

The

Clarkston News

My Clarkston. Buy Clarkston.



Kids, big and little, enjoy Halloween night, please see page 8B

Vol. 80 No. 54 Wed., November 4, 2009

2 Section 36 pages 50¢



Pumpkin-tastic fun

First-graders Eliza Mansour and Kate Gaultieri get ready to start decorating their pumpkins during Springfield Plains Elementary's Halloween party. For more photos, please see page 5A. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Sharing ideas

School officials face challenges with cuts, innovations

Second in a series examining how decreasing school funding from the state affects Clarkston schools. In last week's edition, we examined ideas for innovation presented at the Michigan Association of School Boards Conference, featuring Oxford Superintendent Dr. William Skilling
BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Oxford is a fine school district, but when it comes to innovation, no one compares to Clarkston, school officials say.

"IB (International Baccalaureate), Advanced Study, CSM Tech, Fast ForWord, foreign language – we're the envy of every school district," said Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts. "I'm very proud of what we're doing – we're doing good things here."

Oxford was highlighted as a model school by State Superintendent Mike Flanagan at the annual Michigan Association of School Board conference, Oct. 23-24. Clarkston Board of Education trustees said they learned from those and other ideas presented.

"It was interesting because they shared how some schools are implementing foreign language in the elementaries," said Trustee Joan Patterson. "The interesting thing is even though we have less money, we still need to work on getting better."

State funding cuts of almost \$300 per student is a major challenge, said Trustee Rosalie Lieblang.

"We are going to have to do more with less," Lieblang said. "We can't add staff so we need to look at other ways to try to ensure we have the highest level of education and opportunities in the state. One way is technology."

One thing Clarkston teachers are doing is accepting concessions in their contracts, said Brooke Davis, president of Clarkston Education Association.

"We thought the district needed some help, that it was the right thing to do at the time," Davis said.

Teachers accepted a change in insurance, saving \$800,000, and changed a two-percent raise to one-percent raises over two years, he said.

They anticipate more cuts, but probably not to the level of \$1,000 per student, Roberts said.

"That would cause the entire state educational system to fold," he said.

"A thousand is a lot – I don't think we'll ever see that," Davis said.

Oxford's idea to cut pay-to-play charges for students has been considered, Patterson said.

"Last year when we were talking about what we can do with fund equity, I asked, because of our economic times, was it time to take some of the fund equity and cut down the cost to join clubs and pay-to-play to help out the community," Patterson said.

"Michigan's economy is still going down, so there will probably be another round of cuts," Davis said. "The fund equity would allow the district to weather another year or two. After that will be some hard discussions. We'll have to cut programs or staff – we all understand that."

Please see School on page 3A

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for results and next
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The Clarkston News

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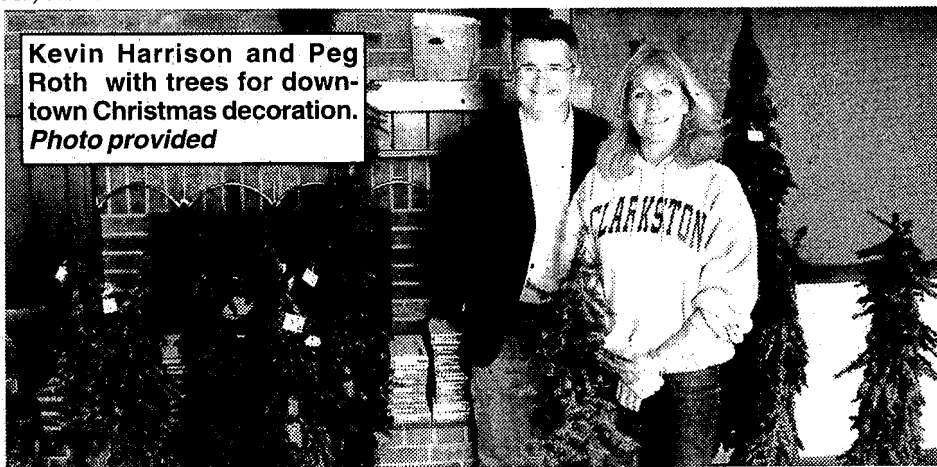
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Kevin Harrison and Peg
Roth with trees for down-
town Christmas decoration.
Photo provided



My Clarkston, Buy Clarkston this Christmas

Peg Roth, Clarkston City Council member, and Kevin Harrison, owner of KH Home, are working with other downtown businesses in My Clarkston, Buy Clarkston retailers' group to kick off the Christmas season with a Holiday Walk, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7.

"It's to remind shoppers they have a local option when looking for gifts for the holidays," Harrison said.

Downtown Main Street merchants offer cookies, treats, and other specials for kids until 5 p.m., wine and hors d'oeuvres for adults in the evening.

They are also creating a unifying, simple holiday decorating theme this holiday sea-

son. Dozens of slim feather evergreen trees will decorate the two-block Main Street area in historic downtown Clarkston. Each tree will be decorated with single color lights, including white, blue, green, and orange.

"It will be like a little forest of trees outside each business, to give a festive feel to the village," Harrison said.

The trees can be displayed in retail windows inside and outside of downtown businesses, and lit 24/7 from the day after Thanksgiving through Jan. 6, 2010.

For more information, call Harrison at 248-625-1655.

Youth painting mural project

Artist Michelle Tynan plans her grand finale to the three-year mural project on 5 S. Main Street, home of *The Clarkston News*, with a Youth Stone Painting Project.

Weather permitting, young volunteers are invited to paint parking lot stones, 12-3 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7. They will be free to paint just about anything, Tynan said. Ace Hardware donated paint for the project and Rudy's donated pizza.

Pre-register by calling 248-410-6713 or e-mail Michelle at clarkston108@aol.com.

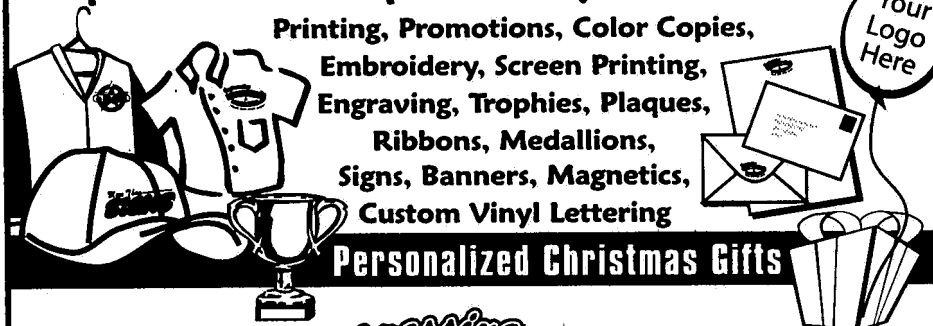
Correction

Clarkston City Council candidate Stephen Hargis's responses in "6 candidates campaign for 4 city council seats," Oct. 28, inadvertently included part of another candidate's response. His plans included lower tax rates, stop commercial use of the old Independence Township Hall, promote positive aspects of town to attract home buyers, support downtown business and reduce traffic noise, especially unmuffled motorcycle exhaust.

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Briefly

Dinner for vets

Campbell Richmond American Legion Post 63 of Independence Township hosts a Veteran's Day Dinner, 7 p.m., Nov. 11, at 8047 Ortonville Road.

Guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Paul Crandall, who will talk about his experiences in Afghanistan.

All veterans are eligible for membership - bring your DD214. Pay first year's dues and the post will pay the second year. All World War II veterans admitted free. The public is invited. Admission is \$6, free for children under 6.

For more information, call 248-625-9912 or check www.legion63mi.com.

Smaller crowd at recall meeting

Citizens Against Independence Citizens Against Independence Township Waste hosted a 'Recall Wagner' meeting on Oct. 28. Henry Woloson, treasurer of the group, said 20 people attended.

"A benefit of the smaller crowd was better discussion, with some excellent ideas on how to promote the website," Woloson said.

For more information visit www.recallwagner.com

Mothers and More fundraiser

Clarkston Area Mothers and More hosts a "Fabulous FUNdraiser," 6:30 p.m., Nov. 12, at the JD's Key Club, 1 Saginaw Street.

Cost is \$10, which includes admission, seating, and pizza. Admission proceeds go to the group, as well as 40 percent of the bar tab.

"CAMM addresses mother's needs as individuals, and members of society, and promote the value of work all mothers do," said Stacey Meaghan.

Attention businesses

What are you doing to stimulate the local economy - *The Clarkston News* wants to know. Stop by at 5 S. Main Street, call 248-625-3370, or email Clarkstonnews@gmail.com.

Quick questions on Fast ForWord

Program proven with students, officials say

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

In a letter to school board trustees, attorney Marke D. Gilbert questioned its decision to approve the Fast ForWord computer-based learning program.

"There is an underlying current among the faculty members - fear of reprisal if they question too vocally," wrote Gilbert, representing "a fairly substantial group of Clarkston parents and faculty who expressed deep concern" about the program. "Right now with the schools, everyone is very cautious about voicing opinions."

Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts said Gilbert is a former teacher and rejected his characterization of the district's "underlying current."

"I have no idea what that means," Roberts said. "My proof is the Clarkston Education Association wasn't notified. They would let me know. That's their job, and they do it with-out fail."

Gilbert said his former employment with the district is immaterial, and he is trying to facilitate communication between parents and school board by forwarding information given him by the parents.

As of Monday, he received an email from school board President Stephen Hyer referring questions to Roberts, and a voicemail from Trustee Rosalie Lieblang. He has not heard from Roberts, Gilbert said.

Brooke Davis, Clarkston High School teacher and CEA president, said some don't like the person in charge no matter who it is.

"I think Dr. Roberts is fair and open, and does what is best for the district," Davis said.

"No one has come to me and said, 'I hate Dr. Roberts.'"

Davis disagrees at times with administration and has faced no reprisals, he said.

"I've been critical of the administration and Dr. Roberts - I said to him, 'nice raise you got there,' but we can talk about that," Davis said. "He won't bite your head off. He listens, he's professional."

Concerns raised by Gilbert include:

- Information about Fast ForWord's effectiveness is incomplete, and doesn't include studies showing it to be ineffective and possible harmful to learning;

- Cost of the program, including teachers assigned fulltime to the program; and
- The program cuts into core classes such as writing, math, and science.

Trustee Barry Bomier voted for the program at the Oct. 12 school board meeting, but was absent Oct. 26, when it was approved. His wife runs the Fast ForWord Lab at Clarkston Junior High School, but his support for the program is based on what's best for students.

"Everything I do is above board, and always has been," he said. "It's really simple, I place students first, what's right for them. I'm excited about this program. It's absolutely the right thing to do."

Those opposed to it should also be questioned, he said.

"Why are they objecting to it when it's such an overwhelmingly good program," Bomier asked. "It's disappointing some are trying to undermine it."

Trustee Joan Patterson, who voted against Fast ForWord Oct. 12, and for it Oct. 26, said no parent or teacher voiced opposition to her about it. A demonstration of the program at North Sashabaw Elementary and Clarkston Junior High left her cold, though.

"I was not impressed with it," she said. "I

thought it was like a computer game my son played when he was in elementary."

Students listen to pronunciations and match it to correct sounds, which helps those with sound-processing difficulties as well as those learning English as their second language.

"But you can do that with other programs as well," she said. "But I am willing to look at the data. I don't know what our students testing for special ed are having trouble with."

She's willing to give it a try, she said. "They showed us 15 students from North Sashabaw were identified to go into special education and they went through the program," Patterson said. "Only one went into special education."

If successful, the program would save special-education money - this past year, testing for special education cost \$50,000, Roberts said.

Patterson said she will follow up on the program.

"We are going to be asking for proof," she said. "We are going to check and see if what they said is happening."

The program will also be available as an elective, she said.

"It was a very hard decision for me," she said. "I wanted to be open-minded and I wanted to help our kids. I went around to the schools and asked a lot of questions."

Roberts said the program has been thoroughly tested in Clarkston over the past year.

"The board based its decision on results of the program with our own kids since last year," he said. "It's not a magic program, but it will help a great number of students. The evidence is based on testimony of our own kids and teachers. The positives are phenomenal, and we got a good deal on the program. It will pay off lots of dividends. We're proud of it."

Wendi Reardon contributed to this report.

School district looks for more savings

Continued from page 1A

Board President Stephen Hyer was unable to attend the conference but said he focuses on trimming expenses and looking at innovative programs.

"If there is a new program out there that can help us deliver and help our kids, we are going to look at it," he said.

Districts are looking at Clarkston's energy conservation efforts, which have saved the district \$800,000, Hyer pointed out.

