

The

Clarkston News

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**Greens Market
back in town,
please see page 1B**

Vol. 82 No. 6 Wed., December 2, 2009

2 Sections, 36 pages 50¢



'Tis the season
Rotarian Al Avery decorates a light pole in downtown Clarkston for the Holidays, assisted by Rotarians Harold Sutherland, Joe Wauldron, Bart Clark, and Jason Webster. Photo provided by Mary Sloan

Lock down: Administration looks to control information

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Staff Writer

When the going gets tough, make sure everyone's on the same page.

That was the message for Clarkston Board of Education from Anita Banach, Communications and Marketing director for the district.

"We want to make sure when we talk to a newspaper we make our best effort to answer the questions," said Banach at the Nov. 23 meeting. "What has helped us here is communicating with one voice from one standpoint. We try to get on one page to determine what our goals are and how we are acting to something and make sure we are proacting."

The district must decide what to do in the face of state funding cuts, \$292 per students, about \$2.4 million for Clarkston schools, as well as future cuts. Banach reminded the

board the district is hit by a variety of questions from the media every day.

"We need to rethink communication as questions from newspapers and television continue to grow," she said.

Trustee Joan Patterson disagreed.

"I am hoping we are not saying we are just going to have one voice," Patterson said. "We are all elected officials and as elected officials, open to the public. Newspapers call to ask more questions or to clarify what was said at a meeting. We are able to say it individually and it will come out clear."

Banach pointed to the \$85 million school bond campaign in 2003 as a perfect example of what she means.

"It didn't matter what the bond was," said Banach. "We were all on the same page and we were very successful."

An idea Banach presented to the board for consideration
Please see Media on page 13A

Cop cuts reconsidered

Trustees may tap fund balance for reprieve

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

For officials considering a five-deputy cut to the township police force, a \$680,781 fund balance offers a tempting solution.

"We want to demonstrate to the voters that we are using the resources they provide to the maximum potential," said Trustee Neil Wallace in a Nov. 24 memo to the Independence Township Board.

The board already discussed a \$100,000 dip into the Police Fund's balance to avoid losing another deputy. The township should use the fund to save more, Wallace said.

"We could avoid the cuts all together by cutting down into

the fund balance, taking it under \$100,000," he said. "I am not necessarily recommending that, but presenting it as a context for the board to make a decision."

Supervisor Dave Wagner disagreed with using more of the fund balance.

"It's absurd," said Supervisor Dave Wagner. "You can't do that because then, what are you going to do in 2011? We can go for a larger millage in August and see if residents are willing to do anything, but when times are so bad, you're rolling the dice. Why do you want to spend your savings on something that's not a sure thing?"

Public support for a millage increase is too uncertain, said Trustee Mark Petterson.

"I would love to do anything I could to put cops back on the road, but if you're going to dip into fund balance, then you are delaying the inevitable," Petterson said. "I don't see it getting any better. If I knew it was going to get better or if I knew the residents of the township would allow a millage renewal, then I

Please see Budget on page 14A

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**Independence Township
trustees hammer out
more budget details,
please see page 4A**

The Clarkston News

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Honored for service to schools

Clarkston Community Schools honored 12 employees for the First Quarter Employee Recognition Awards at the Board of Education meeting, Nov. 23.

First-quarter awardees include, in back from left to right, **Mike Walters**, head custodian, Clarkston Junior High; **Joe Amabile**, math teacher, Clarkston High School; **Gary Kaul**, assistant principal, Clarkston High School; in middle, **Darcy Schultz**, Kindergarten Instructional Aide, Bailey Lake Elementary; **Melissa Martin**, Kindergarten Instructional Aide, Bailey Lake Elementary; **Krissa Mick**, Kindergarten Instructional Aide, Bailey Lake Elementary; **Mary DiVito**, Kindergarten teacher, Andersonville Elementary; **Carol Schwarb**, secretary, Renaissance High School; sitting, **Diane Tynan**, paraeducator, Pine Knob Elementary; **Lori Hall**, Kindergarten Instructional Aide, Bailey Lake Elementary; **Jessica O'Rorke**, career tech/family and consumer science teacher, Clarkston High School; and **Michelle Johnson**, technology help desk, Central Office. Not pictured: **Kelly Kanigowski**, social worker, Clarkston Junior High School.

Any employee of Clarkston Community Schools, working in any capacity, may be a recipient of the award, which is given above and beyond the normal scope of work responsibility. Photo by Wendi Reardon



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Briefly

Donate cell phones for overseas troops

Maxx Storage of Independence Township collects Cell Phones for Soldiers this Holiday season.

The donated phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays the nonprofit group for each phone – enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad. About half the phones are re-conditioned and resold to wholesalers in around the world. The others are recycled.

Cell Phones for Soldiers raised almost \$1 million in donations so far, and distributed more than 500,000 prepaid calling cards to soldiers serving overseas. For more information, call Maxx Storage, 8483 Andersonville Road, at 248-620-0101.

Puppet play at Depot

Clarkston Village Players presents Storytelling – Chinese Folk Tales, two shows only, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, at Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road.

Once Upon A Puppet recreates live the ancient Han folk tale of "The Seven Chinese Brothers." The brothers work together to defeat the tyrannical Emperor Qin Huang in a tale including song and a surprise visit from a 20-foot golden dragon. Best for grades K-6 and the whole family. Admission is \$6. For tickets, call 248-575-4104. Tickets are also available at the door.

March to Holiday Lights

Sign up for the Clarkston Holiday Lights Parade, 6 p.m., Dec. 12.

The theme is Colors of Clarkston. Parade starts at Clarkston Community Education, 6558 Waldon Road, and travels north to St. Daniel Church.

Tree Lighting follows in Depot Park with live reindeer, carolers, music, thousands of lights and children's activities.

Call 248-625-8223 or check www.iamrsh27.net/parade.

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.

Court hearing on recall petition

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

A court hearing is set at Oakland County Probate Court for Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. on Citizens Against Independence Township Waste (CAITW)'s petition to recall the supervisor.

"The issue as it relates to law is one of clarity," said CAITW Treasurer Henry Woloson. "Are the issues that you're specifying as far as the recall clear enough and in essence attributable to one you're attempting to recall?"

Some petitions approved include recalling officials for voting against a national prayer amendment in Troy, voting for a tax increase in Gross Point Shores, and changing duties of the city attorney in Keego Harbor, Woloson said.

"Inevitably people will say, 'why didn't you recall him for this, or for that.' Well the law is very precise as to what we can and cannot do," he said. "At the end of the day I can't speak for other people but we intend to follow the rule of law. If somebody says we should have done this or that, well we can't do what the law doesn't allow."

Though he knew it was coming, Supervisor Dave Wagner said he was "disappointed," when he received notice of the hearing from the Oakland County Clerk's office.

"I do realize through the constitution this is all part of life in the political arena, but this is very disappointing because the claims they are making actually have no basis of fact whatsoever," he said. "This is more of an attack on this position, due to the fact the slate they were running didn't get in. Therefore there is not a township manager, which this group wanted. It just shows you they'll go to any means whatsoever."

Wagner said several items on the petition are "completely untrue." He said one item concerning "secret bonus payments," was already cleared by the Oakland County Prosecutor's office and "they found no basis for any action to be taken."

"There were no secret payments," he said. "There were memos written, checks were signed all within the authority of my job."

According to Wagner the car allowance compensation has been around roughly 14 years with no increase whatsoever, so when

gas prices were around \$4.00 a gallon the prior board approved in budget hearings the \$100 increase to begin at the first of the year.

He also noted the architectural work he had done to build a possible new sheriff substation doesn't require a board vote unless it's going out for a millage.

"These were preliminary drawings I had done with board knowledge," he said. "We were also talking with a potential leaser to go into the building at the same time, which would offset some cost. Due to economic times we are not moving forward with this."

If the petition bounces back for whatever reason, Woloson said they will resubmit.

"This is just sour grapes is all it is, yet it is something I take serious," Wagner said. "As far as I am concerned this is very slanderous. They're slandering my reputation which has been excellent over the years I've held office in this township."

Despite Wagner's disappointment, Woloson said he isn't the only one.

"I'm disappointed we're spending valuable time having to pull somebody because they're not doing their job," Woloson said.

Art show in Clarkston

Wine and cheese open house, Friday, Dec. 11

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

While coming back after the International Art Show in Grand Rapids this past fall, Peggy Roth and her husband Bob started brainstorming "why can't we do this in Clarkston?"

"Then I got a call the next day from Dave Savage saying we should really host an art show," she said. "It was sort of like 'wow maybe we really should?'"

The first annual Clarkston Art Show will begin Friday, Dec. 11, 6-9 p.m., with a wine and cheese reception at the Clarkston Mills Mall on Washington Street.

The show continues Saturday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sunday, 12-4 p.m.

"We just thought it would be an interesting thing to see what we could come up with. We have a number of different venues. We're looking to host between 12 and 15 artists," Roth said. "We're doing as many local artists as we can."

Also over the weekend Kevin Harrison from KH Homes will run a "Trollbeads Trunk Show," offering promotions, Dec. 10-13.

On Saturday, Union General hosts an author illustrator book reading and signing from 4-5 p.m. Complimentary mini cupcakes and cider will be served.

There will also be the first annual Candy Cane 5k/1 mile at 4 p.m. and the annual Holiday Lights Parade at 6 p.m., including tree lighting ceremony afterwards with Santa in Depot Park.

One of the things the Roths noticed while in Grand Rapids was how people commented how they wouldn't have ate at certain restaurants or even gone to downtown had it not been for the art show.

"Not everybody wants to go to the Santa Clause Parade, not everyone wants to be in a run, but a lot people like art," she said. "I think at this point the whole city is offering something to everybody."

The art show is being put on as a part of the Clarkston Retailer's Group.

Roth said she hopes to hear comments back from people after the art show as to what they thought about it.



Springfield Garden Club members Kathy Davis and Sandee Dutton helped decorate downtown Davisburg.

Davisburg decorated

Kathy Davis, Sandee Dutton, Judy Hensler, John Selent, Georgine Mills and other members of Springfield Garden Club gathered Nov. 23 to decorate downtown Davisburg for the Holidays.

The garden club decorates the hamlet in seasonal decor in summer, fall, and winter.

Trustees looking for common ground on budget

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Independence Township board members agree the time to act is now – it's coming up with a budget plan on which they all agree that's the problem.

"If it was Dec. 31, I wouldn't vote for that budget," said Trustee David Lohmeier, speaking of recommendations Supervisor Dave Wagner brought to the board at a Nov. 24 special meeting. "We can put critical services out and not pass anything else. We can have our own small government shutdown if we have to."

Wagner's budget proposal includes eliminating most Parks and Recreation special events such as Tons of Trucks, Friendly Forest, Fourth of July, and Easter Egg Hunt, and closing Deer Lake Beach.

"These cuts in the Parks and Rec. department are very troubling, but it's one of the necessary things that have to take place. We don't have parks millage that could subsidize it and stand on its own," Wagner said. "Unfortunately it does come out of general fund, which we can basically no longer handle."

His plan also includes cutting 5-6 full-time employees throughout the township along with several part-timers. Wagner said the AFSCME union contract does not allow the

township to keep part-time workers if they're laying off full-timers, something he says they're working on with the union.

He had two meetings with union employees a couple weeks ago.

"Everyone wanted to vent a little bit and be able to speak their piece," said Craig Richardson, AFSCME Union president. "We're trying to help to be a solution and not the problem."

Wagner said anything to eliminate job loss is "greatly appreciated."

Lohmeier said cuts are too deep in services taxpayers use, and not deep enough in areas they don't.

Trustee Larry Rosso agreed, and said his philosophy is not to impact programs as much as possible.

"That's important to me," he said. "The building department is really more of a problem because it doesn't really have much business."

Closing departments is still being considered, Wagner said.

"I am proposing we don't close the building

department, I think it's too valuable and we don't need outside people working for residents and businesses of this community," he said. "We've worked very hard to establish a very well run department."

