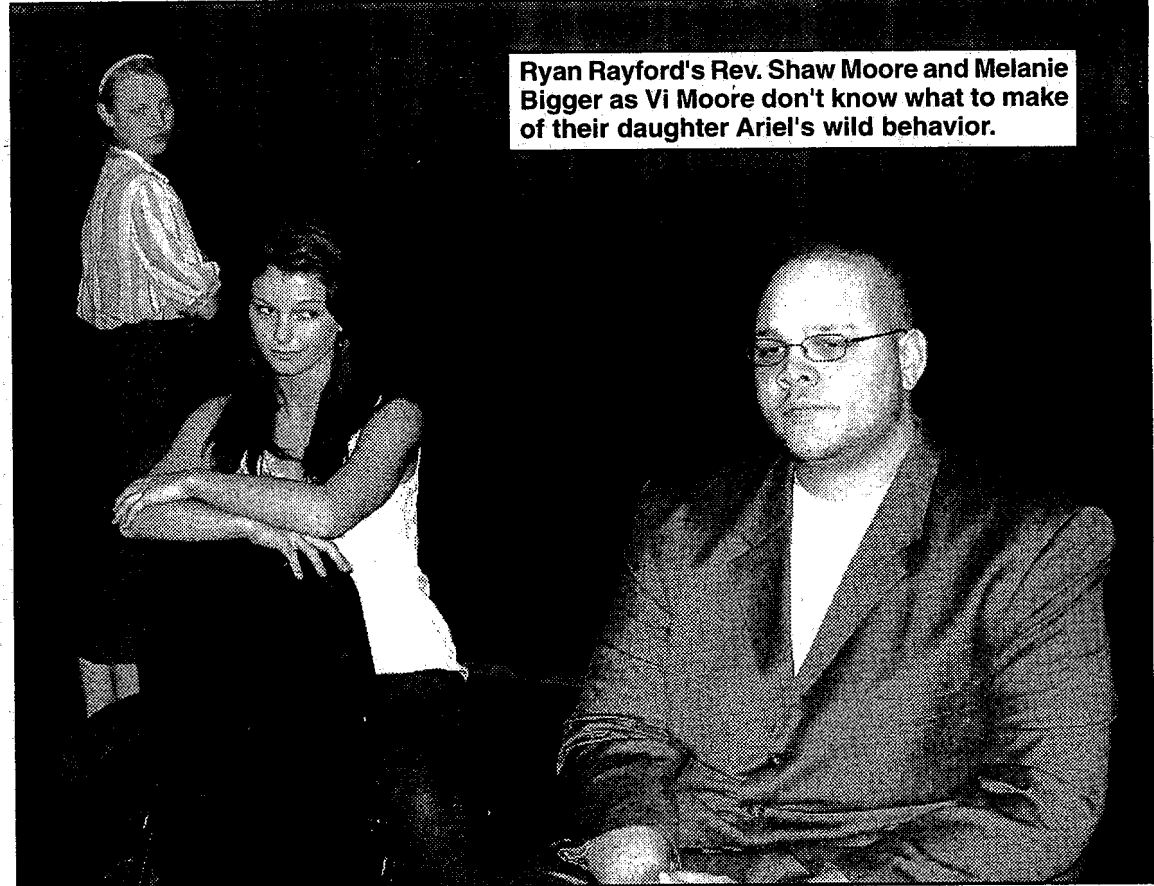
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Kenny Nelson as Ren McCormack and Megan Peterson's Ariel Moore enjoy a dance in Clarkston High School Drama Club's "Footloose."



Ryan Rayford's Rev. Shaw Moore and Melanie Bigger as Vi Moore don't know what to make of their daughter Ariel's wild behavior.

'Kick off your Sunday shoes'

Everybody cuts loose for this year's high school musical, as "Footloose" hits the stage.

Clarkston High School's Drama Club performs a stage musical based on the 1984 Kevin Bacon film.

"I wanted to do a show popular with students and also something I think the community will like," said Jeff Tice, drama club teacher.

"They're great, a phenomenal cast," he said. "They really enjoy being together. It's just been a joy.

The stage version has actors singing songs from the film's soundtrack, including "Holding Out

for a Hero," "Dancing in the Streets," and "Footloose," along with new tunes written for the show.

"We've been working really hard for months," said Megan Peterson, playing Ariel Moore.

This is Peterson's first lead role, along with Kenny Nelson as Ren McCormack, who was played by Bacon in the film. But don't expect an impression of him.

"I never saw the movie," Nelson said. "I wanted to take the role and bring to it what I feel, and try not to compromise it."

Peterson watched it along with other members of the drama club.

"I'll use it for inspiration but put my own spin on it," she said.

The club has been working on the musical since Nov. 1.

"It's a labor of love. It really is," he said.

Curtain calls for the show, adaptation by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie, music by Tom Snow, lyrics by Dean Pitchford, are 7:30 p.m., Feb. 26-28; and 2 p.m. matinee, Feb. 28, at Clarkston High School Performing Arts Center

Tickets are \$10/adults, \$8 students and senior citizens. For reservations, call 248-623-4024.

- Phil Custodio



Kyle Catalano as Coach Roger Dunbar makes life difficult for Ren.

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Phil in the Blank

A column by Phil Custodio

Serving those who served

Clarkston community activist Tom Stone (he loves being called things like that) has a new mission. Reading news reports of increasing suicides and psychological trauma among returning veterans, he is networking with folks all over the community, looking for ideas on how to help.

"No soldier returns from a war without some scars: some of these are physical and some are psychological or emotional," Stone wrote in his email. "Whatever their challenges, and those faced by their families, they all need our support."

My ideas, also shared by other members of the network, include welcome-home articles in the paper. I've done a few about local soldiers overseas, but not many featuring them when they get back.

One of Stone's respondents had a disturbing point to make about that idea: "Just to let you know, that is frowned upon to some degree by the military. In fact family members (me) were all told before the guys left that if we are ever contacted to not speak to anyone and contact their public relations guy. I think that is a contributing factor as to why there are not more personal stories. It is a great way to bring things to public notice though."

This is sad. I suppose the military might be sensitive to media contact with troops without official oversight. Some national news coverage has been more than unfair to our soldiers and Marines.

But as the local community newspaper, we're not interested in exposing war crimes of the Bush administration or leaking classified information in a quest for a Pulitzer.

We just want to let people here at home know a little about what service members have been through, recognizing their sacrifice and hard work.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been going on for a long time, and, with the new administration, may or may not be winding down. If you are or know someone who is a local returning veteran, let us know.

We want to put you in the paper, not because you're a big war hero, but because people care to know. And if seeing your story helps out another veteran who sees it, so much the better.



The Clarkston News Viewpoints

Confidence lacking in DPW

Dear editor,

In regards to "Township set to pay per flush," Jan. 28 edition:

Hopefully Ms. Linda Richardson, director of Department of Public Works, can accurately charge residents of the township for their water and sewer use.

The Department of Public Works has done a poor job so far, shown by the accumulation of millions of extra dollars, which it recently loaned to a different township account for the purchase of the new, overpriced Township Hall.

No increase would be necessary in our water/sewer bills for years to come if the DPW would have used the millions of excess funds

collected to pay down the increases coming from Oakland County.

It doesn't seem right that DPW is considering raising our bills, after having found it had collected too much money over the years, which it loaned for a pet project completely unrelated to DPW specific issues.

It would be good to know if DPW could have anticipated the upcoming county rate increases, before allowing the supervisor and general fund to plunder its DPW specific reserves.

Jeff Gibbs

Independence Township

Letter received through our website, Clarkstonnews.com.

Letters to the editor

Keep asking questions, trustees

Dear editor,

In your recent article "Trustees struggle with bid approval process", Jan. 14, an interesting choice of words were used by an Independence Township official regarding the bid approval process for the controversial new Independence Township Hall.

Newly elected trustees were met with resistance when questioning the bid approval process for renovations at the new township hall building.

Surprisingly, one long time township official exclaimed: "To bring it up at this point, (the bid process) I don't see any useful purpose in it. We have purchased that building, we are going forward with it and to second guess what we did doesn't serve any good purpose. If anything, it was rather divisive."

Even after the township hall purchase fiasco, some officials still don't seem to get it. Like or not, the money that "We" spend is the property of taxpayers and the use of "our" tax dollars is always subject to scrutiny by the public and "our" elected Trustees. Those that continue to believe otherwise have no place in public service.

Against our wishes, "we" bought that building and "our" elected representatives have every the right to ask questions about how "our" tax dollars are being spent at any

point in the process. Especially considering that "we" voted down previous millages for a new town hall.

When township officials met in a closed session to purchase a building with "our" tax dollars that are now being mortgaged from the taxes that were collected from "us" for water and sewers, "our" input and questions about the purchase were secondary to the wishes of township officials. Now it's not okay for our elected representatives to ask questions either?

Apparently some still think that there is no good time to ask questions about how tax dollars are being spent in Independence Township, even when they are being asked by our own elected officials.

When public policy discourages questions from our own elected officials, I'm reminded of the saying, "Power corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely."

To those elected officials still asking questions...I hope your determination to protect the public is not discouraged by the outrageous comments made by those that have chosen to ignore the wishes of the people.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Michael Powell
Independence Township

A Look Back

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1994

"Award-winning artist calls Independence home" Russell Cobane, a well-known wildlife painter that lives in Independence Township, began his art career at Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. He paints with acrylics, and some paintings measure up to 3 x 5 feet.

"The Fridge heats up winter" Michigan's first refrigerated toboggan run opened to the public and Oakland County Parks and Recreation hopes to keep it open through March. It is operational in temperatures up to 45 degrees.

"Skiers on way to MHSAA regionals" The Clarkston High School skiers will travel to Mt. Holly for the MHSAA regionals to compete against other high-school skiers in southern Michigan. The top two teams from each of four divisions will travel to the state finals at Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville.

25 years ago - 1984

"Valentine's wedding - and baby?" An Independence Township couple got married on Valentine's Day in Hell, Mich., 14 years ago. The birth of Pat and Larry Johnson's first child was two weeks shy of their anniversary. They were in college when they were first married, and Hell, Mich. was one of the first places they dated.

"Fleet buys Riverside" Paramed Inc. owners of Fleet and Suburban ambulance companies bought Riverside Ambulance for an undisclosed sum. Riverside has serviced Independence and Springfield townships for at least nine years.

"Singer makes her TV debut" Her singing career barely a year old, Gina Roselli makes her television debut Feb. 15. She will be featured in the young talent segment of "Good Afternoon, Detroit", the channel 7 program hosted by John Kelly and Marilyn Turner.

50 years ago - 1959

"World Day of Prayer Friday, Feb. 13" The World Day of Prayer will be held at the First Baptist Church of Clarkston, Friday, Feb. 13. A tea will be served by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Baptist Church following the event.

"Independence has more champions" Gary Armstrong and Larry Saiz are on their way to bigger things after the Golden Glove Matches last weekend in Pontiac. With both of them having two matches and coming out on top each time they are now eligible to compete in Grand Rapids for the state titles.

Write a Letter to the Editor!

We'll edit them for spelling, grammar, punctuation, clarity and length. Please sign your letter and include a daytime phone for verifications. Deadline is noon, Monday. Send them to 55 S. Main Street, Clarkston, MI 48346; fax to 248-625-0706; or e-mail Clarkstonnews@gmail.com

Redefining 'ethics,' but understanding 'change'

Sorry Jottings readers, but I'm impelled to get into the presidential appointing process that's nearing its 30th day.

We all know about Hillary's background, which hardly qualifies her for what we've always thought is our negotiator to the world, but we've made excuses for her.

Then came President Obama's nominee for Secretary of the U. S. Treasury.

Now here's a post that rings of honesty. The money handler. A trustee of our trillions. A position in which public confidence is primary.

On a Sunday President Obama announced on talk shows his intention to bring integrity to his administration. "Ethics will be a priority."

The next day he announced his choice for the Treasury leadership, Timothy Geitner.

Then came the accusations, then the admittance of his failure to pay income taxes starting in the year 2001.

I guess it was his ethics that got him to say, "These were careless mistakes. They

were avoidable mistakes." Obama said of Geitner, his skills were very important and he's an "irreplacable" person.

Would these revelations come forth were he not been nominated by Obama? I would guess not. After all he got away without paying these taxes for seven years. The IRS didn't catch him. Who then?

Then comes another nomination, this one for Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tom Daschle. He, too, had "unintentionally" not paid income taxes but pleaded, "My 30 years of public service should count."

Last Tuesday he withdrew his candidacy. Ethics? Christopher Dodd accepted a loan of about \$150,000 from Countrywide Financial before voting for the infamous bailout.

Charlie Rangle is another DC politico who has been named for not paying his income tax.

There are also blemishes on the new Attorney General's (Eric Holder) past.

Along the way few politicians have come out forcibly against the appointments. With

a wink of an eye they mark "aye" on their ballot.

Obama also pledged to "stop the revolving door between lobbying and appointed positions." It was a temporary ruling. Two nominees were named by Obama with such background.

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

Ethics in government? Hasn't happened yet, ain't gonna happen either -- ever. There's just too much money with an even more abundance of greed.

I will not be surprised if a nominee in the not too distant future will be Rod Blagojevich.

--- 0 ---

Okay, I'm back. Last week I printed some of Liz Baldwin's "tricks" on hosts. It was this same Ms. Baldwin who wrote Miss Manners asking, "Should toilet paper be installed for the lead to come off the bottom

or top of the roll?"

Miss Manners printed the answer in the *Detroit Free Press*: "I have contacted all the makers of toilet paper I'm aware of and they all agree it should come off the top."

Hazel and I went to counseling to settle our difference on that one.

--- 0 ---

A "senior living" supplement went past my eyes recently. I stopped after seeing suggested recipes for Zucchini Salad and Chickpea Masala.

The recipes were from Chef Gordon Bowman of Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak. The zucchini salad has 15 ingredients. The masala, 14. They have such stuff as julienned tomatoes, cumin, coriander and turmeric. When there are that many ingredients, I believe they offset each other.

My daddy died at age 93 in Owosso Memorial Hospital, the same hospital I was born in. My daddy was a beef and beer survivor, and I assure you he never had a zucchini or chickpea salad.

And, I won't either.

Valentine's Day break on tax payment, treasurer says

Dear editor,

There appears to be some confusion as to when the last day is to pay winter property taxes.

Generally the last day is Feb. 14, but this year the calendar has given those last minute tax payers a break.

Because Feb. 14 falls on a weekend and Monday, Feb. 16, is a legal holiday, the last day to pay your winter taxes without penalty and interest is Feb. 17, 2009.

The taxes must be received in the treasurer's office by 5 p.m. No post marks will be accepted. This is the last day to pay business personal property taxes without penalty, as well.

All winter and summer taxes not paid by this date are considered delinquent, but can still be paid at the Township Hall, with penalty and interest until 5 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2009.

On Tuesday, March 3, all remaining delinquent taxes will be turned over to Oakland County. Taxes for 2008 will no longer be accepted at the township as of March 3, 2009.

If you have any questions regarding your 2008 taxes, please contact the treasurer's office at 248-625-5115.

Curt Carson, treasurer
Independence Township



Smile of the week

Linda Ruggirello, Andersonville Elementary PTO, with Clarkston High School Mime, Julia Meyer, enjoy the school fair this past Friday. Photo by Phil Custodio.

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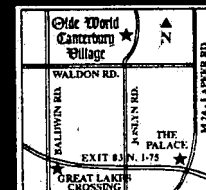
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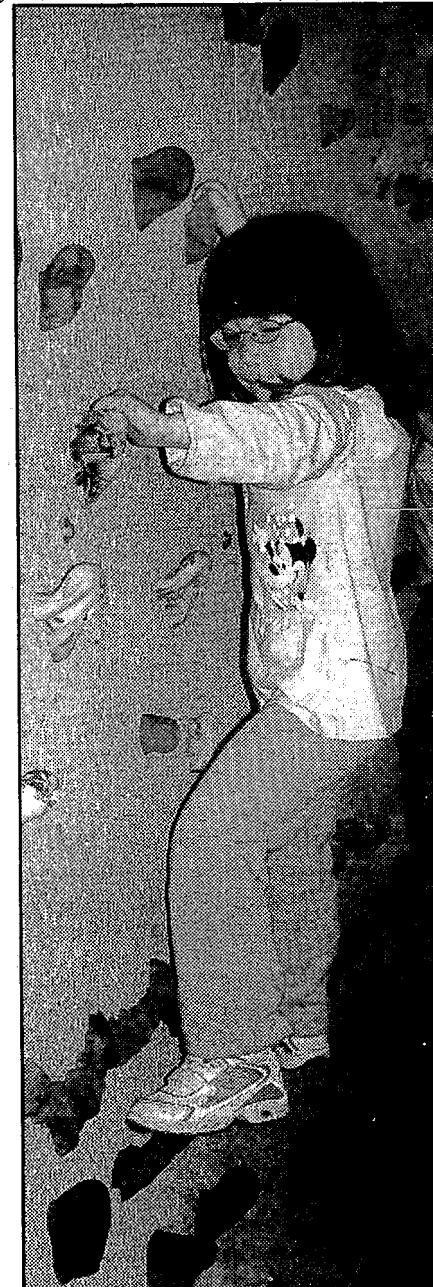




Emily White and Caitlin Sivak want to win a goldfish in the Gone Fishing game.



David Moss takes aim in the Solar Planet Blast game.



Nicole Bowe does her wall-crawling best on the rock wall.

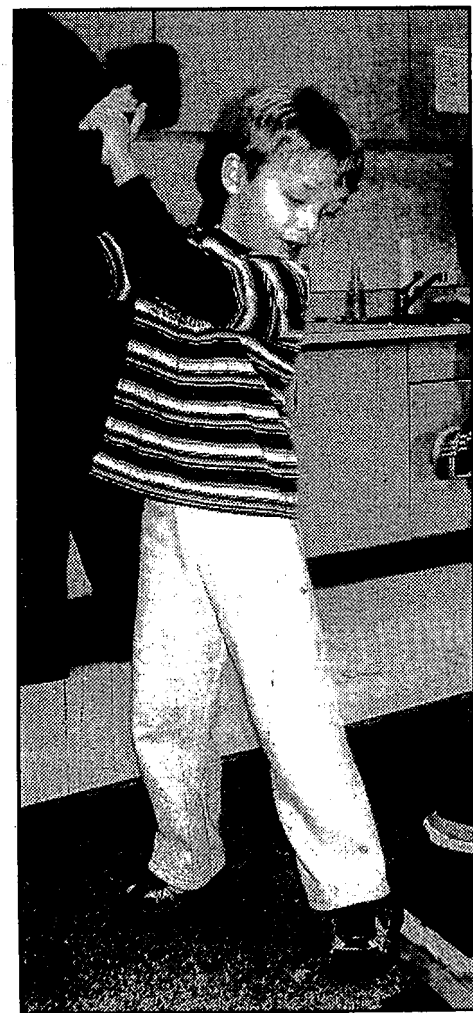
Fun fills classrooms at Andersonville fair

Students and their families filled Andersonville Elementary School's parking lot, driveways, and some of its fields at its school fair, Friday night.

The school was transformed into a carnival for the evening, where kids could test

their skills in games and activities, try to win a live goldfish, climb a rock wall, purchased recently by the school PTO for \$2,500, practice their gymnastics skills, and enjoy the antics of Rosco the Clown and Clarkston High School's Mimes.

Photo story by Phil Custodio



Marcus VanWambeke winds up to ring the bell.



Ingrid and Payton Brown enjoy some pizza.



A.J. Moss riffs on a Guitar Hero video game.