When it does make cuts, the board tries to avoid impacting classrooms and teaching staff, he said.

"We want to be creative in how we look at the budget issue but we also want to live within our means," Hyer said.

Patterson said the board has not yet had

the opportunity to discuss ideas from the conference and where they will cut - but Roberts has looked at where they can reduce.

"We look at every line item in the budget," Hyer explained. "We set some parameters in our administration goals and the board really rolls up their sleeves and looks at how we can deliver our programs more efficiently and more effectively."

A few places: legal services, postage, fleet insurance, election supplies, gas/oil, conferences, and workers' compensation, totalling \$440,000.

"These are areas that we have not spent the full budgeted amount and believe we can reduce," said Anita Banach, communications director.

The district plans to continue working

through the budgeting process to find ways to handle state reductions of \$165 per student at the beginning of October, and \$127 more per student next year, totaling \$292 per student.

"It's not a temporary problem and we have to find a long term solution both to the school aid funding and for the funds we get in Clarkston," said Lieblang. "We have to see what is the best way to use those funds for the children."

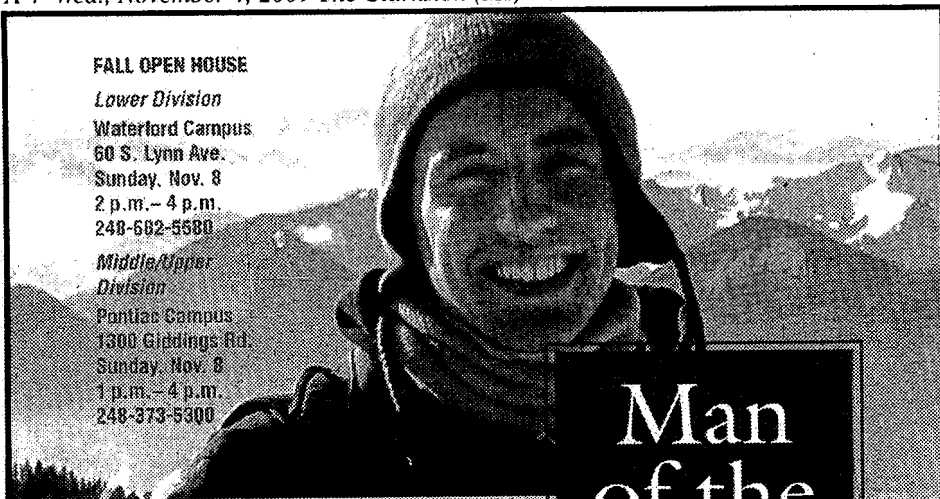
"The community has made cuts in their own lives," Patterson said. "They have had to make tough decisions and they are expecting us to do the same."

Watch for specific changes in future editions. Phil Custodio contributed to his report.

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Man of the World

"I think the ethics taught and the discussions sparked in the religion classes continue to have a positive impact on me. The idea of stewardship, which also was well taught at NDP, is probably a big reason I am studying environmental science in the U.S., Asia and Europe. And I felt much better prepared as a writer than many of my peers once I got to Penn."

Dan Brichley
2006 graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory School and current student at the University of Pennsylvania



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Convention group hits Web

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The future of Energize Michigan for a state constitutional convention is on the Internet, organizers say.

"In a 48 hour period, we had 300 people visit our website," said Henry Woloson of Independence Township.

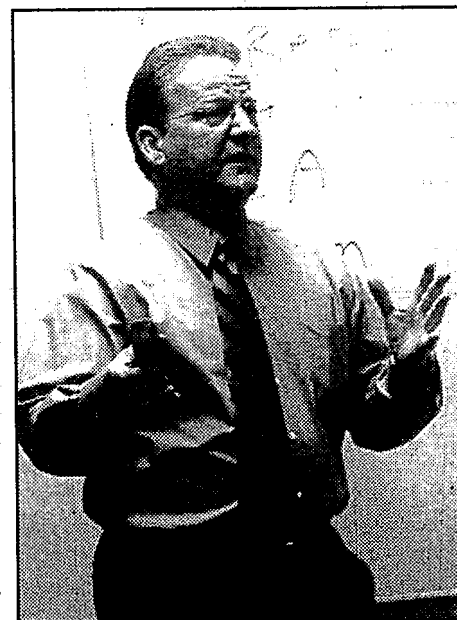
Woloson hosted two meetings, Oct. 22, at Independence Township Fire Hall to discuss changing Michigan's budget year and go to a part-time legislature.

Woloson said Michigan and Alabama are the only two states whose fiscal year starts Oct. 1, while 46 states start on July 1. New York starts April 1 and Texas, Sept. 1, budgeting every two years.

"Schools produced a budget by July 1. However, the funding is not determined theoretically until Oct 1," he said.

According to Woloson, "the number one thing people say when they talk about cutting things in Lansing is cutting the legislature."

He said part-time legislature is defined by time on the job, compensation and number of staff per member.



Henry Woloson explains a point at an Energize Michigan meeting. Photo by Trevor Keiser

Michigan's regular sessions begin Jan. 14, but their end dates are "open ended."

This past summer, when Michigan was facing a \$1.7 billion dollar deficit, the House of Representatives met twice out of the four scheduled meetings in July.

"They only have two days in which they had a quorum," Woloson said. "Two days, they dismissed because they didn't even have a majority showing up for work to even handle the job."

The Senate met once out of a scheduled three times. Two of the meetings adjourned in the first minute, he said. In August, the House only met twice out a scheduled four times and Senate met five times.

"Now the legislature is saying we're camping out," Woloson said. "Why weren't they working in August, why are we having this artificial crisis being handled especially given the fact 46 states have an end date in June, so if in fact you don't make the budget on time, you have two months before Labor Day hits in order to resolve the issue."

Woloson said of 10 states that missed their July 1 budget deadline, nine of them made it by Labor Day.

When it comes to compensation, he said Michigan is the second highest paid legislature, at \$79,650 a year as well as an additional \$12,000 for expenses. California ranks first with \$116,208 a year, as well as being paid \$173 per day for each day they are in session.

Michigan has a total of 148 lawmakers, while California only has 120.

"We have in Michigan 23 percent more lawmakers for a population that's less than one-third of what California has," Woloson said. "Are we picking on the legislators? No.

We're simply trying to show, compared to other states and certainly compared to the job that's being done, we stink."

Ohio, which has a population of a million more people, operates on a budget half that of Michigan's. Woloson said Ohio was able to cut costs by sharing staff.

"In Michigan, they all have their various staff members, various individuals, majority staff, and minority staff," he said. "All these individuals, and somehow the state of Ohio, similar demographics, managed to get the job done."

Another way to reduce cost would be to lower the legislature from 148 to 120.

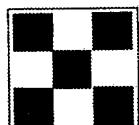
"They're asking education and all the various agencies to cut. What have they done to cut," Woloson asked. "Very important from the standpoint of credibility to basically show they are sharing the pain, which they aren't."

Peggy Hawke said "the public is angry." "I'm very unhappy with our state government. There are just so many simple things that are so obvious that we need to get changed," Hawke said. "This is our opportunity to go forward and promote the constitutional convention to let people know this is something they can vote on."

Randy Snoeyink agreed the public should be made aware of the constitutional convention, but should also raise expectations of their representatives.

"We need to hold the representatives feet to the fire to the get the work done," he said. "The constitutional convention seems one good way to bring a lot of different issues forward and get people's attention."

For more information, call 248-625-6736 or visit www.energizemichigan.com



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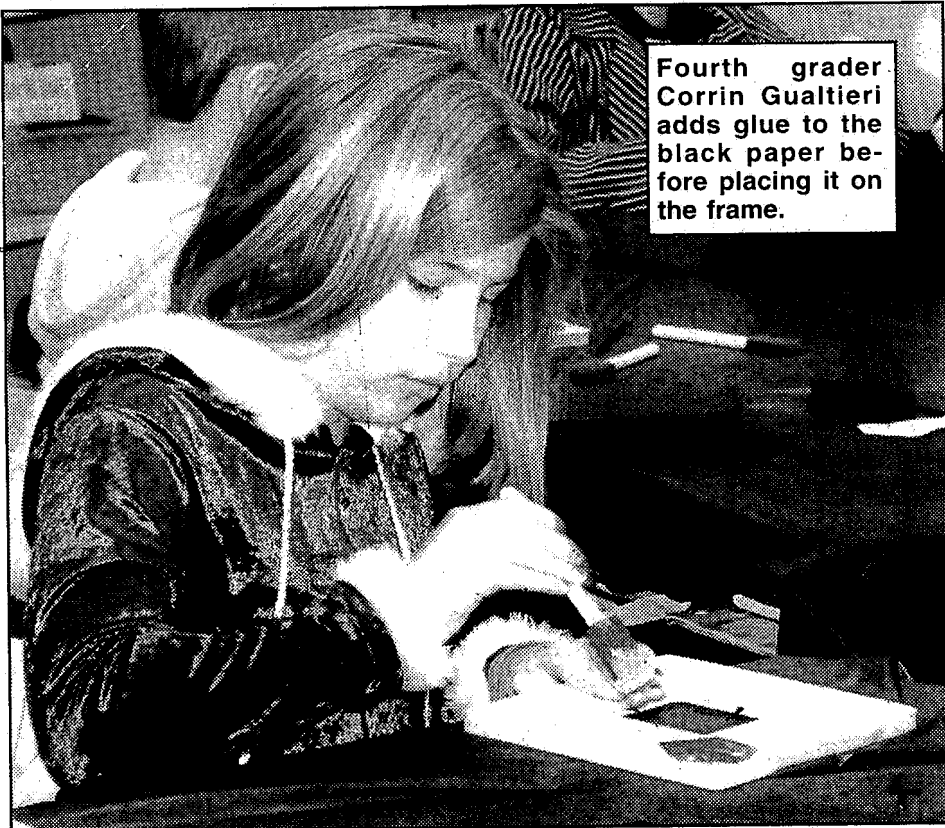
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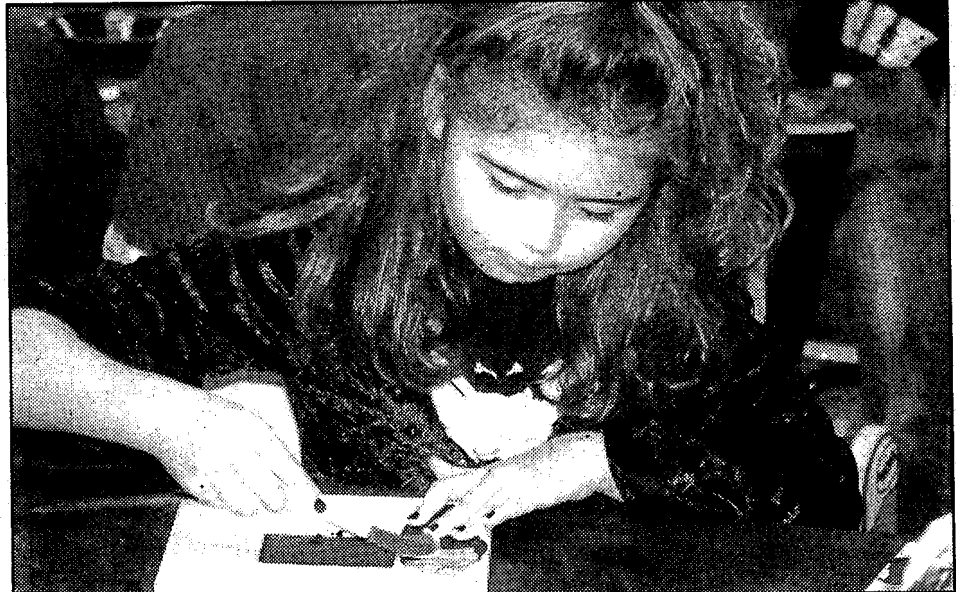


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Fourth grader Corrin Gualtieri adds glue to the black paper before placing it on the frame.



Madilyn Mason concentrates on her spooky picture frame.