Wagner said the Building Department, which also includes planning and zoning, has shrunk from nine employees down to "four and a half." He said they've also cut back on planning commission and Zoning Board, of Appeals meetings,

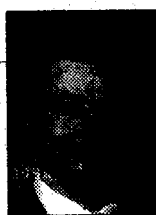
which saves in consulting fees.

Lohmeier recommended sharing administrative duties across all departments.

"We needed to look at the second floor more like one staff, as opposed to these little silos, treasurer, supervisor, and clerk," he said. "Everybody has a cost center."

Wagner said he reduced his budget 50-60 percent over the past two years and said board members don't understand there "definitely needs to be separation of powers" amongst departments.

If clerk and treasurer share employees, there would be "no check and balance," he said.



"We can put critical services out and not pass anything else. We can have our own small government shutdown if we have to."

- Trustee David Lohmeier

"In my office, it was mentioned I should just eliminate my help all together and not have any assistance, which is just absurd," he said. "This office handles a lot of sensitive information and confidential documents are involved, and for me to have four or five people assisting me randomly is just incomprehensible."

Trustee Mark Petterson agreed he would have liked cuts across all departments, but it's not an option.

"If we don't make enough cuts now this year, we're going to suffer for it more next year," he said. "I don't agree with the cuts in any of the departments, but Independence Township has been living beyond it's means for a very, very long time and I hate to say it, but it's time to take some cuts."

Treasurer Curt Carson said they shouldn't cut personnel.

"Putting more people on the unemployment line doesn't help anybody," Carson said. "We need to run government from a minimalist point of view. Then determine the services we're going to offer and then build the structure around that."

Wagner said he's working hard and is "disappointed" the budget process is not over yet.

"We've had a record amount of meetings on this and additional expense that we didn't need to occur at this time," he said.

Stuff a bus for folks in need

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Clarkston Community Schools bus drivers will make a special stop this holiday season at Lighthouse Emergency Services in Independence Township for their sixth annual Stuff-a-Bus charity drive.

"The drivers love it and it's a great way to continue giving to the community which we work for and a lot of drivers live in," said Tammy Layton, bus driver.

The event is 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 12-13, at Kroger, 5590 Sashabaw Road.

The plan is to fill the bus with not only new toys and clothing, but also non-perishable food, personal care items, gift cards, and monetary donations.

"The community looks forward to it every year," said Layton. "Lighthouse accepts donations at anytime, but the community likes it when we show up with our bus and the drivers are there."

Layton began the annual event with her fellow drivers after donating her time to SCAMP.

"In 2003, I put on a huge garage sale at the old Ellis Barn for the program," she said. "We managed to raise \$13,000 - but it was so extreme and such a large amount of work, it

was hard to continue with it."

She started thinking about other events she could do and wanted to get the transportation department involved.

"We are more than just bus drivers," she shared. "We care about our kids, our community and our jobs and this is a way for us to show it."

When the event started in 2004, the goal was to fill a single bus.

"People have been very generous even with the economy being poor the last couple of years," she added.

One year they received an anonymous donation of \$5,000 to take to Lighthouse on top of what they had already gathered.

"It was absolutely wonderful," said Layton.

Each year they have collected at least \$5,000 worth of merchandise for Lighthouse or more.

The bus drivers will drop off all of the donations after finishing their morning routes on Monday, Dec. 14.

They ask for all donations be unwrapped and new. They can be for children of all ages.

"We are just happy to be able to do it," said Layton. "So many of us busdrivers don't make a lot of money - this is a way for us to perform a community service."

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Dan Domagalski, Steven Domagalski, John Murphy, and Matt Hartman at the 2009 Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Buck Pole. Photos provided by Pam Gulliver



Springfield Township Clerk Laura Moreau, Certified Food Protection Manager Gail Bowser, township Park Commissioner Anne Loncar, and township Supervisor Mike Trout judge entries in the Chili Cook-Off.

Awards for deer hunters, chili cooks

Cheryl Apple of Davisburg won first place in Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Chili Cook-off 2009.

Second place went to Natalie Rodriguez, and Amber Apple earned the People's Choice award. Seven contestants participated.

Buck Pole winners included Dan Domagalski, Overall Biggest Buck, 10 point, 150 pounds, 19-inch spread, and Biggest Buck shot by a Youth, Steven Domagalski, 14, four point, 90 pounds, seven-inch spread.

John Murphy brought an eight-point buck, 136 pounds, 14-inch spread, and Matt Hartman, a two-point, 110 pound, 11-inch spread.

Parks and Rec hosted the Chili Cook-off and Buck Pole contest Nov. 15 at Mill Pond Park.



Boy Scout Carson Johnston, with the manager of Tractor Supply Store in Ortonville, is collecting pet food donations for his Eagle Scout project.

Pet food project for Eagle Scout

Eagle Scout candidate Carson Johnston, Troop 199 of Clarkston, delivered 405 pounds of pet food to Oakland County Animal Shelter, but still needs help.

His goal is to collect 1,000 pounds.

"We really need all of the dog and cat food that people can give," Johnston said.

He's passing out flyers and going store to store asking for donations of food, as well as contacting individuals in Clarkston, Waterville, Rochester and Ortonville.

"We're accepting all dog and cat food regardless if it is old, opened or new," he said. "We will also do pick ups if people have pet food donations."

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Phil in the Blank

A column by Phil Custodio

Fund the police

In the face of losing five deputies in Independence Township, Trustee Neil Wallace's idea to spend more of the township's fund balance makes sense.

I see the need for police services every week, thumbing through police reports at Independence Township substation.

A pile 2-3 inches thick, every week, of thefts, burglaries, fights, drunk driving, etc., etc., etc., along with almost another inch of traffic-accident reports, and more from Springfield Township and the City of the Village of Clarkston.

One of the stated purposes of a fund balance, the township's "savings account," its "rainy day fund," is to be a reserve in case of emergencies. With five officers representing 16.7 percent of the township's entire police force, this qualifies.

No amount of police can guarantee personal safety of everyone in the township. Residents need to take responsibility for their own security by at least locking all their doors and not leaving valuables outside in cars and trucks.

But police is still a core function of government, along with fire and public works.

Residents will probably be asked to approve a higher police millage next year, to make up for lost tax revenues from lower property values. People don't have much extra to give, courtesy of an economy driving properties down and crime up.

So clearly this is not the time to be holding on to extra funds. It also seems slightly shady, almost like creating a fund shortage, resulting in fewer police, resulting in a need for, surprise, higher taxes.

Even if voters turn down a millage increase, whatever funds are left township-wide should go to police service - maybe not even the sheriff's department if it's too expensive. Form posses, like in the old days.

Residents are already looking out for each other. Reports show how they call deputies when they see something suspicious. They'll even follow crooks, reporting to police on the way.

Keep it up. That may be the way of the future.



Keep school info flowing free

Let's face it, the *Clarkston News* is in the information business, and the business going down in our schools makes us leery. On page 1 today, you can read about Clarkston School administration's attempt to stem the flow of information from elected officials.

The district pays two communications employees to run interference for Superintendent Al Roberts. When anybody in the district wants to talk to Dr. Al, you get Communications Director Anita Banach first. There is no direct communications from Dr. Al. Anita is always there. As a newspaper, trying to get insights from the district's nearly \$200,000 a year, top employee (Dr. Al), getting the politically correct company line, pat answer from the district's \$90,000-a-year public relations person is distressing.

Now, the administration wants all elected officials to be in-line with the

administration's point of view. We are scared of this way of thinking. We believe it strangles free thought, outside-the-box imagination, individuality, and chips away at the First Amendment right of free speech.

There must be diversity in thought - and that means at times, unpleasant disagreements - if we are to handle the problems this district (and all in the state) is facing. The best solutions will not come from a single, drone-like, robotic mind-set the administration seeks to control. Solutions will come from the many minds that make up this district - administrators, elected officials, staff, parents, students, business owners and regular, plain-old, taxpaying residents - coming together, debating, arguing - being American - and doing what is best.

We urge the board, at its next meeting, to stand-up and vote for the free flow of information. -dpr

Editorial

Parks and Rec director responds to letter

Dear editor,

In response to "Times up for township perk," Nov. 25 edition.

Letters to the editor should be based on facts. If letter-writer Sam Moraco came to me, I could have given him the facts.

I do not live there free. I pay rent, I pay utilities, I mow the lawn myself, I paid for the pool, installed it, and I even clean it, Sam.

I did a little remodeling, yes, at the township's expense, with approval, and did it in house. I always repair, paint, fix up, clean, restore, and maintain myself as if it was my own, without using township money.

If you'd like to come in and see me I'll show you that line item in the budget, and yes, it's under budget.

We do not pay a four-hour minimum to have staff lock or unlock our parks. We have scheduled park rangers who do that.

Yes, I consider this a "perk," but a perk to

the township and me equally. Don't look for axes to grind when you can't get your way because the township won't spend money on your idea.

What does another historical structure the township owns relate to me living in that house? If I thought in any way that me living in that house was unethical or would cause someone to lose their job, I would have moved long ago. My honesty and character is impeccable.

One last comment. Your statement on being a "favored employee" - hardly the case. I am just one of the members of the TEAM in Parks and Recreation. We're not real "favored" right now over anyone.

If you have any further questions, Sam, you can call me, or, hey, I have a better idea, you know where I live, just stop and say hi.

Mike Turk
Director, Independence Township
Parks and Recreation

Too much watering shows school waste

Dear editor,

The football here is great.

On my way walking home Friday nights after Clarkson wins, I've been surprised that the sprinklers were running each time. Two of those Fridays were quite rainy as most will recall.

Do the practice fields still need to be watered, as late as Nov 6? Would the district

be interested in saving us all a little money, and helping the environment, by shutting of the systems for the winter?

Just another example of government spending money when it is really not needed? Perhaps a little out of touch? I think we can do better.

Kirk Frame,
Independence Township

A Look Back

From *The CNews* archives

15 years ago - 1994

"Have you seen this spud?" Sashabaw Middle School Assistant Principal Mike Krystyniak's beloved Mr. Potato Head was missing, and photos showing the plastic spud in locations around the country deepened the mystery. Students followed the story with interest, buying buttons to support the search, as well as local community groups.

"Clarkston police chief resigns" Chief Robert De Vore turned in his badge amidst difficulties between him and the City Council. Cpl. Scott Dickey took over temporarily while the city looked for a replacement.

"The sound of music" Clarkston resident and musician Gene Grier and his wife Audrey carried the Christmas spirit with him all year long, organizing two Christmas ensemble groups. He also worked with cartoonist Tom Wilson, creator of "Ziggy," on the musical "Ziggy and Friends Christmas."

25 years ago - 1984

"Tiger's rights to be weighed in circuit court" Attorney Frances Avadenka represented the Murdoch family, defending their right to own a tiger, named Athena, in Independence Township. Township officials disagreed, and were taking the issue to court.

"Roast radiates warmth" Laughter and tears flowed at the Independence Township firefighters' Community Service Dinner as honored former fire Chief Frank Ronk for 40 years of service, as well as other retirees.

"Bringing Eeyore to life" Clarkston High School Drama Club students Lori Neff as Winnie the Pooh, Leslie Parrish as Piglet, Becky Olney as Owl, Mike Weber as Rabbit, and other actors staged "Eeyore's Christmas Pageant."

50 years ago - 1959

"Boy Scout Troop 126 enjoys camp-out" Despite winter winds and snow, the 22 boys and eight adults had a memorable weekend at Highland Recreation Area. Tenderfoot Scouts Thomas Cushman, Nick Gura, Arthur Alexander, Paul Hoxsie, and Harold Gladding passed their compass tests on a five-mile hike.

"Clarkston locals" While on vacation from Central Michigan University, Norm Powell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Powell, accompanied Marcia Shook of Detroit to Immaculate High School's annual Thanksgiving Ball.

Living life and loving it.

Whilst thinking about Thanksgiving and blessings for a column last week, my mind kept working. Which for me is kinda amazing. Letting my mind work is something I don't ask of it.