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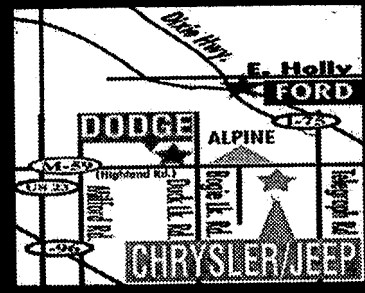
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Mt. Zion celebrates 30-year anniversary

BY KATHLEEN QUANDT
Clarkston News Intern Writer

Thirty years ago, 30 Clarkston area men and women founded a church, Mt. Zion on Maybee Road.

Now with a congregation of 2,500 families, the church leads an international ministry, serving people around the world.

"We are actually like a 24/7 ministry we have something going on all the time," said Pastor Loren Covarrubias. "We have programs for just about everything you can think of, really."

Mt. Zion celebrated its anniversary with music and a Crossing-over procession to their new auditorium, which seats 3,300 people.

"Sunday night was just a big celebration. A lot of music and things like that," Covarrubias said. "We're launching our ministry more to the nations."

The procession was led by the founding group of 30, which includes Covarrubias.

"We mostly were celebrating what we feel to be God's faithfulness to us as we've been serving in these years. And for me the reason I wanted the 30 originals to be part of the celebration is also celebrating the faithfulness of the people in the church. They were so important in building the church and fulfilling the purposes of the church," Covarrubias said.

Their international outreach includes a Spanish ministry, with Latin-American flavored music and service in Spanish. About 300 take part, Covarrubias said.

They have also started a church in El Salvador, and also travelled to Peru.

"A group of people down there gave us a TV station," he said. "So we feel it's time to lift our vision a little higher to the nations."

Covarrubias took a trip to Lima, Peru, with Ruben Hilario, who was at the church to do his

six-month internship since graduating with a communications degree in Lima, Peru. When he went to the church he worked in the TV ministry and also became involved in the Spanish music ministry and he eventually became the pastor of that.

"I went down with him one time, and when we did that's when they gave us the TV station down there. So, that just opened a whole new door of opportunities so that was a real exciting development for us," Covarrubias said.

The TV station, Grupo Pacifico Communications, is only on the internet here and they're hoping to get it on satellite so it will go throughout North and South America. Grupo

Pacifico communications involves a TV station, radio station, internet and print.

The church's community outreach includes The District on Baldwin Road, a coffeehouse entertainment venue for Christians. The church also offers life enrichment classes, and basketball and skate park with Waterford Christian Association, he said.

The church was founded in 1977 by Loren and other members of a weekly Bible class, meeting in the basement of his mother, Jean Covarrubias.

They bought a building on Clintonville Road in 1979. In 1990, the congregation moved to 4900 Maybee Road, building a church able to seat 1,200 people, and offering classroom and meeting space.

The church hosts Mt. Zion Theatre Company and Mt. Zion School of Performing Arts. For Easter, they will be putting on a presentation called "The Passion of Mary", which will be the crucifixion and resurrection from Mary's eyes, Covarrubias said.

They also offer in-depth training in counseling, teaching, ministerial care, television production and other ministries.

The new auditorium will open in March.



Pastor Loren Covarrubias



Shelly Schafer, Danette Meny and Melanie Traver, members of Clarkston's Mom Squad, are preparing for a trip to Nicaragua. Photo provided

Moms make a difference

BY KATHLEEN QUANDT
Clarkston News Intern Writer

When members of the Mom Squad came across the charity Living Water International, they saw it as a sign from God.

Shelly Schafer, Danette Meny and Melanie Traver will be taking a trip to Nicaragua for a week in May with Living Water International. They'll help drill a well for local villagers and educate them on health and hygiene.

The Mom Squad is a group of about 40 mothers ages 20 to 65, in all stages of motherhood. They meet at the Clarkston Free Methodist Church every Tuesday, with a theme every month as part of their weekly meetings.

Local activities include baby blankets for children's hospitals, care packages for soldiers and a community baby shower.

"Our mission statement is all out reaching out to moms, supporting each other, but also about urging each other to be better moms, to be better friends," Meny said.

About a year and a half ago, they decided to do something internationally. When they started looking, they felt overwhelmed over their number of choices. They couldn't decide where they should go.

"So, for about a year we prayed about it and we tried to figure out what we should do, what would be the most impactful," Meny said. "Whatever we did, we wanted to make sure that when we left, we left it changed."

When they saw the website for Living Water, and the people in need of clean water, they said, "We gotta go."

"None of us had any reaction like that to any of the other ones," Traver said. "From the first page of that, we knew that's where we were going."

"The thing with Living Water is, they go into the communities and they get people to understand what it is that is making the water contaminated," Meny said.

Living Water International helps provide clean wa-

ter to villages while educating people about their well, and health and hygiene.

Going on the trip with the three women are 8-9 men who will drill the well. The women will be teaching women and children in the village about health.

For the trip, the women received training so they know what to teach.

"The health and hygiene team is made up almost primarily of women. The reason why is because, culturally, in most of the cultures they're coming into, men are not allowed to speak to the women and children. Most of the time, it is the women and children who are going to the well to fetch the water," Meny said.

"Everybody that receives the training there will receive a special spoon. And it's written in their language. One side is for sugar and one side is for salt, and it's just an oral rehydration solution that we will teach them to use for their babies," Traver said.

What's so cool about Living Water, Meny said, is they use the men of the village to build the well and teach them how to keep it going, and women are taught to keep it clean and healthy.

Living Water International is about teaching people about God and providing them with clean water. Everything they do is based in scripture, Meny said.

"Their purpose and their goal is to bring to these people their life giving need of water but also to teach them about the Gospel," Meny said.

During the trip, Traver and Meny want to make sure they are able to help people and teach them everything they have learned.

"For me it was just the amount of information that we got in our two-day training and the amount of information that we have to impart in the short time we're there," Traver said.

"The thing that haunts me is that it's on our shoulders. The village is getting one chance to hear this message and I think it's a lot of pressure but in a good way to make sure we get it right," Meny said.

"I thoroughly believe that God brought us to this organization. I thoroughly believe that," Meny said.



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Sports in a flash

Ready to end streak

Lady Cagers lost to Rochester Adams (41-32) and Southfield-Lathrup (43-26)

Kayla Brimacombe led against Adams, scoring three 3-pointers.

Megan Hastings led against Lathrup with eight points.

The girls played at Rochester on Tuesday.

They are at Southfield on Friday and back home on Feb. 17 against Troy.

JV begins at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

Next stop, OAA

Grapplers lost to Lake Orion on Feb. 4, 44-12.

Evan King (152) and Matt Vandermeer (160) began the night with two wins. Matt Deitz added six points to the score later in the meet with a pin two minutes into his match.

The boys headed into the Macomb/Oakland Duals missing some of their starters on Saturday. They won one meet and lost four.

They are ranked seventh in Division One. JV and varsity head to the OAA League meet this Saturday.

JV will compete at Royal Oak, beginning at 9 a.m., and varsity will be at West Bloomfield at 9:30 a.m.

They will be back home next Wednesday when they host the Team District finals.

Fifth in county

The boys swim team defeated Brandon High School in their last meet of the year on Feb. 5, 103-82.

They ended the regular season with a record, 2-5.

They followed it by placing in fifth at the Oakland County meet last Saturday.

The top finishers were: Kenny Stelpflug in second place for 200 free and 500 free events. Also in second place was Diver Jordan Zendejas, scoring 423.30 in 11 dives.

Bobby Nelson took fourth place in the 200 IM and 12th place in the 100 free.

Jake Rush finished the day in tenth place in the 100 backstroke.

The boys will head to the OAA League meet on Feb. 28 at Lake Orion High School.

The OAA-Diving competition will take place Feb. 25 and 26 at Groves High School.

Check the Wolfpack Update at www.ClarkstonNews.com for the latest news.

Not a landfill

A deputy on patrol near N. Eston and Whiple Lake roads, 3:45 p.m., Jan. 30, when he saw a man unloading a pickup truck full of concrete debris onto a field. The 23-year-old Waterford man, who said he thought he was allowed to leave construction waste material next to Coulter Lake, was cited for illegal dumping. He left with the concrete.

Damage to property

A pickup truck parked in the 5700 block of Shannon Court, Jan. 31, was keyed during the night.

Someone kicked open a garage back door of a home in the 5100 block of Bronco Drive, Feb. 2, ransacking a bedroom, and taking jewelry and a laptop computer.

Taillight snares scofflaw

A deputy stopped a car near Dixie and Deer Lake for broken taillight, 11 p.m., Jan. 31. The driver, a 36-year-old Waterford Township woman, was cited for driving with a suspended license and defective equipment.

Nose for trouble

A deputy on foot patrol noticed a slight marijuana odor from two teenage snowboarders walking out of Pine Knob ski resort, 5:36 p.m., Feb. 2. The two 15-year-old boys, both students at Lake Orion High

Public Safety

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

School, had a small amount of marijuana, pill bottle, and pipe. They were turned over to their parents and told by management not to return.

Perspectives

A 52-year-old Goodrich man said he was driving north on I-75 when he noticed an SUV driver behind him losing his temper, about 3:30 p.m., Feb. 3. He said the other driver seemed to be jumping up and down in his seat, yelling, and gesturing, apparently because he wasn't driving fast enough.

When exiting at Sashabaw Road, the Goodrich man said the SUV driver appeared to point a black pistol at him, though he wasn't certain because he was about 70 feet away. Tracking down the other driver, a 41-year-old Independence Township man with a concealed carry permit, deputies found he had a different story.

He admitted having a problem with another driver on I-75, but said the Goodrich man was driving erratically, making obscene gestures, and swerving around the road. When exiting the highway, he said he pointed his finger at the other driver, mak-

ing a gun-shooting motion, but never pulled out or pointed a gun.

The 41-year-old, who was carrying two pistols, both black, had no explanation why the other driver said he pointed a black gun at him. Deputies returned the weapons, and forwarded a report to the man's CCW board.

Insult to injury

A fight at a Dixie Highway bowling alley led to charges of strong-arm robbery when one of the combatants took advantage of an opponent's temporary incapacity to steal his wallet, 11:50 p.m., Feb. 4.

Nicholas James Peckham, 22, of Waterford got into a fight with an 18-year-old Pontiac man over the teen's girlfriend. When the Pontiac couple was leaving, Peckham allegedly punched the 18-year-old from behind and they started fighting. Peckham seemed to be losing, so 3-4 of his friends jumped in, knocking the teen to the ground. Peckham reportedly took his wallet, and they left.



Nicholas Peckham

Deputies tracked Peckham down and he was arrested for strong-arm robbery. He has an outstanding traffic misdemeanor warrant out of 52-4 District County and is on probation out of Sixth Circuit Court for destruction of police property.

Easy pickings

A shopper left his car running and doors unlocked when he stopped at a Sashabaw Road supermarket, 1:30 a.m., Feb. 6. He was talking to a friend in the store when he noticed a man walk by and head out the door.

When he was ready to leave with his purchases, the car was gone. He called 911, and he and employees provided a description. Employees described the suspect, a 50-year-old Independence Township man, as homeless, often seen riding his bicycle around town.

Sheriff's deputies found the stolen car in Pontiac, and arrested the suspect for car theft. The suspect said he had permission to take the car and go buy some drugs. The car's owner said he didn't give any permission. The suspect also asked about his bike, but the deputy advised him not to speak anymore without an attorney present.

Someone breaking the law?

Call Clarkston Police, 248-625-0080, or Oakland County Sheriff, Independence Twp., 248-620-4970, or Springfield Township, 248-634-3111

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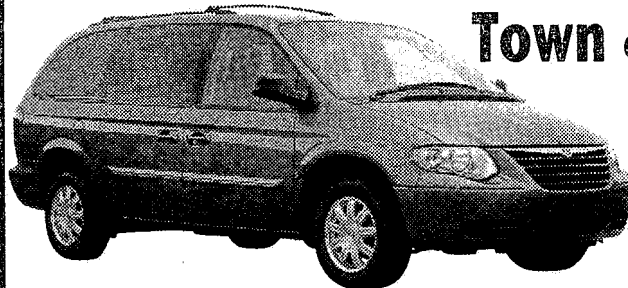


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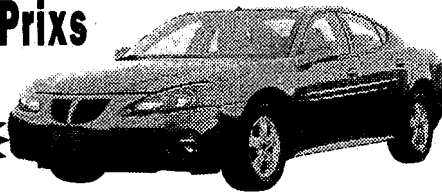
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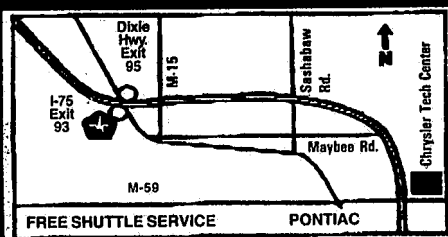
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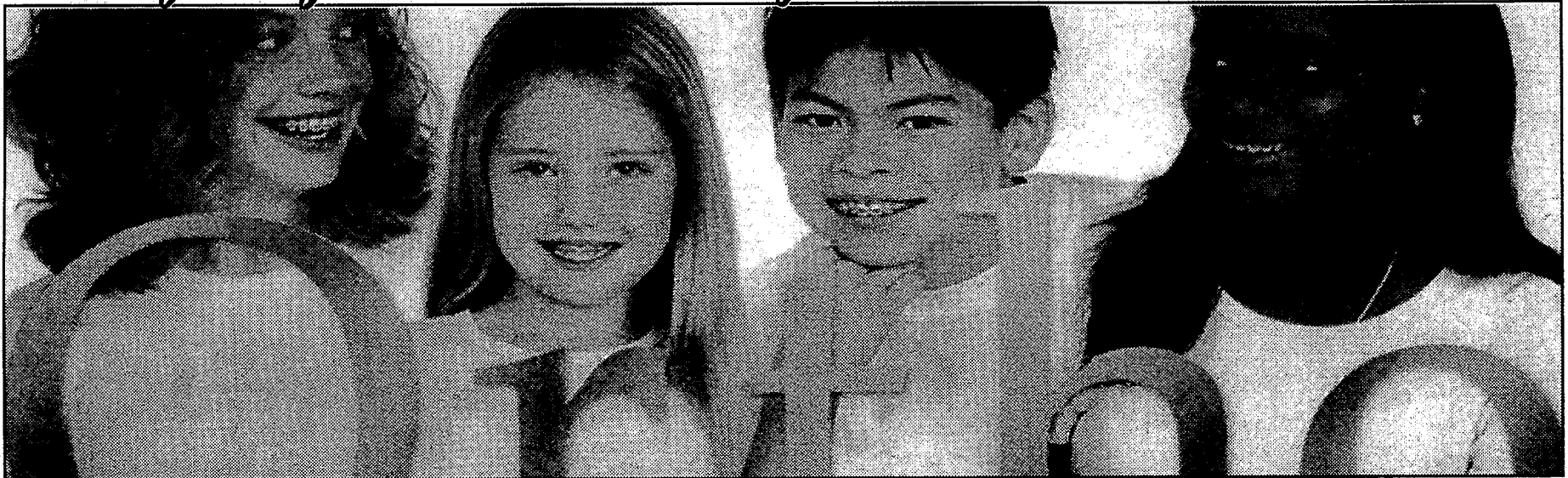
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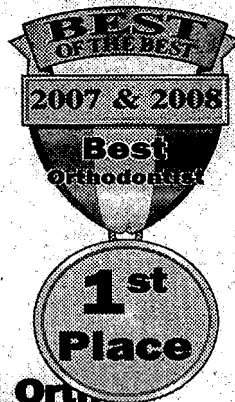
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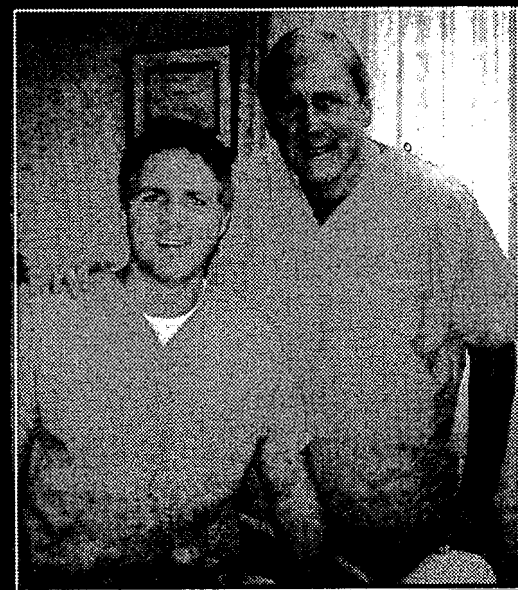
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Cagers play harder to keep streak

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Cagers are finding it tougher as they get deeper into their season and closer to the playoffs.

They defeated North Farmington, 47-25.

During the first half, the Raiders defense kept Clarkston down to 17 points.

"It's a tough game play in," said Clarkston Coach Dan Fife. "It's a tough game to coach in because you know two point games can be like ten points. You're never comfortable and you have to play defense for so long."

The boys kept North Farmington down to ten points, with three of those points made as the buzzer sounded to end the first half.

The Wolves came back from the half time break roaring to go and scored 19 points in the third quarter.

The pace picked up for Brandon Pokley as he connected three of his five 3-pointer shots in those eight minutes.

"Brandon Verlinden found him on a few of those and Tom Staton on another one," said Fife.

The boys continued to get the ball to Pokley and Staton to score, while they blocked the Raiders and turned the ball around.

"We just tried to do the best we could to helping Verlinden out guarding," said Junior Matt Kamieniecki. "We tried to stall. We tried to stay disciplined on the defensive end. I thought we did really well defensively."

Fife saw it as a good experience for the team.

"There was a lot of movement of switching and

communication," he said. It was a good game for us but a tough one to win."

Pokley was the high scorer with 23 points and Staton had 13.

The Wolves played rivals Pontiac Northern and won, 57-39.

For the boys and Fife it was a bitter-sweet victory as Northern and Pontiac Central will join together and become one school next fall.

"That was probably the highlight of my coaching career," said Fife.

"A lot of it just playing Pontiac Northern games. They were hard fought games, buzzer beating, and huge crowds. Just great memories in that gym and Sy Green on the wall.

"When we were in the other league, we always played them last and it seemed 90 percent always came down to that last game for the championship. It was always a big game. It's not sad. More like a shame we'll lose that when they go to one school. It will take time but they will create a rivalry."

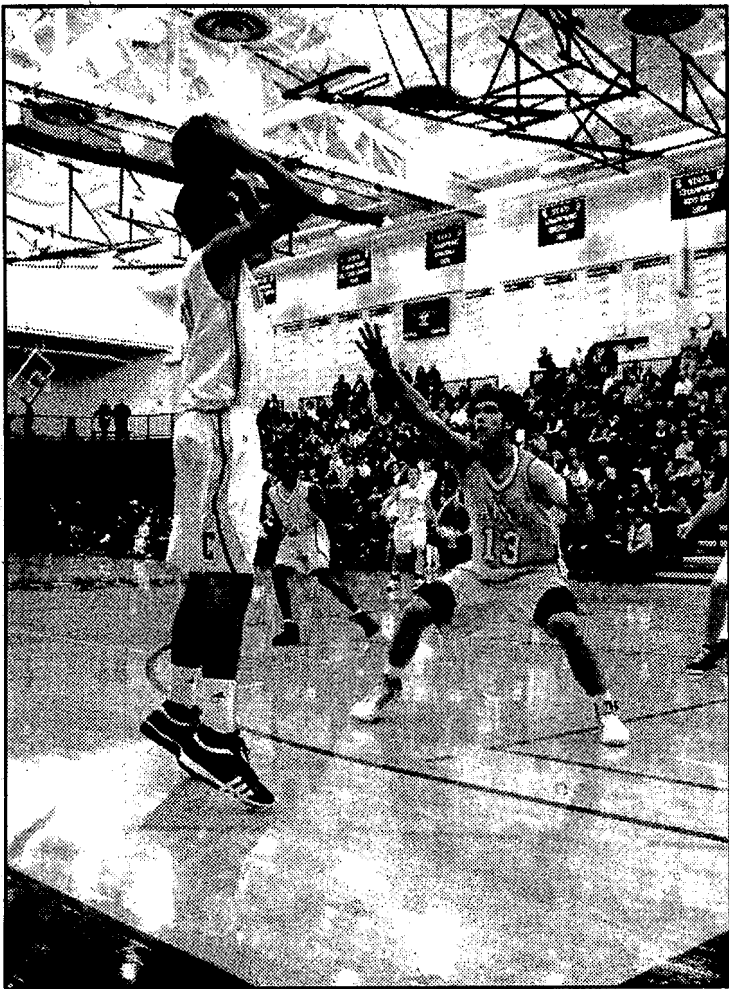
Kamieniecki led with 17 points and Verlinden added 14 to the game.