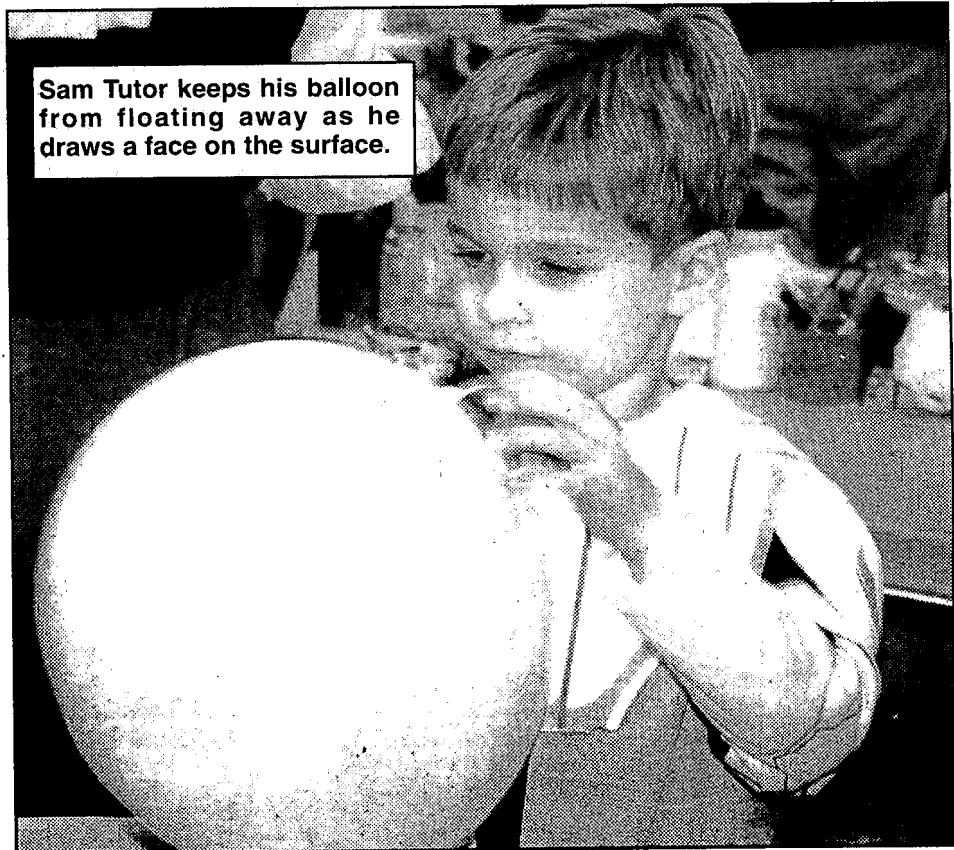
Rachel Andres enjoys a sugar cookie as classmates discuss costumes.

HALLOWEEN VISITS SPRINGFIELD

An array of princesses, superheroes, butterflies and witches walked the hallways of Springfield Plains Elementary on Friday.

Students showed off their Halloween costumes and went back to their classrooms for holiday fun and delicious food ranging from nutritional snacks to sugary cookies. They took home a Halloween craft they made during the parties.

Photos by Wendi Reardon



Sam Tutor keeps his balloon from floating away as he draws a face on the surface.

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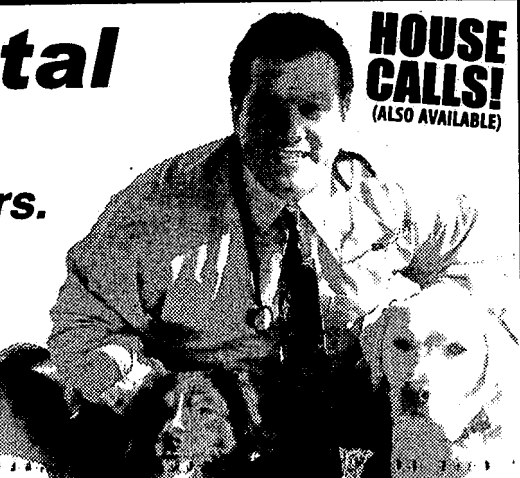
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HOUSE CALLS!
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Keiser's Role

A column by Trevor Keiser

Not all news is good news

It's amazing how many times we get calls from people upset about something we report in the *Clarkston News* and let their frustrations out on us. Moments like that make me think people don't really understand what we do.

An example, I got a call this past week from a lady who was upset because of all the "free press" I give to the "two board members on each end of the (Independence Township) board," who believes "what they're saying isn't much of anything."



Well, when it comes to writing a news story, my job is REPORT what is being said and what happened. Whether or not I believe what they said is irrelevant is not my place to decide. I will let readers make that call.

However, if you're upset by what you've read, write a letter to the editor, explaining how and why you're upset with what you read. Let elected officials know what you think. Perhaps there are others out there who share your feelings.

The only place where I voice my opinion on something said or done is right in this space. Why? Because this is the opinion page, where I am allotted space about once a month to say my own thing. Now, if you take issue with something I write in my column, feel free to call me, e-mail me, or write a letter to the editor about it. I don't expect everybody to agree with me or my views, but I am open to hearing what you have to say.

The woman ended our conversation by saying, "if you don't have anything good to write, you shouldn't write anything at all. That's a good saying."

I would agree with her; however, unfortunately, not all news is good, and we will never like everything we read, hear, or see. I owe it to the citizens of this community to keep them informed on what is happening in their city and their township.

As I have stated before, I take my job seriously and will always do to best of my ability to write the truth, fairly and accurately. Thanks for reading!

E-mail us at clarkstonnews@gmail.com or call 248-625-3370.

The Clarkston News Viewpoints

Thanks for recall support

Dear editor,

Citizens Against Independence Township Waste would like to thank the supporters who came out for our first organizational meeting for the recall of Independence Township Supervisor David Wagner.

The standing-room-only, overflow crowd, reaffirmed our belief that the residents of Independence township are ready and committed to a recall.

It was over-whelming for us to see so many citizens that were so passionate about their community that they were willing to take the time out of their busy lives to step forward

and commit their time and money for their community.

Talk is cheap – having the courage to stand up for your community is priceless. Seeing so many citizens pull together in defiance of the supervisor's unethical activities is "revolutionary."

You are the definition of "Patriots." Want to join us? Go to www.recallwagner.com for more information. Sincerely,

*Michael Powell
Independence Township
Citizens Against Indep. Twp. Waste*

Letters to the editor

Dixie/Davisburg work needed

Dear editor,

Re: "Intersection project costs too much," Oct. 28, the Springfield Township Board approved a one-third contribution of approximately \$67,000, not \$200,000.

The other two-thirds of this project will be covered with Tri-Party funds, which no longer will be offered in coming years. So this is definitely a project whose time has come.

The reason Mr. Klemmer doesn't often see pedestrians at Davisburg Road and Dixie Highway is because crossing at that corner is very dangerous. Pedestrians move down

away from the direct intersections and then cross over. I have seen them do it. The extra dollars to provide a safe pedestrian crossway will be beneficial.

Also the main purpose of this improvement is safety. There have been countless accidents at that intersection over the years. I have lived in Springfield for 30 years and a member of my family was involved in an accident at that corner. I believe the improvements now being planned would have averted that accident.

*Carol Jones
Springfield Township*

PEG fee collection inconsistent

Dear editor,

The irony of this issue is that Independence Township is providing Public, Education, and Government, PEG, programming to residents that have Comcast service without collecting the fees, while at the same time, they are collecting fees from residents who have AT&T U-Verse service

and are NOT providing any PEG programming.

The only thing consistent between the two issues is the arrogance and stonewalling anyone gets when the township is questioned on these issues.

*Larry Miller
Independence Township*

Got an opinion?

Then write a Letter to the Editor!

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

A Look Back

From *The CNews* archives

15 years ago - 1994

"For the birds" John Hyde of Independence Township created bird decoys of all sizes and types. Known as the Clarkston Carver, his creations were popular across the state, and included ring-necked bluebills and mallard ducks, loons, swans, and herons.

"Resident shoots intruder" A Virginia man was in serious but stable condition after he was shot by an Independence Township resident. The intruder was arraigned in his hospital bed for damaging a building, when he broke a window trying to get inside.

"O'Neill loses close race" Megan O'Neill of Clarkston took on Dale Kildee for U.S. Congress, winning Oakland County but falling short of winning due to voting in Genesee and Lapeer counties.

25 years ago - 1984

"Too good to resist" Marion Linenger, Shirley Minjoe, Iola Herbert, Esther Thomas and other candy makers prepared chocolates, suckers, caramel, and other candy for St. Daniel's Holiday Bazaar.

"Republicans sweep Independence" Local voters followed national trends, seating an all-Republican Board of Trustees. "It was a bad year to be a Democrat," said Fred Ritter, two-term treasurer who was unseated by John Lutz. Eighty percent of voters cast ballots.

"An old-fashioned homecoming" Hank and Jennifer Radcliff saved the 120-year-old Ritter home from the wrecking ball, moving the Italianate cube from Dixie Highway up Main Street to downtown Clarkston. The move took three hours. It was raining, but residents and students lined the streets, cheering on its progress.

50 years ago - 1959

"Independence Township U.F. Campaign achieves quota of \$5,800" Township Supervisor Duane Hursfall congratulated General Campaign Chairman Merle Bennett for their success.

"Costumes at party were extraordinary" The adult masquerade Halloween dance at Chief Pontiac American Legion Post 377 was a huge success. First prize went to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Riley of Waterford Township, who were dressed as witches. Second went to Mrs. Katy Macom of Pontiac, who was a scarecrow.

"Clarkston locals" Mr. and Mrs. Ward Robbins of Independence Township were leaving for a six-month vacation to Winter Garden, Fla.

Pledging Allegiance this Veteran's Day

In late June, 1945 I asked my mother if I could volunteer for the U. S. Navy. One brother had been in the Navy since 1943, another in the Marines since 1944.

She said I could. She told me later she didn't believe I could pass the physical. I was six-foot, four-inches and weighed 152 pounds.

I was graduated from high school, had a year of college and my buddies were already in the service.

Quickly, I was off to Great Lakes Training Center boot camp, then equally quickly to Norfolk, VA for more training, to Brooklyn to board the new USS Woodford (AKA86), through the Panama Canal and on to Hawaii, to get a load of 5-inch cannon shells.

We got to Kerama Retto, a few miles from Okinawa, the last battle before "The Bomb," June 24, 1945. Again, later, my brother told me he was in Okinawa while I was 20 miles away.

We went through one night air raid. All lights were off and a dense oily fog was spread over the harbor, which was full of

ships. We didn't hear any planes.

The atom bomb was dropped on Japan while we sat there. A couple weeks later our mission was cancelled and we were told to go to Saipan to unload the ammo, then head to Guam, Saipan, to Leyte and Cebu in the Philippines, then to Yokohama on Honshu island.

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

We'd visit each of Japan's islands carrying Marines and Army personnel. Then, October 31, 1946 we lifted the 32nd CBs to Tientsin area of China.

Along that route through the East China Sea our gunnery boys had some fun shooting at mines bobbing in the waves.

It was when we were leaving Tientsin that a Chinese mother held her baby up over her head and begged us to take her child. Even for an 18-year-old, that's tough.

We lifted the 5th Marines back to San Diego.

We finally saw a soft spot in our captain when he told us we crossed the International Date Line and we could have two Christmas dinners.

Captain kind of lost us in Guam. The war was over and we could have movies shown on deck. Captain and a couple other officers brought some nurses aboard. We watched them on their deck from our lower deck.

And, we displayed sailor manners by yelling obscenities, giving gestures and otherwise being naughty.

The next day, Captain's message to the crew was quite direct. "From now on, when there are women on board you will refrain from using words that rhyme with ditch, etc." There were several matching words.

Hell, we were sailors! What did he expect?

In my 1945 notes, is a name and address of a Joan Miller in the Bronx. "Take the Times Square shuttle to Grand Central Station, get off at 241st St."

I don't remember if I did or not. I don't think Hazel saw this note, or if she did and shook her head.

--- 0 ---

This column is not the one I've been thinking of writing this Veteran's Day. I was going to start with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

I was going to give you some of my Dad's WWI diary writings while he was in the U.S. Army in 1918.

I was going to recall some flag raising events such as we had at Great Lakes Naval Station, or aboard ship, or during services in our park on Memorial Day.

I was planning to recall for you my feelings, chills and heartfelt excitement at standing and militarily saluting the greatest symbol in the free world.

And, reciting with the crowd, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation *under God*, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Please forgive my earlier ramblings.



Smiles of the week

Gina Fett and Dawn Allen enjoy Halloween night at Shotmakers Lounge, located inside Fountains. Photo by Trevor Keiser

The Devil is in the details

Read -- with interest -- new US Senate verbiage about nationalized health care. What I found interesting was, as it was written, only "large" employers will get penalized for not offering health care to all its employees.

The next paragraph explained what a "large employer" is. A large employer, by the way, is not big business. A large employer is a company with the staggering number of workers equal to 50 (and more).

Since when is 50 a "big" number? Heck, it's only half of 100.

