

The Clarkston News

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Community steps up to help neighbors in need, see page 4A

Vol. 82 No. 7 Wed., December 9, 2009

2 Sections, 36 pages 50¢

Holiday surprise for Army mom

Leading her pre-school class in a care-package project for soldiers overseas, teacher Marilyn French didn't know her 4-year-old students had a surprise up their sleeves.

Taping a video, the children happily raised their posters, which were supposed to say "Merry Christmas," directed at the troops who would soon be watching it. What they actually said was "Happy Holidays, Lt. Eric!!!"

Eric Ouellet is Marilyn's son, serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.

The teacher stayed in character for a moment, then briefly broke down in tears, pulling her slightly bewildered students into a hug.

"That is so sweet," she said.

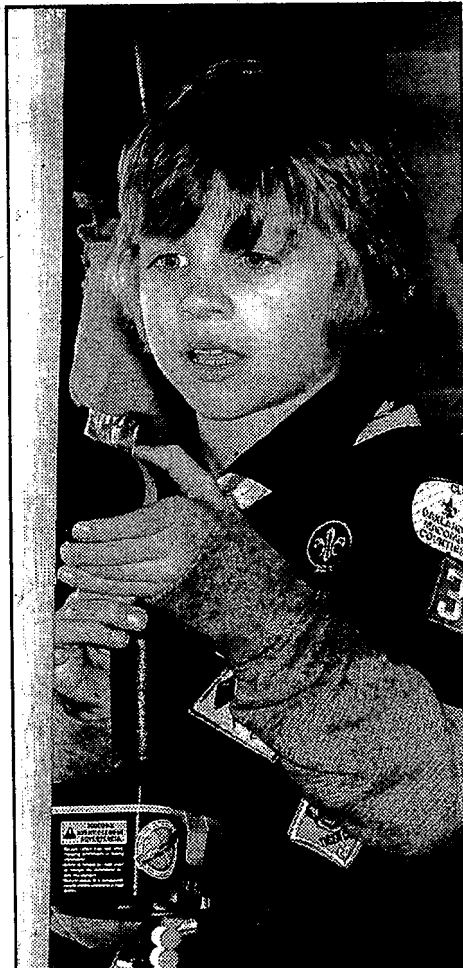
The whole pre-school was in on the surprise, said Holly Blose, Clarkston Co-op Preschool president.

"The kids love Mrs. French," Blose said. "This was the best Christmas present we could come up with for her."

The care package will include the video, snacks and treats, and cards made by each student, she said.



An emotional Marilyn French thanks her students with a hug. Photo by Phil Custodio



Dylan Bielicki, Cub Scout Pack 377, screws in an attachment point for strings of lights on the "God Bless Our Troops" float. Photo by Phil Custodio

New insurance to save township \$15,000/year

BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Insurance-coverage consolidation should save Independence Township \$15,000 a year.

"We have several coverages including basic life, AD&D (accidental death and dismemberment), voluntary life, short and long term disability that had not been shopped or looked at in six or seven years," said Carol Gabris, township Human Resource director.

Township broker Hantz Group checked

companies including CIGNA, Prudential, Hartford, MetLife and Mutual of Omaha. It found Mutual of Omaha could save the township \$1,219.15 a month in premiums, approximately \$14,629.80 a year for the same coverage they have through One America/AUL. Currently, the township pays \$9,600 a month, \$115,200 a year.

"In addition, Mutual of Omaha will give us a two-year rate guarantee, which will help us certainly in terms of budgeting," Gabris said. "It will give us consistency in the language of the benefits and administration

of those plans because it will only be one carrier."

It will also provide consolidated billing, so accounting will be easier, she said.

"It will also make changes to enrollment easier when you get new people coming into the plan because we would have one renewal day in February of each year," she said. "It would be one open enrollment for the employees and consequently easier for us to budget our cost."

Resident Henry Woloson commended
Please see Contract on page 14A

Hard at work for holiday parade

Community groups and organizations are working hard to plan, construct, and wire floats for this weekend's Holiday Lights Parade through downtown Clarkston.

The Colors of Clarkston parade starts at 6 p.m., Dec. 12, at Clarkston Community Education, 6558 Waldon Road, and travels north to St. Daniel Church.

Tree Lighting follows parade in Depot Park, with live reindeer, carolers, music, thousands of lights and children's activities, as well as free popcorn, coffee and hot cocoa.

Please see page 15A for more pictures.

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Lego team to rumble at state contest

Mechanical Thunder heads to Flint this Saturday in pursuit of a state championship.

The Sashabaw Middle School Lego Robotics team qualified for state after winning the 2009 Robot Challenge, First Lego League, on Nov. 21.

"It feels really good to be going to the state competition," said team member Matthew Netherland. "I didn't expect it at all. It is just pure amazement."

They also won the teamwork trophy during the challenge.

The problem the team addressed was lost luggage and how airports deal with it.

"Our robot didn't do very well, but we excelled in other aspects of the competition," said Mark Stout.

They compete in the Genesee County/Flint Smart Move Championship Tournament held at Carman-Ainsworth Middle School in Flint Township. The event begins at 9 a.m. with an opening ceremony.

Championship Tournament winners may be eligible to attend the World Festival in April 2010, where 84 First Lego League teams from the U.S. and around the world will compete.



Mechanical Thunder, left to right, Mark Stout, Coach Allison Miller, Carter Zielinski, Seth Miller, Matthew Netherland, Keith Kerby, Jared Harper, Ben Erhard and Coach Maureen Netherland. Photo submitted



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Briefly

Fundraiser for Ella

Friends and family host a fundraiser and donation party for the Miller family, 6 p.m. Dec. 11, at The Fountains, 6060 Maybee Road.

Lynn and Matt Miller's daughter Ella is fighting a life-threatening case of Nephrotic Syndrome, a disease affecting her kidneys. She was diagnosed this past August.

Treatment so far included blood transfusion, kidney biopsy, bone marrow biopsy, thoracic tube draining her lungs, and paracentesis tube to drain her abdomen.

She also developed a blood clot in her leg and was treated with blood thinners, which caused a brain hemorrhage causing her to lose her vision.

The fundraiser includes appetizers and menu, with cash bar, live music, dancing, raffle drawings, and silent auction. For more information, call Holly Neadow at 810-877-3271 or Jennifer Phyle, 248-709-4877.

One-stop parks expo

Independence Township Parks and Recreation hosts Demo Day, 5:30-8 p.m., Jan. 13, at Township Hall.