The boys played Troy on Tuesday and will host Southfield-Lathrup (8-6) on Friday.

"It will be tough," said Kamieniecki. "But they are at home so that will help. We won't be on the road. They will be good teams."

The boys will play at Pontiac Central (0-13) next Tuesday.

"You can't take anyone lightly especially when you have a target on your back," said Kamieniecki. "We will be prepared though."



Tom Staton looks for a way to shoot past North Farmington defense. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Athlete of the Week

Clark scores big in college hoops

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Clarkston graduate Robbie Clark is finishing his last season on the Albion College Men's Basketball team with an impact.

He scored a career high of 17 points against rival, Adrian College to help the team win, 84-70. He led during the first half putting 12 points on the board.

"It was nice to beat them," said Clark. "It felt pretty good. One of best players was down and I stepped up."

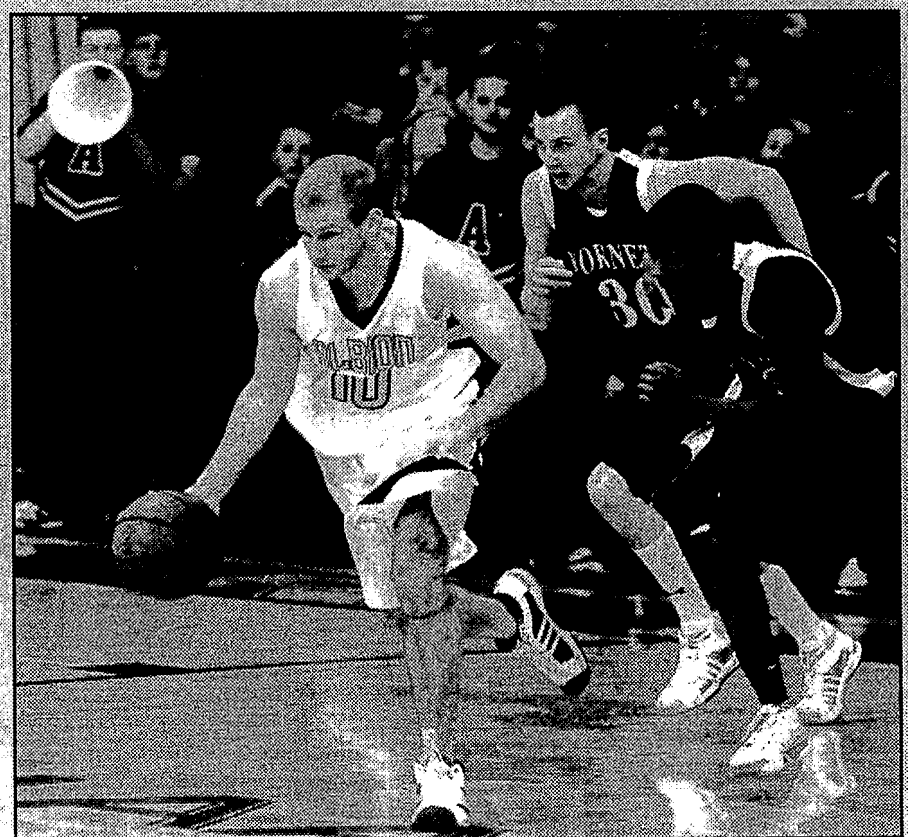
For Head Coach Jody May it has been great to see Clark play because he has not been able to play in the past seasons because of injuries.

"His last three games he has put in his best performances," said May. "Our team needed a boost and he has been a big part of our success."

He has played in every game since the beginning of the season, and added ten points and two steals in last Saturday's victory over Olivet College, 82-66.

Albion has a record of 12-8 overall. The Britons are in third place in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association with a 7-3 record in their league. Four games remain until the first round of MIAA tournaments.

"I hope to finish the season pretty strong," said Clark. He will be going to law school at Wayne State University next year.



Robbie Clark runs ahead of Kalamazoo players on Jan. 24. Photo by Chris Amos


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Signed, sealed, on their way to Michigan colleges

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior Tiffany Kincaid had all the information she needed to decide on which university she would be running for in the fall.

She made a spreadsheet and listed each school's cost, different scholarships offered to her, the distance from home, and how she felt about the team and the coaches.

Then, the decision was made the weekend before Signing Day on Feb. 4. Kincaid would be attending Eastern Michigan University.

"I am really excited and I am glad to have my decision over with," she said. "Most of the other schools I was looking at were out of state and I wasn't sure I wanted to go out of state. I went on my visit and loved it."

Her parents, Daneen and Jeff, were excited to see her sign her letter and chose a school to run cross-country and track.

"The whole recruiting process is fun at first, then it comes to the end and are they going to make a choice," said Jeff. "Everyone feels good. We are happy she is going to be close. She felt really comfortable at Eastern and she had a chance to contribute really early. She likes big schools, she has access to everything. Clarkston is so big, some of those colleges are smaller than Clarkston High School."

Tiffany's cross country coach Mike Franko asked her to visit Eastern, he had gone to school there and it was a state school

"I didn't expect her to make that decision," said Franko. "I am happy for her to find a place she really liked. It's a bonus for me because it is Eastern."

Tiffany began running in cross country because she wanted to be involved.

"She ran about 15-16 minutes in two miles and was told sorry no one will run the two mile and she would never be a good distance runner," said Jeff.

Tiffany found inspiration from her parents and then varsity coach Jamie LaBrosse.

"He got her so psyched up," said Jeff. "She was 24/25th on the team when she

started. By the end of the year she was on varsity and won the state championship. It's a matter of getting her psyched to run. She ran for recreation but once coach got in her head, once she got into distance running she stuck with it."

Daneen calculated Tiffany ran a total of 8,000 miles in high school.

Being able to contribute as a freshman was also the reason Kicker Kevin Pinkos signed to play with University of Detroit-Mercy.

Another factor that helped him decide was the scholarship they offered him.

"It has been a dream for him to play for a Division 1 school and they plan on rebuilding," said mom, Mary. "I am very proud of him."

Kevin began playing soccer when he was four when his mom and dad, Andy, signed him up to continue in the family tradition. His older brother, Eric, and sister, Cori also played soccer.

"I never gave it up," said the midfielder who played on the varsity team for the last four years. He helped the team win the OAA Red league last fall and was there as the team made its way to the state finals in 2007.

"I am so happy for him," said Clarkston Varsity Soccer Coach Adam Bican, who missed Pinkos signing his letter. "He is one of the best players and it is great to see him play at the next level. He has a good work ethic, is a hard worker. He is such a good kid. UofD is getting a great player."

Kevin has also played for Vardar Soccer Club.

Tiffany has not yet decided on what she will study, but is leaning towards either psychology or education.

Kevin will study business.

Drop off your nominations
for Athlete of the Week to
The Clarkston News,
5 S. Main, or email us at
ClarkstonNews@gmail.com



Friends and teammates surround Tiffany Kincaid after she signed her letter of intent. Photos by Wendi Reardon



Kevin Pinkos signs his letter of intent with support of his family: brother, Eric, mom, Mary, dad, Andy, and sister, Cori.

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Icers ready to continue winning streak

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Seniors left the ice with a smile on their faces and bragging rights after defeating Lake Orion in their last face-off against their rivals.

The Dragons had kept the game tied up until the third period.

With nine minutes remaining in the game, the Wolves found themselves in close proximity to the net and a chance to score. Lake Orion's defense crowded around the net.

Michael Fiteny passed the puck away from the goal and to defender David Cannons.

As Lake Orion's icers moved forward, Cannons swung his hockey stick. Goalie Joe Janiga moved out of the net to block the shot and the puck hit the back of the net.

The Wolves kept Lake Orion from tying the score and continued shooting to keep the lead.

One minute remained in the game when Lake Orion pulled Janiga from the net and put in a sixth man.

Fiteny grabbed control of the puck and shot it into the empty net with 19 seconds left, ending the game, 4-2.

Fiteny finished the game with a hat trick, scoring one goal during each period.

"It's a big rivalry. We were just trying to get the win," he said. "Getting a hat trick is exciting especially in this game."

Besides the win, the night was also special because both teams hosted the Second Annual Youth Hockey Night.

"It was great to see the youth hockey players here from Clarkston, from Lake Orion and from surrounding areas," said Clarkston Coach Bryan Krygier. "It was nice to play in

front crowd like this with the rivalry with Lake Orion. I think it's very important. It is healthy for the program and gets people in the stands. It's good to see where we are at."

Krygier mentioned the rivalry did bring more intensity from the boys to the game.

"Even though they outshot us, I think we took it to them physically. We had some nice shots on net. Fiteny played really good, he had a hat trick and Garrett kept it out of the net," he said.

Connor Lyons assisted on two goals. Luke Connor and Cannons assisted on one against the Dragons. Garrett Knappe saved 28 shots and the boys made 19 shots on goal.

Scott Fabbri and Dave Johnson scored for Lake Orion.

The Wolves had beaten Farmington on Wednesday, 5-4.

Fiteny scored the winning goal with only a few seconds remaining in the game. It was his second goal in the game.

Cole Schaffer and Jack Schlau scored their own goal. Matt Campbell, Adam Frank and Lyons assisted on two goals.

"Our program is starting to turn and getting more momentum and it's starting to help us," said Krygier. "Out of our 11 losses only eight of those were one goal games and two were overtime with another being an empty net."

This week the boys play in the Trenton Showcase.

They will play Traverse City Central and Sault Ste. Marie.

"It's going to be very tough teams down there. Sault Ste. Marie has only lost one game all year and Traverse City Central is very competitive. They are well-coached so we are



Michael Fiteny reaches for control of the puck. Photo by Wendi Reardon

going to be tested again," said Krygier.

The boys play Traverse City Central on Friday at 12:20 p.m., and Sault Ste. Marie on Saturday at 10:40 a.m.

Both games are played at Kennedy Ice Arena in Trenton.

"We just got to play hard and keep the winning streak going," said Fiteny.

Bowling fundraiser Feb. 13 at Airway

Clarkston High School Bowling teams host a night of fun, laughs and raising money for the teams, 8:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 13, at Airway Lanes. Tickets at the door is a \$15 donation.

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SMILE OF THE MONTH Kelsey Wright



Kelsey is 14 years old and in her spare time she enjoys horseback riding and going to school sporting events. She also runs track and last season went to the Oakland County track meet. Congratulations on a great smile!



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News with a "Porpoise"

Vol. 4 No. 3 Feb. 2009

A guide to getting good grades!

By Johanna Jeung, 5th gr.

Everyone wants good grades, from impressing parents or friends to being in the head of the class! Here are some tips if this marking period you want some A's and B's!

1. Pack up the night before, and be prepared. You should make sure you have everything you need for the next day! Place it some where you can grab it quick, like leaving your backpack, coat, and shoes by your front door, and leaving your outfit for the next day at your wardrobe. If you take showers or baths everyday or once in a great while, taking them at the end of the day will save you time. You could be too busy in the morning.

2. Get a good night's sleep! Kids your age should be getting at least eight to ten hours of sleep! Now you may be thinking "OMG! I only get seven! How am I supposed to get that much sleep with all this homework?" Not to fear! You should always have enough time! Talk to your parents, you may have to quit an after school activity. School should always be first!

3. Take home papers that your teacher allows you to. Your parents can revise and check any of your mistakes, but don't turn your parents into your answer key! Your parents could tell you which ones were wrong, but not



the answers! They could help you along! Having papers checked at home is like getting an automatic A!

4. Study as much as possible! If you have a test, study all the extra time you have! Studying at the last moment does not help your brain remember it. Tests are meant for seeing how much you've learned and how well your teacher is teaching you! Remembering all you've learned is like your own mini book with a dictionary, thesaurus, history book, mathematics book, or any kind of answer key to all the questions ever in the education history!

Mrs. Townsend & Mrs. Secord's 'Student Scoop'

By Lani Palmer, 4th gr.

I go to Springfield Plains Elementary and my teachers are Mrs. Townsend and Mrs. Secord.

They are so smart they make this web page called "The Student Scoop."

"How do you get there?" you might ask. Well, you go to www.clarkston.k12.mi.us then you press schools, and then select Springfield Plains Elementary, classrooms, then

fourth grade, Mrs. Townsend and Mrs. Secord. Lastly, select "student scoop".

You can see all of Mrs. Secord's web design crew. There is some information about our wonderful teachers, delicious recipes, stuff about the election, etc.

Next time you are on the computer, log onto Clarkston Community Schools website and check out our class' student scoop.

Thanks.

Mr. Gifford: A very cool teacher

By Ethen McMichael, 4th gr.

Mr. Gifford is my teacher and I interviewed him for Journalism club. I interviewed him because I thought that our school needed more information about him.

He is a very cool teacher. He is also a very funny teacher at the same time. He always makes sure you have your name on every paper or you will have to write your name (Ethen McMichael) and your number (22) 50 times each. My mom really likes that Really Good rule for his class. That is why I interviewed him.

Here are a few questions that I asked

him.

"Mr. Gifford, why did you want to be a teacher?" "I wanted to be a teacher so that I could impact the lives of children." "Why did you name your son Ryan?" "I have a best buddy named Ryan." "What year were you born?" "1978." "What is your new sons name going to be?" "William Robert." "What is your favorite team?" "Michigan State." "What is your favorite sport?" "Football." "What is your hobby?" "Taking care of the yard."

For every reason, he is a very cool teacher! Thanks Mr. Gifford

A sad, sad day

By Gabbi A. Bitzer, 3rd gr.

It was the first day of school for me, but, it was the first day of middle school for my sisters.

I could hear the sink running in the bathroom. That meant that I had to walk into Springfield Plains all by myself. I was scared and it was not even time for me to get up yet.

I was thinking about it all morning. Oh no, it was time to get up and go.

I did not want to go. I was too scared to walk in all by myself even though I have been going Springfield Plains for three years!

I walked down the stairs on the verge of crying. My mom says, "Why are you so sad?"

"I'm scared about going to school all by myself with nobody there with me," I said.

"That's all right. I can walk in with you honey," Mom said.

"NO Mom, I want my sisters Mom. No offense."

Mom then said, "Well, they already started first hour in school. I can't drive all the way back to middle

school. It would be a waste of gas."

"Ok," I said. "I will be strong and walk in all by myself."

"Good." Mom replied. "Now it's time to have breakfast."

I dragged myself to the table and sat down and started to eat my breakfast. I brought my bowl to the counter and walked upstairs and put on good clothes for the first day of school. Then I combed my hair and brushed my teeth and packed my backpack and yelled to mom, "MOM, time to go to school."

"OK." My mom yells back to me. I hopped in the car and my mom hopped in the car too. We got to school and I waved good bye... and here came the moment I opened the door and closed my eyes and walked in.

I did it! And I wasn't scared one bit. The day went by so fast. I jumped on the bus and ran to my driveway and ran in my house and my sisters were there!

I said, "I walked into school all by myself!" I shouted to my family.

Stay informed on school news, community news: subscribe to The Clarkston News. Only \$30 a year! Call 248-625-3370

Second grade field trip!

By Addison Smith, 3rd gr.

I'm in 3rd grade. I wrote this because I have a good memory of second grade that I wanted to share.

In second grade, we went to downtown Clarkston! We went to the Clarks house, the mill pond, and the Clarkston Bank! We walked everywhere after we rode the bus to Clarkston! I was in a group with one of my best friends.

At the bank you get a toy which is a toy bank. My friend and I were trying to open our new toy bank the whole time. Then we were doing a scavenger hunt. A scavenger hunt asks, "Do you know where it is? Can you find it?"

We had to find popular and historical places in Clarkston. We found almost everything on the whole sheet but then we had to leave.

We had a great time. That is how I thought it went when I was there. So, if you are in first grade, get ready for next year!

You're going to have a great time on your Clarkston walk!

Winter wonder

By Taylor McCallum, 5th gr.

Ho, Ho, Ho, here's some snow! Welcome back to another winter at S.P.E.! If you're new at S.P.E., just to give you the heads up, this school knows how to have a Holly Jolly Christmas! Last year, we made jolly posters, decorations, caroling, and the best Christmas spirit!

Last year, we gathered in the gym, and we sang songs like: Jingle Bells, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Jolly Old Santa Claus, The Twelfth Day of Christmas, and many more!

We also made spirit posters all over the Dolphin Hallway, and in front of the main office. We could barely see a speck of wall in the hallway!! The posters were creative and fun, and gave you a spirit kick!!

If last year was so cool, then just imagine what we'll do this year!! Every year it gets better, and better! Every year, S.P.E. uses its imagination to keep the spirit going!

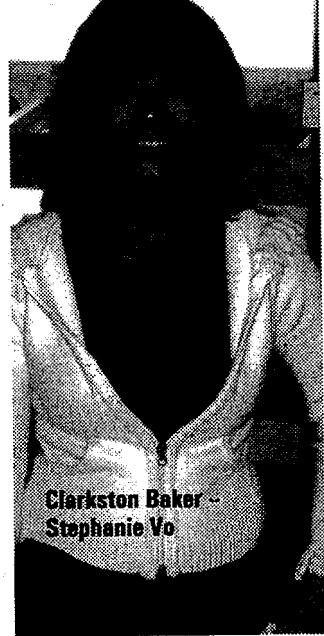
So put on your spirit-face and go, go, go. Just don't forget to Ho, Ho Ho!

Let's Start Baking -- Elephant Ears!

By Ariana DeHerder, 4th gr.

I really like to bake. I especially like to do it with my mom. It really is fun to do. It is just so fun!

I went to visit the owner of the Clarkston Village Bakeshop to find out more about baking from a professional!



Clarkston Baker
Stephanie Vo

She started to bake as a child. She helped her mom bake but her grandma was the one who mostly taught her. Her favorite recipe to make is her signature cookies. These are also the most popular item. She makes 60

dozen a day, but she won't say how much flour she uses...it's a secret!

What I think is really amazing is that 200-300 people a day come to her bakery. A lot of people... for a small place! She has owned the bakeshop for 17 years! Who knew there was such a long history behind it! I inspire all who read this to start baking. It really is fun to do.

Let's go baking! This elephant ears recipe comes from my Alpha-Bakery cookbook from Gold Medal flour.

- 1/4 cup of margarine or butter
- 1 cup of all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons of sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon of baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 1/3 cup of milk
- 3 tablespoons of sugar
- 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon sugar

* * *

1. Heat the oven to 425 degrees
2. Grease a cookie sheet with shortening.
3. Heat margarine until melted; set aside. Stir flour; 2 tablespoons sugar;

the baking powder and salt in a medium bowl. Stir in milk and 3 tablespoons of the melted margarine until dough forms.