If you were to drive around town, I am sure you'll find local businesses, you wouldn't consider "big" that have 50 workers. Drive around a look, they might not survive the mandates from up high on the hill.

God, save us all.

* * *

Here's a letter I received from a US Veteran. He's a local dude who has real life experience in government run health care. So, without further eloquence, here is Robert T's letter:

Government health plan?

Prepare yourself to have payments rejected because you

showed up at a private emergency room for a stroke instead of driving 2 hours to a government run medical facility for treatment.

Don't believe me? Ask any veteran.

100% disabled veterans DO NOT have the right to choose their own doctor or use the closest medical facility!

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush.

Yes, This has happened to me and many other veterans.

Government medical treatment will give you pills for treatment and not actual medical treatment.

Yes, this is what Veterans that have given their all for this country have been reduced to for the guaranteed medical treatment under the Montgomery GI Bill, when they become 100% disabled veterans.

If they treat honored veterans

this way, just how well do you think they will treat citizens?

Our government will gladly make all the promises now, but will continue to spend more on war than they ever will on medical health for the citizens of this country. Veteran, senior, or just a working Joe!

* * *

I don't believe there are many people in this country who do not think there are folks who need help. The devil-in-the-detail is fixing what needs to be fixed (fraud, getting people signed up who are eligible for health assistance, sending medical bills ran up by illegal aliens to their country of origin -- or subtract that amount from the amount of US aid to that country), while not screwing the rest of the country.

Unfortunately, I do believe this whole thing is less about helping the citizenry, and more about helping a select few grow in power.

* * *

Folks should go online and Google "John Stossel Canadian health." Take a gander at the series ABC (Not right-wing Fox) did. They actually interviewed Canadians and then let me know what you, personally, think. I look forward to it.

Cheshire report shows need for better inspection process

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Independence Township trustees hope to have seen the last of illegal Cheshire Park sewage discharges after their Oct. 20 meeting.

Attorney Charles Dunn of Giarmarco, Mullins and Horton finished a report, revealing the need for closer inspection by the Department of Public Works.

Out of 35 water and sewer connection applications for Cheshire development, five included field-report forms for DPW inspectors, three of which are incomplete and/or improperly identify conditions at the property, he wrote in his report.

Dunn and environmental consultant company August Mack were brought upon request of Supervisor Dave Wagner in August.

"I think it was important for the township to have an outside party investigate this matter, especially as to how serious the situation was and frankly at a very minimal cost to the township," Treasurer Curt Carson said.

However, Trustee Neil Wallace felt the report "added nothing" to what they already knew.

"Perhaps the most telling phrase in the report is that the DPW staff properly followed protocol," Wallace said. "I think in the future we should start with assumption that our DPW knows what they're doing because that's what both of these reports show."

Wagner said the paperwork items need to be addressed.

"As far as internal controls go, nobody is questioning the ability of somebody to do that job, but what it has shown is we have some areas that we need to tighten up on and I think Linda (Richardson, DPW director) has seen that."

Richardson said they changed standard inspection reports about two years ago to make

them "more in depth." She admitted reports were filed away without full review.

"Now there is going to be a review process and a review signature on there saying this person has reviewed it, and it's going to be my assistant, Dave Zeigler," she said. "If there are questions, he will call the guys in and get the information so we don't have incomplete documentation."

Trustee David Lohmeier struggled with Dunn's conclusion about the DPW.

"They should have caught it, but I have a hard time saying they're part of the cause. To me, that's a little bit like calling a police officer partly responsible for a homicide because they should have prevented it," he said. "The person who caused it was the contractor that connected it wrong."

Dunn said proper inspections would have prevented four years of illicit discharges.

"The inspection process is to catch these mistakes. We didn't catch them, and we didn't catch them on two occasions," he said. "From a legal standpoint, it's a partial cause."

Lohmeier was still was unconvinced there was an "emergency" reason to hire Dunn.

"What makes an emergency to me here is potential litigation against you – here's a risk assessment of where we see you relative to the law and here is your opportunity for recovery," he said. "This is good information, but no reason we had to do this on an emergency basis."

After having the topic brought up four times before, Clerk Shelagh VanderVeen she hadn't "found anything different since day one."

"For us to keep bringing this back to the board, going through this, rehashing it, it's futile," VanderVeen said. "We all have differences of opinion as to whether it was an emergency, whether it wasn't an emergency and I don't think we're going to change each others minds. It's over, it's done, let's put it to bed, don't bring it back for a fifth time."

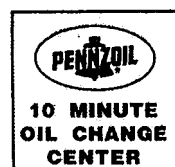
"It's over, it's done, let's put it to bed, don't bring it back for a fifth time."

– Clerk Shelagh VanderVeen

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Drug caper ends in arrests

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Four robbers hoped an insideman would ensure the success of their drug rip-off caper, but failed to take into account one thing – a flighty wheelman.

Deputies rolled up six Independence and Springfield township men in an apparent drug deal gone wrong.

Deputies were called to the scene of a reported armed robbery, 9:12 p.m., Oct. 25. A 25-year-old Independence Township man and 18-year-old Springfield Township man told police they were parked at a Dixie Highway restaurant smoking cigarettes when a Jeep Cherokee squealed to a stop in front of them.

They said car doors slammed and suddenly guns were pointed at their heads, the gunmen yelling for them to "give up all you got" – a bag of medicinal marijuana and \$1,500 in cash from unemployment checks they just cashed.

But then the Jeep sped away, leaving the two gunmen to flee on foot. The victims drove after the Jeep, following it into an apartment complex on Dixie Highway, back onto Dixie, east to Maybee, losing them in a subdivision.

They got their license plate number, however, and returned to the restaurant to call police. Deputies headed to the Springfield Township house where the 19-year-old registered Jeep owner lived.

Meanwhile, a deputy based out of Brandon Township staked out a position at Ortonville and Rattalee Lake roads for possible intercept. The suspect drove by and the deputy pulled him over, called for backup, and made the arrest.

Deputies back at the restaurant tracked the two gunmen, finding in the woods two weapons, a single-shot, .410-gauge shotgun and a .22-caliber, tube-fed rifle, plus a black shirt and red

baseball cap. A search by K-9 units failed to turn up the gunmen.

But investigation took a turn when deputies questioned the two "victims."

Turns out the "cigarettes" contained marijuana, not tobacco. They had a medical-marijuana card, but they were carrying too much.

"You're not allowed to carry a quarter pound of marijuana," said Det. John McDonald of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Independence Township substation.

And the money wasn't from their unemployment checks – it was actually brought by a third man, allegedly there to buy the drugs, whose presence they concealed from police.

"We got the victims to admit the truth," said McDonald. "The money man was in the vehicle with them and the gunmen were hiding in the bushes."

The "victims" thought they and their buyer were ripped off by the gunmen and Jeep driver. Turns out, the "buyer" was in on it.

"The four guys planned to rob the other two and make it look like they were all set up," McDonald said. "The plan didn't work. We've had drug rips before, but they don't usually call police to report them."

The alleged plot fell apart when the wheelman panicked and drove away, leaving the gunmen on foot and the insideman still inside the car with the victims, who decided to pursue the Jeep.

Investigation revealed their names and addresses. The alleged gunmen, an 18-year-old Springfield Township man and an 18-year-old Independence Township man, and the alleged insideman, an 18-year-old Springfield Township man, were tracked to their homes the next morning and arrested. Investigation continues.

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Wallet points the way

An Independence Township woman turned in a wallet she found in her driveway next to her car, Oct. 8. Examining the wallet, deputies found a university ID and a marijuana cigarette. They went to the wallet owner's house, about half a mile away, to ask him about it. The 19-year-old man denied ownership of the marijuana, and said he didn't know how it got next to the car, in which the center console appeared to have been gone through. Warrant check revealed numerous contacts with police and contact with pawn shops. Deputies said he could pick up his wallet at the substation, but he hasn't yet. A report we sent to his probation officer.

Calling for help

An 11-year-old Independence Township boy called his father when he couldn't wake his mother, 9:15 p.m., Oct. 21. The Waterford man couldn't wake her either, and called 911. First responders revived her, and deputies found she had a .23 blood alcohol level and had taken anti-anxiety medicine. She was taken to the hospital for observation, and the boy went home with his father.

Just one bite

A 22-year-old Independence Township man was arrested for assault and battery after biting his girlfriend, a 20-year-old Inde-

Public Safety

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

pendence Township woman, 10:30 p.m., Oct. 22. She said he pushed her during an argument, she grabbed at him to break her fall, he grabbed her hand, and bit it. He said she first punched him in the back of the head, and he defended himself by pushing her – and biting her hand. He said he was drinking, posting a .156 preliminary breath test. She declined medical attention. Deputies found no injury to the man's head.

Pulled from the trash

Quick action by deputies saved several pieces of stolen property from disposal. Investigating alleged thefts by Arnold Bracy and Terry Brown, deputies found items in trash receptacles at their Flint apartment. The apartment owner apparently found out what the suspects were accused of, figured everything in their apartment was stolen, and threw it out to avoid getting into trouble. Police recovered a flat screen television, several laptops, and other items, all returned to their owners. They also recovered and returned video game systems, camera, chainsaw, .357

Magnum revolver, golf clubs, and jewelry. Other pieces of jewelry were traced to pawn shops, but were already melted down.

Caught drinking where?

Two teenagers were caught smoking and drinking, 8:40 p.m., Oct. 22, near Chianti Court and Bordeaux Drive. A patrolling deputy noticed their car parked in the undeveloped subdivision and stopped to check on them, finding an open bottle of wine in plain view. The driver, a 19-year-old Independence Township man, was cited for open intoxicants in a vehicle. The passenger, an 18-year-old Springfield Township man, was cited for minor in possession.

Bad karma

A resident of the 6000 block of Pine Needle Drive said her peace flag was stolen from her front porch overnight, Oct. 24. She said it had been a gift. The flag pole was also stolen.

Too much heat

Smelling smoke, a couple returning home from visiting relatives in Waterford, 7 p.m., Oct. 25, pulled into a parking lot in the 8000 block of Ortonville Road. The got out of the vehicle, watched as it caught fire, and called 911. Independence Township firefighters extinguished the blaze. The vehicle owners told deputies they recently had the heater replaced.

Stolen power tools

The owner of a construction trailer said someone cut the lock off and stole power tools, Oct. 26, in the 4000 block of Sundale Drive.

Drivers take out deer

Car deer accidents include: 8:34 p.m., Oct. 7, Clarkston and Sashabaw; 7 a.m., Oct. 8, Dixie and Pine Ridge; 9:40 p.m., Oct. 12, Dixie and Parview; 6:15 a.m., Oct. 13, Maybee and Winell; 7:20 p.m., Oct. 13, Reese and Deer Forest; 7:41 p.m., Oct. 14, Waldon and Sashabaw; 11:10 p.m., Oct. 19, Ortonville and Oakhill; 6:50 a.m., Oct. 20, Clintonville and Eston; 7:47 p.m., Oct. 23, Andersonville and White Lake; 9:44 p.m., Oct. 24, Maybee and Clintonville; 7:14 p.m., Oct. 25, Bridge Lake at Davisburg; 5 a.m., Oct. 26, White Lake at Dixie; and 6:38 a.m., Oct. 27, Sashabaw and Pine Knob.

– By Phil Custodio.