Community class instructors will gather in an "expo" format for area residents to browse and collect information. Instructors will have assigned demo times to showcase their classes for youth, teen, family, adult, and over 50.

Other township departments will also have information on display. Call 248-625-8223 for more information.

Book signings Saturday

Local authors and illustrators Jim Miller and Leslie Kelly will sign their Basie & Paisley children's books "A Spider Lives in My Belly Button" and "A Monstrous Smile," 4-5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12, at Union General, 50 S. Main St. They will serve free mini cupcakes and cider. Check www.facebook.com/BasieAndPaisley.

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.



Deputies and Independence Township firefighters investigate the crash resulting in a critically injured boy and a tanker truck on its side, on M-15 about a mile north of I-75. Photos by Phil Custodio

Bike rider still hospitalized

Justin Tarvestad, a 14-year-old Independence Township resident, remains hospitalized. He was hit by a tanker truck on M-15 near Strawberry Lane, 3:09 p.m., Dec. 1.

Deputies report the boy was trying to cross Ortonville Road with his bicycle when he was hit by the southbound septic-pumping truck, driven by Walter Yeary, 48, of Columbiaville.

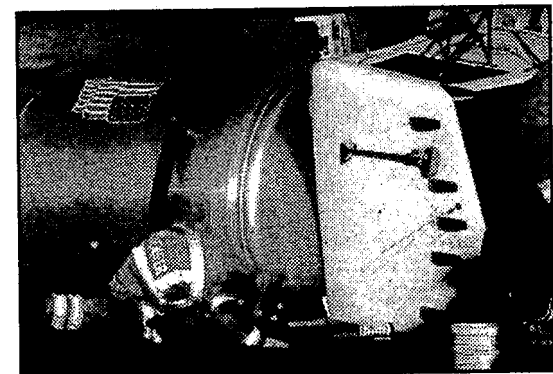
The 2005 Peterbilt tanker swerved but

still hit the boy, knocking his bicycle under a northbound school bus and ending up on its side.

Tarvestad, was airlifted to Royal Oak Beaumont Hospital in critical condition. Yeary, who was not wearing a seat belt, was taken to Genesys Health Park for treatment. Alcohol does not appear to be a factor, police say.

Investigation continues.

- Phil Custodio



A firefighter checks under the tanker.

One step closer to cable plan

BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

After two meetings with Comcast officials, Trustee David Lohmeier is set to bring a PEG-fee resolution to the board at its Dec. 15 regular meeting.

Lohmeier, Treasurer Curt Carson, Secrest Wardle Attorney Kristin Kolb, and Clarkston Public Access Center Program Director Andy Reish met with Leslie Brogan, senior director of Government Affairs for Comcast, and Olivia Visperas, government affairs manager for Comcast. At issue are fees collected for PEG (Public, Education, and Government) programming, and how to resolve it prior to meeting with the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Lohmeier said they first met with Comcast officials on Nov. 20 and were given a "homework assignment."

"We agreed to provide some additional information and then we went and gathered it," he said.

As to what the "additional information" was, Lohmeier would not say. Following their Dec. 4, meeting he said "it went well."

"I'm very happy with how we ended our meeting on Friday," Lohmeier said. "It couldn't have gone any better than I would have liked. I'm extremely encouraged and find the Comcast people pleasant to work with."

Kolb who responded by e-mail said she would "echo Mr. Lohmeier's comments."

Carson also felt the meeting went well.

"It's not over yet," he said. "We have to address the board and get some things approved. If that all happens, we'll have a deal hopefully."

Comcast did not return calls.

Schools to present budget solution ideas

Clarkston Board of Education will consider short-term budget solutions at its Dec. 14 meeting.

Priority will be to preserve classroom programs, said Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts.

This year's budget faces \$292 per-pupil cuts in state funding, about \$2.4 million total. District administration formed a short-term budget team to look for mid-year budget cuts not affecting the classroom, as well as grant opportunities, Roberts said.

"We are working with leaders of our parent

groups and in the future will host community information sessions," he said. "We are also setting up a way for feedback and suggestions."

About half the district's fund balance is already budgeted this year, taking it from \$12.4 million to \$6.35 million.

Up to \$1,000 per student in state cuts is expected in coming years - the district's long-term budget team is considering more ideas and solutions and will present its findings in late February or early March.

- Wendi Reardon



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Community comes together for Christmas at Lighthouse

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
 Clarkston News Editor

Lighthouse Emergency Services shelves are full of toys and supplies for next week's Christmas Distribution, but Don Moody had one more contribution.

He wheeled into the Independence Township center two wagons he made by hand.

"I started by making them for my grandkids," said Moody, Independence Township resident. "I buy the nuts and bolts, but everything else is made of recycled materials. I pick up pallets for their wood, made handles from old cookware, bar steel for axles — it all would have ended up in a landfill."

Each wagon takes 10-14 hours to complete.

"Two coats of paint — it's quite a process," said Moody, who will also donate four to the Lions Club and two to Toys for Tots.

"The wagons are neat," said Jenny Hoder, direct services coordinator. "It's amazing the things people will do to help."

Lighthouse has 381 families signed up for its Christmas program, Dec. 18. Along with 56 seniors, they will help 959 people, Hoder said.

"It's up by 130 people over last year," Hoder said. "We were very busy in October, signing people up."

Volunteers in three shifts will serve families all day long.

"We'll serve nine families every 15 minutes," she said. "We have an abundance right now, but it will go fast. More and more new families sign up for services every day."

Families walk through the gift center, set up at the Knights of Columbus Hall, and, with help of volunteers, select presents, clothing, and stocking stuffers from their wish lists.

"It's non stop," Hoder said. "Lot of volunteers help out."

Need for the food pantry's services is greater, but community support has also grown, she said.

"Volunteers make blankets, sweaters, buy stuffed animals all year — everybody contributes what they can," she said.

Members of the community adopted 110 families in Lighthouse's Adopt-a-Family program, up from about 100 usually, and all 73 individuals signed up for the center's Adopt-a-Senior program were adopted out, she said.

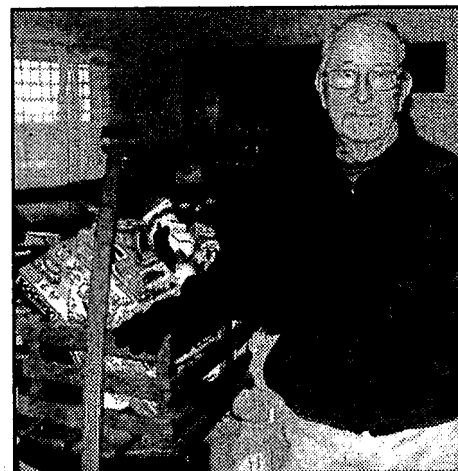
The center served 1,322 people in its Thanksgiving food program, also up from last year.