4. Sprinkle a surface lightly with flour; turn dough onto surface. Knead 10 times. Roll dough with a rolling pin or pat with hands into a rectangle 9 x 5 inches. Brush with remaining melted margarine, using a pastry brush; sprinkle with mixture of 3 tablespoons sugar and the cinnamon.

5. Roll dough up tightly, beginning at narrow end. Pinch edge of dough into roll to seal. Cut into 4 equal pieces with a sharp knife. Place cut sides up on cookie sheet; pat each into a 6-inch circle. Sprinkle with more sugar, and more sugar and more sugar and more sugar and more sugar. . .

6. Bake until golden brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Immediately remove from cookie sheet with a spatula. Let cool on a wire rack.

Makes 4 elephant ears. I hope you enjoy these tasty elephant ears! (Have been tested by me and are delicious!) Remember, start baking

Japan is a wonderful place

By Madilyn Mason, 3rd gr.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in Japan? Well, let me tell you what I learned from my family vacation. We visited Tokyo, Osaka, and the countryside in April 2008.

The houses have ceramic roofs and tatami floors. The interior walls are made of wood and rice paper. Tatami is made from dried woven grass. When you go into a house, everyone needs to take off their shoes. Some homes don't have beds. They sleep on futons, which are thick blankets that you lay on the ground... just like a sleeping bag!

The food in Japan is good! I got to eat lots of rice and Japanese noodles. There is a lot of things you can not eat in Michigan -- like jellyfish and cow tongue. The jellyfish tasted like nothing and the cow tongue tasted like regular beef. The fruit in Japan is the best fruit I have ever had. The bad part is that all of the food in Japan is very expensive; at least that is what my mom says.

The bullet train travels all over Japan and goes 180 miles per hour. You can buy a boxed lunch at the train station and eat it while you ride. We took the bullet train, which is also called the Shinkansen, from the countryside to Tokyo. It took us about

4 hours and it was a very long 4 hours for me!

Mt. Daisen is a famous mountain in Japan. It is my grandmother's favorite mountain. We drove as far as we could to the top of the mountain to a small village where we stopped for ice cream. There was still snow on the mountain in April!

Osaka and Tokyo are giant cities with lots of people, tall buildings and neon lights. We traveled all over the cities using the trains and subways which were filled with people. There is an entire underground city which goes for miles with stores and restaurants. During rush hour there were so many people that it was hard to walk!

Tokyo Disney Sea was a little like Disneyworld in Florida. My dad went on the ride Journey to the Center of the Earth but my sister was too small and I was too scared so my mom waited with us. We all rode on the Tower of Terror and I hated it but it is my sisters favorite ride now. My favorite ride was 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.

I was sad to leave Japan because it was so much fun. I hope you can visit Japan soon to see for your self that Japan is a wonderful place.

Poems

by Julia Stebbins, 5th gr.

Soccer

The ball is moving swiftly, soaring through the grass.
I'm carefull to keep the ball by my feet.

The goal is coming closer.
Then the ball is soaring through the air. Smack!

It hits the net and everyone is cheering.

Painting

My brush is moving swiftly creating something new.
I draw a circle make two dots and an up tuned arch.

Christmas

Snow is falling all around making inside warm and snug
a fires blazing
the ornaments are glistening
on the pine green tree
How beautiful this season will be!

Faded Ink

What is it like in 6th grade?

Interview with former Springfield Plains student Noah Peterson

By: Shua Jones, 3rd gr.

I interviewed Noah Peterson, a 6th grader from Law Middle School. He gave those soon-to-be schoolers some good advice on what middle school is like.

Q. How different is it from elementary school?

A. Middle school is very different then elementary. For starters, you switch classes every hour. Also, you have locks on your lockers but the thing I don't like most is you have to get up very early. Right now, elementary gets up at about the same time we start our first hour.

Q. What is it like in middle school?

A. Well, for one thing the school is huge and the first couple of week's you don't know where some of your classes are. Also, you might not feel totally at home but don't stress about it, prepare for the challenges. This is a time to start fresh so take that opportunity and use it to be better. Classes will be harder so be ready. Also, there are a ton of kids in the school. You'll be making a lot of new friends.

Q. How much homework do you get?

A. I don't mean to scare you, but get ready for a lot of homework. Usually you will have some in every class. But it's usually not very hard. Sometimes they send home projects that you have to do for homework, but you have to just plug along at it and keep working and it will get done.

Q. Is it fun in middle school?

A. The key is making it fun. You have to choose the kind of day you have. Sometimes when I'm tired I don't have a good day at all. Also, be nice to your teachers and do not goof off in class and you'll have a great year.

Q. What are your teacher's names?

A. Mr. Lipke, Mrs. Steele, Mr. Address, and Mrs. Bertin. Those are only my main teachers I have many more.

Q. How is the FOOD?

A. I like the food at the middle school. There are some different foods then at S.P.E. and it's good. An example is footlong hotdogs.

* * *

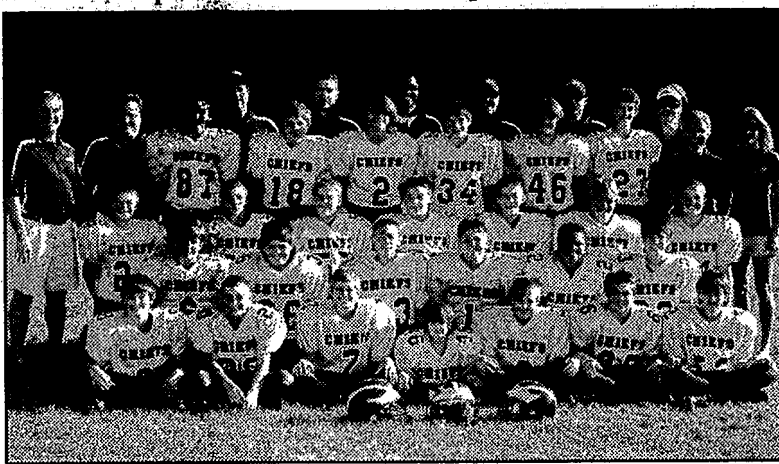
I hope Noah's advice helped, and I hope you have a great year. P.S. Noah also says

Go Chiefs! I can't wait to do it again next year

By: Riley McMichael, 6th gr.

This year your hometown youth football team, the Clarkston Chiefs, won all three superbowls!

The freshmen white won against Pontiac in overtime, eighteen to twelve, and the junior varsity white won crushing Pontiac in an upsetting loss, twenty eight to six. Then, in the varsity game, we won eighteen to nineteen in overtime. In the varsity game, we faced Waterford.



Our star quarterback, Taylor Barton, was about to throw to Christian Tozzi but Christian was covered, so Taylor ran for a good five yards. Then the next play our star running back Ben Kaminski plowed through the line for a touchdown! Now it was tied, eighteen to eighteen. Then we did the same play for the extra point and we got it! We had just won three super bowls that no other organization has ever done before! That team Waterford had not lost in two years until now. I had a few questions that I wanted to ask Coach Elsworth about the Varsity Superbowl game.

“What did you think about the team this year?”

“I knew from day one we had a chance to win the superbowl and not because of the talent but because of

the chemistry and leadership amongst the players. It was obvious we had talent but we also had character and leadership which is essential for winning.”

“What do you think about Ben's amazing acts this year?” “I think Ben would be the first one to tell you it takes 11 players each snap working together to be successful. Without the line and receivers doing an outstanding job blocking many of those amazing acts would not have been possible.... With that

being said Ben did some outstanding things this season and without him we couldn't have accomplished our goals. 34 touchdowns and 1700+ yards rushing was quite an accomplishment for him and our team.”

“In the first game against Waterford, what did you think when you saw #15 pick up Ben?” “I was disappointed because that happened on 4th down and we ended up being short by half a yard.”

“In the super bowl, what did you think when you saw Ben pick up #15?” “I expected Ben to be Ben that day so I wasn't fazed by his performance. He did it all year long so that was what I expected.”

“How does it feel to win the super bowl?” “It feels great....can't wait to do it again!!”

Advice On Adoptions

By Megan Farrelly, 4th gr.

This advice column is about adoption. You might want to show your parents this if they are interested in adoption.

My family has been to China twice to adopt my younger brother and sister. I have been there one time to help get my little brother. If you do not know what adoption is, it is when you want a child that is from a different family that can not take care of her/him.

People may say my family is crazy but we are doing a good thing, and we are helping out China. What the coolest thing is you get to chose if you want a special needs child or a kid that just can not be taken care of.

A special need child is a kid who has a problem like a big birthmark. I know a lot of people who adopted a child. I know that China is in need for more people to adopt kids because they have a rule that families are only aloud to have one child! In their culture, the boys are more favored. And if you want to keep another child or keep your girl you have to pay for her/him!

It makes my family very sad for those unlucky families. I would love it if you (yes you) would maybe look into adopting a little kid. You can adopt any age child you want. For example, you can adopt a newborn to 13 years old.

If you would like to see my family, you can go to www.thestoryofyou.com.

My Clarkston Chiefs experience

By Ethen McMichael, 4th gr.

This year I played for the Clarkston Chiefs Freshmen Gold team. The Clarkston Chiefs always had a white and a blue team but this year we added a third team. We have never had a gold team before but I was glad to be a part of the first ever. My position was center. Our team record this year was four wins and five losses but I knew our team had more heart then our record showed. “That is never as good as we did, boys”, Coach Whitaker said after the end of our last meeting against Clarkston Chiefs blue game that we lost thirty three to zero.

Our first game we won thirty seven to twelve against Waterford green. But our second, third and fourth game we lost twenty seven to eight, twenty one to zero and twenty seven to zero. We won our fifth, sixth and seventh game twenty four to twelve, eighteen to twelve and twenty four to six.

My team worked very hard but our season ended too early. I wanted it to go on to the superbowl and win. It didn't end that way but I know we tried our hardest.

At the awards ceremony, I got the scholar athlete award and I was very proud of that.

Best Image Possible

The online world of Webkinz

By Sierra Lynn Jones, 5th gr.

Webkinz.com is an online world that stuffed animals called Webkinz come to life on your computer. There are a lot of Webkinz to choose from like the Husky, Raccoon, Collie, Pig, to name a few. Webkinz are fun to play with online because they can even speak to you.

Webkinz.com is a fun website because you get to take care of your own little pet. You get to feed your pet special food that's right for the pet. Webkinz, to me, is a responsibility just like taking care of a real pet. There's a store to buy your pet food, a bed, refrigerator, clothes, and other accessories.

Here are some facts you could know about Webkinz: 1. Find a store to buy them. 2. Choose your Webkinz. 3. Purchase them. 4. Open the secret code at home. 5. Put them online. 6. Get their certificate. 7. Have fun with your new online pet.

Here are some Webkinz that I would want; the German Shepard, gecko, albino, black cat, chipmunk, and the black poodle. Some of them I might not get. I like Webkinz because they are so cute. They have two different textures to them; furry and picky, like little hairs on our skin.

There are a lot of ways to play with them online and you get to play games such as wheel of wow, wishing well, home before dark, etc. There is a personal store it has that catalogs items such as beds for your pet, food games to buy, outdoor items, decorations, clothes, tables, bathroom and kitchen items and



An Introduction to Webkinz

By Lani Palmer, 4th gr.

Webkinz are very popular! In case you don't know what webkinz are, they are a stuffed animal with a secret code you can access to come alive at www.webkinz.com. Once you get your animal or pet, grab a computer and log on to www.webkinz.com. Once you are on webkinz, click new user and you will go to the adoption center and you put all of your information in and WALLA, you webkinz is born!!!

When you webkinz is born type your username and password and press ok. There is new webkinz call the emperor penguin and the purple monster. Now you know about webkinz. Get out to the store and buy one!



sleep in your very own bed.

Webkinz is a very nice website and very nice stuffed animals too. If you're looking at the picture, it's a picture of my husky and if you read this note it's about a Webkinz that I want. Note: if you see the Webkinz German Shepard that would be AWESOME. For real, a German Shepard is my favorite type of dog in the herding group. So you know why Webkinz is really fun. So go and check it out and you will see that Webkinz a very cool website to check and play at. Some of the games are educational. I like Webkinz because it teaches you a responsibility. When you are older you'll know how to take care of a pet. They are also fun to play on the internet.

other items you might find at the store. There's an e-store too. The e-store is a place in Webkinz world where you get to win special items and clothing by entering a feature code.

There are games to win prizes and money to buy things. The clubhouse is where you can take your pet to bowl in a special specific room or to exercise. There is a trading card room, puzzle room and a reading room.

So, you see, there are many things to do in Webkinz world and there is one more room I forgot to mention. You get to go to your very own room to relax and

Playin' them Crazy Bones

By: Emilie O'Neill, 4th gr.

Right now you (yes you) are probably wondering what are crazy bones? Crazy Bones are toys that

you can battle with. You can play for fun, or for keeps. Playing for fun is where you know you're just enjoying the battle and playing for keeps is when you battle and whoever wins gets to keep the losers crazy bones.

How you battle is you take out the crazy bones that you wish to battle with, and then you set them up. Then you try to knock down all of your opponents

crazy bones before your opponents knocked down all of yours! To knock them down you have to flick them. This may hurt your fingertips, but you'll get used to it.

What do crazy bones look like? There are a bunch of different crazy bones. Here is a picture of some.

Now that you know what they are, what you do with them, and what a couple of them look like you should save up and battle many opponents!

P.S. you can buy crazy bones at: www.crazybones.com



American Girl Dolls

By Caryn Cooley, 4th gr.

Do you or your daughter know what American Girl dolls are? American Girl dolls are dolls that are about 1½ feet tall. They are the best gifts for Christmas or a birthday.

American Girl dolls have dolls that can look just like you!

If you want to see the look-a-like dolls then all you have to do is either go online or subscribe to the magazine and it will be delivered right to your mail. Or you can just go online to www.americangirl.com and shop online! If you are wondering what they look like then here is a picture.

Look at the picture below. It has a girl that has only the doll and book. If you look at the picture on top, the doll comes with much more! She comes with a set of 16 extra earrings, a pretend cell phone, a bag, two sets of stickers, and a keychain. Each look-a-like doll usually costs \$90 to \$104 dollars. You can also buy furniture for your doll. There's everything for your girl like beds, chairs, or even wheelchairs. You can also get matching outfits.

So when you walk into somewhere special like the mall you'll look just like your doll! So go ahead and look, you'll love it!



WEIRD STATE LAWS

By Meghan Forshey, Ariana DeHerder,
Olivia Groff, 4th gr.

Michigan:

Cars may not be sold on Sunday.
In Detroit put-put courses must close
by 1:00 a.m.

The last Sunday in June of every year
was named log cabin day.

A woman isn't aloud to cut her own hair
without her husband's permission.

It is illegal to paint sparrows to sell them
as parakeets.

Security guards at Joe Louis Arena will
confiscate any item they feel might be
thrown onto the ice.

Hawaii:

All residents may be fined as a result
of not owning a boat.

Coins are not allowed to be placed in
one's ears.

You may not take a picture of a rabbit
from January to April without an official
permit.

South Dakota:

It is illegal to lie down and fall asleep in
a cheese factory.

New York:

While riding in an elevator, one must talk
to no one, and fold his hands while looking
toward the door.

It is against the law to throw a ball at
someone's head for fun.

It's illegal to break the law.

Information researched on
weirdlaws.com

Can you read this

By Johanna Jeung, 5th gr.

Hlelo eyrevnoe out trehe! If you can
raed this, you hvae a sgatnre mnid too!
Rsacereh has swohn if you lvaee the fsrit
and lsat letter of ecah wrod in the rhigt
pclae, and jlmbue eyhvtrnig esle up the
hmaun biran can sltil raed it! I knohw, it
is wried! I got tihis ieda form a finerd
nmead Anna Fiart in fftih gdare. If you
see her, tnahk her for the ieda! Nxet tmie
I will do sngmocti cele like this

The Disney Cruise

By Sarah Lacey, 3rd gr.

Hi, my name is Sarah Lacey and I
would like too talk about when my famly
went on a Disney cruise.

Well, it all started out when my dad
came home from work. He said, "I have
a movie to show you. It is about a place
called Disney."

Then my dad put in the movie and it
was about our room at Disney. We also
saw what restaurants there were. We
could only pick three places to visit be-
cause we were only there for a week!

When we got there I found out I had a
bunk bed and then we went to the the-

ater. It was a cool show!

Afterwards, we went back to our
room. I got in bed and fell asleep z, z, z,
z, z, z. I woke up and woke up my
brother and my mom and dad then we
went to breakfast. I had a Mickey Mouse
waffle and apples.

When I looked over the railing I saw
bright blue bubbling water and a pirate
ship. Then we went to the beach. The
water was clear, you could see far out.
The sand was very squishy and warm. I
tried snorkeling but I did not like it. But
I did like the rafts.

I had a great time and I loved it.

Read news of the random

By Emilie O'Neill, 4th gr.

*If you need some news ... read this
article because this article is all about
news. Well, actually random news! Now
you (yes you, I said yes, you!) better read
this, I promise. I will find you...one way
our anther...so just read this article!*

My first piece of random news is our
schools website. You type in:
www.clarkstonschools.com and then
you click on Springfield Plains Element-
ary. Then you click on classrooms, and
click on your teacher and grade. There
should be a bunch of things about your
classroom and things to learn. You can
learn about your teachers, play games,
and more!

My second piece of random news is a

story. It's called *The Traveling Duck*.
There once was a very ugly duck. And
no one liked him, at all! One day a little
boy brought home the very ugly duck.
But, as soon as his parents saw the duck
they...moved far away! The only thing
that was bad about that was that they left
behind the duck!

This sadly happened over and over
again. Until one day he found... another
ugly duck! They soon became best
friends, and lived happily ever after, to-
gether. END!

The third place for local news, is
www.clarkstonnews.com

This has been *Random News*, by
Emilie O'Neill. Stay tuned for *Random
News 2*, coming in spring.

The Short Personality Quiz

By Matt Gencay, 3rd gr.

1. If your family was playing out-
side what would you do?

A. Are you lazy and sit on the
couch?

B. Are you active and play with
your family?

2. You have a dictionary and a com-
puter and you are in the library. What
would you use?

A. A computer

B. A dictionary

3. Would you rather watch a movie
in theaters or a movie at home?

A. In theaters

B. At home

4. Do you ski or snowboard?

A. ski

B. snowboard

5. Do you use a skateboard or a
ripstick?

A. skateboard

B. ripstick

6. Do you like the Wii or the PSP?

A. Wii

B. PSP

I would be active so I can have fun
and play with my family. I use com-
puters. I would watch a movie at my
house. I ski.

I use a ripstick and I love the wii.
And those are the things I would do.
I hope you have fun doing what you
want to do

Littlest Pet Shop V.I.P.s

By Megan Farelly, 4th gr.

Littlest Pet Shop V.I.P.s are a lot
like Webkinz. I got a turtle and she
is very cute. When I logged her on I
was asked, "What do you want as a
password and username?"

At first I did not know what to do
but then I remembered something.
And that something was - I had a
Webkinz account, so I used the same
password and username. Then I
moved onto the next question, "What
are you going to name it?"

I decided to name her Ziggy. Then
I had to say if she was a girl or a boy.
I said girl. Then I was on my last
question. It said to type Ziggy's code.
I found it on her tag and typed it in. I
finally got to play with her.

The first thing that popped up was
a newspaper. I was so excited! I read
the paper to know what was going
on. Then I began to walk around. I
saw a snail with something to say. I
walked over and read what she said.
"If you like treasure hunts, click on
me again."

So I did the hunt until I found out
that they had games. So I played
doctor. What I had to do was heal
the animals in need. At some time
you will have to quit but if you do
not they will say it is time to take a
brake and they quit for you and then
you get your money.