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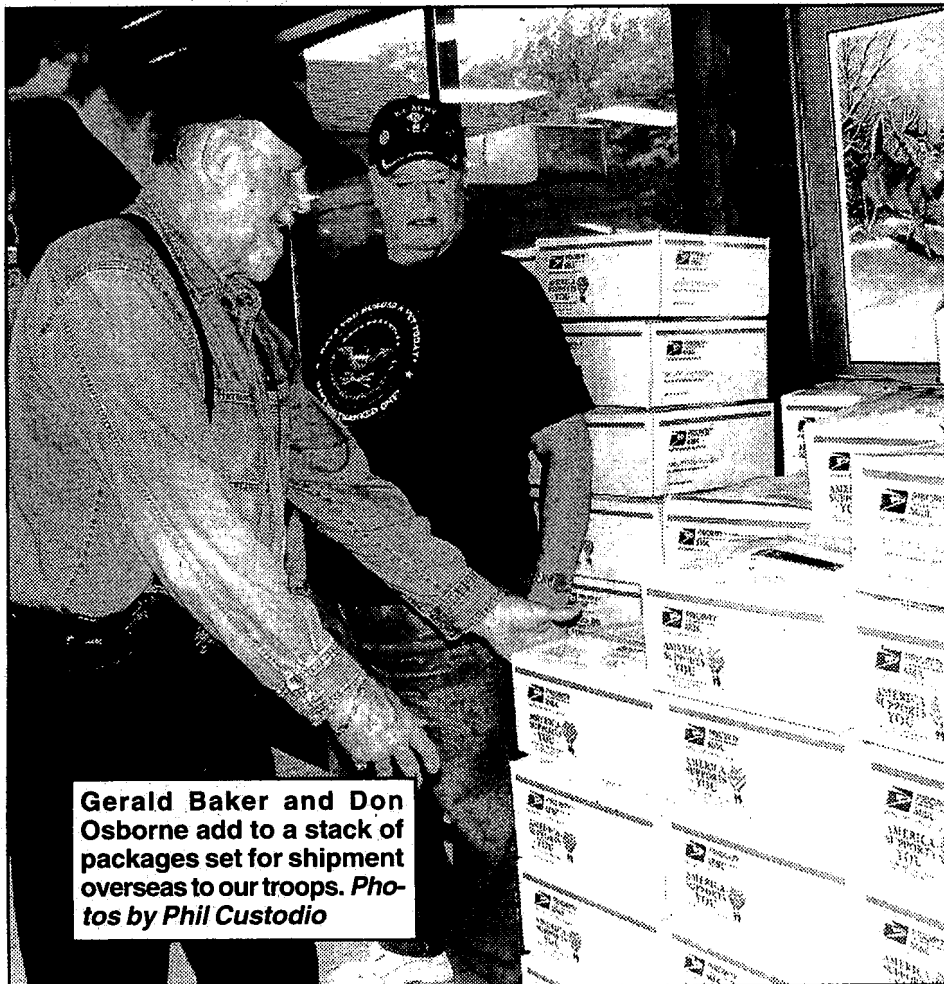
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Gerald Baker and Don Osborne add to a stack of packages set for shipment overseas to our troops. Photos by Phil Custodio

For our troops

Volunteers filled the meeting room at Oakland County Sportsmen's Club, Oct. 22, for a Miracle Packing Party for troops overseas.

Hosted by Desert Angels, they packed boxes full of food, personal care items, and entertainment items such as DVDs and video games. The event is named in honor of Army Pfc. Joe Miracle of Ortonville, who died in Afghanistan on July 5, 2007.

Donations are also accepted to defray postage, about \$12 per box. For more information, call 248-623-0444 or check TheDesertAngel.com.



Mary Lou Osborne and Bob Majka assemble a care package.



Carole Carroll displays a Miracle Quilt, stitched by the Miracle Quilters for wounded troops at Walter Reed Hospital. The group meets second Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Independence Village, 701 Market St., Oxford.

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Round two leaves Orion feeling (gold and) blue

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

A strong wind blew into the Wolves' stadium but couldn't drown out the cheers from fans dressed in blue and gold as the gridiron gang won the first round in district playoffs, 17-7.

The game came down to the final quarter as Clarkston led Lake Orion by three points.

Chris Canada led the defense as Lake Orion fumbled the ball with nine minutes remaining in the district playoff game.

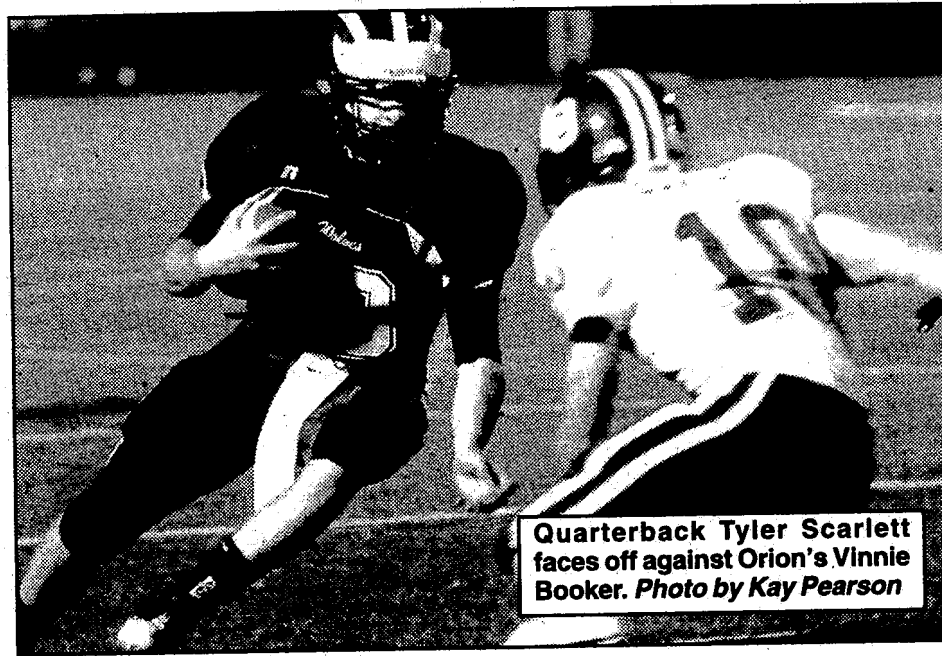
Bryan Haslinger swooped in and recovered, putting the Wolves in control on their own 19-yard line.

The Wolves closed in on Orion's endzone but soon found themselves at their fourth down with four minutes left in the game.

Quarterback Tyler Scarlett took the chance to pass the ball but with no opening in sight, he threw the ball to the end of the field.

Running back Dakota Bender jumped into the air and caught the 31-yard pass before Orion's defensiveback Vinnie Booker could drag it in. Bender stepped backward into the endzone and scored the touchdown, ending a 81-yard drive in 14 plays.

"It wasn't even suppose to go to him,"



Quarterback Tyler Scarlett faces off against Orion's Vinnie Booker. Photo by Kay Pearson

Wolves Head Coach Kurt Richardson admitted after the game. "It was suppose to go to the other side - that is just Dakota's athleticism, going up and getting it."

The team rejoiced after the hard-fought

game following last week's win over the Dragons, 42-13.

"You can always expect a good game from Lake Orion," said Senior Dustin Gamble. "Last week it just didn't go their way and this week

was more of what we expected. After last week's loss we knew they were going to come out."

The boys put points on the board in the first quarter with a 30-yard field goal from Brian Benway with 2:07 left on the clock.

The Dragons captured the lead after grabbing possession of the ball on Clarkston's fumble.

Daniel Ney made a 5-yard run with 3:28 left in the first half. Lake Orion grabbed control only seconds later when the Wolves fumbled the ball on the kick-return and the Dragons recovered the ball.

Justin Baetz, Jordan Clark and Jack Durkan kept the Dragons from adding another touchdown before Canada intercepted the ball and Clarkston was in control of the play.

The Wolves came back from half-time and closed in on Lake Orion's territory. The boys found themselves on their fourth and 12 on the 26-yard line. Scarlett threw a 24-yard pass to Derek Booker putting the boys on the 2-yard line.

Bender ran up the middle after getting the handoff from Scarlett and pushed through the defense huddle to make it past

Please see Next Round on page 12A

Athlete of the Week Dickey fits into QB role

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Sophomore Chris Dickey gears up for another week of football for the second week in a row after concluding his JV season.

He was one of the handful from the JV team invited by Varsity Head Coach Kurt Richardson to be on the team as they prepare for each playoff game.

"I feel great and excited to play next year," said Dickey.

"Chris had an outstanding year," said JV Coach Jeff Long.

Dickey started the season playing as a wide receiver and changed roles. He was put in as a quarterback when the two first string quarterbacks were hurt.

"It took me awhile to get it going," he admitted. "I got the hang of it and did well. I threw ten touchdown passes and ran four touchdowns."

The boys ended the season 7-2, winning the OAA Red JV title after beating Lake Orion 28-13 on October 22.

"We did well," said Dickey. "No one quit and we kept going. I felt I helped."

It was the wide receiver position to draw Dickey into playing football.

"I always loved catching the football," he explained.

He put his love to the test and joined the Sashabaw Middle School's seventh grade football team.

Dickey also plays basketball and began the game when he was four.

"My brother, Sean Eluy, hooked me onto it," he said. "He played basketball for Clarkston back in 2001-2002 and for Coach Dan Fife. Sean taught me all the fundamentals."

He was on the JV team last year and would like to make the varsity team this season.

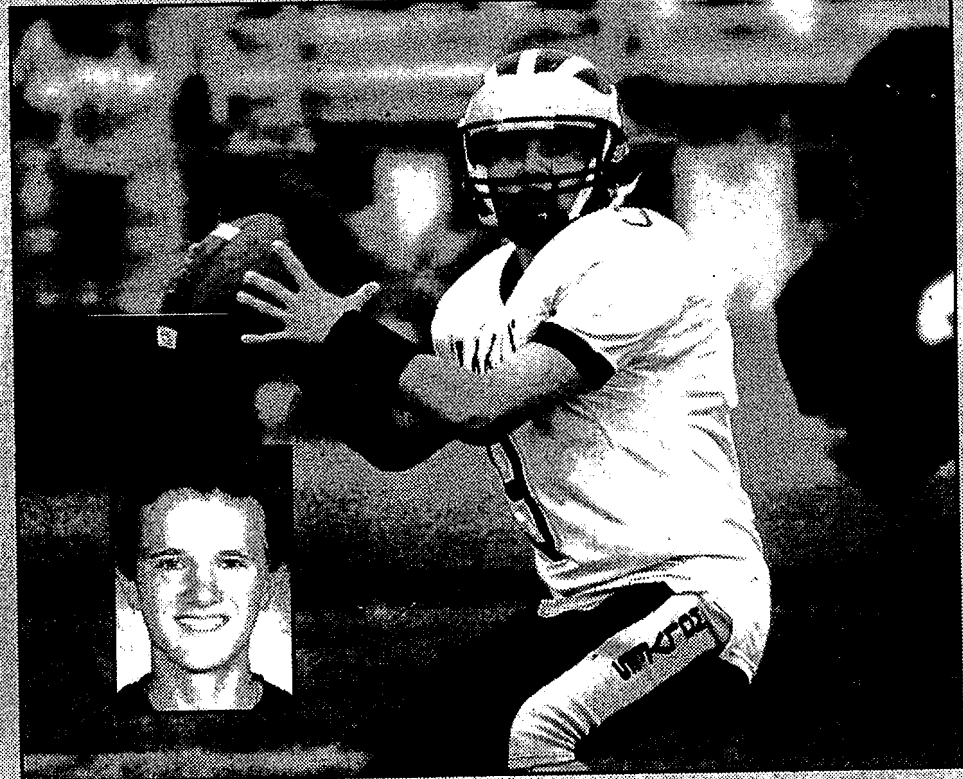
While dividing his time out of school between practices, games and hanging out with friends, Dickey keeps his head in the books and school as a top priority.

He said his most recent report card was lined with A's and B's.

"I try to do my best," he admitted when it comes to on and off of the field.

He said he gets a lot of support from his parents, Pat and Roxanne, and his brother.

"Thanks to my family for hanging in there for me and doing all they have done for me. Thanks for my brother," he said.



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Next round against Romeo

Continued from page 11A
the goal line.

"It was a well-fought game from both teams," said Gamble. "Some mistakes on both sides of the ball but we came out on top."

Though both sides made mistakes and raked up penalties Richardson said he felt much better about this win than the previous win.

"We knew it was going to be a dog fight with them," he continued. "We knew Chris (Bell) would have his kids foaming at the mouth. My hats off to Orion - they played their butts off."

Benway kicked 2-2 on PATs.

Clarkston moves on for the final game in the district playoffs this Friday. They face Romeo, who beat Grand Blanc, 35-21, last Friday.

"They took us out in the first round (of districts) last year," said Gamble thinking back to the 38-7 loss last year on Romeo's field.

"We are looking forward to go in there and get some revenge," he added.

Clarkston (10-0) hosts the Bulldogs (8-2) on Friday. Kick off is at 6:55 p.m.

No horsing around they are champs!

The girls from Clarkston Varsity Equestrian team finished their season fourth in the state.

A regional win took the team to the Division B State Competition Finals in Midland, Oct. 15-18. The girls finished fourth with 254 points.

The team took first place at regionals in Shiawassee, Oct. 3-4, with 538 points. They beat Utica Eisenhower (469 points) and Ann Arbor Skyline (387 points).



Clarkston Equestrian Team celebrates their victory. Photo by Wendi Reardon

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Lady Wolves celebrate an undefeated day in the Andover Invitational. Photo submitted

Netters ready for districts

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Spikers took all hope from their competition to win the Andover Invitational for the second year in a row.