"We were worried, but the community came through with food drives," Hoder said. "The community came together to meet the need."

Continuing needs include money for its Good Neighbor fund, she said.

"This is used to help with things not covered by grants such as shoes, uniforms for work, items for the home," she said.

Call Lighthouse at 248-620-6116.



Don Moody of Independence Township donated handmade wagons to Lighthouse.

Students stuff stockings for families in need

BY WENDIREARDON
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The holiday spirit is within every Sashabaw Middle School student, finishing the Lighthouse North Stocking Project.

"Every year keeps getting better and better," said Sue Wilson, Language Arts teacher and District Learn and Serve Grant Coordinator for Academic Service Learning.

Students help out in the community while also learning in their classes.

"It helps kids focus and think realistically," said Wilson.

Seventh-graders in Global Studies researched statistics about Africa and Oakland County. They used results in posters they created to promote the stocking project.

"I never knew how many people needed help in our economy," said Kate Doty. "It was interesting, but sad. I have been learning about poverty, malnutrition and famine in Africa. They don't get enough nutrition in their soup."

Seventh-grade health students made soap and the Exploring Engineer class is packaging the soap complete with logo and list of ingredients.

Wilson's class wrote letters to local businesses explaining the project and collected reusable shopping bags for families to use during their Lighthouse visit.

As of last Friday, Saturn of Clarkston had donated 400 bags, Trader Joe's, 100, and Target, 50.

Students also donated bags, she said. Jonah Newblatt not only wrote letters but collected socks during the past few weeks.

"It's good to help around the holidays," he said. "Some people can't afford to buy presents or put food on the table."

He learned in Global Studies how the economy is a big issue in Oakland County as well as the United States.

"People are losing their jobs because of car companies," he added. "It was surprising to see how many people in Oakland County can't afford food."

The students also collected personal care items along with hair accessories, hats, gloves, socks and school supplies.

Tyler Beckman, another seventh-grader, collected school supplies. "For me, it makes me feel good about helping," he said. "I feel like I am helping someone."

The students also received help from Wojo's Greenhouse, Key Bank and the SMS PTA. Parents' donations were used to purchase supplies for soap, home-to-school memo pads supplies made in Computer Applications on recyclable paper, and jump ropes made in Physical Education.

The event started Nov. 20 with a kick-off concert by Breathing Underwater, a Detroit rock band in the "Rock 4 Hunger" Tour.

They talked about service learning, help-



Kate Doty, Tyler Beckman and Jonah Newblatt help Lighthouse North.

ing people, and Gleaners Food Bank, which they help by donating half of their proceeds.

"They really got the kids going," said Wilson.

Beckman proudly said he bought a CD for five dollars.

"It donated three meals to Gleaners," he said.

Students and teachers collect the last of the items Thursday, with an assembly on Friday to give everything to Connie Stapleton, manager of Lighthouse Emergency Services in Independence Township.

"I look forward to the assembly every year – it is just amazing," said Stapleton. "When I go to Sashabaw Middle School you can feel the energy. I know the kids have a lot of energy, but you can feel the giving energy and the generosity is overflowing. It's a great feeling to go over there and see how the kids have put them together for us."

Middle schoolers' help is a bonus every year, she said.

"If it wasn't for them we probably wouldn't be giving out any stockings or

stocking stuffers," said Stapleton.

Lighthouse has close to 900 children receiving assistance this year, a jump from last year's count of 700.

Lighthouse will stop collecting items for the Stocking Project on Dec. 16. Anything received after next Wednesday will be used for its Birthday Bag project.

"It's a perk we started as a way to pass out toys not picked out during the holidays," said Stapleton.

Lighthouse North Stocking Project helps residents in Clarkston, Independence Township, and Springfield Township, and also residents throughout northern Oakland Township.

Donations are always welcomed at Lighthouse Emergency Services, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. They are located at 6330 Sashabaw Road in Clarkston.

"I thank the entire community for helping us throughout the year. Without all the help from the businesses, individuals, organizations and clubs, we couldn't do what we do," said Stapleton.

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Wendi's Word

A column by Wendi Reardon

Community helps

It's a tough economy, so tough even Santa Claus took a hit. Who is going to help the man in red out for the season?

You don't have to go to far to find them - you may have even passed them while shopping throughout downtown or the community.

Actually there are so many helpers out there this season it is hard to narrow it down to just one person, one business, or one school.

Everyone throughout the community seems to be filled with the holiday spirit - especially at Sashabaw Middle School. For the last few weeks they have



collected personal needs items for Lighthouse North Stocking Project - and they have been busy.

I saw quite a few boxes but I am excited to see everything they collected on Friday.

The generosity is overwhelming from the kids, the SMS staff, the parents, and the community - it's great to see. They have their hearts in the right place.

Have you ever toured Lighthouse Emergency Services on Sashabaw Road? If you haven't, take a few minutes to stop by and visit Manager Connie Stapleton and her smiling crew. It will truly leave an impression on you. But take some non-perishable food items with you.

Another group collecting for Lighthouse is Clarkston Community School bus drivers. Their annual Stuff-A-Bus event is this Saturday and Sunday.

The hardest part for me during the holiday season is I want to do so much, but I know a little to me is something bigger to someone else.

I have done a little bit for a little girl and a boy, but I would like to do just a little more. It just depends on how the checkbook balances out on Friday.

The smells of the holiday - cinnamon, pine trees, hot cocoa and marshmallows, sugar cookies and books. Ah, yes, the smell of a bookstore and the creativity of over 5,000 writers - intoxicating. I was only able to buy Christmas presents besides I am painfully aware my three bookcases are at full capacity.

Reminding me - a big thank you to Independence Township Public Library for accepting my donations, five boxes during the summer and my most recent big box - it didn't fit after the move.

The Clarkston News

Viewpoints

Straight talk, not wagon circling

Dear Editor,

For those who missed the story in last week's *Clarkston News* ("Lock down: Administration looks to control information," Dec. 2), our school board wants to first "get its stories straight" before it faces the public and press, rather than answering the *News*' questions individually and independently.

The school superintendent, Dr. Al Roberts, seems more comfortable talking to the press through intermediaries rather than face-to-face.