Then I looked at the stuff to do
and found a map and clicked on it
and found pictures of places I can go
to. I clicked on my house and then I
saw it. It was right where I started. I
walked into my house and saw that I
had nothing at all in there so I began
to look at stuff to do again.

I chose to look at the shops they
had and chose the house decoration
ship. It showed me the stuff I could
buy. I chose a bunk bed.

I then went home and put it down.
That is only one of the many things
that you can do at the littlest pet shop
V.I.P.'s.

If you do not have a V.I.P. you can
just rent one instead.

Gameboard Adventures

A story by Joshua Peterson, 4th gr.

Hi, I'm Mike. A couple of years ago I moved here to Detroit. It's a pretty cool city. But what happened to me I will never forget. The kid that lived next door invited me to be part of a club so I said sure. My parents let me go that night. We met in Justin's apartment. It was really ghostly looking. There were other kids there, too. They all were in a circle around an old lamp. Justin introduced me to the others. They were whispering to each other. The big red-head kid got up. He said I could play. "What?" I ask. He explained the game to me. He said that you had to go through each world. He also said that once you are there, there is no turning back. I thought he meant once at the spot on the game board you can't move back but I was wrong. I was very wrong. One of the other kids went first. He rolled a six. Six spaces was the swamp. I waited for him to move his mover but he didn't. The game board suddenly started to shake violently. The air turned to wind. Wind started to swirl creating a vortex. And then he got sucked in the game. When it all stopped I announced I was leaving. I went to the door and opened it. But what I found was not a stairwell. What I found was a brick wall. I pounded the wall. It was no use. Then I heard a voice from behind. It was Justin. In a soft voice he said, "Once you begin there's no turning back".

Chapter two

I turned around and asked if the joke could be over, because there's no way a kid could actually get sucked into a board game. Justin just grinned at me. "It's no joke," he said softly. Another kid took his turn, once again being sucked into the game. Justin was up next. He rolled a four. The fourth space on the game board was a joker. The joker meant he could choose whatever space on the game board he wanted to go to. Justin chose the swamp. As soon as he got sucked in, the game board started to turn wet and mushy. Then a picture appeared in it. It was Justin and the other kid. They were being attacked by a giant blob of water that was growing larger and larger by the second. I reached out toward the game board. The other kids yelled "NO!", but it was too late. My arm started to get sucked in. I could see the other part of my arm in the game board. It was coming out of thin air. And then suddenly, another one of the kids reached out and grabbed my other arm, pulling me out. Unfortunately, my other arm did not come out. I tried to squeeze

my other hand into a fist. As I looked through the game board I could see my floating hand squeeze into a fist. At the time I thought it was pretty scary. But now that I think about it, it would be pretty cool to have your arm in another place and still be able to control it. Then the giant water blob ate my hand and Justin's and the kid that was with him.

Chapter Three

I stared in disbelief, knowing that my hand was in a big blob of water. One of the ether kids whispered, "It's your turn". I ignored him and stared into the game board. Then the board went back to what it was before. I sat there - staring, wondering what just happened. I stared at the others. They stared back at me. It's your turn the kid said again. I stared at my shoulder where my arm should be. All I could see was what was behind me. I took the dice with the one arm I had left. I rolled a two. The space said "Run into a zombie. Go back one space." But little did I know that that was exactly what I was going to do. Space one was the graveyard.

Then the game board started to shake and the wind picked up just like the last time it sucked one of us in. Then I got sucked into the game. I got sent flying through a huge black hole. Then with a loud thump I fell into the tall grass. My back ached from the fall. I got up and looked around. It was getting dark wherever I was. And all I could see were gravestones. Rows of them, going on as far as the eye could see. I started to walk. Then out of nowhere I fell. I hit the soft squishy mud at the bottom. Then I ran to the dirt wall and started to climb up. My hands were digging at the dirt as I went. And then my hand hit something cold and hard. I grabbed it to pull it out. But before I could pull it out, it grabbed me.

Chapter four

I tugged away. And sure enough, my hand came out. But what I didn't expect was the boney hand that held onto mine. I flung my arm around in circles and then launched the hand off. It went flying and then hit the wall. Then with the boney fingers it started dragging itself toward me. I backed up to the wall as the hand grew closer. I pressed my back against the wall. Then it climbed onto my shoe. I kicked the hand off but then I felt a cold scaly hand on my shoulder. I turned around only to find another hand with an arm grabbing me. I pulled me back onto the wall. Then I

pushed off the wall and tried to run. I got away from the hand. But it wasn't the hand I had to worry about. A cracked bony skull pushed its way out of the dirt wall. And it reached for me. I turned around and kicked it as hard as I could. Sure enough, it broke. But I forgot about the hand, the one that had attacked me before. I saw it coming closer. And then, I jumped on it. When I stepped back the hand was in pieces. I spun around to go back to the wall and go out. Then I saw them, dozens of hands sticking out of the wall, pulling their bony bodies out. I sprinted over to the wall and tried to climb out. One of them grabbed my ankle. But lucky for me they were just bones. So I pulled my ankle away, still having the hand attached to it. I finally made it out of the hole. I kneeled down and started taking deep breaths. And then, out of nowhere. Something grabbed my ankle again. But this time it wasn't a skeleton. I looked back at my ankle just to find an ugly green hand grabbing it. I tried to pull away from it but it was too strong. Then I heard a voice, as voice from under the dirt. "Come doooowwwwnnnn". I looked up and saw dozens of hands sticking up from the graves. I slipped my sneaker off and got free from the grasp of the hands. I sprinted across the graveyard, dodging all the hands I could. I stepped on one of them and heard a shrill cry from under the earth. Then, I heard the same moaning voice. "Come doooowwwwnnn." I turned back to see what it was. But that was exactly what I should not have done. Two hands grabbed my ankles. I fell with a thud. Then two other hands grabbed my wrists. Once again I heard that same moaning voice. "Come doooowwwwnnn." They started to pull on me, pulling me down to the earth.

Chapter five

I tried to pull myself free but the hands were too strong. I reached for a gravestone and missed. Then I bit the hand as hard as I could. I heard a low wail from under ground. I could see the teeth marks in the slimy green hand. The hand released its grip. I bit the hand holding onto my other wrist. I stood up and swung my foot. The hand couldn't hold on. Then I kicked the other one as hard as I could. It released its grip and went back under ground. I sprinted down the rows of gravestones, dodging the slimy green hands. As I ran past the big hole I saw dozens of skeletons climbing out. One of them reached for me but I kicked it.

Continued on the next page

What do you think of yourself?

By Anna Frait, 5th gr.

- Do you:
 - want to change your name
 - think your name is awesome
 - think your name fits your personality
 - do not really care about your name
- Would you rather be caught:
 - riding your bike
 - playing the piano
 - reading a book
 - watching T.V.
- Would you rather play:
 - baseball
 - gymnastics
 - football
 - figure skating
- What is your hobby:
 - sports
 - drama
 - writing
 - collecting

The letter you choose most often tells who you are:

- Sporty
- Dramatic
- Yourself
- Care free

The Sports Man!

By Cameron Exline, 3rd gr.

Do you like sports? I do.

Some people call me "sports man" because I like to play a lot of sports. Here are some sports I like to play; hockey, baseball, and football.

This is a great play from football. When I was at a game, someone on the other team threw the football and I caught an interception. I ran five yards, then ten yards, twenty, I was almost there.

I did not know that I did it but, I SCORED A TOUCHDOWN!!!

I couldn't believe that I did such a good job! That was the best time of my life!

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Gameboard Adventures, continued

The skeletons hand went flying. Then at the end of the row of gravestones, or what looked like the end of them anyway, I saw a spinning bluish green circle about the size of the basketball floating about three feet up in the air. I looked behind me. Some of the skeletons had climbed out of the hole. Some of them were wearing Roman armor and the others were plain skeletons. I turned back around but I couldn't go any further. There was something in my way. And that something was moving closer.

Chapter six

I turned around to run back but skeletons were charging closer. I spun back around. And slipped and fell. I looked up. The thing I had just seen was closer. I got a pretty good look at it this time. It was a green human-looking thing with tattered clothes and a blackened eyesocket where an eye used to be. Then I saw a small rock about the size of a DVD. I picked it up and threw it at the thing. It hit it right in the face and took its head off. I watched in disbelief as it chased around its head frantically. I was frozen in stands. Smack, I toppled over on my back I was staring at skeletons. I forgot about them and they had ambushed me. One of the skeletons with armor had a sword raised above its head. I closed my eyes and waited for it. It slammed down on me and at that moment my worst nightmare came true.

Chapter seven

Nothing happened. I opened my eyes and looked around. "Where did they all go?" I asked myself as I got up. I turned around and saw the weird bluish green circle floating a few feet off the ground. I stared at it for moment then I noticed it was coming closer. I started to back away but tripped on a gravestone and fell. The thing came closer right over me then sucked me up. It was pitch black in there and I felt dizzy too. Then I popped back up in Justin's apartment all of the club members surrounded me Justin smiled at me, "You fell asleep when we were telling ghost stories." I sat up, "Just a nightmare" I thought to my self.

"Meeting over," Justin said. I headed for the door then stopped before I got there. Justin's mouth never moved. I spun around and with out thinking grabbed Justin's hair and pulled. To my surprise it came off I saw the green head with the black eye sockets. It grinned at me and said, "Now you've begun, you can't go back."

Warm up your brain, and answer these riddles

By: Johanna Jeung, 5th gr.

1. You have a bag of corn, a hen, a fox, and a row boat. You are at the river. Only you and one other thing can fit in the row boat. The fox eats the hen, and the hen eats the corn. You have to bring them across the river to the fair where they will sell for a handsome price! You can not leave one of the pairs who will eat each other alone on either side. How do you do it?

2. What gets bigger the more you take away?

3. Mary has six kids in her family, Pip, Pap, Pep, Pop, and Pup. What is the sixth child's name?

4. What can you throw away the out-

side, peel the outside, cook the inside, eat the outside, and throw away the inside?

5. There is a red house with a brown chimney. Inside it is a white house. Inside that are three black houses. What is the red house's name?

6. The red house is on the right and the blue house is on the left. Where is the white house?

7. What has a red coat, wears a brown hat, and has a stone inside?

8. As I was going to St. Ives, I met eight curly haired wives. Each wife had five sacks. Each sack had two cats. How many were going to St. Ives?

Answer key:

1. Grab the chicken and bring it to the other side, then grab the fox and drop it off to the other side, quickly grab the chicken and bring the chicken back, then grab the corn and drop off the chicken, bring the corn to the other side, go back and grab the chicken and bring it to the other side.

2. a hole

3. Mary

4. corn

5. apple

6. In Washington, D.C.

7. cherry

8. one was only going to St. Ives

2 Bats + 1 Chipmunk = Disaster

By Julia Stebbins, 5th gr.

Chapter 1

I soared through the sky finally realizing how free I was. Night was my only time to get away from my crazy brothers (and some times sisters). Oh, if you want to know more about me here it is. My name is Moonshadow.

I am a fruit eating bat.

My favorite fruits are pears, strawberries, and pineapple. My favorite color

is orange, my favorite holiday is Halloween, and my favorite thing to do in my spare time is flying. Just now, I was on my way to meet one of my friends (my other one would throw a fit if she knew). Moonshine sat on a branch with his wings folded, "Hi Moonshadow." He said as I swooped down, "So, do you want to go play tag?"

"Sure," I answered, "and your it."

I yelled flying off.

* Book Reviews*

Charlotte's Web

By: E.B White

The main characters are Fern, Charlotte and Wilbur. Here are some more characters, Templeton and Goose but there are more characters. About Wilbur, Wilbur is a pig and when he is born he was a runt. In the story Wilbur, is in danger because the people want to eat him for the holiday and his new friend, Charlotte, promised that she would save him. The story takes place in the country. They live in a barn at Fern's house. It's a great story about friendship and looking out for one another.

-- Madilyn Mason, 3rd gr.

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens

It's about Scrooge, an unpleasant old miser. He scorns Christmas and the Christmas spirit. But Scrooge has a lesson in store for him. Ghost of Christmas past, present and future pay him a visit on Christmas Eve and change his life forever. You get to meet unforgettable characters like Bob Crotchet and Scrooge himself. You also meet three ghosts.

The ghosts are the ghost of Christmas present, the ghost of Christmas past, and the ghost of Christmas Eve! I hope you get a chance to read this book! It helps you remember what Christmas is about.

-- Catherine Laube, 3rd gr.

Christmas Poems

By: Catherine Laube, 3rd gr.

Christmas,
snow is falling;
families are making ginger
bread cookies.

Kids are playing in the snow,
"YEPY! YEPY!" KIDS
SHOUT.

"Oh it's gorgeous!" Wives
shout

While husbands put up the
Christmas tree

Kids make up stories to tell
to their parents

Stories about Christmas
fairytales.

Girls putting on snow flake
earrings

and showing them to their
mom.

That's exactly what winter is
all about!



The Dolphin Splash is a collaboration between Springfield Plains Elementary, students, parents and staff and *The Clarkston News*.



Learning to learn

Continued from page 1A

lines for testing and identifying a student with special needs. Students who are struggling learners may not necessarily qualify for special education."

Yeloushan, who has a background working with emotionally impaired students, has been with the district since 1998. Her own four children, from preschool to eighth grade, attend Clarkston schools, and her husband, Eric, teaches second grade in the district.

Her job, she says, is a responsibility she takes very seriously, and she's careful to be sensitive to the needs of the families who receive special education services.

Often, Yeloushan explains, she uses an analogy from her own life when talking to students.

"I wear contacts," she said. "If I took them out, I wouldn't be able to see anything. It's a tool to level the playing field."

And that's what she wants to give students: a level field.

"There's so much to offer students with disabilities, and so much they can offer back to us," she said. "When I meet new students I tell them 'you always have new opportunities to develop who you are and what you want to be. You just need some tools so you can move forward.'"

And Yeloushan and her staff are in place to help students find, and learn to use, those tools.

"It's important to me that people aren't saying 'this is a general education student and this is a special education student,'" she said. "They're both general education students; one may just have specific needs for learning."

But those specific needs cost money; some 38 percent of the district's \$13 million-plus special education budget is used for teacher salaries. Another 20 percent pays for paraeducators, and 15 percent funds services from ancillary staff, such as speech therapists, social workers and school psychologists.

Another 19 percent goes toward tuition, for students who attend center programs, both in and out of district. The rest pays for transportation, administrative costs, supplies and related expenses.

A popular misconception, Yeloushan said, is that her department receives large amounts of undesignated money.

"I'm not sure where the idea came or why people feel special education has so much money," she said. "We're really tied to specific guidelines through the federal grants and state funding we receive."

The district uses a 14-page document, provided by the State of Michigan Department of Education as the main document for determining allowable expenditures.

One example, Yeloushan said, pertains to supplies. The document states that "furniture and instructional equipment ordinarily available for regular education pupils are not reimbursable, including such items as desks, lockers...."

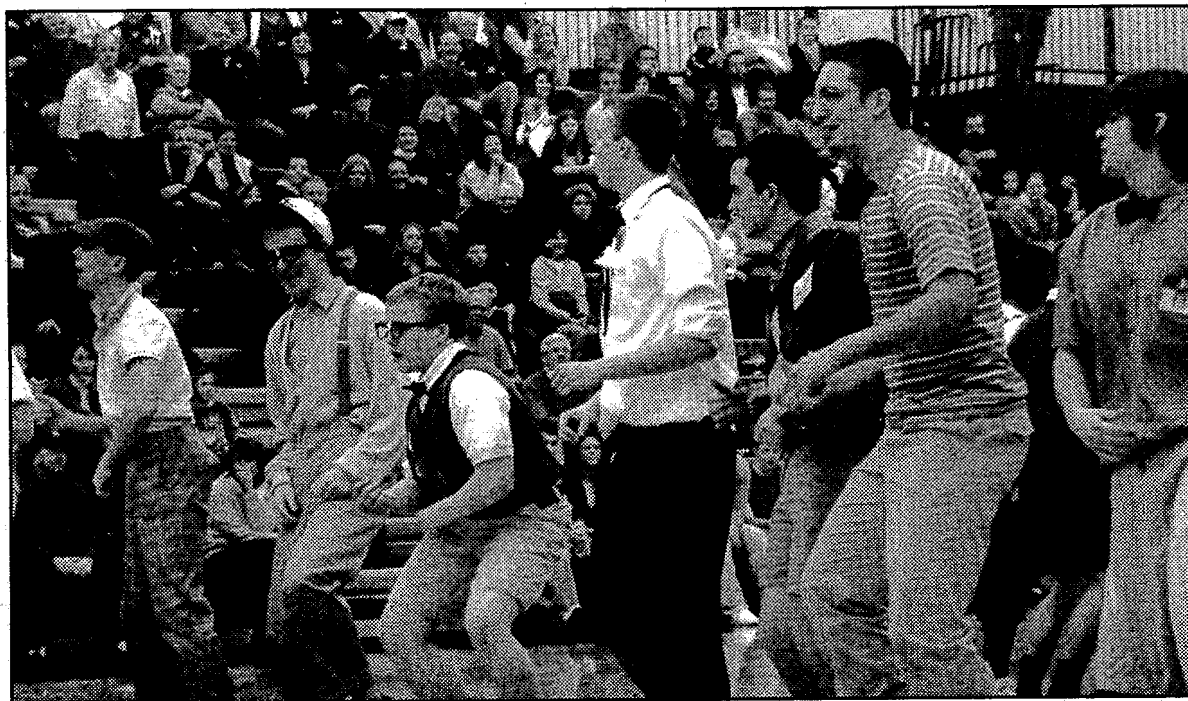
This document also gives function and object codes for how budget account numbers, for everything from teachers' salaries to mileage reimbursement, must be set up.

For federal funds (IDEA and Preschool Incentive Federal grants), additional guidelines must be followed.

"For instance, we must write components for every area where we would like to use federal funds," Yeloushan said. "We are monitored to make sure our expenses match the components we wrote."

The funds, she said, are audited by school district auditors, as well as by Oakland Schools and periodically by the State.

Next: Clarkston's Autism Spectrum Disorders Center Program accepts students from across Oakland County, but a disproportionate number already live in Clarkston. Why? What problems does this pose?



The boys charm the ladies into a dance.



Elyse Flaucher jumps to "Shout."