"It was a great way to end our regular season," said Varsity Volleyball Coach Kelly Avenall. "We didn't lose at all on Saturday."

The girls took on Birmingham Groves, Howell and Utica Eisenhower before moving onto the playoffs to beat Walled Lake Central and Farmington.

Lady Wolves found themselves against Eisenhower again in the championship round. The girls won the first set 25-12, but then fell to the Eagles and lost the next set 25-19.

"Stephanie Marani is really the reason why we won the finals against Eisenhower in the third game," said Avenall. "She played outstanding. She had 14 blocks on the day and 22 kills."

Avenall saw a lot of improvement from the beginning of the season.

"Especially the younger players," she said. "At the beginning of the season it was just balls moving too fast for them and there were causing a lot of unforced errors for the team. Sophomores Gianna Locricchio and Stephanie Marani kept it up on Saturday and played excellent. They are finally coming around and peaking at the right time."

Senior Jenna Coates finished the day with 110 digs and seven aces and Allison Reis had 26 kills.

"It was a good day for us," said Avenall. "It gives us a lot of confidence for this week."

They play Lake Orion on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Oxford High School. The winner plays the district finals on Thursday, 7 p.m.

Check the Wolfpack Update at www.ClarkstonNews.com to see if the girls move onto the district finals.

Smith crosses over to states

Sophomore Natalie Smith ran up the steep hill at Springfield Oaks before reaching the flat ground. The finish line was only seconds away and after crossing it on Saturday morning – she finished in fifth and was guaranteed a spot to compete at the state meet.

She finished in 19:43.

The Girls Cross Country team finished in sixth place during the regional meet, scoring 156 points. The top three teams were Waterford Mott, 81 points, Milford and Hartland.

Junior Lindsey Fantin finished in 20:37 and in 17th place.

The boys cross country finished in seventh place during the regional meet on Saturday after scoring 175 points.

The top three finishers for the boys teams were Lake Orion, scoring 85 points, Milford and Rochester Adams.

Senior Michael Inch led the team and placed in 23rd with a time 17:14.

The top three teams and top 15 individual finishers move on to the state meet this Saturday at the Michigan International Speedway.



Adam Bruderick runs the last leg in the regional race on Saturday. Photo by Wendi Reardon

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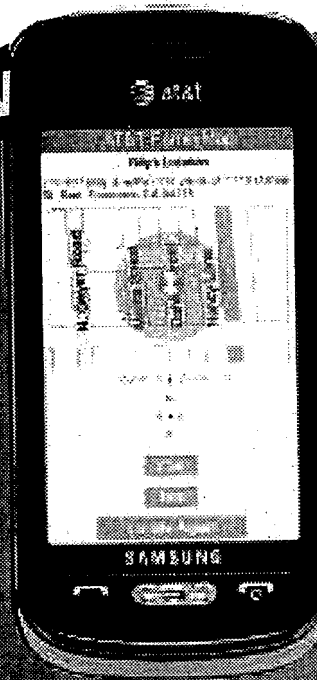


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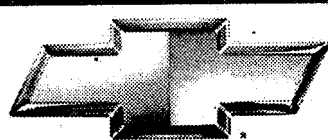
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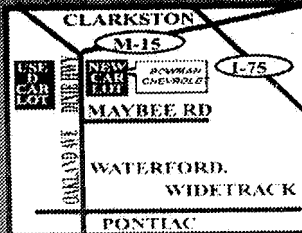
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| <p>*10146A 2006 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY White, 72,115 Miles \$9,988 \$188/mo.</p> <p>**90272A 2005 CHEVROLET UPLANDER LS Bronze, 49,126 Miles \$13,988 \$270/mo.</p> <p>**90595A 2004 DODGE DURANGO SLT Purple, 73,275 Miles \$10,988 ... \$209/mo.</p> <p>90692A 2001 GMC SONOMA SL 4X4 Red, 153,184 Miles \$5,988</p> <p>*90697A 2007 CHEVROLET TAHOE LT3 Silver, 28,282 Miles \$34,988</p> <p>*90701A 2007 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT 4X4 Silver, 40,688 Miles \$22,988</p> <p>**90703A 2003 BUICK LE SABRE LTD Bronze, 36,901 Miles \$10,988 ... \$209/mo.</p> <p>**P5887 2005 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS Green, 39,606 Miles \$10,988 ... \$209/mo.</p> <p>*P8169 2006 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS White, 32,954 Miles \$14,988 ... \$253/mo.</p> <p>*P8787 2006 CHEVROLET MALIBU LT W/2 LT Blue, 27,871 Miles \$11,988 \$199/mo.</p> <p>**P8790 2005 CHEVROLET COBALT BASE Sandstone, 0,238 Miles \$10,988 . \$209/mo.</p> <p>*P8796 2006 PONTIAC G6 BASE 6 CYLINDER Green, 23,487 Miles \$11,988 ... \$199/mo.</p> <p>*P8797 2006 PONTIAC G6 White, 28,700 Miles \$12,988 ... \$217/mo.</p> | <p>*P8798 2006 PONTIAC G6 BASE 6 CYLINDER Silver, 21,937 Miles \$11,988 ... \$199/mo.</p> <p>*P8799 2006 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS Gray, 28,142 Miles \$16,988 \$288/mo.</p> <p>*P8800 2006 PONTIAC G6 Silver, 34,389 Miles \$11,988 ... \$199/mo.</p> <p>**P8801 2005 CHEVROLET MALIBU BASE Silver, 27,657 Miles \$11,988 ... \$229/mo.</p> <p>**P8802 2005 CHEVROLET MALIBU BASE Silver, 49,657 Miles \$10,988 ... \$209/mo.</p> <p>**P8803 2005 PONTIAC MONTANA SV6 Red, 47,186 Miles \$12,988 \$249/mo.</p> <p>*P8805 2007 CHEVROLET IMPALA LT W/3.5L Silver, 11,184 Miles \$15,988 ... \$271/mo.</p> <p>**P8806 2005 CHEVROLET MALIBU MAXX LS Blue, 78,550 Miles \$9,988 \$188/mo.</p> <p>*P8807 2006 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LS Silver, 25,440 Miles \$16,988 ... \$288/mo.</p> <p>*P8808 2008 SATURN AURA XE Silver, 19,195 Miles \$17,988 ... \$308/mo.</p> <p>*P8809 2007 SATURN AURA XE Blue, 18,657 Miles \$16,988 \$288/mo.</p> <p>*P8810 2007 BUICK LA CROSSE CX Red, 8,975 Miles \$16,988 \$288/mo.</p> <p>*P8811 2006 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LS Red, 28,921 Miles \$16,988 \$288/mo.</p> | <p>*P8812 2006 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER Green, 32,386 Miles \$15,988 ... \$271/mo.</p> <p>*P8813 2006 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LS Black, 22,107 Miles \$16,988 \$288/mo.</p> <p>*P8814 2006 BUICK LA CROSSE CXL Red, 33,567 Miles \$15,988 \$271/mo.</p> <p>*P8815 2006 CHEVROLET EQUINOX 2 LT Purple, 32,117 Miles \$16,988 ... \$288/mo.</p> <p>P8818A 2009 PONTIAC G8 GT Slate, 17,751 Miles \$23,988</p> <p>*P8823 2007 CHEVROLET IMPALA LS Blue, 42,039 Miles \$11,988 \$199/mo.</p> <p>*P8826 2007 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Black, 27,252 Miles \$13,988 \$235/mo.</p> <p>*P8827 2006 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER EXT Sandstone, 43,621 Miles \$16,988 \$288/mo.</p> <p>*P8832 2007 CHEVROLET MALIBU MAXX LT Pewter, 38,387 Miles \$12,988 .. \$217/mo.</p> <p>*P8835 2006 BUICK RENDEZVOUS CX AWD White, 21,662 Miles \$17,988 ... \$306/mo.</p> <p>*P8838 2006 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER Blue, 14,425 Miles \$16,988 \$288/mo.</p> <p>*P8840 2006 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER EXT White, 14,925 Miles \$17,988 ... \$306/mo.</p> <p>*P8841 2006 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER Gray, 35,276 Miles \$15,988 \$271/mo.</p> |
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People Poll

November 4, 2009
Page B1

Favorite candy this Halloween?



"Snickers and Butterfingers - the old standbys."

- Ted Berry



"The kids like Almond Joys, Mounds and Hershey's milk chocolate - Reese's are their favorite."

- Steve and Char Hargis



"Anything chocolate. They always like Snickers."

- Joe and Melissa Luginiski



"Kids love Reese's Pieces. I've gone through 10 bags of them."

- Mary Alice Cook

By Phil Custodio

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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

Eagle Scout shows the way to O.A.T.S.

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

For Boy Scout Drew Niederluecke, state government proved the biggest challenge in his Eagle Scout project.

"I had to fill out paperwork, show them the plan, wait for them to approve it, then fill out a lot more paperwork," said Niederluecke.

He signed up his project, constructing a new entrance for O.A.T.S. of Brandon Township, for Michigan's Adopt-A-Landscape program.

"This is the first one in Oakland County, so they wanted to make sure it was just right," he said.

He led a crew of about 20 volunteers, clearing brush, installing two reinforced planter boxes and landscaping around the main entrance to the Offering Alternative Therapies with Smiles center on M-15 between Oak Hill and Seymour Lake roads.

Younger volunteers assembled smaller wood pieces and moved mulch, while older scouts worked on larger pieces and landscaping, including driving six-foot pieces of rebar into the ground with a sledgehammer.

"It was tough work," Drew said.

The project took months of planning and a full day of work, he said.

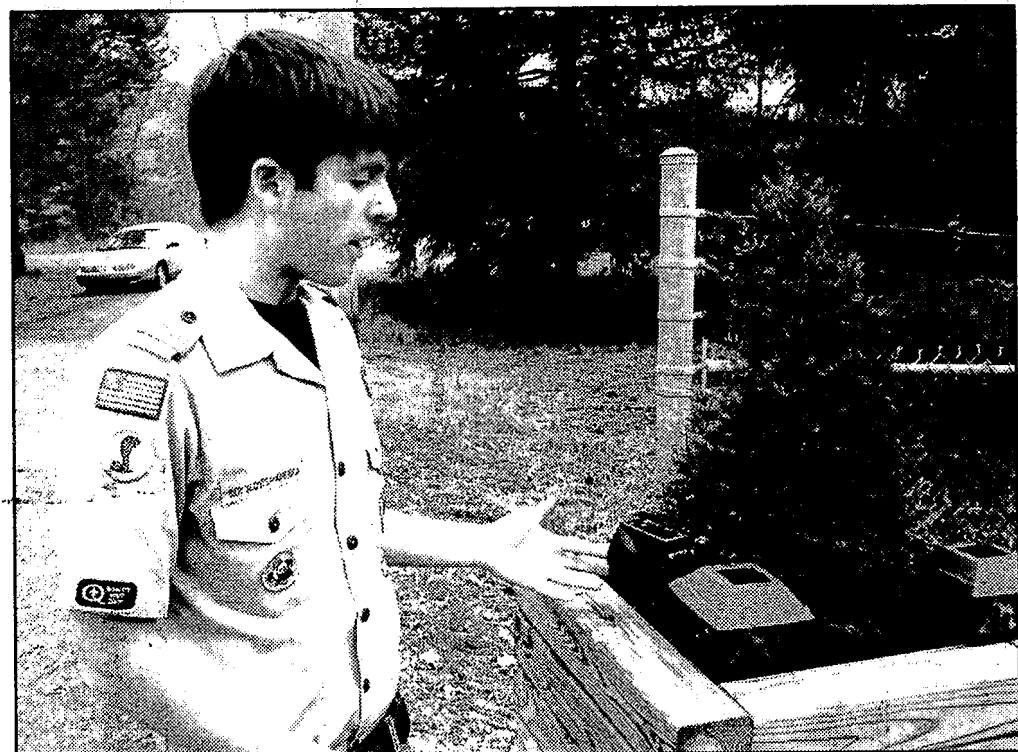
"My brother (Matt Niederluecke) used to ride here," Drew said. "They helped him out here, so I wanted to give something back."

The project makes the entrance much more noticeable, he said.

"A man said he drove by it for nine years and never noticed it before - we hope it draws more attention," he said.

All materials and plants were donated by Bordine's, Kerton Lumber of Holly, Country Oaks Landscaping, Lowrie's Landscape, Lowe's, and other local businesses.

For the larger donations, Drew met with business owners and managers, presented his plan,



Drew Niederluecke built a new entrance for O.A.T.S. for his Eagle Scout project.
Photo by Phil Custodio

and asked for help.