The taxpayers of Clarkston deserve better. While I'm sure neither the school board nor Dr. Roberts has anything to hide, this kind of "circled wagons" mentality tends to breed an air of suspicion among taxpayers who actually foot the bill for their salaries.

Further, it sets a dangerous precedent for the future, where an unscrupulous set of public servants could feel perfectly justified

hiding behind closed doors.

The press was dubbed "the Fourth Estate" way back in 19th Century England. Thomas Macaulay referred to the clergy, nobles and commoners as the first three estates, and the press as the fourth element of government.

It works as well in 21st century America where the press serves as a watchdog over the three branches of our government.

And it works locally where it watches over the governments of our city and township ... and now, the school system. It's as important here as it is on the national and state stages.

Please, folks, can't we have a little transparency in government instead of an attempt at manufactured answers?

Joe Friday said it best: "Just the facts, ma'am."

Dave Warner
Independence Township

Letters to the editor

Town hall purchase effects already felt

Dear Editor,

As a taxpayer of Independence Township, I'm appalled the township is having budget problems and is now laying-off police officers and others soon to be announced.

When less than a year ago, with the economy in shambles, the township supervisor found it necessary to spend \$3.5 million of our tax dollars on a near empty and seldom used building that was insured by its owner for a mere \$1.9 million! Buying the Silverdome would have made more sense!

The \$55.7 million dollar Silverdome just sold for \$583,000. But unlike the town hall, the Silverdome has 80,311 seats, 102 Luxury suites, 7,384 Club seats, a restaurant, sits on 127 acres of prime real estate surrounded by two highways, and can generate revenue from any number of events.

On the other hand, we have a \$3.5 million over-priced town hall that can't generate revenue from anything other than what it confiscates from taxpayers.

In the coming months, you'll be hearing more about the township's need to confiscate more of your hard earned money to make ends meet. Talk of tax increases in 2010 are already being considered.

The Silverdome sale confirmed what

taxpayers have said all along. The Independence town hall purchase was a bad deal for everyone involved, except its owner. Keeping that in mind, the next time taxpayers go to the town hall I hope they take the time to look around.

I'm sure you'll find yourself wondering: "Why was this near empty, seldom used building, ever bought for the price of 7 Silverdomes?"

The Supervisors complete lack of foresight and the mismanagement of our tax dollars in these tough economic times will haunt our community for many years to come. Taxpayers should never forget the town hall purchase decision and always remember that their tax dollars could have been used for police services for many years to come!

Fortunately there is a tool we can use to hold a public official accountable for mismanagement, a recall. Finally a chance for residents to say: "We can't afford three more years of mismanagement, you're fired!". The time for positive change is here, and it's now. Come join us at RecallWagner.com before it's too late.

Michael Powell
Independence Township

Another letter to the editor on page 7A

A Look Back

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1994

"Playground equipment starts coming out" In the wake of an insurance playground-safety report, local schools removed see-saws, wooden jungle gyms and twisty slides, roller slides, tire swings and other equipment.

"Kids tune up for Salvation Army" Four eighth graders from Clarkston Middle School's band played in front of the Clarkston Village Bakeshop, while collecting change for the Salvation Army. The band was organized by Mark Lorne, father of one of the musicians.

"Gunfire on Main Street" A Clarkston man was arrested after firing a gun six times while on the back balcony of the Clarkston Cafe building. The suspect was arrested on a civil warrant out of Pontiac. The gun was not found at the scene.

25 years ago - 1984

"CHS newspaper parody: The Scum" High school student Geri Speace ruffled feathers with an irreverent underground newspaper, parodying high school life. Principal Dom Mauti was concerned about its lack of adult supervision, but didn't ban it from the school.

"Friendship thrives, thanks to PLUS" The People Listening, Understanding and Sharing organization was showing great strides. The friendship between Peter Bertling and Kin Peterson was illustrated, showing how the organization can positively affect both people.

"Schools reward employees" Clarkston Schools employees Donovan, Keegan, and White were honored and rewarded for their outstanding work in the school. Donovan was from Clarkston Elementary, and both Keegan and White were from Clarkston Junior High School.

50 years ago - 1959

"Rotary plans for Christmas" Rotarians hung lights across Main Street and were set to go caroling and distribute their Goodfellow edition. They also hosted presentations about coal and hunting.

"HEY KIDS!! Santa's Coming To Town Thursday, December 17" Thanks to the efforts of Terry's Market, the man in the red suit himself was to pay Clarkston a visit to welcome all the children. Santa was set to visit 12 S. Main Street.

"Christmas Program At First Methodist" The children of the Kindergarten and Primary Departments at the Clarkston Methodist Church were to present their annual Children's Christmas program, "Christmas through the Centuries and Around the World."

Less funding means slower plowing

It won't be long until temperatures drop precipitously and snow flakes start falling.

Unfortunately, drivers may notice a reduced number of snowplows on the road, as we at the Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) struggle to get by with reduced staff resulting from years of declining revenue.

These are challenging times in Michigan, and we ask the public for patience.

We're all affected by Michigan's shrinking economy, and the Road Commission is no different.

Despite our many steps to improve efficiency and save money, we have been unable to avoid staff reductions, which have a significant impact on winter road maintenance.

As recently as two years ago, we had 190 snowplows/salt truck drivers. Last year, the number dropped to approximately 165.

This year we have 150. That's a 21 percent reduction in drivers.

In addition, several other critical factors are impacting the Road Commission this year.

For example, the cost of salt has increased by more than 30 percent compared to last year.

We'll likely spend nearly \$1 million more on salt this year.

Additionally, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), for the second year in a row, has mandated a slightly reduced level of winter maintenance on some of the roads

we maintain on its behalf (RCOC serves as a contractor, maintaining most of the state highways in the county on behalf of MDOT).

This is due to MDOT's ongoing budget challenges caused by the same declining road funds.

On county roads, the biggest difference motorists will notice is not during the initial blast of a winter storm, but in the hours and days that follow.

Here's why: RCOC typically puts 106 snowplows/salt trucks on the road to battle a major storm.

According to our safety rules, the drivers can stay on the road for up to 16 hours before they must rest.

In the past, following this initial 16-hour effort, RCOC was able to replace the first 106 drivers with up to 84 drivers for a second shift to continue fighting the storm or clean up after the storm.

This year, no more than 44 drivers will be available for the second shift. That reduction in staff is a direct result of declining state road funding.

Why is this happening? The current fiscal year (2009/10) marks the fourth straight year in which our primary source of operating funds — revenue from the state gas tax and

vehicle-registration fees — has declined. Those four years follow nearly 10 years of virtually flat revenues.