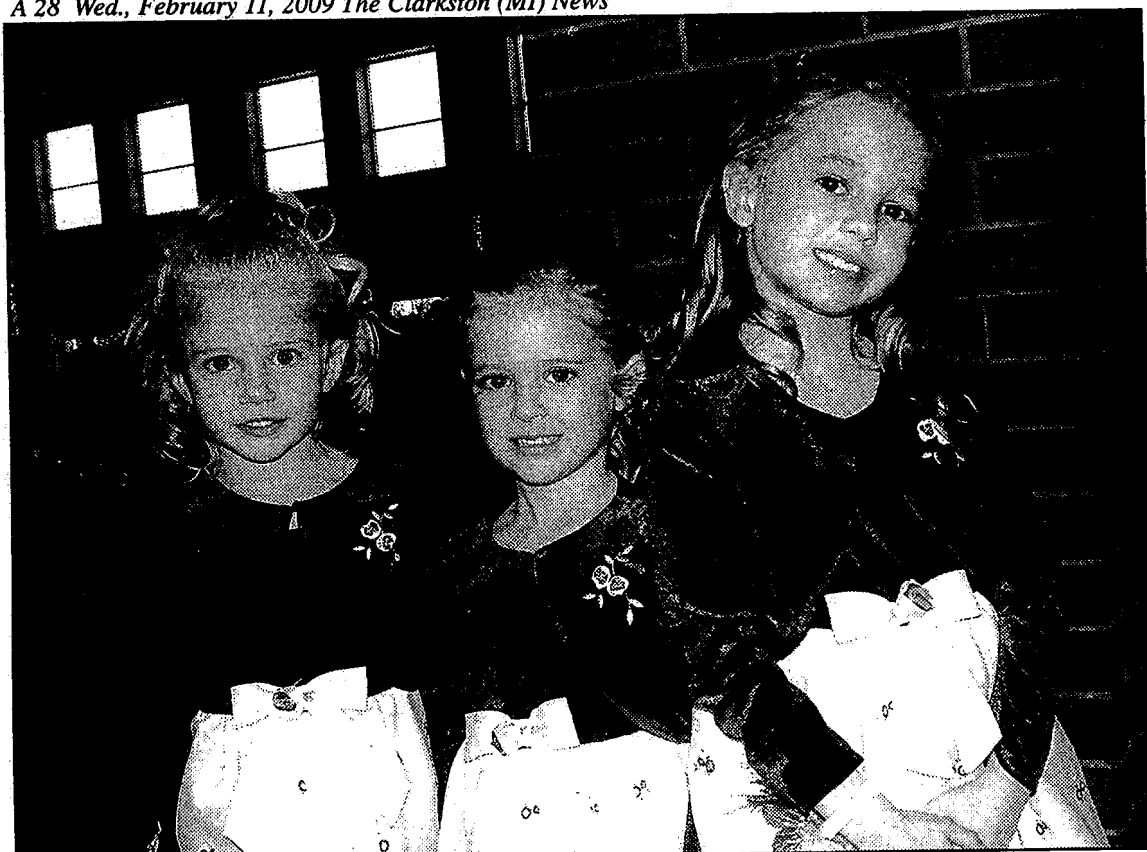
Varsity Pom Pon dancers begin their routine.

They just wanted to dance

The Clarkston Wolves Pom Pon dance team entertained the crowd at Friday's basketball victory against North Farmington with their annual duet show.

The guys, dressed in their nerdiest best, had to overcome their shyness to invite the girls to dance. Once they did, the audience enjoyed a dance medley of "Grease," Whitney Houston, and other tunes.

Photos by Wendi Reardon



Sisters Natalie, Emma and Sarah Neumann give a smile for the camera.



Young dancers enjoy a good time at the event

Dancing with Daddy

Almost 1,000 fathers and daughters participated in the annual pre-Valentines Day Daddy -Daughter Dance, Feb. 7, at Clarkston High School.

The girls and their dads enjoyed time out on the dance floor, with DJ Tom Teddar, as well as punch and refreshments served by students of Clarkston High School's National Honors Society.

They also had professional photos taken by Unique Image. The dance is put on each year by Clarkston Community Education.

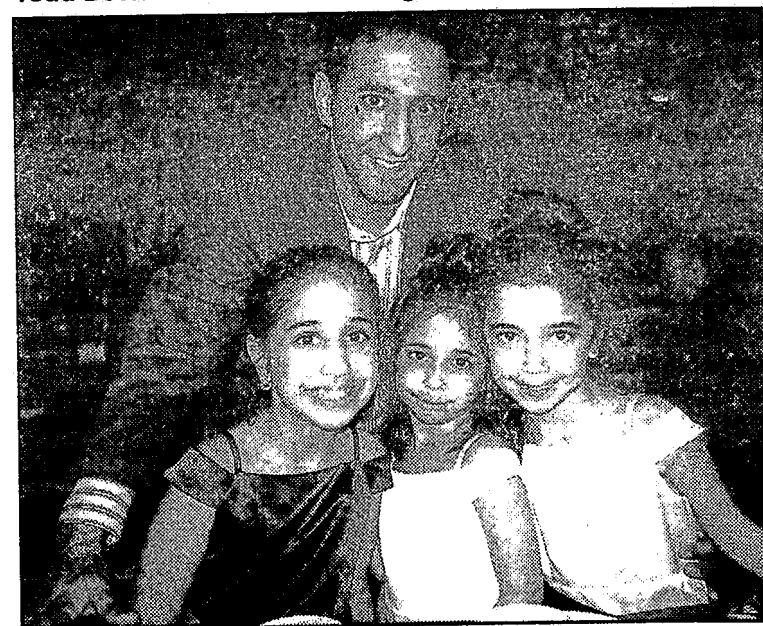
Photo story by Trevor Keiser



These girls keep the train going around the dance floor.



Todd Beck dances with his daughter Alley.



Abigail, Rebecah, and Sarah pose with their father Nick.

People Poll

February 11, 2009
Page B1

What's with Obama's tax cheat cabinet members?



"I think he did the right thing on



"I'm suprised there is not better screening before they're nominated."
- Bay Shaver



"I'm really suprised they don't control the bidding process."
- Bob Lawson



"We should have people in office who are honest. Not paying your taxes is not honest."
- Margaret Bartos

By Trevor Keiser

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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



Jaime Bonneau of Independence Township is competing at the Special Olympics World Winter Games this week, cheered on by her mother, Roxanne Bonneau, at left, and friend Carolyn Clark. Photos by Phil Custodio

Going for the gold

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Jaime Bonneau of Independence Township takes on the world this week, at the Special Olympic World Winter Games 2009.

"I want to get a gold medal," said Bonneau, 28, 2000 graduate of Clarkston High School.

This is her first time competing at the world games, Feb. 6-13, in Boise, Idaho. To prepare, she spent a week in December at the U.S. Olympic team training center in Denver, Colo., and trained with world-class coaches.

"They skated all day, every day," said Roxanne Bonneau, her mother.

"It was really hard," said Jaime.

She trains at Lakeland Skating Club in Waterford twice a week – getting up at 6 a.m. each time, she said – along with swimming, pottery, portrait painting, photography, Tae Kwon Do, gourmet cooking, horseback riding, and work at the local Kroger's.

"She does so many things," Roxanne said. "It's hard to keep track of them. She likes to keep busy. She's not afraid of anything. If I asked her to go skydiving, she say, 'let's go.'"

"I'm not afraid of heights," Jaime said.

Her 1 1/2 minute skating routing features crossovers, single-blade turns, spirals, spins, and backward circles, all set to music from "The Phantom of the Opera." With her black and white



Jaime demonstrates a dance move from her skating routine.

costume, she portrays both the Phantom and his protege/victim, Christine.

"That was my mom's idea," Jaime said.

"The idea of skating to the Phantom was Jaime's," Roxanne said.

Jaime, who has Down' Syndrome, has been skating for eight years, three with Special Olympics.

"It's fun," she said.

She won gold and bronze medals at last year's state Special Olympics Summer Games, earning her a spot at the World Games.

"She's quite the athlete," said Roxanne, who travelled to Colorado to cheer on her daughter

Please see Skating on page 3B

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Zumba Gold Fitness Demo, 1 p.m., Feb. 12, First Congregational Church, 5449 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Optimistics Visually Impaired Support Group, 11 a.m., Feb. 12, Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Valentine Special Lunch, 12 p.m., Feb. 13. \$5. Home-made healthy fare. Sign up by Feb. 11. Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Genealogy Study Group, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Feb. 14, Independence Township Library Large Group Room, Clarkston Road. Anyone interested in genealogy is welcome to attend.

Peter Mulvey and Drew Nelson, Americana, folk, acoustic artists, Carrick House concert, 4 p.m., Feb. 15. \$15 donation. 248-394-0113.

Sunrise Networking Group Golf League meeting, 6:30 p.m., Feb. 17, Fountains Golf and Banquet, 6060 Maybee Road. League meets first and third Tuesdays. Open to all. \$150. 248-625-3731.

Celebrating Michigan's Past(a), 7-8:30 p.m., Feb. 17, Cooking with Essence on Main, 4 S. Main Street, variety of pastas and sauces of Michigan producers, with Chef Joan. \$30. 248-942-4949.

Family Caregivers Support Club, 7 p.m., Feb. 19, Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Spaghetti Dinner, 5-7 p.m., Feb. 20. All-you-can-eat spaghetti and meat sauce, tossed salad, garlic bread. \$5. Take-out available. Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Around Town

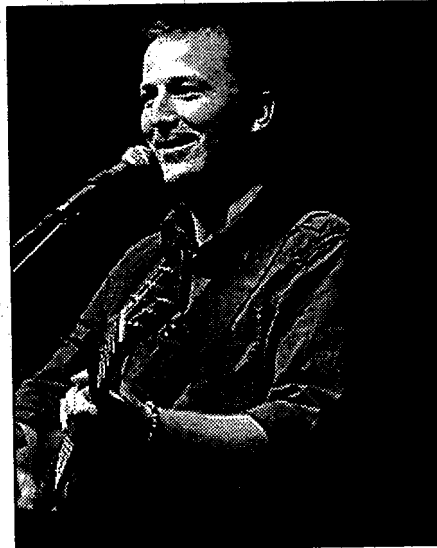
Folk music at Carrick concert

Carrick House Concert Series continues, Sunday, Feb. 15, 4 p.m., with the acoustic music of Peter Mulvey and Drew Nelson.

Mulvey, songwriter from Milwaukee Wisc., has an intense percussive guitar style and strong national following in the indie folk/rock scene. He has scored music for theater and modern dance, and has had numerous songs featured in film and television.

Nelson is a Grand Rapids folk/rock artist known for addressing themes unique to Michigan such as auto industry, Great Lakes, trout fishing and Native American folklore.

The Carrick home in Independence Township offers an intimate concert experience, with opportunities to enjoy the show and meet the artists after. Concert



Peter Mulvey

includes pizza, snacks, coffee and water bottles.

Admission is a \$15 donation to the artists. Call 248-394-0113 for more information.

Bocce Ball and Lunch, 9:15 a.m.-2 p.m., Feb. 24, Palazzo Di Bocce in Lake Orion. Games, lunch, mini-bus transportation. 248-625-8231.

Clarkston Preschool Meet and Greet, Clarkston Area Mothers and More, 7-8:30 p.m., March 2, Everest Academy, Girl's School, 5935 Clarkston Road. Showcases more than 20 area preschools and children's activities. Free. Call Arnie at 248-241-6025.

Fiesta Fund Raiser and Silent Auction, Oakland County 4H Fair Association and Horse Council, 5:30-9 p.m., March 7. All-you-can-eat Mexican menu, 50/50 raffle, games. \$7. Springfield Oaks Park, 12451 Andersonville Road. 248-634-8830.

Book signing, "Chantepleure," a novel by Linda Robinson, 1-3 p.m., March 7, Higher Ground Coffee and Tea House, 661 Broadway, second floor, Davisburg. 248-634-7505.

Wonderfully Meatless, 7-8:30 p.m., March 11, Cooking with Essence on Main, 4 S. Main Street, healthy and flavorful vegetarian main dishes. \$30. 248-942-4949.

Retirement Planning Workshops, 6-8 p.m., March 11. Topics: social, financial, health, planning for retirement. Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Chocolatey Kid's Class, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., March 21, Cooking with Essence on Main, 4 S. Main Street, Chistie Kojima of The Chocolate Moose makes chocolate flowers and bugs to celebrate the beginning of spring. Ages 8 and up. \$15. 248-942-4949.

Olive Oils and Vinegars, 7-8:30 p.m., March 25, Cooking with Essence on Main, 4 S. Main Street, taste test, balsamic vinegars to understand different nuances and flavors that brands and age can mean. \$30. 248-942-4949.

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.

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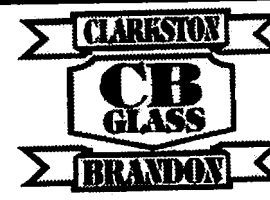
Cory E. Cookingham, M.D. (Left) • Duane D. Harrison, M.D. (Back) • Gail A. Cookingham, M.D. (Right)

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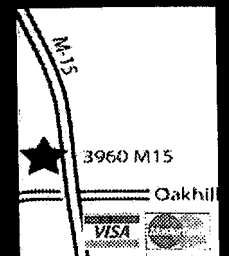
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Jaime Bonneau performs to music of "The Phantom of the Opera."

Skating just one of many activities

Continued from page 1B

with neighbor Carolyn Clark.

"I think it's fabulous – she works so hard at everything she does," said Clark, whose son is engaged to Jaime's sister, Ashley. "Lakeland Arena had a sendoff reception. That was the first time I watched her perform. She's very, very good – elegant."

Randy, Jaime's father, couldn't go because he had to run the family business, Natural Touch Florist in Lake Orion.

Jaime and her parents live in a home decorated with artwork painted by members of the family.

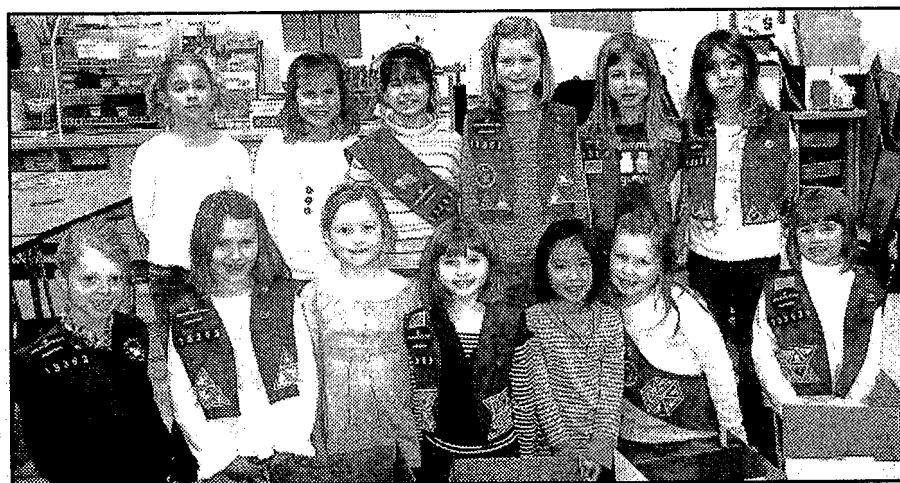
"She comes from a long line of artists – her grandmother, both her parents, her sister," Clark said. "Jaime paints everything."

She is also starting her own business, making and selling jewelry and paintings.

"She's already sold quite a few pieces of art," Roxanne said.

Jaime's boyfriend, Kyle Groff, just started learning to skate, but she hopes to compete with him in pairs.

"He looks like John Travolta," Jaime said.



Brownie Troop 13363, Clarkston Elementary, in back from left, Anna Skvarce, Sierra Aguilar, Michaela Spicer, Jenna Cook, Ellie Cook, and Kailey James; kneeling from left, Morgan Stringer, Chloe Davis, Gabrielle Maday, Hannah Music, Marissa Traver, Olivia Thomas, and Emily Herrmann. Not pictured are Sara Thompson and Hannah Lohmeier.

Brownies help troops overseas

Brownie Troop 13363 of Clarkston Elementary assembled and shipped 22 care packages for troops overseas, at a Jan. 14 packing party.

The second-graders' families donated items and money, and they researched how to fill out customs and shipping forms. Each box cost \$11 to ship.

"We are very proud to have sent as many as we did," said Angela Avery, Troop 13363. "Given the economy and the fact that it was after the holidays, we were not sure of the response, but our families came through with flying colors. In addition, we invited families of servicemen who attend our school to our packing party, which was very special."



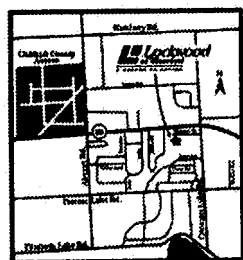
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Lockwood of Waterford

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1407 Skipper Dr. Waterford, MI 48327

RSVP: 888.309.9893



Class Location:
Lockwood of Waterford
1407 Skipper Dr.
Waterford, MI 48327

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presents her southern bell cooking methods.
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Do you want to decrease your pain and stiffness, improve your mobility and take control of your arthritis? You can, and the Arthritis

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O'Malley's Galley Bail Out Program

(All Include Coleslaw or Salad & choice of Potato,)

- Fish-N-Chips Icelandic Cod
- Smoked Pork Dinner.
- 1/4 Barbecue Chicken & Pork combo
- Fried Perch
- Fried Walleye
- Fried Shrimp
- Fried White Fish
- Fried Clams
- Shepherd's Pie
- Corned Beef and Cabbage
- Pasta Marinara

\$10.99

\$5 Sandwiches

- All our sandwiches are served with fresh baked bread and buns
- 1/3 lb Char Broiled Burger
 - Fried Icelandic Cod Sandwich
 - Grilled Corned Beef and Swiss
 - Grilled Cheese Triple Decker
 - Smoked Pork Sand.
 - Grilled Ham & Cheese
 - Grilled or Fried Chicken Sandwich
 - B.L.T.
 - Grilled Turkey with Swiss

valentine's day
february 14

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Milestones

Sashabaw student makes All-State band



Caelan Stewart, seventh-grader at Sashabaw Middle School, earned a spot on this year's All-State Honors Band.

He earned First Chair honors for french horn. More than 3,200 students from across the state auditioned for the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association honors band, Jan. 24, in Grand Rapids.

Caelan Stewart, Sashabaw Middle School seventh-grader, and Guest Conductor Quincy Hilliard performed with the All-State Honors Band. Photo provided

Students achieve success

Clarkston area students **Amanda K. Evanson**, **Megan Elizabeth Gaines**, **Lisa R. Wilke**, and **Cassandra Nicole Yarnall** were named to Madonna University's Dean's List for fall 2008 term.

Jason Combs, a 1996 graduate of Clarkston High School and 2000 graduate of Grand Valley State University, recently received his Masters Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Combs, son of John and Marsha Combs of Clarkston, works at the university in research while pursuing a position in his new field.

Graduating this past December from Michigan Tech were Clarkston students **Keith W. Magic**, earning a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering degree, and **Thomas J. Maxwell**, Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering, and **Thomas D. Dzmelyk** of Davisburg, Bachelor of Science in Computer Systems Science.

Garrett Phillips of Clarkston was named to the Dean's List at Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice, Fall Semester 2008.

Phillips is the son of Mike and Cathy Forst of Clarkston, Clarkston High School graduate, and senior at MSU.

Clarkston students **Amanda Hassett** and **Michelle Pickett** were named to the DePaul University Dean's List for Autumn Quarter.

Clarkston-area students named to Michigan Technological's Dean's List for fall 2008 semester include **David J. Arnold**, sophomore, Mechanical Engineering; **Brian C. Arpke**, senior, Mechanical Engineering; **Lauren K. Dedow**, senior, Biological Sciences; **Alexander F. Hardy**, senior, Mechanical Engineering; and **Nicholas A. Puroll**, senior, Civil Engineering.

Clarkston-area students named to Northern Michigan University's Dean's List for Fall 2008 semester include **Steven A. Puroll** and **Keith W. Voorheis**, with 4.00 grade point average; and **Colette M. Armes**, **Edward D. Brennan**, **Derek R. Bush**, **Robert D. Campbell**, **Weston G. Gleiss**, **Sara J. Hartley**, **Stephen M. Hunter**, **Jacob H. Jacques**, **Anna T. Kerr**, **Kathleen T. Kerr**, **Alex D. Knudson**, **Joseph A. Seibert**, **Thomas J. Swayne**, **Phillip S. Voorheis**, and **Marisa L. Westphall**, with grade point averages of 3.25-3.99.

Send your milestones to our downtown office at 5 S. Main St. or e-mail Clarkstonnews@gmail.com

Religion

Come to church, even if penniless

Mark 12:41-44 And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny.

And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Often in hard times or when bad things happen in our country, like 9-11 we see people flocking to church to find comfort and peace in Christ, comfort from their fears, and a friend to share with.