"They thought it was a nice way to help," he said.

"They were extremely generous, especially in this economy," said Denise Niederluecke, Drew's mother.

A senior at Clarkston High School, Drew has been in scouting since first grade, with Cub Scout Pack 126 and Boy Scout Troop 199 at St. Dan's since sixth grade.

"All the activities, hiking, sailing Key West for a week - opportunities I'd never have had if not for Boy Scouts," Drew said.

His father, Scott Niederluecke, passed away when Drew was 2 years old, and the scouts taught him "guy stuff," Denise said.

"It's a nice group of guys," she said. "It's a good influence. They provide good direction in life."

Drew is planning his Eagle Scout ceremony in the spring, and has been accepted to Grand Valley State University next fall, where he will consider medicine, dentistry, special education, and other fields.

"I'll stay involved in scouting as a mentor and scout leader later - that would be fun," he said.

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Around Town

A Taste For The Holidays, Clarkston Rotary's annual wine tasting, Nov. 5, Bordine Nursery. Twelve of Clarkston's finest restaurants provide food, accompanying wines from around the world. \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door. Call Jeff, 248-625-4244.

Weatherization Works, 1 p.m., Nov. 5, Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Info on free weatherization assistance program to lower utility bills. 248-625-8231.

Women of Lockerbie, Clarkston Village Players, Nov. 6-7, 13-15, 19-21, Depot Theater 4861 White Lake Road. Based on true events of the 1988 crash of Pan Am Flight 103 in Lockerbie, Scotland. \$13, Friday and Saturday. \$11, Thursday and Sunday. Curtain times 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday; 7:30 p.m., Thursdays; 2 p.m., Sundays. 248-575-4104.

Horn of Plenty fundraiser, with raffle, auction, dinner, dance, 6 p.m., Nov. 7, St. Daniel's Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park Drive. 248-625-4580.

Computer and TV Recycling, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Nov. 7, Sashabaw Middle School, 5565 Pine Knob Lane off Maybee. Computers, computer related items, TVs, and related equipment. Recycle fee for TVs, monitors, \$5-\$35. Proceeds benefit Lighthouse North. 248-623-4546.

Veteran's Day Dinner, 7 p.m., Nov. 11, Campbell Richmond American Legion Post 63, 8047 Ortonville Road. Guest speaker: Maj. Gen. Paul Crandall, just returned from Afghanistan. World War II veterans admitted free. Public invited. \$6. Free for children under 6. 248-625-9912.

Mom's Night Out, 5-9 p.m., Nov. 11, Bran-

don High School Cafeteria, 1025 S. Ortonville Road. shop for make-up to purses to scrapbooking items and crafts. Free babysitting. 248-627-1820 ext. 1222.

Fall Square Dance, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 13, St. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Family Life gymnasium, 7925 Sashabaw Road. Open to the public, all ages. Free will donation. 248-625-4644.

Living with Antiques from the 1800-1930, Clarkston Antique Roadshow, 6 p.m., Nov. 14, with Gini Schultz, owner of Clarkston Country Store, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Bring two items to be appraised. \$10 for dinner, program, appraisal.

Medicare Open Enrollment Period, Nov. 15-Dec. 31. Personalized, confidential assistance on Medicare, with Karen Koenigbauer, certified Medicare/Medicaid counselor. Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Job and Help Ministry Home-Based Business Expo, 7:30-9 p.m., Nov. 16, St. Daniel Catholic Church, 7010 Valley Park Drive. Refreshments, door prizes, networking. Email Laura.jasurda@comcast.net.

Self Defense Seminar for Women, 7-9 p.m., Nov. 17, Fight Club Proving Grounds. 1585 Crescent Lake Road, Waterford. Taught by law enforcement defensive tactics instructor Darwin E. Banister. Hands-on seminar. open-forum discussion. \$25 by Nov. 10, \$35 after. 248-240-7801.

Poinsettia fundraiser, Clarkston Community Women's Club, \$5.75, \$10, \$15.25, 21 for poinsettias; Grave Blankets, \$42/medium, \$52/large. Order deadline, Nov. 19. 248-625-2924.

Santa's Workshop/Craft Show, 2-7 p.m., Nov. 20; 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 21, Dixie Baptist Church/Springfield Christian Academy, 8585 Dixie Highway. 248-625-9760.

Carrick House Concerts, Nov. 22: Seth Bernard and Daisy May with Rachael Davis and Dominic Sutchya, opening set from The Marvins; Dec. 6: Steppin In It and Jason Dennie. 248-394-0113.

Alternative Christmas Gift Fair, Gifts That Make A Difference, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Dec. 5, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Fair-trade handicrafts, donations in a loved one's name to a mission agency. www.clarkstonumc.org/missions

Greens Market, Clarkston Farm and Garden Club, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 5, Church of the Resurrection, 6490 Clarkston Road. Wreaths and roping, loose and fresh greens, arrangements for home and office. Call Anita, 248-620-3168, or Sue 248-393-4443.

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. 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.

Grief Support Group, Coats Funeral Home, 6:30 p.m., first and third Mondays, Community Presbyterian Church, 4301 Monroe Street at Sashabaw. 248-623-7232.

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

Bingo, Mondays, 6 p.m., sponsored by Divine Peace Metropolitan Community Church, at Knights of Columbus hall, 5660 Maybee Road. 18-way bingo, double action, regular jackpots to \$500, local progressive. 248-332-1186.

Clarkston Rotary Club, Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Clarkston Community Education Center, 6558 Waldon Road. \$15. 248-625-4244.

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

Pilates and Sculpt, Mondays, 7-8 p.m., Bay Court Park's Lakeview room. Independence Township Parks and Recreation, 248-625-8223.

Please see Around Town on page 10B

Attend the Everest Open House Featuring Dr. Ray Guarendi Sunday, November 8 at 1pm

Everest Academy and Collegiate High School
PreK- High School Single Gender Education
in Clarkston, MI

For additional Open House information and
directions visit www.everestacademy.org



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GRAND OPENING!

This Saturday, Nov. 7 in Clarkston!

Opening Day Hours: 9AM – 10PM

Independence Square Shopping Center; 6555 Sashabaw Rd., Clarkston 48346
west side of Sashabaw Rd., just south (west) off of I-75 (at Waldon)

Join us **THIS Sat, Nov. 7**
in Clarkston from **9 AM** for



- 40,000 sq ft. of Terrific Buys
- Complimentary Refreshments
(while supply lasts!)
- Detroit Piston's Mascot -
'Hooper' 10AM -12 Noon



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Join us Again **NEXT WEEK, Sat, Nov. 14** for our **Grand Opening in OXFORD!**
1200 South Lapeer Rd. (M-24), just south of Drahner (7 miles north of the Palace)

SHOP beginning 11/7 in Clarkston, and 11/14 in Oxford: 9-9 Mon.-Thurs, 'til 10PM on Fridays & Saturdays
DONATE NOW; 9-5 Mon.-Sat, AND 11-5 Sun. (after Grand Openings the Mon-Sat Donation hours will be 9-9)
Donation Center is located at the rear of the building. Tax receipt available upon request at time of donation.

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Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce
November 12, 2009
Public Welcome 6-8 pm
Clarkston High School

Thursday
November 12, 2009
6:00-8:00 PM
At Clarkston High School
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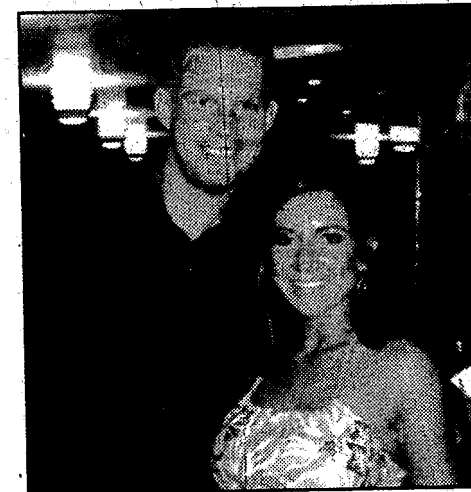
Milestones

Elert-Rogers

Dave Elert proposed to Kim Rogers on Oct. 10 at Pensacola Beach, Fla., where they met.

The future groom is a first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps doing his jet training at the Naval Air station in Meridian, Miss. He is the son of Debbie Elert of Clarkston, and Bob and LuAnn Elert of Waterford.

The bride to be lives in Gulf Breeze, Fla., with her daughter, Bree. Kim is the daughter of Martha and John Williams of Gulf Breeze, Fla., and Michael Macon of Pensacola, Fla. She works as an X-Ray tech at West Florida hospital.



Dave and Kim

Students achieve success



Callie Keller receives silver President's Volunteer Service Award from Linda Watson. Photo provided

Clarkston volunteers Callie Keller and Riley Keller, and Rebecca Harrison, Gillian Tackett, and Regan Tackett, all of Davisburg, earned President's Volunteer Service Awards, national honor offered by Pretty Pony Pastures.

They, along with award winner Jenna

Hutchison of Pontiac, Amanda Martin of Waterford, and Pam Martin of Waterford, volunteer with the therapeutic riding service, leading horses or walking alongside riders during the riding time.

Awards are issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Shane Kouri, 2009 graduate of Clarkston High School, earned the Evans Scholarship for full college housing and tuition at Michigan State University, where he studies pre-medicine.

The Evans Scholars Foundation awarded 235 full housing and tuition college scholarships to deserving caddies across the United States.

Christine Witkowski of Clarkston earned an Abreu Fellowship to study classical music instruction at the New England Conservatory in Boston, Mass., and in Venezuela.

Witkowski is a past volunteer for Youth Organizations Umbrella, where she was program director for a mentoring and tutoring program for disadvantaged youth. She studied horn in Montreal as a McGill University graduate student, and recently won the horn position in the Miami Music Project, Fla., an organization bringing music performance to Miami area children.

Got a Milestone to share?

We'd love to see them - births, weddings, engagements, military, business and school achievements!

You can drop them off at our downtown office at 5 S. Main St. or e-mail Clarkstonnews@gmail.com

Religion

Smokey the Bear shows need for long-term thinking

When I was a child there were popular commercials featuring Smokey the Bear. His message was "Only you can prevent forest fires."

The movie Bambi was also very popular. This movie told the story of a deer whose family had been destroyed in a forest fire. There was a concerted movement that the prevention of forest fires would preserve our woodlands. The national mindset was certainly impacted by these themes.

Time, however, has proven that many of our noble efforts may actually work in contrast to the natural order. Wild fires began to ravage our national forests at an unprecedented rate. Through these events we became painfully aware of the necessary balance to nature.

Fires which are not instigated by man are very much a part of the natural order and very important to the long term health of the forest. Occasional forest fires will burn the build up of brush under the forest canopy

so that when larger scale forest fires do occur they are not as intense.

In California I have observed the majestic redwoods and sequoia trees, many of which are thousands of years old. These trees have not only survived forest fires but they actually require forest fires in order to open their cones for reproduction and new growth. The natural order is amazing and resilient. Nature often proves that something which seems bad in the moment can actually be good for the long term.

The Bible says if we want to understand the ways of God we simply have to look at the natural order He created. When we observe the biblical principles we can certainly benefit as we apply them to our every

day life. Often times suffering for the moment brings greater blessing in our future while seeking temporary satisfaction can lead to long term problems.

This is what has happened to us as a country in our economy. Many bad practices are now bearing fruit. If we are wise we will let the fire consume the bad undergrowth so in the long term we can be more productive and bring a longer lasting blessing.

Unfortunately, the prevalent idea of the age is pain avoidance at all cost. Therefore, we have a government spending trillions of dollars to alleviate our momentary distress with no real thought about our future. The Bible says that though the fires of judgment can be severe what they produce in the end is refined gold, something durable and precious.

Will we see the wisdom of God or simply create a scenario for greater fires in our future? When the banks were teetering the government came to the rescue. Now we are stunned

when the people we rescued paid themselves bonuses and went on with life as usual.

How could we expect anything different if no judgment was experienced? The argument from the banking industry is we need bonuses in order to hire the best people. If they are the best people then how did we get into this situation?

Michigan is one of the worst states economically in our nation. Will we cure our problems or just go on with business as usual? The Bible says there is a way that seems right to men but the end is the way of death. I am so glad I have founded my life on the principles of the word of God. The Bible also says when we follow His principles when the storms come and the winds blow we will be like a house built on the rock. If we don't follow His ways we will be like the person who builds their house on the sand. Where will you build?