In fact, we'll receive less funding in 2010 than we received in 2000 — 10 years ago.

It may take RCOC snowplows/salt trucks longer to get into subdivisions following snow storms this year due to the reduced number of drivers.

Safety dictates that we focus our reduced resources on the roads that carry the most traffic at the highest speeds.

Only when those are sufficiently clear will we move to the slower, less-traveled subdivision streets.

We understand the need for school buses to be able to travel safely on the roads, and the need for our residents to be able to get to work or school during a snow storm.

However, until the state Legislature acts to increase road funding, we are all going to have to work together to make the best of things.

This is Michigan. Our winters have never been easy. But, we in Michigan have always been able to overcome our adversities.

We will persevere. In the mean time, let's all be a little more patient and enjoy the "winter wonderland" that is Michigan.

Eric S. Wilson is vice chairman of Road Commission for Oakland County

Guest viewpoint



Eric Wilson

Reader considers township hall purchase a bad decision

Dear Editor,

Re: "Trustees looking for common ground on budget," Dec. 2 edition.

The supervisor, clerk, and treasurer will sure look silly when that big new Township Hall, twice the size of the old Township Hall, gets real empty.

Maybe they should look at buying back the old Township Hall, and selling the new building. I wonder if the Supervisor could get a quarter of what he spent on it, just one year after he bought it?

Instead of spending money of the architecture of a new police station, the Supervisor should get

a real appraisal to see how much the New Township Hall is worth. Something he neglected to do last year when he overpaid for it.

Extensive cuts to services and staff will be necessary because of the debt service for the new Township Hall.

It is remarkable we elected township leadership so short sighted and detached from the economic situation in our community that they didn't project the impact of their decision to take on massive new debt to get a shiny new office.

*Jeff Gibbs
Independence Township*

Correction

Henry Woloson's letter to the editor "Petition calls for better leadership," Dec. 2 edition, inadvertently omitted a word.

The corrected paragraph is: "Why has not 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."

Write a letter to the editor

Mail to 5 S. Main St. or email
ClarkstonNews@gmail.com

There's a sports team depression connection

As you regular, or irregular, readers of this column know, I'm not the sharpest knife in the drawer, brightest bulb on your Christmas tree, nor does my mind see the obvious.

All of which give me reason not to realize the cause of many of Michigan's sport teams to tank this year.

Why have the Tigers, Lions, Pistons, Red Wings, Wolverines, and yes, even the Michigan State Spartans, come up short of expectations in 2009?

Can there be bad karma, a link between what has happened in our Michigan this year and the recession cloud covering us?

I believe that's possible. Usually we have one major league team that will give us hope, that will take our minds off the unemployment figures, proposed tax increases and rising prices.

Not this year. We are bombarded with news of auto layoffs, government takeovers, flops on Wall Street, inflation, H1N1 wiping out all of America and crumbling roads.

Real estate values are plummeting, banks are closing, prices keep going up, the continuing wars don't help our attitudes and our politicians are inept, incompetent or blind.

Seemingly, all we have going for us is Christmas. An expensive Christmas. Had to get that in. On the brighter side, the holiday can be so uplifting.

Just viewing the lights, seeing the school-agers doing their Christmas-thing on stages, hearing choirs sing the carols, watching the Christmas parades and gift-sharing family times, give us relief.

So for now, let's tune out Lansing and Washington, D.C.; discontinue reading screaming headlines, turn to the comics, have more comedy hour, call some old friends, and yes, remember what this season is about:

It is Christ's birthday (that's hope and encouragement at its best).

---0---
However, I can't leave you without at least a little sarcasm, and a little chain pulling. So,

here's my stimulus carol:

Here comes Obama,
Here comes Obama,
Right down Stimulus Lane.
Czars, Pelosi and Reid, pulling on the reins.

Bells are ringing, Dems singing,

They say all is merry and bright.

So, hang your head, ignore the noise

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

'Cause the real Santa Clause comes tonight!

---0---
One of the uplifting things for me this season is a sculpture of an owl on an old stump, out my back door.

If you ever need a carving, you've got to give Gary Elzerman a call. He's the guy who drives around in a black pickup with the wording, *Custom Carver, "You know, the guy on Baldwin Road"* painted on the doors.

What he does with a couple of chain saws is amazing. I think my sculpture has more feathers than the original. And, the eyes are sharp in this four-foot tall owl.

I'm so pleased with my owl, I'm giving you his cell phone number, 248-770-4938. He's fast, leaves no mess and has a great personality.



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Public Safety

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

Uninvited

A Deerhill Drive homeowner hosted a party, Nov. 27, which ended up including about 10 people she didn't know. She noticed her laptop missing the next day.

Car on fire

Independence Township firefighters put out a car fire on I-75 at Sashabaw Road, 7 a.m., Dec. 1. The owner said his vehicle started to overheat on I-75 and pulled over on the shoulder to get some antifreeze. He smelled smoke but didn't see any fire, and was surprised to see firefighters putting out his car. No one was injured.

Drug trouble

A 24-year-old Independence Township man was reportedly driving while texting when he ran over a mailbox in the 7000 block of Dubuque Street, 4:22 p.m., Dec. 2. Witnessing the destruction of his mailbox, the homeowner yelled for the driver to stop and jumped in his car to pursue. The 24-year-old stopped, and responding deputies found both driver's side tires flat, and a long scrape along the side of his pickup. The suspect told deputies he smoked marijuana 3-4 hours before. He was on probation for mushroom possession in Florida, and was found with stamps which tested positive for LSD. Deputies found needle marks on both arms, and he said he was just out of rehab for heroin addiction. He said he travels all over the country going to concerts, where he likes to take hit of acid. He was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs.

Hard sell

Two 19-year-old men, one from Harrison Township and the other from Toledo, Ohio,

were ticketed for going door to door selling windows without a permit, 4:43 p.m., Dec. 2, in the 5000 block of Warbler Drive. Their sales pitch reportedly included telling homeowners they needed new windows because their existing windows could be "easily broken into."

Stoned driver

A 19-year-old Pontiac man almost hit a car with his pickup while passing on the left on Pine Knob near Waldon, 8:40 p.m., Dec. 2. The car's driver called police, who found the pickup at a nearby convenience store. Deputies found three small baggies of marijuana, and the suspect said he smoked some a few hours before. He was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs.

Unlocked theft

Someone sacked an unlocked pickup truck while parked in a driveway in the 6000 block of Bluegrass Drive, Dec. 3. Nothing appeared to be missing and the truck was undamaged.