Today, in this financial mess that our world is in, people are staying at home. They are not coming to church. They are not coming because they are ashamed, ashamed that they do not have an offering. In our world today, we in the church have made it sound to those who are hurting most, that unless they can give an offering to our Lord and Savior, that they are not welcome in our midst. I am finding that many are saying in their heart, I can't afford to come to church.

Weekly, people in our congregation pass the offering plate without putting something in or they give to God

only a few coins... they give what they have, they give all that they can. Sometimes we forget that an offering is not just money, but rather that it is a gift to God in Christ Jesus to do the work of and in his kingdom.

A gift of time or effort given from the heart is so much more worthy in God's eyes no matter its size, than a gift given begrudgingly or out of necessity.

And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

As a pastor, I am thankful to have members give from their hearts because it is here that their faith shines through! With a faith that causes them to give from the heart, their faith remains much stronger over time, but more importantly they see and understand that they are not coming to church to see how big of an offering they can make, but rather they are coming to church to be ever closer to Christ and to grow in their faith daily.

Believing in Jesus Christ is not about money, it is about your faith in Christ.

So what happens if you don't have an offering to give?

Please see *Spiritual Matters*, page 10B

Spiritual Matters



Father Kelly Todd

In our churches...

Country Breakfast and Jamboree, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 21, Pine Knob Missionary Baptist Church, 6293 Waldon Center Drive. Live music, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Donations, all you can eat. 248-620-5011.

Ghandi/King/Chavez Season for Peace and Nonviolence, Sundays through April 4, explore ways to be peacemakers by honoring a different faith tradition each week. Hindu faith. Peace Unity, 8080 Ortonville Road. 248-625-5192.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, biblically based, financial workshop for everyone, Sundays, 4 p.m. 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; 5:30 p.m., Mondays, instructor Noreen Daly. Beginning and intermediate tech. Please see *In Our Churches*, page 10B

CHURCH DIRECTORY



GOSPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Held at Hart Community Center
495 Broadway, Davisburg
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Pastor John Dew
Service Sunday: 11:00 am
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(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.

OAKLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Wayne Uppendahl
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., 6:30 pm at Church Offices - Yellow House
7205 Clintonville Rd., Clarkston, MI
Phone (248) 858-2577
Fax (248) 858-7706

CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

PEACE UNITY CHURCH

10 am Sunday Celebration Service
Children's Church
Realizing peace, wholeness and abundance in unity. A center for prayer, peace studies and healing.
Spiritual Education, Community Outreach, Holistic Healing, "Green" Philosophy, Mastermind, Fellowship
Rev. Matthew E. Long, founding minister
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Peace Unity Church
8080 Ortonville Rd.
Clarkston, MI 48348
www.peaceunitychurch.org

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248-625-2325

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www.ClarkstonFMC.org
Wednesday 7 pm
Youth & Adult Ministry

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

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

5449 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston
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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

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Pastor James Krueger
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(1/4 mile N. of DTE Music Theater)
Clarkston, MI 48348
(248) 625-4644
www.sainttrinitylutheran.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

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

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 Kuehn, 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.

Great Lakes **GMAC** Real Estate

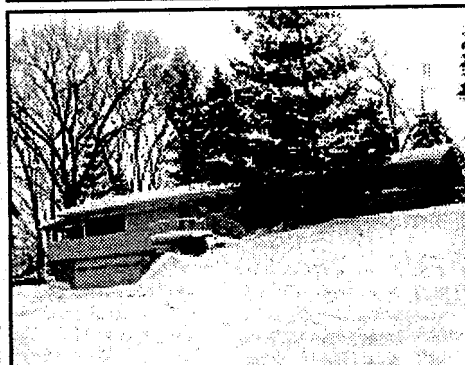
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ROCHESTER HILLS 248.293.0000



Spectacular Home. Everything is fantastic. Luxurious first floor master suite, and 3 additional bedrooms each with their own private bath. Gourmet kitchen with stainless appl. 3 fireplaces, dual staircases, butter pantry with a wine chiller. Finished lower level w/ theatre, bar, exercise room & bath. Extensive decking w/gazebo, on a wooded lot. **\$947,500 (19Lin)**
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Thursday, February 26, 2009 - 6 P.M.

What is a Short Sale? Should I sell or buy with a Short Sale Transaction?

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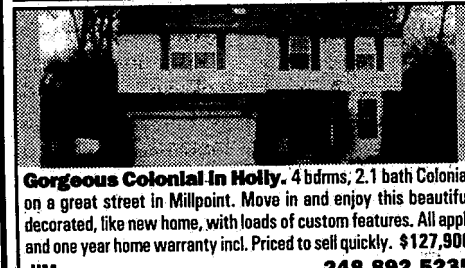
Great Lakes GMAC Real Estate & HomeSite Mortgage

Location of the seminar is
 2915 S. Rochester Rd., Rochester Hills
 (on the North East corner of Rochester & Auburn)

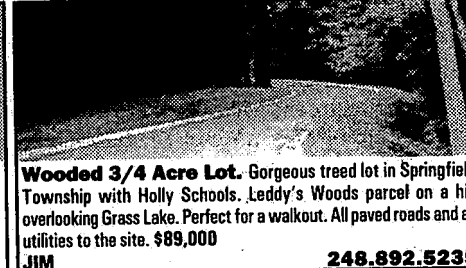
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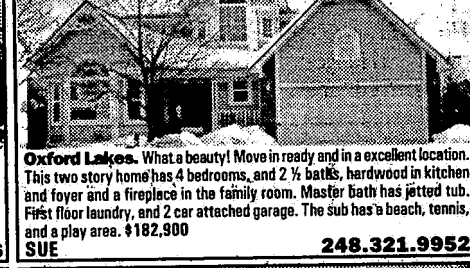
Gorgeous Colonial in Holly. 4 bdrms, 2.1 bath Colonial on a great street in Millpoint. Move in and enjoy this beautiful decorated, like new home, with loads of custom features. All appl. and one year home warranty incl. Priced to sell quickly. **\$127,900**
JIM 248.892.5235



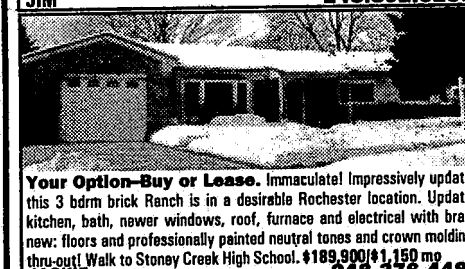
Wooded 3/4 Acre Lot. Gorgeous treed lot in Springfield Township with Holly Schools. Leddy's Woods parcel on a hill overlooking Grass Lake. Perfect for a walkout. All paved roads and all utilities to the site. **\$89,000**
JIM 248.892.5235



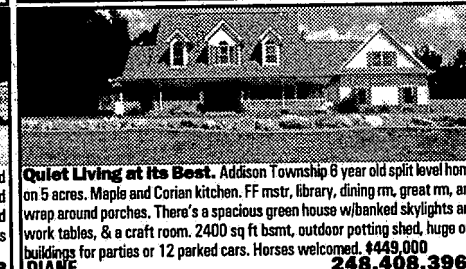
Desirable Indianwood Estates. Beautiful 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath Colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac. Vaulted ceilings & natural firplca in the great rm inspires atmosphere; O/F plan allows you to visit with your guests. 1st floor master with a spacious upgraded bath and walk-in closet. 3 car garage, paver patio, & maint-free exterior. Home warranty incl. **\$309,000**
DAN 248.410.2416



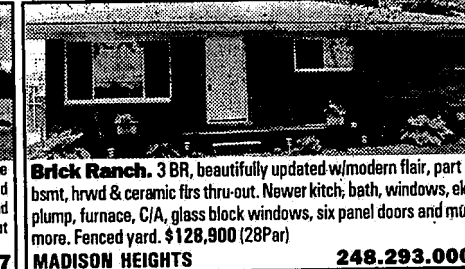
Oxford Lakes. What a beauty! Move in ready and in an excellent location. This two story home has 4 bedrooms, and 2 1/2 baths, hardwood in kitchen and foyer and a fireplace in the family room. Master bath has jetted tub. First floor laundry, and 2 car attached garage. The sub has a beach, tennis, and a play area. **\$182,900**
SUE 248.321.9952



Your Option—Buy or Lease. Immaculate! Impressively updated this 3 bdrm brick Ranch is in a desirable Rochester location. Updated kitchen, bath, newer windows, roof, furnace and electrical with brand new: floors and professionally painted neutral tones and crown moldings thru-out! Walk to Stony Creek High School. **\$189,900/1,150 mo**
JACKIE 248.376.4488



Quiet Living at its Best. Addison Township 6 year old split level home on 5 acres. Maple and Corian kitchen. FF mstr, library, dining rm, great rm, and wrap around porches. There's a spacious green house w/banked skylights and work tables, & a craft room. 2400 sq ft bsmt, outdoor potting shed, huge out buildings for parties or 12 parked cars. Horses welcomed. **\$449,000**
DIANE 248.408.3967



Brick Ranch. 3 BR, beautifully updated w/modern flair, part fin bsmt, hrvd & ceramic flrs thru-out. Newer kitchen, bath, windows, elec. plump, furnace, C/A, glass block windows, six panel doors and much more. Fenced yard. **\$128,900 (28Par)**
MADISON HEIGHTS 248.293.0000



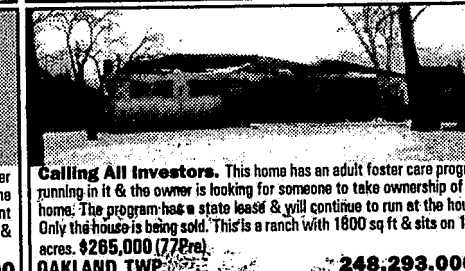
Welcoming Ranch. Nostalgic '50's built home with hardwood floors, spacious kitchen, over sized garage, semi-finished basement & newer mechanicals. Come and see, in Rochester Hills, just waiting for you. **\$174,900 (65Ham)**
ROCHESTER HILLS 248.293.0000



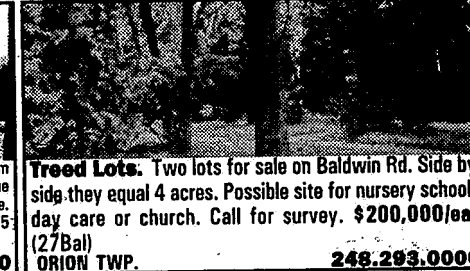
Just Some TLC. Cape Cod with 2 bedrooms & 2 baths, 1 up & 1 on the level. Living, dining and family rooms. Unfinished basement, porch, and 1 car garage, plus two other sheds. **\$99,900 (21Roc)**
ROCHESTER HILLS 248.293.0000



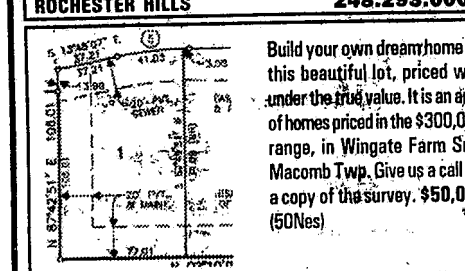
Stately 1929 Tudor. Beautifully finished 5 bdrm home. Wet plaster w/decorative ceilings, wood flooring, original leaded glass windows in the living room & impressive oak trim. Updated electrical, semi fin. basement w/glass block windows & 1/2 bath. 2 car garage finished w/shelving & cabinets. **\$119,900 (74Coo)**
CENTERLINE 248.293.0000



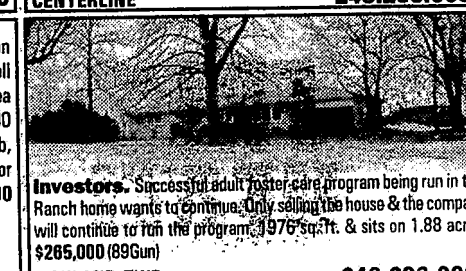
Calling All Investors. This home has an adult foster care program running in it & the owner is looking for someone to take ownership of the home. The program has a state lease & will continue to run at the house. Only the house is being sold. This is a ranch with 1800 sq ft & sits on 1.75 acres. **\$265,000 (77Pre)**
OAKLAND TWP 248.293.0000



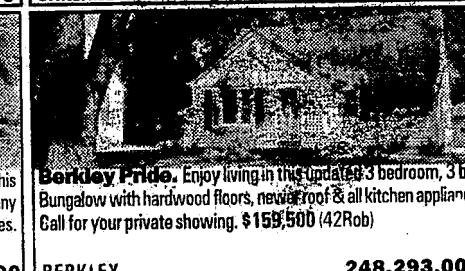
Treed Lots. Two lots for sale on Baldwin Rd. Side by side, they equal 4 acres. Possible site for nursery school, day care or church. Call for survey. **\$200,000/ea. (27Bal)**
ORION TWP. 248.293.0000



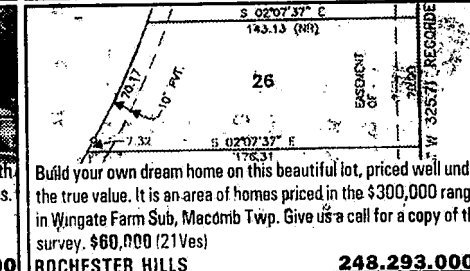
Build your own dream home on this beautiful lot, priced well under the true value. It is an area of homes priced in the \$300,000 range, in Wingate Farm Sub, Macomb Twp. Give us a call for a copy of the survey. **\$50,000 (50Nes)**
MACOMB TWP. 248.293.0000



Investors. Successful adult foster care program being run in this Ranch home wants to continue. Only selling the house & the company will continue to run the program. **1976 sq.ft. & sits on 1.88 acres. \$265,000 (89Gun)**
OAKLAND TWP. 248.293.0000



Berkley Pride. Enjoy living in this updated 3 bedroom, 3 bath Bungalow with hardwood floors, newer roof & all kitchen appliances. Call for your private showing. **\$159,500 (42Rob)**
BERKLEY 248.293.0000



Build your own dream home on this beautiful lot, priced well under the true value. It is an area of homes priced in the \$300,000 range, in Wingate Farm Sub, Macomb Twp. Give us a call for a copy of the survey. **\$60,000 (21Ves)**
ROCHESTER HILLS 248.293.0000



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Elsie Shrum

Elsie Elvira Shrum of Pontiac, formerly of Neon, Ky, passed away, Feb. 2, 2009, at the age of 90.

She was preceded in death by her husband Norman, her parents Tom and Callie Webb and 10 siblings. She was the mother of Rita (Arnold) Callender of Waterford, Wilma (Larry) Dobbins of Clarkston, and the late Leroy Beach (Georgiana) of N.C.; step-mother of Gary (Susan) Shrum of Waterford; grandmother of Rick (Vicky) Callender, Jeanine (Randy) Johnson, Darla (Scott) Duncan, Dale (Gina) Dobbins, David (Maria) Dobbins, Dennis (Wendy) Dobbins, Cindy (Bob) Gresham and Anita (Chris) Cook; great grandmother of Katie Callender, Rick and Tiffany Johnson,



Jim (Goldie) Webb.

Garron Sakalauskas, Alora Duncan, Cassandra, Nicholas, Kelly and Daniel Dobbins, Haley Gresham, and Amber and Cole Cook; great great grandmother of Logan Johnson; and sister of
 Funeral service was Feb. 5 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment, Perry Mt. Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Online guestbook, www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Cleo Marion Hungerford

Cleo Marion Hungerford of Ortonville passed away, Feb. 4, 2009, at the age of 80.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bert. She was the loving mother of Liz (Mike) Stevens, Frani (Marty) Buckner, M. Bert Hungerford; grandmother of Stacy (Jason) Hinds, Jason (Kelly) Kay, Bryan Kay, Garrett (Andrea) Hungerford, Jenna (Dan) Berry, Kiri Hungerford, and Leelou Hungerford; great

grandmother of Samaritan and Jackson; sister of Anne, Karen, and the late James.

Visitation was Feb. 6 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Funeral Mass was Feb. 7 at St. Daniel Catholic Church, Clarkston. Private interment, Lakeview Cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. Daniel Catholic Church. Online guest book, www.wintfuneralhome.com.

William R 'Belá' Semperger

William R "Belá" Semperger of Clarkston, formerly of Farmington Hills and Melvindale, passed away, Feb. 5, 2009, at the age of 82.

He was the husband of Bernadine for 56 years; father of Karen Semperger of East Lansing, William D.M.D. (Rosalind) Semperger Jr. of Farmington Hills, Daniel (Kimberley) Semperger of DeWitt, Leslie (Robert) Jenks of Lansing, and Amy (Stephen) Czyrka of Farmington Hills; preceded in death by his son Andrew; and grandfather of Allison, Janine, D.J., Kayla, Andrew, Samantha, Nicole, Brendan, Justine, and Stevie.

Mr. Semperger served as lector at St. Clare Catholic Church and usher at St. Daniel Catholic Church. He was a teacher in Detroit Public



Schools and secretary at Dearborn Knights of Columbus Council 5492, Thomas A. Dooley Chapter. He was a World War II Navy veteran.

Knights of Columbus rosary service was Feb. 8 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Funeral Mass was Feb. 9 at St. Daniel Catholic Church, Clarkston. Private interment, Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Michigan Heart Association or St. John's Hospice. Online guestbook, www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Michael David Powell

Michael David Powell of Pinckney, formerly of Pontiac, passed away, Feb. 5, 2009, at the age of 65.

He was the husband of Nancy; father of Christine (Harry) Anderson of Pinckney, Erica Sawallich of Green Oak Township, David Michael Powell of Flint, Edward M.R. (Janice) Powell of Webberville, Vincent (Michelle) Powell of Brighton, Haven (Shannon) Powell of Metamora, and Stephen Powell of Gregory; grandfather of 11, and three foreign exchange grandchildren; brother of Stephen of Florida, Catherine of Waterford, and the late Mark and Patrick; son in law of Elsie Bigger; brother in law of Diane Powell. He was preceded in death



by his parents Marvin "Red" and Dorothy.

Mr. Powell retired from Ford Motor. He was the former mayor of Pinckney and worked for SSB Bank. He enjoyed gardening. His family was his life.

Funeral Service was Feb. 9 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment, Ottawa Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the family.

Online guest book, www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Jeffrey W. Hoeksema

Jeffrey W. Hoeksema, age 44, of Clarkston, died at his home surrounded by his family, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009.

Mr. Hoeksema is the loving father of Samantha. He is the beloved son of Gordon and Barbara Hoeksema, and the grandson of Evelyn Hoeksema. Jeff is also survived by his dear siblings and their families; Anne Wesol (Scott Smith), and Mike Hoeksema. Uncle of Jason Wesol, Megan Wesol, Brad Hoeksema, and Carrie Hoeksema.

Jeff graduated from Clarkston High School and worked as a manager in computer devel-



opment. When he had free time, it was spent with his daughter or fishing. Jeff was also an avid, golfer, billiards player, and dog lover.

Visitation for Jeff Hoeksema was Feb. 8 and Funeral Services was Feb. 9 at the Harrington & Temrowski Funeral Home in Clarkston.

Please share memories of Jeff at www.HarringtonFuneralHomeClarkston.com

Lee Furguson

Lee Furguson of Waterford, formerly of Milford, passed away unexpectedly, Feb. 6, 2009, at the age of 24.

He was the son of Kim Feigley of Ortonville and William Furguson of Pontiac; brother of Katie Furguson of Waterford; grandson of Tom Muenstermann, the late Sandra (Haines) Muenstermann, the late Lee Furguson, and the late Gertrude Furguson; also survived by many close friends, cousins and family members.

Funeral Mass, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 11



a.m., at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, Waterford. Visitation was Feb. 9-10 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Any donations to the family will be used for a scholarship in Lee's honor.