But, work it did. As a matter of factuality, on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, I was up and writing at 4 in the morning (so take that, all of your mothers, grandmothers, aunts and uncles who look for love

and adoration for just getting up and putting the turkey in at the late morning time of 5 or 6).

And, this is why I don't encourage my mind to think much . . . I like sleeping. I don't like having to get up and write down what I am thinking. At any rate, up as I was, I needed to purge the thoughts swirling about and through my head. As the boys slept, I started typing a story for them: A love story if you will. It's about life, living it, and loving it.

About a month ago, Oxford resident Sue Kinch e-mailed all her contacts (including me) asking for advice to give to her son. I wrote back to her this quote

from long-dead actor and American icon, John Wayne:

"Life's tough . . . it's even tougher if you're stupid."

I don't know if I will include that in my tome for Shamus and Sean. I have roughed in about 20 pages so far, don't know if I'll finish it, don't know where it will go. It started out about my ideas on life, and now it has evolved into the father-son relationship . . . mine with them, and my dad's with me.

It is taking on a life of its own.

Thing is, I don't know why I started? Was it Thanksgiving? Is it the schmoltzy time of the year, holidays, family, blah, blah, blah? What is it?

A Christmas miracle?

For God's sake, I even wrote a smackin' frackin' poem! I am not a sensitive, poem-writing Bohemian. I am Don Curmudgeon Rush. I am the cranky old white guy, cantankerous, crabby, crotchety and ornery. I want my Bah-Humbug back!

* * *

We got our Christmas tree up this past Sunday. And, of course, during this we played Christmas music. I dug out all my CDs and laid 'em out on the kitchen table. I asked each boy, in turn to pick out the Christmas music they wanted to hear.

Exclaimed Shamus, now 12, upon seeing the selection available: "Dad, you've got a lot of Christmas music!"

My only excuse: As I am sooooo old, son, I have had plenty of time to grow the collection. And, come to think of it, I am missing my Bing Crosby/Andrew Sisters selection. I have the case but not the CD. Dangblamit.

* * *

Miracle of Miracles . . . on Monday night, I went out to move my pickup truck into the garage. It was 9 p.m. and I noticed it was rather bright out. I looked up at the moon, and saw it was kind of overcast. The effect of the full moon, and hazing clouds was a perfect ring all around the moon, in the clouds.

I don't think I have ever seen anything like that before. I know it's an atmospheric phenomenon, but it was still inspiring.

By 9:04 p.m., the ring around the moon was gone.

* * *

At any rate, it is the time of year to extend your hand to your fellow man. When you see someone down, don't walk by and feel sorry. Do something. If someone is in need, reach out. (If you want the selfish take on it, *you* will feel better that you helped somebody else.)

Petition calls for better leadership

Dear editor,

How does Independence Township Supervisor Dave Wagner justify granting himself and selected employees increased car allowances and compensation without board approval in December 2008, while the township's declining tax revenue has us looking at employee layoffs, reduced public services, and less police protection?

How can Mr. Wagner rationalize authorizing, without board approval, more than \$6,000 for INITIAL architectural design work for a new, unapproved sheriff substation, estimated cost over \$500,000, while suggesting laying off five currently assigned deputies?

Fortunately, other board members have proposed alternatives to the five layoffs.

Why has Mr. Wagner, as a trustee or supervisor, brought up reducing the lifetime healthcare we pay township officials AND their spouses after only eight years of service? Township taxpayers can only dream of such a benefit.

Despite his repeated spin attempts, recalling Supervisor Wagner is not a personal vendetta. Running a municipality is like running a business and shareholders (taxpayers) of Independence Township want a change at the top.

Mr. Wagner has repeatedly demonstrated over the past several months a lack of the management

and leadership skills we absolutely need given the difficult economic conditions we face for the next several years.

General Motors, their employees, retirees, and shareholders, paid the price for waiting too long to act decisively. Will we?

Please join our recall effort if you believe that our township needs, and deserves, better leadership.

The recall petition drive is scheduled to begin next month. Petition "teams" are still being formed. Please get involved unless you are happy with the prospects of higher township taxes for less services.

Henry S. Woloson
Independence Township

Yes, sometimes I spoil ma'dog, Shayna

When I go away for a few days and leave ma'dog Shayna at a kennel, I solicit a promise that she will be given ice cream every other day.

It doesn't have to be expensive ice cream.

At Lori's bath house I request human fragrances, like my after shave. It doesn't have to be Armani Diamond perfume scent.

So, in my mind I'm not spoiling ma'dog. What prompts this column is a realization that Shayna is aging. She's about 7-years-old, but frequently her naps are longer and her energy has slackened.

That's not to say she doesn't still run away (a sixth time recently) and she gets really excited and jumpy when she sees a cat. I don't discourage her from that. I tell her cats taste like chicken.

But she's started flopping down with a thud, as opposed to just curling up and lying down gently.

More and more often that dropping is in the middle of our family room floor, at the exact distance between three exiting doors. In other words, no matter where I want to go, she's in my way.

And, I swear she always looks up slyly and smiles.

But this frequent napping has me wondering about her aging. So, I spend more time petting her, talking to her and giving her morsels from my table. Sometimes I don't wait for the table, I just take a forkful of tuna salad and put it in her now-open mouth.

I try to lift the fork so the tuna sticks to the top of her mouth. It's fun watching her maneuver her tongue to loosen the salad. It's even more fun for me when I do that with peanut butter.

Shayna's a 70-pound German Shepherd with a Husky's blue eyes. They garner a lot of looks and smiles. I'm a 6'3", 270-pounder who has difficulty getting up from the floor, and gets few smiles.

So, I'm sitting in my recliner watching sports on tv and look down and wonder about my aging animal. Enter a soft spot. I'll lie down on the floor, head to head with Shayna, stroke her muzzle with one finger and call her Miss America.

She lies still as death. Occasionally I'll see one eye open slightly. But for the most part she's dormant, practically unmoving and seemingly unappreciative of my affection.

So, after a few minutes, I go back to my recliner. Pretty soon ma'dog will get up, come over and sidle up to me, lay her head on my thigh, look up at me and give the expression of thanks and love.

Jim's
Jottings



a column by
Jim Sherman

I know I'm reading way too much into this, so maybe it's just the holiday time of year, but it's such a nice feeling.

--- 0 ---

I've heard Oxford High's varsity football coach Bud

Rowley yell, many times, "Put that helmet back on. We know how pretty you are!"

I think of that often watching the pros play. Whether they're on the bench or on the field they want to be singled out. Since Billy Sims played for the Detroit Lions, there has been an increasing lack of humility.

When Sims scored a touchdown, and he scored many, he would hand the ball to the referee and trot off the field. A humble gentleman.

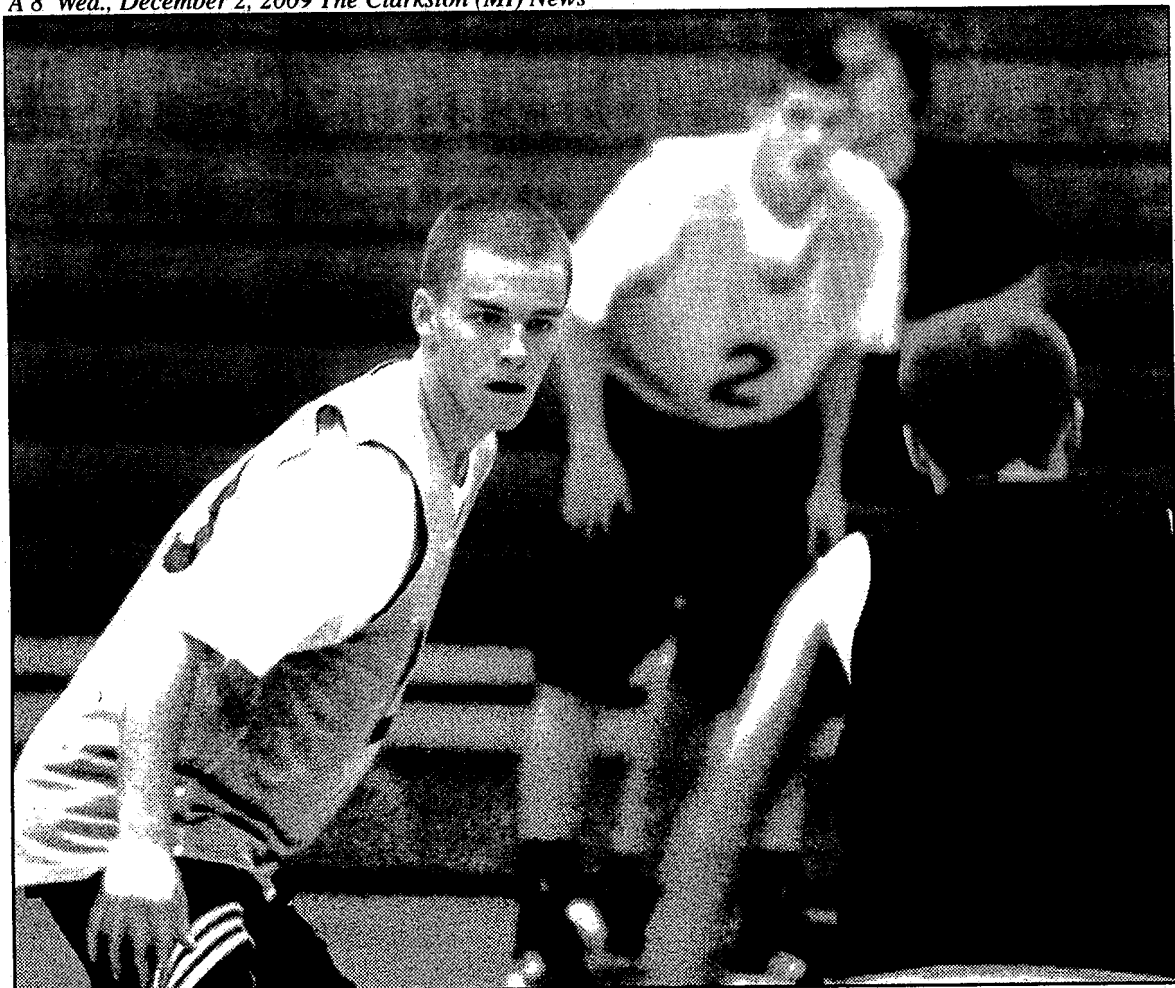
Nowadays a scorer will compete for the show-off title by creating a dance, posing for the endzone audience or doing several high-jump butt bumps.

When a lineman makes a tackle for a loss they often trot to an open spot on the field, that is within the lens shot of the television crew, beat their chests, stomp the ground or strut.

Humility, oh, humility, wherefore art thou?

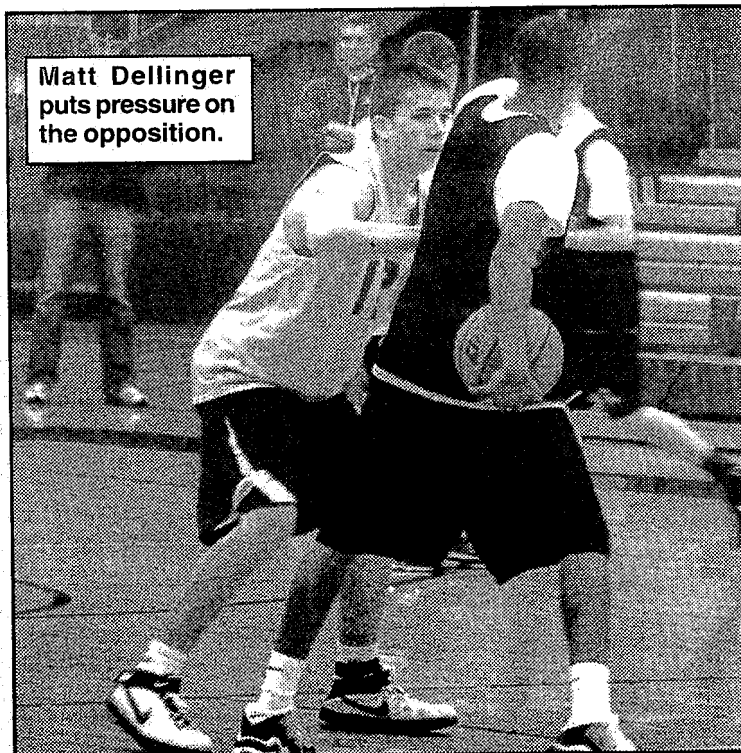
Certainly not on the professional football playground.