The Rev. Loren Covarrubias is pastor of Mt. Zion Church.

Spiritual Matters



Pastor Loren Covarrubias

In our churches...

Concert, Chancel Choir and Westminster Hand Bell Choir with special musical friends, 7 p.m., Nov. 7, Community Presbyterian Church, 4301 Monroe Street at Sashabaw. 248-673-7805.

Home Based Business Expo, 7:30-9 p.m., Nov. 16, St. Daniel Catholic Church Job and Help Ministry, 7010 Valley Park Drive. Refreshments, door prizes, networking. Email Laura.jasurda@comcast.net,

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, In Our Churches, page 9B



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website: www.dixiebaptist.org
Home of Springfield Christian Academy & Children's Ark Preschool
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6:00 pm Worship Service
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Broadcast Worship - Waterford
CATV-10 Tues. 2:30 pm
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Sat. 6:00 pm
Sunday School 9:45 am
Preschool: 3-4 years old
Preschool: 620-6154

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Rev. Christopher Maus
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Daughters celebrate 25th

Sashabaw Plains Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, celebrated its 25th birthday at a luncheon, Oct. 13, at Canterbury on the Lake.

Five of six Past-Chapter Regents attended, including Organizing Regent Dora Green, now a Florida resident. There were also three guests.

On display were chapter scrapbooks, power-point presentation, and historical map showing where DAR patriot ancestors resided during the Revolutionary War.

Registrar Dorothy Lowe received a special citation and pin in recognition of the many new members whose applications she has processed. Betty Blenman received her certificate as a forty-year member. All members were given DAR lapel pins.

Plans for a new fundraiser were announced, and the chapter plans a grave marking of a Revolutionary War patriot in 2010. The chapter will continue marking graves of all deceased chapter members.

The DAR, founded in 1890, is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization promoting patriotism, American history, and better education for children. It has 165,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the United States and interna-



Sashabaw Plains Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, celebrate their 25th birthday at a luncheon. Photo provided

tionally.

Any woman 18 years or older-regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background-who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution, is eligible for membership. For information, check www.sashabaw.michdar.net or call 248-625-5239.

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Kelly Phelan gives a devilish smile at Fountains.



Laurine Jajewski hands out a treat to Haley Koss, dressed as a midnight fairy.



Grace and Lauren Sielinski head down Main Street for some trick-or-treating.

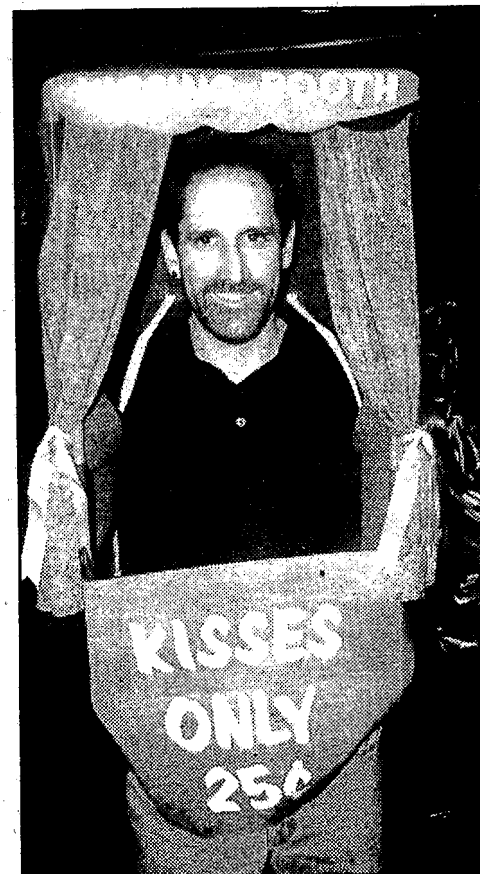


"Cowgirl" Gail and "Mr. Peanut" Alan Boskee, with Colby Laurence, hand out candy.

Halloween fun for everyone

Children and adults got into the Halloween spirit this past weekend, dressing up in their favorite costumes to enjoy some candy, going door to door yelling trick-or-treat, or a drink with friends at Fountains Golf and Banquet Center's Devils and Angels party.

Photos by Phil Custodio and Trevor Keiser



Kevin Varga was hoping to get lots of kisses this Halloween.



Fierce wolves Tyler Santangelo and John Pearson guard the Santangelo family pumpkin at its Holcomb Road home. The Santangelos get a big pumpkin every year from Romeo. This year's is 1,100 pounds.

In our churches

continued from 5B

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.

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

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

Players relive painful piece of history

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

A bomb exploded on American Jet Pan Am 103 heading from London to New York City on Dec. 21, 1988. The plane crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 259 people on board and 11 on ground. Clarkston Village Players takes us back to the scene in "The Women of Lockerbie."

"It's the story of a couple (Bill and Madeline Livingston) that lost a son in the crash and seven years after the crash they are coming back for the memorial service to try and get some closure," said Director Melissa Breckenridge. "Nothing of their son's was ever found. There was no body, nothing. It is their struggle in finding peace amidst themselves."

While in Scotland, Bill and Madeline, played by Brian and Carol Taylor, meet the women of Lockerbie, played by Julie Lux Chaney, Jackie Salter, Irene Hengstebeck, and Nancy Penvose, who are fighting with George Jones, played by Dan Shaw, an agent of the American government.

They are petitioning him to open the warehouse where all the items from the crash scene have been locked, so they might honor the dead and bring some healing to their hurt. Breckenridge said she wanted to direct the



Madeline and Bill Livingston, played by Brian and Carol Taylor weep after being given their son's luggage. Photo by Trevor Keiser.

play because it touched her heart.

"When you're listening to this and you really internalize what these people went through it just is heart wrenching as evidence by seven years later these people are still in trauma about what happen in their town," she said. "I just feel it is so important to put it in front of people again."

Breckenridge is a life member of CVP.

"The Women of Lockerbie" is performed November 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21 at the Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road.

For tickets, call 248-573-4104. Tickets are also available at Rudy's Market, 9 S. Main Street. For more information, visit www.clarkstonvillageplayers.org.



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Seventh in state

The Clarkston High School Marching Band took fifth place during the the Huron Valley Invitational on Saturday.

"The kids did really well," said Director Mike Lewis. "They scored a 79.90 - the highest score they have had in many years."

The marching band was judged on seven categories during their performance - music individual, music ensemble, music effect by two judges, visual individual, visual ensemble and visual effect.

The band is currently in seventh place in Flight I in the state.

They head to the Michigan Competing Band Association's State Finale competition this Saturday at Ford Field.

Flight I starts at 4:35 p.m. and Clarkston is scheduled to perform at 5:40 p.m.

Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors, and free for children 5 and under. Parking is \$6 at Ford Field. They will only be accepting cash.

Around Town

Continued from page 2B

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

BNI, Clarkston Waterford chapter, Tuesdays, 7 a.m., St. Stevens Church, Sashabaw north of Walton. 248-625-1365.

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

Line dancing, Wednesdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Country, Salsa, Cha-Cha Rock and Roll rhythms. \$3. 248-625-8231.

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

Local Business Network, Independence Township Chapter, 7:15 a.m., second and fourth Thursdays, North Oakland County Board of Realtors, 4400 W. Walton. Call Stacy Meagher, 248-241-6000.

Yoga for the fibromyalgia patient, 11:30 a.m., first Saturday. Taught by an instructor living with fibro. Support and community follows class; \$12 walk-in or purchase 10 visits for \$100 class card. Jewels Yoga and Fitness, 4612 Mountain View Trail, Clarkston, 248-390-9270.



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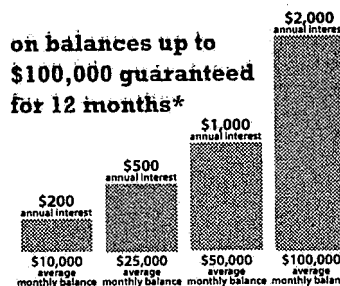
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Obituary

T. Gale Wright, 63

T. Gale Wright, age 63, born on Oct. 31, 1945, in Los Angeles, Calif., passed away surrounded by her family on Oct. 25, 2009 at home.

She was the beloved wife of Dennis for 42 years; loving mother of D'Ann (Don Jr.) Kreilach; cherished grandmother of Emiley & Eric; also survived by her sisters Marily (Bob) Foisy and Keely (Michael) Clark.



Mrs. Wright was a licensed cosmetologist for more than 20 years and had a great passion for the arts and theater, where she expressed her great talents as a make-up artist for the Clarkston Village Players for over 28 years.

Memorial Service was Nov. 1 at the First Baptist Church, Holly. Memorials appreciated to McLaren Visiting Nurse and Hospice, 1515 Cal Drive, Davison, MI 48423. Arrangements entrusted to the Union Lake Road Chapel of the Elton Black and Son Funeral Home.

John S. Hanson, 86

John S. Hanson passed away, Oct. 31, 2009, at age 86.

He was the beloved husband of the late Elizabeth "Betty" Hanson; loving father of Sharron (the late Clarence) Catallo; entertaining grandfather of Curt (Ann Stevenson) and Cara (Derek Werner) Catallo; dear great-grandfather of Clare, Coco, and Cassius. He was loved by his many nieces and nephews.



Funeral service, 11 a.m., Wednesday, at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, 5929 S. Main Street, Clarkston. Interment Lakeview Cemetery, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com

Euphema Ogans, 75

Euphema Ogans of Clarkston passed away, Nov. 1, 2009, at 75 years of age.

She was the beloved wife of the late Charles Ogans; dear mother of Charlene (Rex) Graybill, Steve (Teri) Ogans, Beverly Ogans, Michael (Dana) Ogans, and the late Larry (Kym) Ogans; grandmother of Reanna, Anthony, Kassandra, Charlie, Karrassa, Krystal, Devan, Jacob, Jessica, Ashton, and Lilly; and sister of Allene (Bill) Long and Eugene (Bessie) Moore.



Mrs. Ogans retired from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

Funeral service will be 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, at Coats Funeral Home, Waterford. Interment will follow at Ottawa Park Cemetery. To send a private condolence to the family go to www.coatsfuneralhome.com and select Guestbook.

Obituaries updated at Clarkstonnews.com

Healing Hearts during holidays

Wint's Healing Hearts Grief Support Group for all ages for those who have recently lost a loved one meets 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Topic is "Getting Through the Holidays," led by Emily Trahan, bereavement counselor for Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston.

Meeting location is Carriage House in Clintonwood Park, Clarkston Road

No registration is necessary, walk-ins welcome. Admission is free.

For more information or to be on the invitation list, call 248-625-5231 or email wintfuneralhome@aol.com.

Free driving service for vets

Safe, Compassionate, Reliable Transportation, a Clarkston-based medical transportation company, provides free driving service to veterans and active-duty personnel throughout the day, Nov. 11, in honor of Veterans' Day.

"It's important to let them know their sacrifices are appreciated," said Chris Oxley, opera-

tions manager.

SCRT provides non-emergency medical transportation to the elderly, wheel-chair bound individuals, and persons of all ages with special needs, as well as the public.

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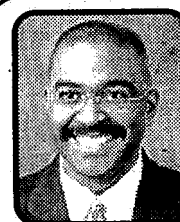
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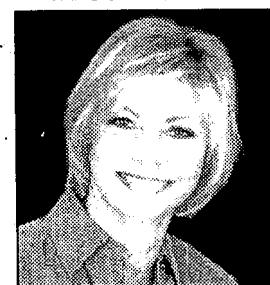


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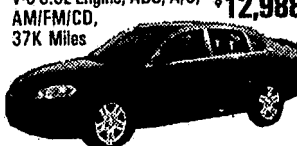
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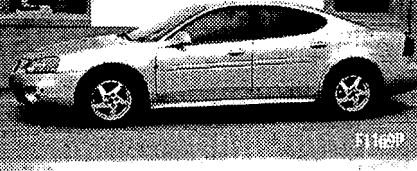
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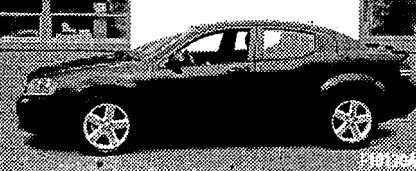
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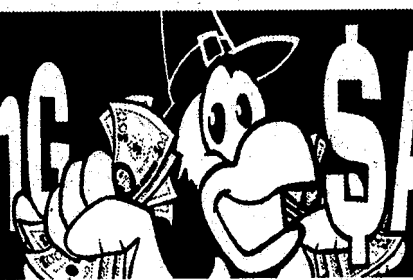


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