Hot pursuit

Waterford Police chased a suspected drunk driver northbound on Dixie Highway into Independence Township, 10 p.m., Dec. 3, and local deputies joined in. The suspect stopped at a Dixie parking lot, got out and tried to run, but was caught. Waterford officers took custody.

Armed robber caught

Deputies tracked a suspected armed robber to the 100 block of North River, finding a 19-year-old Independence Township man with a loaded .22-caliber revolver and two baggies of marijuana, 12:26 a.m., Dec. 4. He was arrested and jailed.

— Reports collected by Phil Custodio

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Help Santa for a Senior with gift donations

The Clarkston Girls Basketball teams are helping to brighten lives with Santa to a Senior.

Fans can help by bringing gift donations to their game against Stoney Creek, Thursday, Dec. 10.

Gift Suggestions include candy, tin of cookies, socks, gloves, blankets, towels, sheets, robes and slippers.

Gifts will be given to seniors at Home Instead Senior Care. JV begins at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

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Lady Wolves focus on strengths going into league play

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Sophomore Megan Hastings held her position and let go of the ball, putting it into the basket for three points in the final quarter.

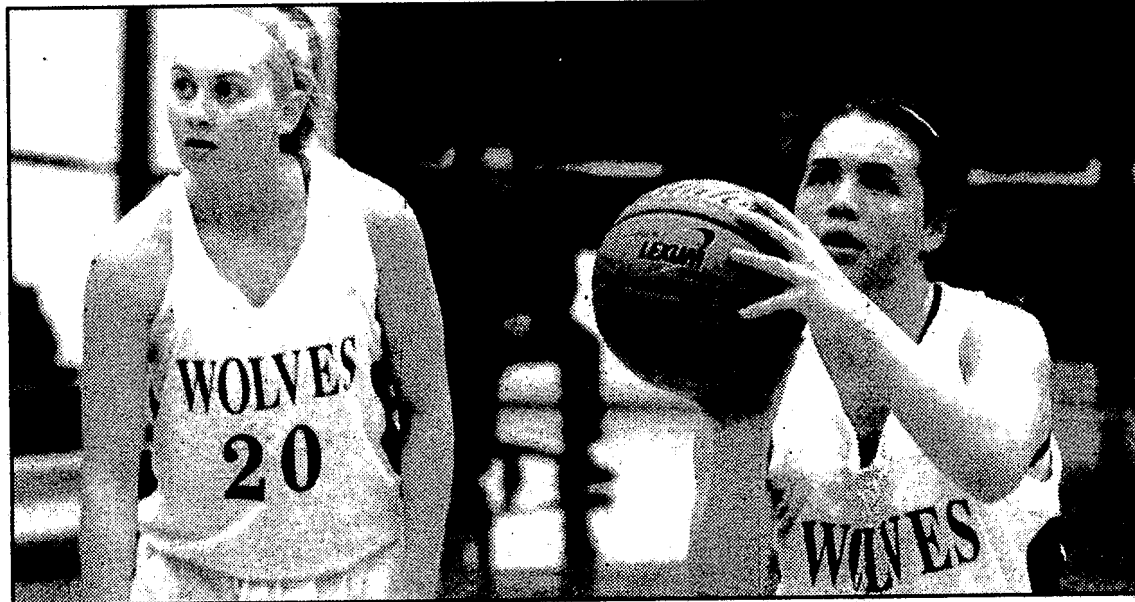
The field goal set the momentum as Girls Varsity Basketball took on Waterford Mott in non-league play.

They weren't able to do it as the Lady Corsairs blocked them out, ending the game with a loss, 32-19.

The girls kept the season opener in mind as they headed into last Friday's game against Waterford Kettering.

"We made some good strides from our first game to our second game," said Tim Wasilk, head coach. "Our youth definitely came out in our first game. We made some mistakes and turned the ball over too many times. We definitely improved going into the second game."

The girls also lost against Kettering, 54-34, but their scoring improved.



Lindsey Reppuhn prepares for her free throw shot while teammate Shauna Siwicki keeps a close watch on Waterford Mott. Photo by Wendi Reardon

"We made strides," said Wasilk. "We did a better job with press and a better job on offense. We tough-

ened up on both sides of the floor." Wasilk added the girls came together more as a team during the

second game and they will build on it to continue to get better. Leading the girls on the board

was Anna Manilla with nine points and Delaney Kenny with eight. Kenny, Lindsey Reppuhn and Christina Jokisch scored 3-pointers during the game.

"Overall, the coaching staff and players were more pleased about the performance," said Wasilk.

Reppuhn and Shauna Siwicki led during the Mott game, both with six points, and Hastings added five to the scoreboard. The girls head into their first league games this and next week, beginning with Stoney Creek on Thursday.

"Stoney Creek is always a good team," said Wasilk. "They are definitely well-coached and they play hard. We scrimmaged against them earlier this year so we are familiar with their playing style."

The girls continue on Tuesday when they host West Bloomfield.

"We just hope to get better each week and come out on top," said Wasilk.

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

Athlete of the Week

Bender leaves a mark on Wolves

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior Dakota Bender left Troy-Athens football field on Nov. 21 knowing he could look back at one day and say he helped Clarkston make it to their third semi-final playoff appearance.

The Wolves Varsity football team lost the game to Sterling Heights Stevenson, 37-35.

The running back assisted the team during the winning season by scoring 21 touchdowns. He had 1,250 yards rushing and 322 yards receiving on 26 receptions.

Bender admitted all of the hard work the team put into the 12-1 season started right after the 2008 season ended.

"The motivation was knowing we didn't have a good season," he said.

Another motivator was cross-town rival the Dragons.

"We watched Lake Orion get to the state finals and we knew we could, too," he added.

After putting in all the hard work and getting past the playoffs in districts, regionals, and quarterfinals, he said it felt great to be at the final game before states.

"It was awesome to be in there," he said.

Bender began playing football when he was seven. He started because his family has always played football and after he watched his uncle play.

He has held the running back position throughout his entire football career.

"I fit in there and I stayed with it," he said.

He said he will probably continue playing football in college. Bender admitted he hasn't chosen a college but is looking at Saginaw Valley State University, Ferris State University and University of Albany.

No matter what school he decides on he has already chosen to study sports management after he graduates.