Along that same line of egoism are the players who demand to have a number 1 jersey or they won't sign for a college team. Seemingly every recruiter gives in to that demand, 'cause about every team






Max Collins keeps a close watch on offense. Photos by Wendi Reardon

Matt Dellinger puts pressure on the opposition.



Road to Breslin begins

A time honored tradition at Thanksgiving for Clarkston Boys Basketball teams is the scrimmages the day after the holiday. They took on a mix of teams they regularly don't see during the season to work out the kinks and get ready for their first game set for Wednesday, Dec. 16. More in next week's edition!

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Public Safety

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

Shotgun stolen

When an Ellis Road resident returned from school, 2:30 p.m., Nov. 13, he noticed a computer, shotgun, and compound bow missing from the home. Pry marks on a garage entrance door indicated a break in.

Buried brass knuckles

Deputies confiscated a set of brass knuckles from an 18-year-old Independence Township man, 10:15 p.m., Nov. 16, after a family fight. The teenager dug the weapon out of the backyard where he had buried it and handed it over, saying he knew he wasn't supposed to have it.

Missing motor

While working in his yard, 3:24 p.m., Nov. 17, a resident in the 4000 block of Maybee Road noticed his 25-horsepower outboard motor missing from his boat.

Suspicious dog walker

A driver watched as a 15-year-old Independence Township boy, walking a black dog, entered two vehicles, 6:57 p.m., Nov. 18, on Spring Meadow Drive. The teen told deputies he was just out walking his dog, and had nothing suspicious on him. Police left a message with his parents.

Lockers broken into

Four men reported their wallets and other property taken from their locked lockers at an athletic club on White Lake Road, Nov. 18. The club manager reported two suspicious men, about 18-20 years old, in the building at the time.

Drunk driver

A deputy stopped a 54-year-old Independence Township man for driving through a red light at Dixie and Maybee, 9:47 p.m., Nov. 19. The driver said he had three beers, and had a preliminary breath test of .156. He was arrested for drunk driving.

Lots of warrants

A deputy on patrol, 11:34 p.m., Nov. 19, ran a vehicle near Dixie and Maybee and found the driver's license suspended.

The driver, a 20-year-old Flint woman, was cited for driving with license suspended and no proof of insurance. The passenger, a 21-year-old Flint man, had five misdemeanor warrants for his arrest out of Richfield Township, Flint Township, Genesee County, and Burton. He was advised and released. The vehicle was impounded.

House fire

No one was injured in a house fire, 8:46 a.m., Nov. 22, in the 7000 block of Deer Hill, though the structure was destroyed. Arson investigators are checking the scene.

Caught with stolen goods

A 17-year-old Independence Township boy was arraigned on burglary charges, Nov. 24. Oakland County deputies stopped the teenager and a 19-year-old Grand Blanc Township man, 1:39 a.m., Nov. 23, for driving with lights out near Seymour Lake and Baldwin Roads. They were reportedly found with stolen property, credit cards, and a passport taken in recent thefts from cars in Oxford, Orion, and Waterford townships, Fenton, and Rochester Hills. They were arraigned on four charges each of possession of stolen credit cards. The 19-year-old was also charged with possession of marijuana. Bond was set at \$10,000. Investigation continues.

Firefighters feed family

Residents presented firefighters at Independence Township Firestation #1 with an abundance of turkey, potatoes, pies, and other Thanksgiving fare. Firefighters called Independence Township Adult Activity Center to see if they knew of a local family in need, which they did. It took four firefighters and two drivers at the center to deliver the food to the house for Thanksgiving, Nov. 26.

No love for vehicles

Someone used a landscape block to smash the driver's side window of a car, Nov. 9, in the 5000 block of Stone Hills Court, taking a purse, money, and baseball memorabilia.

The side rear window was smashed out of an SUV, Nov. 16, in the 6000 block of Balmoral Terrace. A palm-size rock was found next to the vehicle.

Someone threw large chunk of asphalt into car, about 11:30 p.m., Nov. 26, in the 4000 block of Glenalda Drive, completely smashing out the rear window.

A resident in the 5000 block of Dixie Highway discovered someone broke the right rear passenger window of his car, Nov. 27.

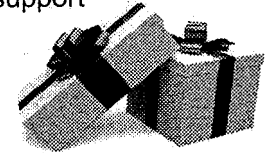
Bar fight

A 26-year-old Independence Township man was treated at Clarkston POH after he was hit by a pickup truck in a parking lot in the 7000 block of Dixie Highway, 2:38 a.m., Nov. 28. Investigation determined the incident stemmed from a bar fight inside, which started over a game of pool.

— Reports collected by Phil Custodio

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Lady Wolves stronger than ever in new season

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Lady Cagers finished Monday's practice ready to go for the next day -the first game for the season.

Over the last three weeks the girls on the Clarkston varsity basketball team have worked through drills, plays and bonded.

"We are really young," said senior Kaleigh Kenny. "We work really hard in practice and everyone is here to win."

The team has five returners and nine new faces for the year -including two freshman, Natalie Drumb and Delaney Kenny.

"We have a very talented team," said Tim Wasilk, head coach. "Some of our younger players may not be as experienced as our returners but they have a full understanding of what we want them to do over the course of the season."

Wasilk has watched the girls improve through the weeks of practices and has seen a few key points stand as strengths as they go into this week against Waterford Mott and Kettering.

"We look at our defense as a strength," he said. "We look pushing the ball off the floor and working together as a team for our other strengths."

The girls have already proven they keep getting better after playing two scrimmages during the last few weeks.

"Saturday's scrimmage was much improved from the week before," said Wasilk. "We are just trying to put steps together everyday with our communication, defense, toughness and rebound."

The team has not set a goal for the season because they have not yet played a game to see how they stand.

"Things are a little rough and rocky because the girls are still figuring out what their roles are," said Kaleigh.

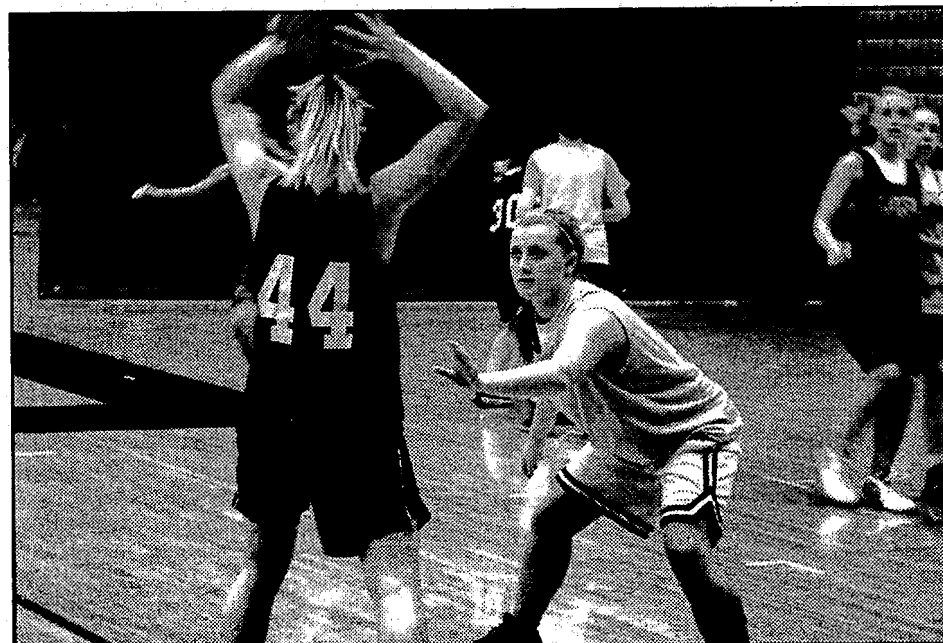
Kaleigh has directed and coached the team as she continues to heal from an injury last spring. Her goal is to be back on the court in January.

"Right now I am adding leadership," said Kaleigh. "I tell them how practice should run and how the game should run."

While she can't be on the floor leading during the game she noted a lot of the players have the potential to stand up to the leader role.

"Our team will be aggressive and be in every single game this year," Kaleigh added.

They played their first game on Tuesday and host Waterford Kettering on Friday.



Natalie Drumb forces Megan Hastings to pass the ball.

"The girls are really coming together and understand what we want from them," said Wasilk. "It is nice to see. We have a really good group of girls on and off the floor this

year. It's a nice chemistry on the team and you can see it."

The action begins Friday at 5:30 p.m. when JV team plays, varsity follows.

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Wolves breeze past Bulldogs in tournament

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Icers took second-place in the annual Cranbrook Thanksgiving tournament over the weekend.

The Clarkston Varsity Hockey team qualified for the final round after taking down Brighton on Friday night, 4-2.

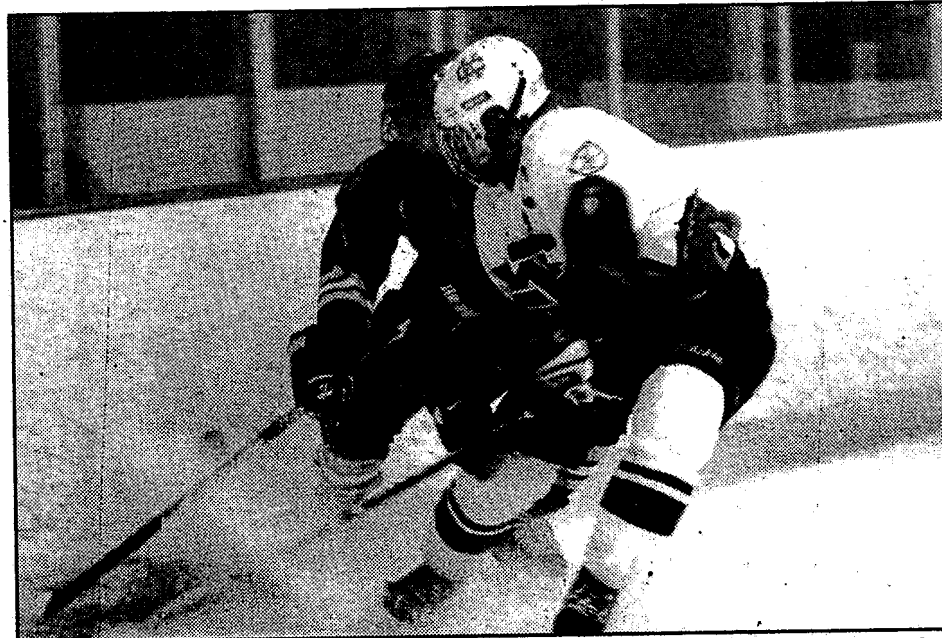
The first period neared the final few minutes and both teams were going to go into break tied at zero. One of Brighton's Bulldogs was put into the penalty box.

Adam Frank capitalized on the smaller defense and put on in the net with 2:24 remaining in the period.

Brighton scored two during the second period from Reid Sturos and Travis Cohoon, but the Wolves kept them from the lead after scoring two goals from Dillion Drayer and Brad Pizzey.

Clarkston finished them off with a goal from Jack Schlaw at the beginning of the third period and defense keeping them out of the net for the remainder of the game.

"We played well," said Bryan Krygier, head coach. "We forechecked hard and outshot them. We controlled the play offensively and in the neutral zone."



Jack Schlaw edges the pucks away from Cranbrook. Photo by Wendi Reardon

The boys moved on to play Cranbrook-Kingswood in the championship game on Saturday. It was a completely different game for the boys as they lost 4-0.