Online guest book, www.wintfuneralhome.com.

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Pick up broken nest egg and get back on track

Did you know? The Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 was signed into law by President Bush on Dec. 23, 2008, suspending Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) for retirees in 2009.

The rationale. Due to the 2008 market downturn, many retirees who were heavily invested in the markets experienced a dramatic drop in their retirement account balances. The government argued that requiring distributions in 2009, based off the end of year account values in 2008, would further lead to the depletion of these much needed assets, as those soon to be or already in retirement do not have the time to recoup from significant financial losses.

Retirement resource



A column by David Boike

The strategy. RMDs apply to retirement account holders who are at least 70 1/2 years of age or older. Each year, they are required to withdraw a portion of their retirement savings; the amount varies each year and is derived by the account holder's age and the account value. Traditionally, failure to take a RMD results in a 50% excise tax on the amount that should have been distributed. This suspension will allow participating retirees to reconfigure the investment strategy for their retirement savings plan, and give them time to reposition their assets for growth in value. Currently, the suspension only applies to RMDs for the calendar year of 2009.

Lesson learned? While the dramatic drop in account value is unfortunate, the greater lesson to be learned is how to appropriately allocate assets in a retirement plan. Those quickly approaching retirement or in retirement need to consider their risk tolerance. If you are retired and no longer earning an income, the only assets that should be exposed to market risk are the assets you can afford to lose. While this temporary law may provide some relief to those who lost a significant portion of their account value in 2008, it will also provide time to make important decisions regarding your retirement savings plan.

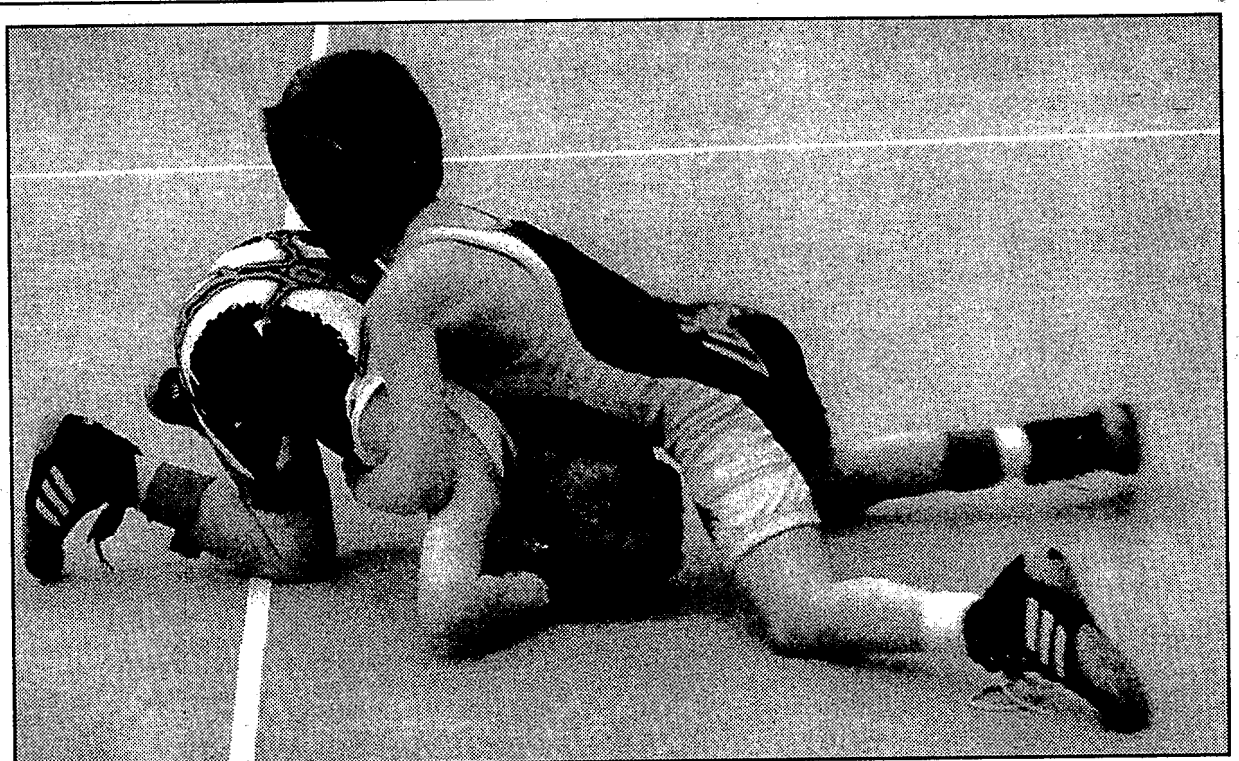
Consider the following... when evaluating your retirement plan:

- If necessary, reallocate your retirement portfolio. We've experienced a major shift in our economy. Be sure your portfolio and retirement investments have been shifted accordingly.

- Evaluate your risk tolerance. A general rule of thumb is to take your age and subtract it from 100. Your age should reflect the percentage of assets that are invested safely. The remaining assets could be diversified in risk-based positions.

While the suspension in RMDs will provide some relief, it is important to think about the long-term impact. If you don't need the money this year, you will more than likely owe less in taxes, however, next year you will most likely have to take a larger RMD due to age and account accumulation, translating to a potentially higher tax bill in 2010. Everyone needs to look at this situation individually, and preferably with the assistance of a qualified financial professional. The decisions you make today will have a lasting impact on your future years in retirement.

David Boike, owns Retirement Resources tax, mortgage, and financial consulting practice in Clarkston with his sons, D.J. Boike and Jake Boike. Call 877-732-5751.



Dominic Scalzo holds down a Clio wrestler on his way to a win. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Young grapplers learn ropes at MY WAY

Grapplers from 12 different teams traveled to Sashabaw Middle School to compete in the MYWAY tournament.

Clarkston Wolves Wrestling took first place with 113 points accumulated as a team. Clio Mustangs and Lapeer Raptors followed in second and third place. Forty grapplers from Clarkston battled it out with wrestlers of different ages, skill divisions, and

experience levels. Twenty-eight placed and received gold, silver and bronze medals.

"All 40 have made a contribution in helping their teammates in reaching their individual awards," said John Anderson, Clarkston Wrestling Club President.

This was the third team tournament Clarkston had entered, and the second time the grapplers earned a first place trophy.

'First' child of Chapel View sub, Kathryn G. McCloskey, passed away at age 30

On January 7, 2009, family and friends of Kathryn Gail McCloskey, gathered in force at the Harrington & Temrowskie Funeral to celebrate her life.

"It was clear Kathy touched many lives and made many friends," her father, Thomas McCloskey, said.

Ms. McCloskey passed away suddenly and peacefully in her sleep on January 4, in her home in Wyoming, Michigan. She was 30 years old. According to her father, she was the first child born to families in the then new Chapel View Subdivision, located in Independence Township, off of Clarkston Road, near Flemings Lake Road. She was born on June 29, 1978, in Rochester, Mi.

A graduate of Clarkston High School, she most recently had worked for many years as a medical technician with the Universal Ambulance company, and was enrolled in nursing school, to further her dream of helping people.

According to her father, she lived life to its fullest, "If it was loud and went fast, motorcycles, snow machines, trucks, an ambulance sky diving, she loved it. She was hell on wheels," he said. "She loved people and made friends where ever she went. She loved to compete in soccer, baseball, whatever. She was the first girl on the Clarkston traveling team. I remember picking her up at the soccer field covered in mud and changing her clothes in the truck on the way to dance class. Kathy loved life and had a hunger for it all. She jammed a lot of life into the 30 years."



Ms. McCloskey

Ms. McCloskey leaves behind a three-year-old son, Jonah. Aside from her father and son, she is survived by her mother, Donna (nee Crum) McCloskey and her brothers, Robert McCloskey and Ian (Heather) McCloskey, many friends and family.

Memorial donations are appreciated for a fund to help care for her son Jonah, who is now in the care of his uncle and aunt, Ian and Heather McCloskey. For more info on the memorial fund, email Ian Mcclos10@comcast.net. Mr.

McCloskey is also creating a photo scrapebook of his daughter, which he plans to give to his grandson. Email

hannah.mccloskey@aol.com

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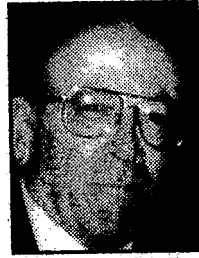
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James R. Sturgis

James R. Sturgis of Clarkston passed away, Feb. 7, 2009, at the age of 66.

He was the husband of Sandy; father of Robert, Kym, and Danni (Donivan) Wynn; also survived by 10 grandchildren, many nieces, and nephews; brother of Mike (Carol), Carl, Debbie (Kenny) Lobdell, and JoAnne O'Neil; preceded in death by his sister Pat; and brother in law of Dar (Ron) Contor.

Mr. Sturgis honorably served with the U.S. Airforce in Africa and the U.S. Army, N.C. Co. F 425th INF (LRSABN) in Germany.



made to the family.

Online guest book,
www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Celebration of Life service Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m., at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston, where friends may visit Wednesday, 6-8 p.m. Any donations may be

Spiritual Matters

continued from 5B

Should you stay home? Should you slide down in your seat so that no one will see you? The answer is a resounding NO, instead, come to church and hear the word of God, read it, learn it, mark it, and inwardly digest it.

If you do not already, then through the Holy Spirit, trust on Christ as your Lord and Savior, believe beyond any reason or doubt that His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead has forgiven you of all your sins!

Become a child of God, and if you are already His child, then come to have your faith

continually strengthened and renewed. God's will is that you would be ever stronger in His word trusting and believing on Him as your Lord and Savior.

Yes, give from your heart, but most importantly, come to church to hear God's good and perfect Word for your life, so that you too may believe on Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior! For your souls sake, you can't afford not to come to church.

The Rev. Kelly Todd is pastor of Christ Lutheran Church.

Like to join Spiritual Matters?

Call us at 248-625-3370

In our churches

continued from 5B

niques. 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.

The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity, class series based on the book by Edwene Gaines, Wednesdays, 12 p.m. Peace Unity Church, 8080 Ortonville Road. 248-625-5192.

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.

Peace Makers Speaker Series, Thursdays, 7 p.m., in support of Season for Peace and Nonviolence. Rich Chakrin begins the series with iPeace Begins in the Home. Peace Unity, 8080 Ortonville Road. 248-625-5192.

New therapist at Peace Unity

Peace Unity's Holistic Center, 8080 Ortonville Road, welcomes Ronald P. Alexander, who uses Upledger CranioSacral Therapy, Somato Emotional Release, Neural Organization Technique, Trigger Point Therapy, Healing Prayer, and Massage Therapy, by appointment, 248-807-8793.

For more information call 248- 634-4638.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

Estate of Janet L. Miller. Date of Birth: August 1, 1937
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Janet L. Miller, who lived at 164 N. Main Street, Clarkston, Michigan died January 8, 2009. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Raymond E. Miller, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, Michigan 48341-0449 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

2/05/09
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Raymond E. Miller
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Charter Township of Springfield

NOTICE BOARD OF REVIEW

The Charter Township of Springfield Board of Review will meet at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan for the purpose of hearing appeals for the year 2009 assessments.

Any questions regarding the value or classification placed on properties may be reviewed with the assessing staff prior to this meeting. Anyone wishing to appeal the assessment or classification before the Board of Review must make an appointment in advance. Appointments may be made Monday - Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. by phoning the Assessing office at 248-846-6530. The Board of Review has established a ten minute time limit for hearing assessment complaints.

The Board of Review meetings are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday March 3, 2009 *9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

*(Organizational meeting ONLY)
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday March 4, 2009: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Monday March 9, 2009: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday March 10, 2009: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The following meeting days are scheduled for deliberation and decisions (no appointments):

Friday March 6, 2009 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday March 12, 2009 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Friday March 13, 2009 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Tentative Equalization Ratio: Real & Personal 50%

Tentative Equalization Factor: Real & Personal 1.00000

You may also appeal by sending a letter to the Board of Review at Charter Township of Springfield, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan 48350. All letters must be received before 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 10th, 2009.

Anyone needing a special accommodation at a Board of Review meeting should contact the Assessor's Office at least two (2) business days prior to the meeting at 248-846-6530.

Vicki L. Slevers, CMAE III
Chief Assessor, Springfield Township

Published: February 11, 18 & 25, 2009

PUBLIC NOTICE

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INDEPENDENCE TWP.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE PUBLIC NOTICE

The Charter Township of Independence Board of Review will meet for its organizational session, MCL 211.29(1), at the Township Hall's Office of the Assessor on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 9:00 am.

The Board of Review will meet for public hearings at the Township Fire Station #1 Training Room, 6500 Citation Drive, Clarkston, Michigan to hear year 2009 assessment appeals of value, classification and poverty on March 9th, 11th and 13th, 2009 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and on March 10th and 12th, 2009 from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm. A resident or nonresident may protest to the Board of Review by letter.

The year 2009 tentative equalization ratio is 50%, and the estimated multiplier is 1.0000 for all property classifications.

If you wish to appeal your assessment, it is required that you have an appointment with the March Board of Review. An appointment can be made through the Assessor's Office by calling (248) 625-8114 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Please use your parcel identification number when referring to your property so that your records can be quickly accessed.

Please note that taxes are levied against the TAXABLE VALUE.

Sincerely,
Beverly Shaver, CMAE3
Independence Township Assessor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Date and Time: February 17, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

Place: Independence Township Library
6495 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, MI

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Opening Statements and Correspondence
Approval of Agenda

Public Forum - Individuals in the audience will have the opportunity to address the Township Board on an issue that is not on the Agenda, limiting their comments to not more than three minutes.

7. Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2009 and Special Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2009
- Approval of Purchase Orders
- Approval of Accounts Payable Check Run
- Purchase of new water meters
- Budget adjustment for DPW roof

Unfinished Business

- Township contribution of street paving of Cabertae Trail, Mount Tremblant Trail, Boyne-Highland Trail and Sugarloaf Trail

New Business

- Discussion on reorganization of Township facilities
- AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Discussion of Non-AFSCME and Non-IAFF employees' compensation
- Update on the Budget Procedure
- First Reading of an Ordinance Amending Fire Prevention Code and Open Burning Regulations
- Change in Union Classification and pay for Jennifer Yingling

Only those matters that are listed on the Agenda are to be considered for action. A majority vote of the Board members may add or delete an agenda item.

The Charter Township of Independence will provide 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 Clerk's Office at (248) 625-5111.

Riverdaws donate gear to Dominican Republic

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

A couple of boxes and a few baseball equipment bags sat waiting to be picked up in the lobby of Mt. Zion Center by former Clarkston Riverdaws coach Mike Navarre.

All of the Riverdaws coaches had gathered unwanted baseball uniforms and equipment from their players to be sent to underprivileged kids in the Dominican Republic. They dropped off the items as players came to be fitted and order new uniforms for the 2009 season.

"This is the third the Riverdaws have been doing this," said Benson Lange, Clarkston Youth Baseball Organization Secretary and Public Relations officer.

A few hundred pounds were donated this year and included at least three dozen T-shirts, helmets, mitts, equipment bags and anything else still useful and in good condition.

Around noon, Navarre came to pick up the items and take them to their next location - Maureen Tippen's house.

He had been taking the donations to Tippen since he mentioned wanting to do something with the items, where they wouldn't end up in resale shops, rummage sales or thrown away. Tippen said she would take them to Dominican Republic on her yearly trip as part of Midwest Medical Mission.

"Baseball is so popular there," said Tippen. "It's very well received, baseball and the opportunity to play baseball at a professional level is a ticket out of poverty in the culture. It's engrained into their culture."

The donations from the Riverdaws are the only baseball items the kids receive in the country.

Tippen explained she was the only one to have access to a baseball organization.

"The connection with the Riverdaws has been wonderful," she said. "The donations go to a country that appreciates it. All of their stuff is in mint condition. The kids are probably giving mitts they want to hold onto so a lot of thought goes into it. It's really a nice thing that they do."

When Tippen and her group go down there, they save the equipment for the kids most in need for the item

They place the equipment pieces and pants in black garbage bags and bring the kids into their clinic to hand out the bags. The kids place them under their arms as they leave so no one reaches out and grabs the bag.

"We can't just hand them out because there would be a riot," said Tippen. "The shirts we give to them in the clinic. They put them on and I take a picture of them."

Tippen has received reactions from older brothers and fathers wanting shirts in their size.



JT King donates some of his equipment, on its way to the Dominican Republic this week. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Tippen has also outfitted orphanages. "All of those kids got stuff," she said. "It's great when we can outfit the whole organization."

She collects items all year for the trip and has a designated place she puts all of the donations.

The medical equipment is the most important items for them to get down there.

Last year they didn't have enough room. Everyone wore the Riverdaws uniforms on the trip down there.

They put mitts and anything they could into their personal bags.

Tippen will leave this week for the Dominican Republic and will be there until February 22.

The Riverdaws began practicing for the 2009 season and will play in their first tournament in April.

Currently there are 90 players in the Riverdaws organization. Ten percent of players and coaches bring items back to be re-used, the others can still use their uniforms and equipment for the upcoming season.

Lange explained players on the 9U and 13U teams are new this year, so they did not receive donations from them.

Most donations are from younger players that are most likely to outgrow their uniforms and helmets and will need new ones in the following season.

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

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248-628-0200

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PROTOTYPE SHEET METAL supplier looking for a purchasing/ shipping manager. Must have strong knowledge of all types of sheet metal. Must be very aggressive with great organizational skills. Send resume to PO Box 182422, Shelby Twp., MI 48318-2422 **!!L92**

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2. Visit one of our conveniently located offices, The Clarkston News, 5 S. Main, Clarkston, The Oxford Leader, 666 S. Lapeer Rd., Oxford or The Lake Orion Review, 30 N. Broadway, Lake Orion.
3. Mail to:
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The Oxford Leader P.O. Box 108 • Oxford, MI 48371
The Lake Orion Review 30 N. Broadway • Lake Orion, MI 48362
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- Oxford Leader
- Lake Orion Review
- Penny Stretcher & Saturday in The Citizen

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0% FINANCING AVAILABLE

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SALE PRICE \$15,925†

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Power Windows/Locks, 48K Miles, Stk#2387.

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'07 PT CRUISER TOURING



Power Windows/Locks, 25K Miles, Stk.#2377.

WAS \$10,792	NOW \$9,532††
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'06 GRAND CARAVAN SXT



DVD, Leather, 37K Miles, Stk#2415.

WAS \$14,779	NOW \$13,975††
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'06 COMMANDER 4X4



Certified
Power Windows/Locks, 32K Miles, Stk#2395.

WAS \$14,675	NOW \$12,995††
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'06 RAM 1500 QC SLT



4x4, SLT, 19K Miles, Stk.#2421.

WAS \$19,323	NOW \$17,405††
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'07 CALIBER SE



Power Windows/Locks, 29K Miles, Stk#2410.

WAS \$13,952	NOW \$11,765††
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'06 CARAVAN SXT



Power Windows/Locks, 39K Miles, Stk#2378

WAS \$11,775	NOW \$9,959††
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'08 CHARGER SE



Certified
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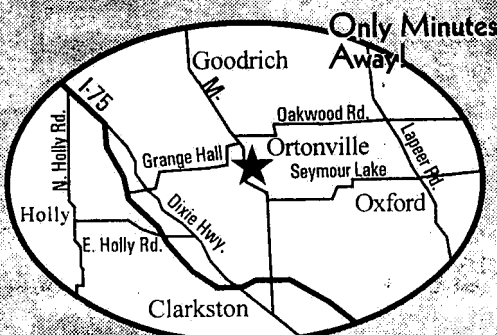
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