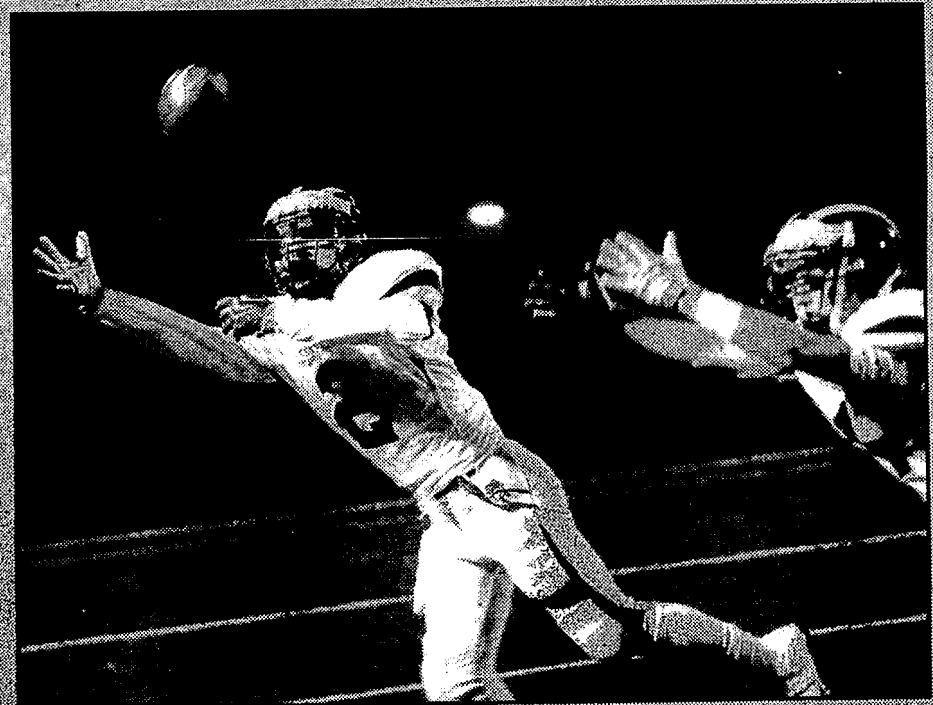
Though his high school football days are done, he is currently thinking about trying out for the lacrosse team in the spring.

"I played it a few years ago," he explained. "I might want to play again."

Bender also plays basketball for fun and enjoys hanging out with his friends.

For the aspiring athletes looking to play Clarkston football, Bender shared a few pointers.

"Enjoy every bit of it because it goes by really fast and get to the weight room."



Dakota Bender stretches for the ball in the Wolves games against Farmington Hills-Harrison. Photo by Kay Pearson

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Pinning a great start

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Seniors Matt Deitz and Naron McDougal led the Wolves attack in the varsity wrestling team's first dual meet win in the season.

Both pinned foes from Goodrich and Grand Blanc last Wednesday.

McDougal (152) set the pace for the boys going first against Goodrich and pinning his competition with four seconds to go in the first period.

Deitz (145) acted like a bookend finishing the match with his pin seven seconds remaining, also in the first period. The six points put the Wolves in a 39-25 win over the Martians.

Also, scoring wins for Clarkston were Zac Roberson (119), 9-5; Ty Foltz (140), 3-0; Evan King (160), 7-2; Ethan Frick (171), pin 1:23 into match, Adam Meyers (215), pin 2:58; and Scott Devos (275), void.

McDougal and Deitz followed the same suit as they pinned their Grand Blanc competitors less than a minute into the first period, helping the boys win 47-30.

"The guys wrestled well for their first meet of the year," said Joe DeGain, head coach. "We had enthusiasm and brought intensity to the wrestling mat."

King was the first grappler to get the winning streak going posting the first six points

after he pinned a Bobcat, 1:02 into the match.

Grand Blanc scored during the next set but Matt Vandermeer (189) broke the tie scoring a technical fall and adding five points.

Devos followed the lead and made a pin with eight seconds in the second period.

The Bobcats pulled into the lead scoring on a void and a pin, but Roberson and Nick Vandermeer (125) pulled the boys back into the lead, creating a four point difference.

The Wolves continued to put a distance in the score as Cody Ellsworth (130), Dietz, Kyle Broughton (145) and McDougal posted the next four wins. Ellsworth won 15-4 and Broughton 2-0.

"Some mistakes were made and we will continue to work on them," admitted DeGain. "But they brought everything they had to the match. It is very promising. We have to keep that throughout the season."

The boys finished the week taking fourth place at the John Glenn Rocket Invitation in Westland. The team beat Romeo, Melvindale, and Belleville. They lost to Roseville by two points, 35-33, in the determining match for third place. They also lost to host John Glenn.

The boys head to Avondale on Wednesday for a dual meet and Howell for the Wilkinson Classic on Saturday.

Boys howling to go in C-Town

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball team lost nine seniors last year after making it to MHSAA Semi-final playoffs, but it's not a rebuilding year.

"It's a maintaining year," said Dan Fife, beginning his 27th year as head coach.

Seniors Matt Kamieniecki and Tyler Scarlett are back, as well as Jordan Clark, Max Collins, Matt Dellinger and Nick Tatu. The team has eight new faces, one junior, six sophomores and one freshman.

"It's exciting because they are young kids," said Fife. "We have great leadership from Kami, Scarlett and Clark - that's a good thing we have great senior leadership. It's a lot easier to break the new kids in when you have Kami, Scarlett and Clark - they have been playing for so long."

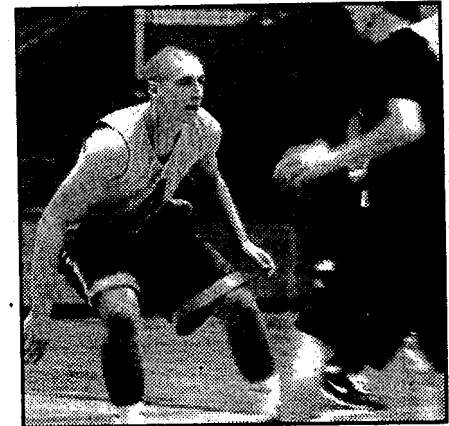
While the team will miss Brandon Pokley, their top shooter from last year, Brandon Verlinden, their offense and defense specialist and Tom Staton, Fife noted it will come down to what it always does for the team - defense.

"One thing we can't do is when all else fails look for Pokley to hit his shot," he said. "We are going to have to 'X' and 'O' them a little bit more than we did in the last year. But we have done it in the past. We have to figure out what it is going to take to be successful."

Pinpointing defense and making the other teams earn getting the points.

"If we can figure that out then the offense will come easy," he stated.