"We got outplayed and outworked," said Krygier. "We didn't execute anything like we wanted to. We didn't get any bounces and folded under pressure. We turned the puck

over too much."

The boys took 23 shots on Cranbrook's net and 21 on Brighton. Austin Morse assisted on two goals during the Brighton game. Nick Heinrich, Chad Wotton, Travis Hargett, David Cannons, Frank and Pizzey had one assist for the night.

Goalie Jonathan William saved 18 shots against Brighton and 32 against Cranbrook.

The team will use what they learned from the weekend as they head into their next set of games.

"When pressure comes and they are in a pressure situation they are going to do what they practiced," said Krygier thinking back to the Cranbrook loss. "We have to get back to practicing better and practicing harder so when they are in that situation they are able to perform."

The boys play Farmington (2-2) on Saturday.

"It looks good," said Krygier. "Farmington is an improved team and they are stronger than last year. We should match up pretty well."

Clarkston is currently 2-0 in OAA I and 3-1 overall.

Athlete of the Week

Lightfoot goes the distance for the win

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Max Lightfoot won the Punt, Pass and Kick state competition for the Boys 10-11 division at Ford Field on November 22.

At the end of all three events he finished a total distance of 253 feet and two inches.

"I was very proud of him," said mom, Kristie. "His scores continued to improve through all the different levels of competition."

Max competed first at the local level in the Independence Township Parks and Recreation Punt, Pass and Kick contest. He won it and went on to the sectionals in Troy. He qualified for states and his total distance improved.

"At the state competition he was able to hold his composure and ended up finishing first and improved his distance again," said Kristie.

He finished punting 85 feet and 10 inches, passing 95 feet and 7 inches and kicking 71 feet and 9 inches. The top three placers move on to nationals and Max was the fifth placer for the boys.

Max admitted he had help from Clarkston

High School graduate Andrew Breen to get ready for the state competition.

"He helped me improve on my punts and kicks," said Max. "He helped by showing me the techniques on how to punt and kick, where to kick it and what not to do."

Kristie listened to what Breen taught Max and had him practice what he learned.

"He provided a lot of guidance," she said.

Max said he will continue using the tips when he goes into his fourth year playing for the Clarkston Chiefs next fall.

"Hopefully next year we can win the Superbowl," he exclaimed.

He played for the JV Blue team during the past season and his mom was one of his football coaches. He plays a variety of positions but his primary position is quarterback.

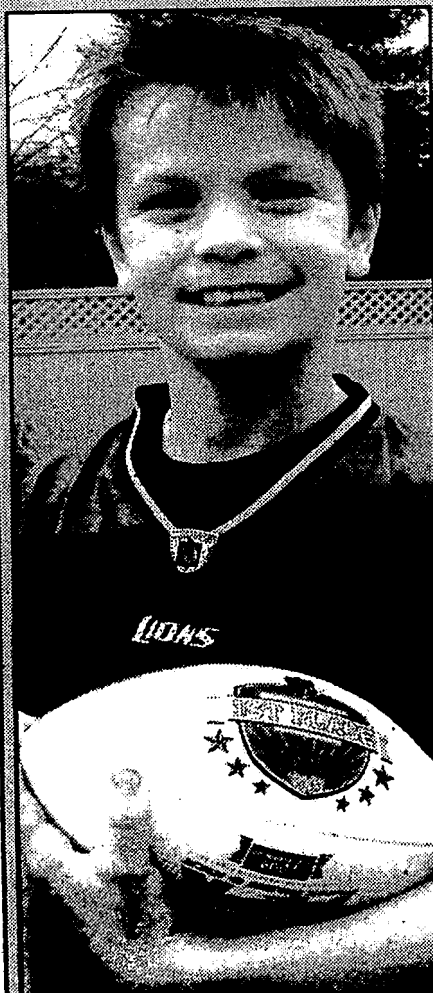
Max is a fifth grader at Bailey Lake Elementary and plays a wide range of sports including football, basketball, baseball and lacrosse.

He just finished his third year playing for the Clarkston Chiefs and was on the JV Blue team.

He will work on his basketball skills every Saturday at the McGrath league held at Clarkston High School by Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Dan Fife.

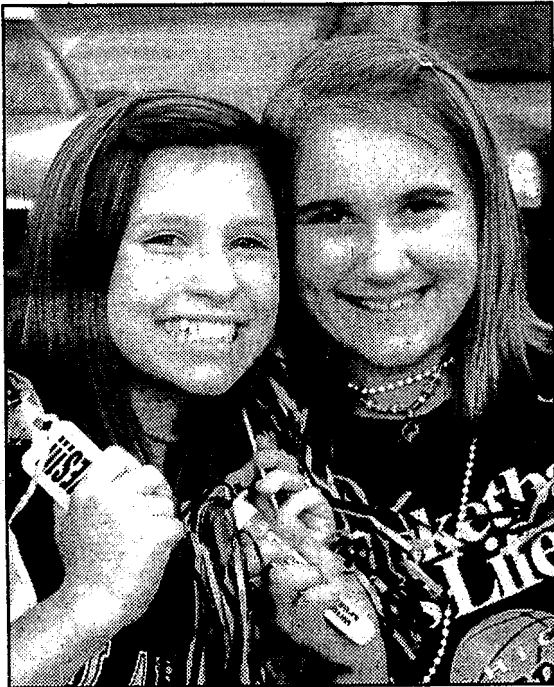
He begins his winter season with the Clarkston Grizzlies in January and enjoys playing outside with his friends, shooting baskets and playing catch.

"It has been such a joy to share all of these wonderful experiences with Max," said Kristie.



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Delanie Lannon and Kaitlyn Calhoun get pumped for the game.

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Meredith Clark decorates the glass of a back window while she and her mom, Harriet, wait to send off her brother, Jordan and his teammates to the MHSAA Semifinals game on Nov. 21.

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Clarkston grad combines competitive cycling with veterinary school work

Clarkston High School graduate Patricia Weiss is busy at Michigan State University's Lyman Briggs College, working on an animal science major in hopes of becoming a veterinarian and training in

competitive cycling, recently joining Team Giant of Michigan bicycle racing team.

This past summer, she also participated in a work-to-ride program through the Pontiac Lake Riding Stables.

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Basketball leagues for all levels forming across community

Varsity Girls Basketball Coach Tim Wasilk, his coaching staff, and players welcome all interested players to their Fifth Annual Horizon Hoops Basketball league.

The Saturday league is open to girls in Kindergarten-sixth grade and boys, Kindergarten-second grade. It runs for 10 weeks beginning Dec. 5 and alternates between sessions for games and fundamentals.

The cost is \$95 per child and includes a league basketball T-shirt.

Forms can be picked up at the Clarkston High School Athletic office or any Clarkston school. Contact Coach Wasilk at

wasilk@clarkston.k12.mi.us for more information.

New this year, Clarkston Community Education offers competitive basketball leagues open to boys in grades 3-8.

The league starts in January and runs through March. Participants should register as teams. Cost is \$650 per team. The fee covers referees, team jerseys and a once-a-week gym practice. Coaches will need to be digitally fingerprinted.

The 2010 season includes practice once

per week, eight regular season games on Sunday afternoon and two playoff games. All teams will make the playoffs.

Visit www.clarkston.k12.mi.us/cec for the registration form or call 248-623-4326 to register. Those who do not have a team will be on a list for available openings on existing teams. Deadline to register is Dec 10.

Independence Township Parks and Recreation offers Lil Dribblers basketball for Kindergarteners and grades 1-2, Saturday mornings.

Therapeutic Recreation offers a basketball program for middle schoolers though adults with a cognitive disability, with or without a physical disability.

Basketball 18 & Over league is open for registration, for Sunday afternoon games, lower, middle and upper divisions.

Registration is also open for Pony Basketball leagues, for high schoolers.

For information, check www.itpr.org, or stop in at Parks and Recreation office, 6483 Waldon Center Drive.

For more information, call 248-625-8223.

Banach shares media tip

Continued from page 1A

was to select one board member to be spokesperson on one or more particular topics.

The board plans to discuss it more in depth in a future meeting, but until then Banach offered a few tips.

A successful tip she shared was asking the media for their questions before time. She noted it gives Clarkston Community Schools Superintendent Dr. Albert Roberts time to go over the questions and prepare.

"We are not caught off guard," she added.

She also asked board members to let her know when the media contacts them so she is aware in case they contact her and she can follow up and provide more information.

"When multiple people answer one question for the media, I don't know how to answer because a number of people have given different answers," she said.

Healing Hearts for the holiday season

Wint's Healing Hearts Grief Support Group for all ages for those who have recently lost a loved one meets Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.

This month's meeting will be a special Holiday Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony with special guest speaker: psychologist/grief specialist, Dr. John Canine and Emily Trahan, bereavement counselor for Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston.

Meeting location is Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass, one block west of M-15.

No admission fee or registration needed, but RSVP encouraged by calling 248-625-5231 or email www.wintfuneralhome.com.



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Budget talks continue

Continued from page 1A

would be fine with that, but don't count on the residents to approve another millage."
Trustee Larry Rosso said information needs to be more solid.

"If we have some fund balance money we can utilize for police and fire and still maintain a proper reserve to meet standards recommended by our auditors, then I suppose I would be in favor of that," Rosso said.

"I have some serious questions and concerns about that because this is going to be worse next year than it is this year," said Treasurer Curt Carson. "I'm definitely concerned, making sure we have the funds available to put the officers on the street that we need a year from now. I'm not fully sold on that idea as of yet."

Projected Police Fund expenditures equals \$3.9 million - its projected fund balance of \$680,781 is 18 percent. The Michigan Township Association recommends fund balances of 10-15 percent for emergencies and cash flow, Wallace pointed out.

The township could reduce the cut to three deputies by spending the fund balance down to \$444,781, 11.7 percent of projected expenditures. A two-deputy cut would reduce the fund balance to \$326,781, 8.64 percent; one deputy, fund balance of \$208,781, 5.52 percent.

"At a minimum, I believe the board can and should for the time being add back in the two patrol investigators," Wallace said. "This would give us additional general coverage at a key time and a very specific service the lieutenant described as 'neighborhood patrols focusing on neighborhood safety, juvenile, quality of life' issues."

Trustee David Lohmeier favors the idea. "I would support reducing the cuts to three or less in 2010 based on the millage timing and our lack of the need to accumulate large fund balances," Lohmeier said. "If we could get some cost reduction from Oakland County it would be even better."

The township's 2.0547 police millage is up for a vote next year.

"I've spoke with the lieutenant (Dale LeBair), and he's confident he can give us decent coverage still," Wagner said. "I'm sure there will be areas that will be a little slower, but he is confident through other resources that are available to him that he can cover any contingency that comes up."

The five deputies cut would include two in traffic enforcement, two patrol investigators assigned to neighborhood patrol, and one patrol deputy. The cuts would reduce the Independence Township substation to 26.

Budget discussion was expected at the Township Board's Dec. 1 meeting. The township's budget is due at the end of the year.

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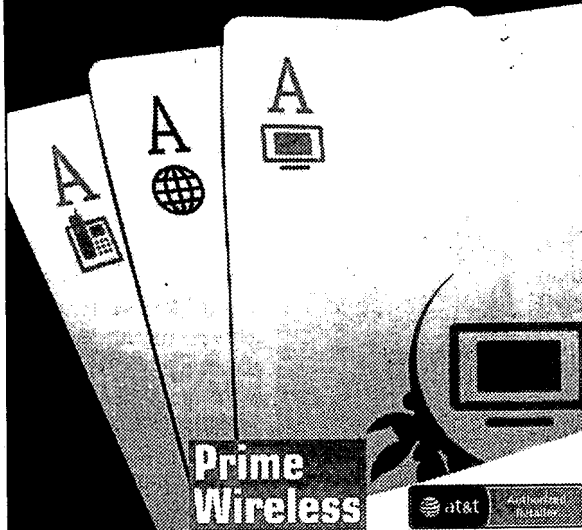
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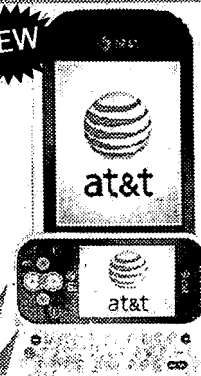
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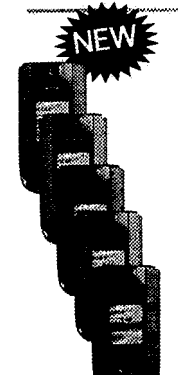
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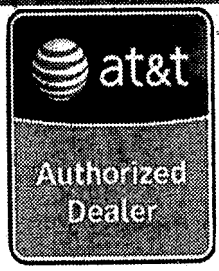
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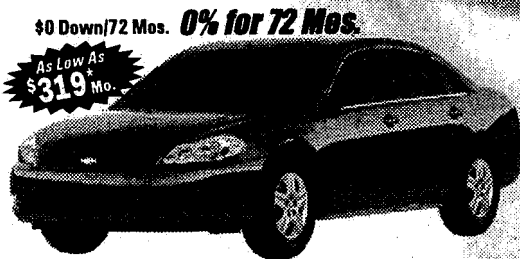
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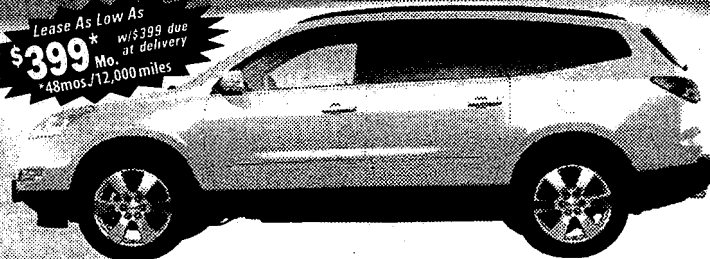


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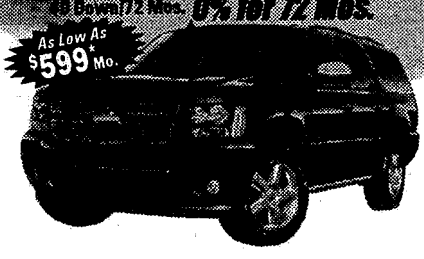
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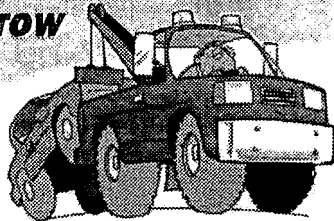
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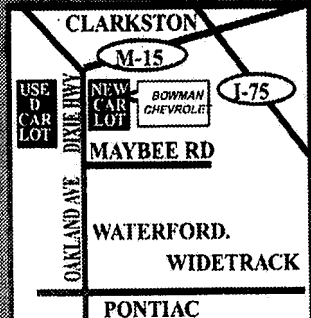
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People Poll

December 2, 2009
Page B1

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"Christmas because I spend time with family."

- Kathy Micielli



"Christmas, when my grandparents were still alive and my family still got along."

- Katie Shapiro



"Thanksgiving. It brings the whole family together and celebrate good fortunes we all have."

- Andrew Sutherland



"Christmas. It is filled with the most wonderful surprises and always spent with family. Family and friends always make the best memories."

- Theresa Rigato

By Wendi Reardon

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Clarkston goes green for Garden Club

Clarkston Farm and Garden Club is hard at work planning, stocking, and assembling in preparation for the 18th Annual Greens Market.

The market, the organization's major annual fund-raiser, includes hundreds of holiday arrangements crafted by club members in a variety of sizes and colors. It is 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Church of the Resurrection, 6490 Clarkston Road.

Featured are fresh Michigan-made wreaths in three sizes, roping of triple-mix balsam, white pine, and cedar, in 25- and 50-foot lengths, fresh arrangements for homes and businesses, and a variety of loose greens, including the sometimes hard to find red twig dogwood.

"Every year we try to include something new," says Anita Andes, event chair. "This

year, the Clarkston Children's Choir will perform at 1:30 p.m., and raffle tickets for a one-night stay at the Royal Park Hotel will be available only at the Greens Market."

Their goal is to offer the best quality at affordable prices, Andes said.

Sue White, who has handled wreath and roping purchase and sales since joining the Garden Club two years ago, starts early in the year, comparing prices, quality, and timely delivery.

Publicity work led by Joyce Figa starts in April, planning fliers, posters, and circulation of publicity material.

"There's not a day of the year I don't look for ideas, whether it's in magazines, vessel choice or new combinations of previously used items," Andes says.

"Through last year's event and the support

of our community, the Garden Club was able to offer four college scholarships this year," said Pat Chase, club president. "We funded educational programs for the fourth graders at all of Clarkston's public elementary schools and gave mini-grants to teachers for environmental projects."

The Garden Club also uses market revenue to maintain beautification planters along Main Street, and create and maintain the Children's Literary Gardens and Jubilee Garden at the Independence Township Library.

Garden Club members are working toward strong sales at this year's Greens Market so their contributions to the community and its programs can continue to grow. Samples are on display at the library.

- Sue Sajdak

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Doc's Holiday, Christmas play by Mt. Zion Theatre Company, 8 p.m., Dec. 4-5, 11-12; 2 p.m., Dec. 5, 4900 Maybee Road. \$10/advance, \$12/door. 248-409-1120.

Holiday Craft Show, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Dec. 4; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 5, Waterford Baptist Cathedral, 2640 Airport Road. 248-673-5022.

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.

Holiday Book Sale, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Dec. 5; 1-4:30 p.m., Dec. 6, Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Huge selection. 248-625-2212.

Keepsake Collection Holiday Art and Craft Show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 5; 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Dec. 6, Clarkston High School, 6093 Flemings Lake Road. Hosted by Clarkston Schools Instrumental Music Association, selling concessions, band sweatshirts, decals, signs. More than 150 crafters to sell Christmas items. \$2 admission, free for children under 12.

Santa Claus visit, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Dec. 5, Cowan Chiropractic, 6507 Town Center Drive Suite F. Each child receives personalized Christmas card from the North Pole with their picture with Santa on the front. 248-625-7600

Around Town



Dave Thompson (Jake), Calvin Green (Buzz), Tony Covarrubias of Clarkston (Doc Babcock), Greg Draais (Jack), and Clarkston actors Lesa Jackson (Sally), Alex Hadley (Patty), and Rachael Crockett (Charlotte).

Doc's Holiday on stage

Tony Covarrubias of Clarkston returns to the stage as Doc, lead character in "Doc's Holiday," performed by the Mt. Zion Theatre Company, 4900 Maybee Road.

In the family-friendly production, Doc must choose whether to spend Christmas with his daughter Charlotte, played by Rachael Crockett of Clarkston, and her

new husband in a different city, or stay home to help a separated couple reunite and a preacher put together his Christmas pageant.

The show runs Dec. 4-5 and 11-12 at 8 p.m. A matinee performance is 2 p.m., Dec. 5. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 day of performance. Call 248-409-1120 or check www.mtzion.org

Storytelling - Chinese Folk Tales, with Once Upon A Puppet, hosted by Clarkston Village Players, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Dec. 5. Han folk tale for the whole family of "The Seven Chi-

nese Brothers." \$6. Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road. 248-575-4104.

Toys for Tots Event, 1-9 p.m., Dec. 6, Oakland

County Sportsmens Club, 4770 Waterford Road. Live performers on two stages include Phil Treais Group, Targus, Skee Brothers, Charlie Martin & 2XL, Urban Nomads, Mule Drive, and Donde. Emcee is John O'Leary of 94.7 WCSX. Cover charge: one new unwrapped toy or \$10 donation. All contributions go to Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. 248-623-0444.

Office hours, State Rep. Eileen Kowall, 12-1 p.m., Dec. 7, Pete's Coney II, 6160 Dixie Highway, with County Commissioner Tom Middleton. 866-334-0010.

FirstLine Therapy, free presentation, 5:45 p.m., Dec. 8, The Downing Clinic, 5715 Bella Rose Blvd, Suite 100. Introduces 12-week program on healthy lifestyle choices. 248-625-6677.

Clarkston High School Madrigal Singers, presented by Clarkston Area Optimists, 8-8:30 a.m., Dec. 9, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road.

Snacks 'n' Crafts with Santa, 10 a.m., 1 p.m., Dec. 12, Environmental Discovery Center, Indian Springs Metropark. \$5/advance, \$7 at door. 248-625-6640.

Candy Cane 5K and Santa Fun Run, 4 p.m., Dec. 12, Depot Park, Clarkston. Music, holiday snacks. Free. T-shirt when registering at least 14 days in advance, www.3disciplines.com.

Holiday Lights Parade, 6 p.m., Dec. 12. Theme: Colors of Clarkston. Starts at Clarkston Community Education, 6558 Waldon Road, travels north to St. Daniel Church. www.teamrush27.net/parade.

Please see Around Town on page 8B


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Local man promotes goodwill in Latin America

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

While visiting his native country of Peru in 2005 with a few friends, Jose Aliaga of Independence Township said his friends noticed two things: Peru is very rich in natural resources, such as gold and natural gas, but also very poor because of lack of education and manufacturing knowledge.

"My friends said 'we should make a foundation and try to help these people by promoting the goodwill of America,'" Aliaga said. "I thought it was a great idea and they helped me out to put the foundation together."

After two fundraisers this year, the foundation provided school supplies to 300 children in the poor village of Sonimo Junin, Peru. Speakers have also been brought in to talk about economic development at the universities.

"For example, right now we're working on two agreements, one between Wayne State University and Continental University from Peru to sign an agreement to exchange the students, so that way American kids who have opportunity to go down there and get tuition, help for housing, food, and are able to practice Spanish and see the culture," he said. "Peruvian kids are able to come to



Jose Aliaga tell jokes to the kids.
Photo provided

America and be able to study English as a second language, so that way you help economically for both institutions."

Aliaga said he sees lots of potential for Peru and Latin America to rise economically and not just sell their resources, but be able to manufacture and produce the resources.

"Right now Latin America doesn't have the right leaders over there," he said. "In South America we have people like Hugo Chavez, president of Venezuela and Evo Morales, president of Bolivia promoting anti-Americanism."

Aliaga also said the Spanish Club at the

University of Michigan-Flint is hosting a fundraiser for the foundation on Dec. 11, to help raise money for the orphanages.

"Working with the kids is working with the future of Latin America," he said.

For more information visit www.aliagafoundation.com.

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Milestones

Stoglin celebrate 50th anniversary

The children of James L. and Penny A. (Hanson) Stoglin happily announce their parent's 50th wedding anniversary.

James and Penny were married on Nov. 28, 1959, at Grace Lutheran Church in Pontiac, Mich., by Rev. Richard C. Stuckmeyer.

They have been blessed with four children, the late Jeffrey Stoglin, Deborah Stoglin, Annette (Robert) Boger, and Lisa (Michael) Chiuchiarelli, four granddaughters, Brooke, Hailey, Ryleigh and Isabella and their first grandson is due in March 2010.

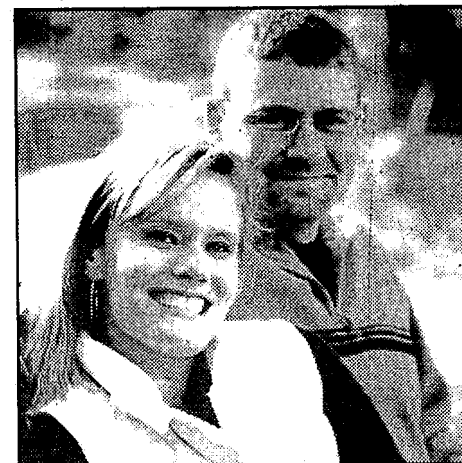
James and Penny owned and operated Carbide Form Master, Inc. in Davisburg, Michigan for the past 30 years.

In honor of their 50th wedding anniversary, a party was held at Mesquite Creek on Nov. 28.

The Stoglin live in Clarkston, where they have resided for the past 50 years.



Penny and James



Andrea and Wade



Joshua and Kristin

Moore- Swalwell

Dr. and Mrs. Moore of Knoxville, Tenn., announce the engagement of their daughter Andrea Allyson Moore of Waterford to Wade Daniel Swalwell of Davisburg, son of Carol Savedge of Clarkston and Daniel Swalwell of Bullard, Texas.

The bride to be is a middle school science teacher at Oakland Christian School in Auburn Hills. The future groom is a deputy sheriff with Saginaw County.

A January 2010 wedding is planned.

Meltsner - Lord

Ron and Dorie Meltsner of Clarkston proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristin Noelle Meltsner to Joshua Daniel Lord.

The bride to be graduated from Clarkston High School in 2003. Both received Communications degrees from Michigan State University.

Kristin is currently employed by Google Inc. and Josh works for the Michigan Dental Association.

The wedding will take place in January 2010.

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

Religion

People's challenge is to make the right choices

We're all susceptible to spending a fair amount of time and energy evaluating the lives of others, passing judgment on whether or not they are doing the right thing in their lives.

But what really should matter to us is how we're doing with our own lives.

The Bible warns us that we should not look with contempt toward others because of what they may or may not be doing.

The reason? It's simple. We will all stand before the judgment seat of God to give an account for ourselves (Rom.14:10).

That said, we should be much more concerned about whether or not we are doing what's right, and less concerned about what the other guy does.

Doing what you know is right can be one of the best things you can do with your life. It liberates you from fear and guilt, and enables you do look to your own future with confidence as you seek to make the most of your days.

Just this morning I saw a news report about a woman who had chosen to do the right thing after being engaged in an evil

activity for eight years.

Recently, her conscious began to bother her, and finally she came to the point where she could not be involved in this activity any longer. She had to do what was right — and she did.

Spiritual Matters



Pastor David Bostrom

And the result? She's happy and feels clean. She's looking forward to the rest of here life knowing she's done what's right.

Like this woman, we are all confronted with decisions as to whether or not we are going to do what's right or not.

It might involve cheating or lying. It might involve some immoral, unethical or even criminal activity. Whatever the case, we all face such choices.

Making the right choice can be difficult. You may have a lot vested in staying with a way that's wrong. And making the right choice may bring down all kinds of unde-

sirable consequences.

But, it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong (1 Pet.3:17).

When Joshua led the people into the promised land, he warned them that they would have to contend with the old idols of their past and new idols that they would face.

And in the midst of that challenge, they would have to choose who they were going to serve. Would it be the idols of their heart, or the God who made them and sustained them?

"Choose this day whom you will serve," Joshua said (Jos.24:15).

We must choose the same.

And how do we make that choice? By the grace of God.

In His grace, God sent His Son Jesus Christ so that we would be forgiven for all the times we have chosen the wrong. And by the same grace, He empowers us to choose the right from this point on.

The Rev. David Bostrom is pastor of Seed for the Harvest Ministries.

In our churches...

Jump Street Swing Band, performs Christmas music, 4 p.m., Dec. 6, Community Presbyterian Church, 4301 Monroe Street at Sashabaw. 248-673-7805.

Christmas Cookie Walk, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Dec. 12. More than 30 handmade varieties, sold by the pound. Proceeds benefit Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1950 S. Baldwin Road. 248-391-1170.

Breakfast with Santa, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., pancake breakfast, make gifts, cookie walk tables, photos with Santa; **Nanna's Gift Shop**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., jewelry, original art, photography, antiques, gift baskets, wreaths, center pieces, Christmas décor. Dec. 12. First Congregational Church, 5449 Clarkston Road. 248-394-0200.

The Pfeifers, award-winning Christian recording artists, perform during 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. musical worship services, Dec. 13, Faith Baptist Church, 3411 Air

In Our Churches, page 7B



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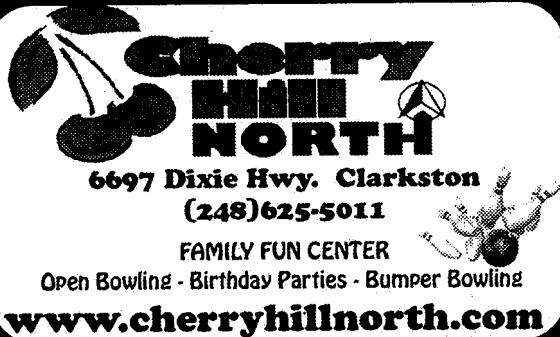
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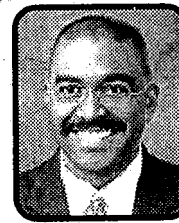
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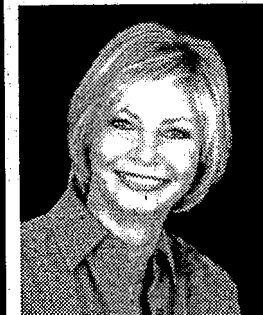
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In our churches

continued from 5B

port Road, Waterford. 248-623-7330.

Seminár, Help for the divorced and separated during the Holidays, 4 p.m., Dec. 13, Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. 248-625-3288.

Traditions of Christmas, 5:30 p.m., Dec. 20, Davisburg United Methodist Church, 803 Broadway. Christmas Concert with "Men of Grace," Grace Centers of Hope. Love offering. Also, visit with Santa, hot cocoa and cookies, and Christmas-style, horse-drawn wagon rides. Free. 248-634-3373.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, biblically based, financial workshop for everyone. Sundays, 4 p.m. Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. 248-625-1611.

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

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

Yoga, 10 a.m., Wednesdays; 5:30 p.m., Mondays. instructor Noreen Daly. Beginning and intermediate techniques. Bring mat. \$7/class. Peace Unity and Holistic Center, 8080 Ortonville Road. 248-625-5192.

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

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



Houses for cats

Clarkston Elementary Girl Scout Junior Troop 13372 and Brownie Troop 70190 made cat houses recently as part of their Michigan Humane Society service projects. Each cat gets a cardboard house they take with them to their new homes, easing transition. *Photos provided*



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Around Town

Continued from page 2B

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

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

Widowers and Widows On With Life Group, 7 p.m., first Tuesday, third Wednesday. Dinners, breakfasts, golf, social gatherings, rap sessions for ages 35-80. 248-393-8553.

"TOPS"- Take Pounds Off Sensibly, new chapter, 11 a.m., Tuesdays, Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. No special foods to purchase, reasonable rates, run by volunteers. 248-625-8231.

Widowed Friends, Tuesdays, 12 p.m., Collier Bowling Alley, 879 S. Lapeer Road, Oxford. \$2 per game. 248-628-5437 or 248-877-6692.

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

Meet and greet, North Oakland Bethany, last Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Mesquite Creek, 7228 N. Main St. 248-464-0756.

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

Local Business Network, Ortonville/Clarkston Chapter, first and third Thursdays meets, 7:45-8:45 a.m., Mico's Real Estate, 7183 Main Street. 248-505-5091.

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

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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.

Volunteering, Avalon Hospice, sit with patients, hold their hand, listen to stories, personal care, or just be there. Two hours a week or more. 800-664-6334; Oakland County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, 248-559-1147; McLaren Hospice, not-for-profit, companionship-type to visit and provide emotional support for patients living with terminal illness. 248-320-0106.

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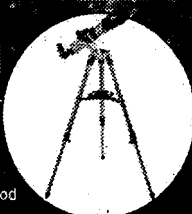
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Obituary

Fayma Bonne Johnson, 86

Everett B. Arnold Jr., 92

Everett B. Arnold Jr. of Clarkston, formerly of Warren, passed away, Nov. 29, 2009, at age 92.

He was preceded in death by his wife Marie. He was the father of Everett III (Mary Fran) of Northville Township and Thomas (Catherine) of Clarkston; grandfather of Alexandra (Les) Orchard, Matthew, David, and Elizabeth Arnold.

Mr. Arnold retired from GM Fisher Body as a Mechanical Engineer after 33 years. He served in the U.S. Army, World War II Pacific Theater, having earned five Bronze Stars. Everett was a lifetime member of the Masons, Wolverine Lodge No. 484.

Funeral service, 12:30 p.m., Thursday, at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston, where friends may visit Wednesday, 5-8 p.m. Interment with military honors, Cadillac Memorial East Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association.

Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com

Fayma Bonne Johnson of Clarkston, formerly of Jackson, passed away, Nov. 30, 2009, at age 86.

She was preceded in death by her husband Walter. She was the mother of Laurie (Vance) Edgar of Clarkston; grandma of Bonnie and Ben Edgar; sister of Wanda and Joy; preceded in death by her siblings Juanita, Ray Von, Rexford, and Crystal; survived by many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Johnson enjoyed collecting lighthouses, feeding the hummingbirds and gardening. She enjoyed life to the fullest.

Memorial service, Saturday, 3 p.m., at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston, where friends may visit Saturday, 2 p.m., until time of service. Memorials may be made to American Heart Association.

Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com

Obituaries updated at our website, Clarkstonnews.com

Church hosts community concert

Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Road, hosts a free community concert, 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, featuring Denver and the Mile High Orchestra, a finalist in Fox Television's Next Great American Band contest.

The concert is the culmination of the church's "Community Impact Day," during which members completed projects including reaching out to the homeless at Center Stage and wrapping gifts for Power Company Kids in Pontiac.

"This Community Impact Day is another way that our church family has been living out one of our core principals of contributing to our community by serving and giving," said Clarkston Community Church Pastor Greg Henneman. "This day of service and the concluding concert is a way for our church family truly live out this season of giving."

This is the third visit to Clarkston Community Church for Denver and the Mile High Orchestra.



Originating in Nashville, Tenn., the horn driven pop band's influences range from horn bands such as Chicago, Earth Wind and Fire, and Blood Sweat and Tears, to timeless songwriters like Billy Joel and Huey Lewis. With a seven-piece horn section, four-piece rhythm section and led by

vocalist Denver Bierman, the band has been touring since 1999, released seven records, and a live DVD.

Doors at Clarkston Community Church open at 6 p.m. For more information, call 248-625-1323 or visit clarkstoncommunity.com.

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Holiday Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony

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- Please be with us for a special time of remembrance and to light a candle.
- Bring friends and family members to pause and think of those special to you who have died.

We have a candle for you to light in your loved one's memory

Tuesday, December 15th, 2009
7:00 PM
Calvary Lutheran Church
6805 Bluegrass, Clarkston
(1 block west of Main/M-15 • Clarkston)
Special Guest Speaker
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Dr. John Canine

Light refreshments will be served
RSVP encouraged to: **(248) 625-5231**
or email: wintfuneralhome@aol.com
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Church offers alternative options

The fifth annual Alternative Gift Fair will be at Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road, Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The Alternative Gift Fair offers local shoppers an opportunity to purchase fair trade items such as coffee, tea, and chocolate and handicrafts from Ten Thousand Villages, goods from Honduras and Brazil, dolls from Peru, and Motown Soup as well as other items.

The public can also donate to missions many of which have been initiated by Michigan resi-

dents. The following ministries will be participating in the fair: E.S.T.H.E.R.'S Children, Reach Out Children's Fund, P.E.T. project, Grace Centers of Hope, Helping Hearts Helping Hands, Haven, UMCOR, Remnant Ministries, Precious Children's Respite Home, and Promise Village.

The fair offers the opportunity for the whole family to share the joy of giving gifts that benefit others around the world and close to home.

All monies go to the missions and donations made to the missions are tax deductible.



The Phil Treais Group, Rick Beardsley, Johnny Sweet, Chris Collins, and Treais, perform at last year's Toys for Tots event. *File photo*

Bands rock at Toys for Tots, Dec. 6

Oakland County Sportsmens Club hosts its 10th annual Toys for Tots Event, 1-9 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6.

"This is the fifth year we're going to perform at this great benefit," said Phil Treais of The Phil Treais Group. "I look forward to starting off my holidays with this event. Not only is it a great time, but we really are able to collect a lot of toys for the kids."

Live performers on two stages also include Targus, Skee Brothers, Charlie Martin & 2XL, Urban Nomads, Mule Drive, and Donde. Emcee is John O'Leary of 94.7

WCSX.

"Each band plays an hour," said Chris Morrisroe, of Chris Morrisroe Communications. "It's a night of very eclectic music. You've got everything from rock to blues to country."

Cover charge per person is one new unwrapped toy or a \$10 donation. All contributions go to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

"The toys collected here locally are given to kids locally who wouldn't have them otherwise," Morrisroe said. "Toys for ages 1-16 years old, but the Marine Corps try to stay away from guns or vio-

lent toys."

"This year more than ever, I believe the support of the community is needed to ensure some kids have a gift under the tree," Treis said.

For more information, call the club, 4770 Waterford Road, at 248-623-0444.

Avanti Salon and Spa of Springfield Township collects Toys for Tots. Drop off toys of at least \$15 value at the salon, 7505 M.E. Cad Boulevard off Dixie Highway for a \$10 gift certificate toward services.

For more information, call 248-625-6299.

- Patrick Riggs

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Eye doctors continue family tradition

Grattan Optometry has offered family eye care since 1902. Two new partners continue the family tradition.

Dr. Darren Smarch, O.D., and Dr. Jill Schnurer, O.D., began working at Grattan Optometry in 2008 and found the transition smooth as they became partners this past September.

"We are happy to continue the legacy," said Dr. Smarch.

Dr. Grattan Optometry offers comprehensive eye exams for patients of all ages, contact-lens fittings, examinations for cataracts, glaucoma screening and diabetes testing.

"Diabetes is a big public health issue right now," said Dr. Smarch.

He added it is important to see a general practitioner and have the eyes evaluated because it's one of the biggest complications where diabetes is concerned.

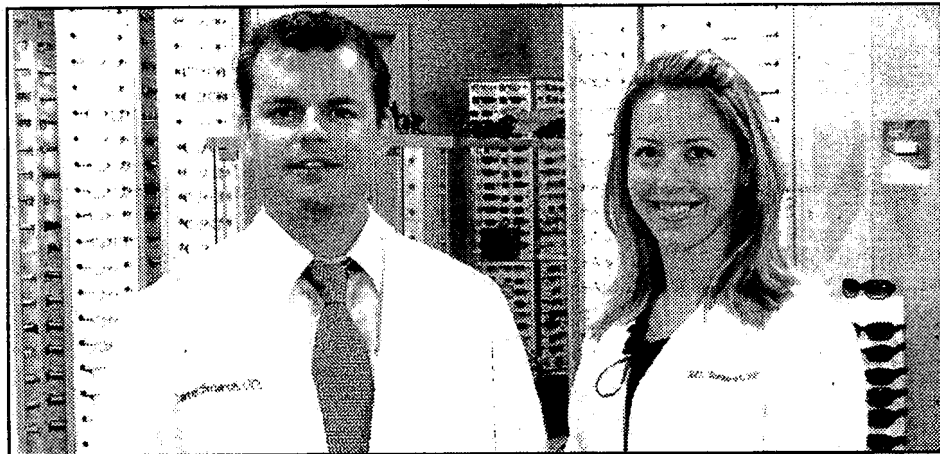
The two have worked elsewhere but enjoy working in Clarkston, especially since they live in the area.

"It makes it really convenient for us to help the community and get involved," said Dr. Smarch.

Drs. Smarch and Schnurer chose to stay in the community because of the people and the town.

"It was just a great fit for us," he said.

"Everyone is so nice," Dr. Schnurer said.



Dr. Darren Smarch, O.D. and Dr. Jill Schnurer, O.D., join Grattan Optometry.

Both enjoy the community events and are looking to take part in some events.

"It's something we haven't done in the past," Dr. Smarch said. "Currently we are working with Clarkston's Lions Club to help with eyewear and examinations for those in need. We are also looking to do a fundraiser with them."

Since they started, they remodeled the office and have updated equipment to give patients more care.

"We offer patient satisfaction and down home patient care," said Dr. Schnurer. "We are

going back to basics. We are here to serve."

Grattan Optometry is open six days a week, Monday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Saturday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Grattan Optometry is located in Clarkston Mills, 20 West Washington, Suite 7. For more information or to make an appointment, call 248-625-3500.

They accept VSP, Eye Med, Blue Cross, Medicare, NVA, MEBS and most other insurances.

Ski patrol meeting

Oakland County Parks offers across-country Ski Patrol orientation meeting, 12 p.m., Dec. 6, at Independence Oaks County Park.

"The ski patrol serves the public," said Patrol Director Jon O'Dell. "Volunteer associate patrollers are the eyes and ears on the trails, helping lost or injured skiers and sometimes providing ski tips and techniques."

With additional emergency care training and annual member fees, associate patrollers can become certified Nordic Ski Patrollers under the National Ski Patrol Association.

"Official Nordic Ski Patrollers take an emergency care course and undergo CPR and ski training," O'Dell said. "Volunteers are not required to be official Nordic Ski Patrollers, but if they want to, we will let them know where they can obtain certification."

The volunteer orientation will be held at the Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks, 9501 Sashabaw Road in Clarkston. Minimum age to join is 18 years.

For more information about the Nordic Ski Patrol, contact O'Dell at 586-718-4503 or bikenski9@sbcglobal.net.

TO ALL CREDITORS:

EvLynne C. Hansen (date of birth November 1, 1914), Settlor of the EvLynne C. Hansen 1993 Revocable Living Trust, as amended, who lived at 7005 Pontiac Trail, West Bloomfield, Michigan 48323, died October 28, 2009. There is no personal representative of the Settlor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the EvLynne C. Hansen 1993 Revocable Living Trust, as amended, will be forever barred unless presented to Roberta Higginbotham, Successor Trustee, within four months after the date of publication.

Notice is further given that the Trust will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to it.

Date: November 20, 2009
 Gregory K. Need (P28993) Roberta D. Higginbotham
 Adkison, Need & Allen, P.L.L.C. 1871 Dawn Fidge
 40950 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300 Walled Lake, MI 48390
 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 (248) 624-3317
 (248) 540-7400

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

Estate of Ronald G. Chism aka Ronald Gayle Chism. Date of birth: 10/7/1951

FILE NO: 2009-326, 671-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Ronald Gayle Chism, who lived at 1201 Collier Road, Auburn Hills, Michigan died 11/3/2009.

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

11/24/2009
 Kathryn M. Caruso (P44723) Janie O. Hooie
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 Clarkston, MI 48346 Howell, MI 48843
 248/625-0600 517/256-7238

PUBLIC NOTICE Because the People Want to Know INDEPENDENCE TWP.

INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

A MEETING OF THE INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP BOARD WILL BE HELD AT THE INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP HALL 6483 WALDON CENTER DRIVE CLARKSTON, MICHIGAN

ON: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009 AT 7:00 P.M. AGENDA: 2010 BUDGET

A copy of the proposed Budget is on file in the office of the Independence Township Clerk, 6483 Waldon Center Drive, Clarkston, Michigan and may be examined during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Charter Township of Independence will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at a public hearing/meeting upon advance notice in writing or by calling the Township Clerk's Office at (248) 625-5111.

PUBLIC NOTICE Charter Township of Springfield

PUBLIC NOTICE

At the request of Springfield Charter Township, Oakland County, State of Michigan and by the authority conferred on the Department of Natural Resources by Section 12-17 of Act 451, Part 801, Public Acts of 1994, as amended, and Section 250 of Act 380, Public Acts of 1965, and Section 41 of Act 306, Public Acts of 1969, a hearing will be held at the Springfield Charter Township Hall, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan, at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 17, 2009.

At this hearing the Department of Natural Resources will gather information from the public concerning possible watercraft problems on the water of Dixie Lake, Springfield Charter Township, Oakland County.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Township Clerk at (248) 846-6510, a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

All interested persons are invited to attend and offer comments orally at the public hearing. Interested persons unable to attend this hearing may, within 30 days after the hearing, submit written comments to:

Department of Natural Resources
 Law Enforcement Division
 Attn: Sgt. AJ Bavařkas
 26000 W. Eight Mile Road
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*Offers apply to new enrollees only. First come, first served basis. Acceptance based on class availability. Packages may not be combined. Pkg B requires copies of most current paid invoice along with tuition chart. Pkg C requires application and acceptance of DHS. Transportation to and from Clarkston Elementary Schools guaranteed. Remaining school year ends on June 11, 2010.

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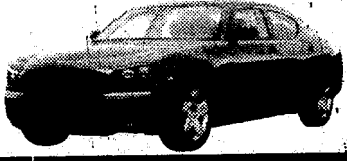
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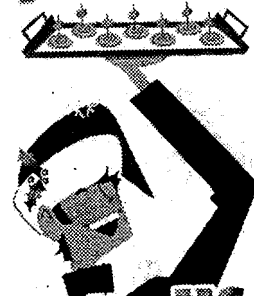
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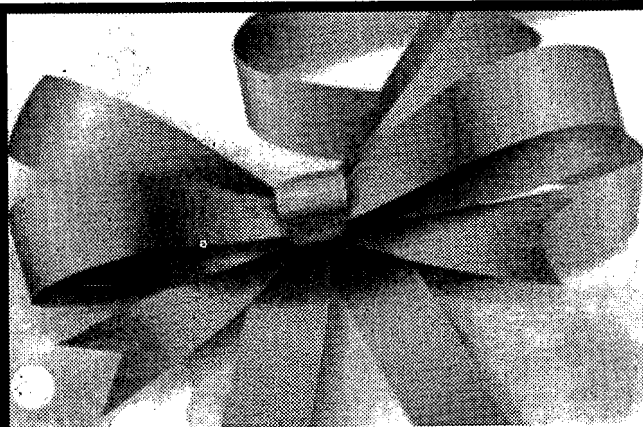
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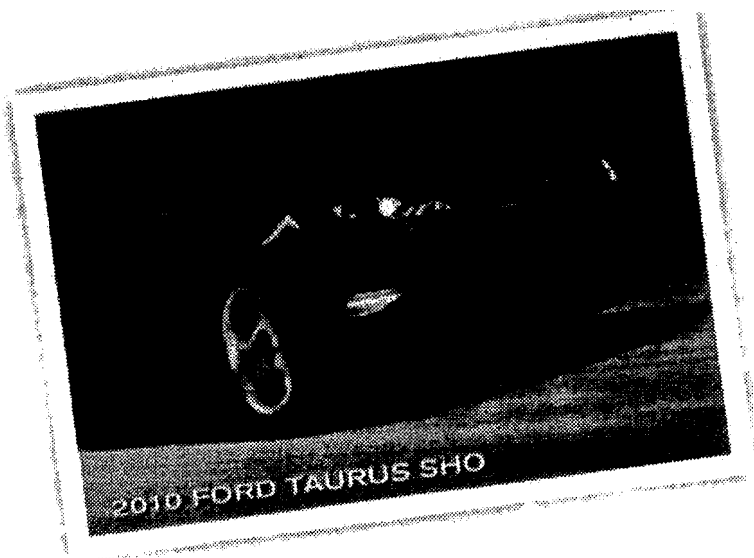


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Drive one.



Benjamin Haas practices a run down the racing course, a rain gutter filled with water. Photos by Phil Custodio



Dylan Scotten and Gavin Goik race for the finish line.



Scouts made a variety of sailing vessels.



Tiger Cub Scouts Stephen Catania and Kyle Kaufman prepare to race.

Wind in their sails

About 50 Cub Scouts with Bailey Lake Elementary's Pack 341 put their boat building skills to the test at the Raingutter Regata, Nov. 19.

Each scout constructed his own wind driven racing vessel, and provided the wind with a straw in the races.



Terri Slocum admires Scout Jacob Porter's racer.