The boys played a four-way scrimmage after Thanksgiving which helped the team



Jordan Clark defends.

take a look at what needed more work, but Fife admitted Clarkston's first game this Saturday will tell them a lot more.

Many players were on the football team during the fall, which will help, he said.

"With the kind of success they had (getting to the semifinals), they know what it takes to win," Fife said.

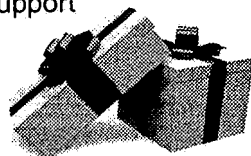
They play Henry Ford at Detroit Renaissance High School on Saturday and host their first home game next Wednesday before they go on break for the holidays. As soon as they get back, they start league play.

"We want to be ready for league," Fife stated. "Our league is very competitive this year at least six teams already stand out. Right now we are trying to define the roles and some kids don't know the roles yet."

Saturday's game is at 7 p.m. JV begins next Wednesday night at 5:30 p.m. and varsity follows.

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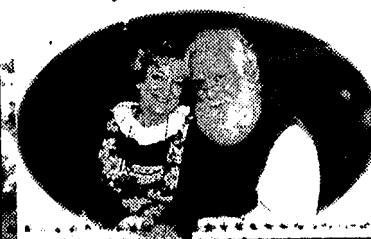
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Steven K. Fahner, GM zone manager, at left, and District Manager John P. Rock present John Bowman with a plaque honoring 25 years in business. Photo by Phil Custodio

Honored for 25 years of sales

John Bowman Chevrolet celebrated a quarter century in the Clarkston community. The family-owned business is ready for 25 years more.

"We have an excellent product and an excellent market to sell into," said Bowman, owner and president of the General Motors dealership. "We have fantastic customers."

"We'll continue to take good care of our customers," said Katie Coleman, vice president and Bowman's daughter, and 16 years with the company. "Clarkston is the best place to be, with its sense of community and hometown pride. It's a pleasure to be part of it."

Steven K. Fahner, zone manager for General Motors, and John P. Rock, district manager for North Central Region, presented Bowman with a plaque honoring the achievement.

"There aren't many dealers still in business in the same location after 25 years," Rock said. "John weathered many storms, strikes, even a couple wars, and also just updated his facilities - it looks magnificent."

The renovation, which earned the dealership this year's Community Beautification Award, demonstrates its ability to step it up and not rest on its laurels, he said.

- Phil Custodio

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Continued from page 1A

Gabris for her efforts, but noted the "benefiting consultant," Hantz Group, was located in Southfield.

"With the number of benefit providers providing life insurance within the community, has there been any kind of recent effort to ask if there are individuals within the community with the expertise to provide some of these services, especially since many are licensed with Mutual of Omaha," Wolson asked. "Perhaps someone within the community would have an incentive, desire, or opportunity to do this review much more frequently than 6-7 years and thereby save the community substantial dollars."

Gabris confirmed Hantz Group is located in Southfield, and has been township consultants since 2005.

Trustee Mark Petterson asked Gabris if she knew to look around locally for the same service.

"No, because this group has provided us excellent service since I've walked in the front door," Gabris said. "They have been diligent in terms of saving us cost and because we have all of our benefits under one umbrella, it makes it consistent."

Petterson said he would like to see them "get a little bit closer to home."

"I don't want to see the money going down there. I'd rather see it come up here and start trying to utilize companies that are here," he said.

Trustee David Lohmier suggested taking the current offer, but looking at local insurance brokers and companies.

"Taking \$15,000 out a year is a long ways for some of the services we're cutting, so I don't see why moving a step forward here is going to preclude us from our benefit brokers and others later," Lohmeier said.

Clerk Shelagh VanderVeen said dealing with all different brokers and benefits "becomes onerous."

"I'm begging you, please, let's do this," she said. "We're in this crisis mode now, we can save this money. I think it's the right thing to do right now."

The board voted 5-1 to approve the two-year contract with Mutual of Omaha. Treasurer Curt Carson voted no on the motion and Supervisor Dave Wagner was absent from the meeting.

Carson said it violates the township's bid policy - local vendors were not included in the search.

"I don't think we can sit there unilaterally decide 'this situation we're not going to bid out and this decision we are' and who gets to decide that," he said. "It's a policy and even though this one supplier (Hantz Group) had accessed several different companies that's not bidding it out. We need a minimum of three different suppliers, getting us bids based on specifications we give them."



Julie Hilgendorf of Washington Township examines a centerpiece.

Greens for the holidays

The community filled Church of the Resurrection, Dec. 5, to find the perfect centerpiece, wreaths, and roping for Christmas decorations.

"It's gone splendidly," said Anita Andes, event chair for Clarkston Farm and Garden Club's Greens Market. "We sold, sold, sold. We're extremely grateful for the support of the community today."



Helen Grogan, 5, draws the winner of a nights stay at Royal Park Hotel, Patricia Evans.

Fundraiser for pastor's wife

BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Dawn Jacobs, owner of Artichoke Interiors, is teaming up with Belleza Salon, Karen's Advanced Floors, and Tropical Smoothie on Thursday, Dec. 10, 5-9 p.m., to raise money for New Hope Bible Church's Pastor Gary Boussie, who's wife currently lays in the hospital in critical condition.

Boussie's wife, Christine, 61, had a stroke and a heart attack, about 6 a.m., Thanksgiving. After 30 minutes, medics were able to resuscitate her; however, she has been in a coma and registers no brain activity.

"She won't go home," Boussie said. "We took life support off of her a week ago Sunday and she's still hanging around."

Jacobs said Christine bought and sold designer handbags and shoes on eBay, which is what they'll be selling as part of their fundraiser Thursday night.

"We're just selling her stuff for her and her family and also Artichoke Interiors, Belleza salon, Karen's Advanced Floors are all donating a certain amount of money or percentages toward the family that night," she said. "Tropical Smoothie is doing a 15 percent fundraiser there at the same time."

Jacobs said they will be selling Coach designer handbags as well as other designer names for 50 percent off, which she says "is cheaper than on eBay."

The fundraiser will be held at Artichoke Designs, 6465 Dixie Highway

Gary said he appreciated the help.

"I've never seen her have an enemy in her life and she was just a good gal, full of energy and full of life," he said-speaking of his wife. "It's a shock, it's unbelievable, but that's the hand we're dealt so we're going to put our trust in the Lord and keep going forward."



Troop 13363 Girl Scouts, from right, Sierra Aguilar, Emily Herrmann, kneeling, and Chloe Davis, and volunteer Andrew Herrmann work on their float, based on the children's book "The Biggest Snowball Fight." Photos by Phil Custodio

Weekend of fun

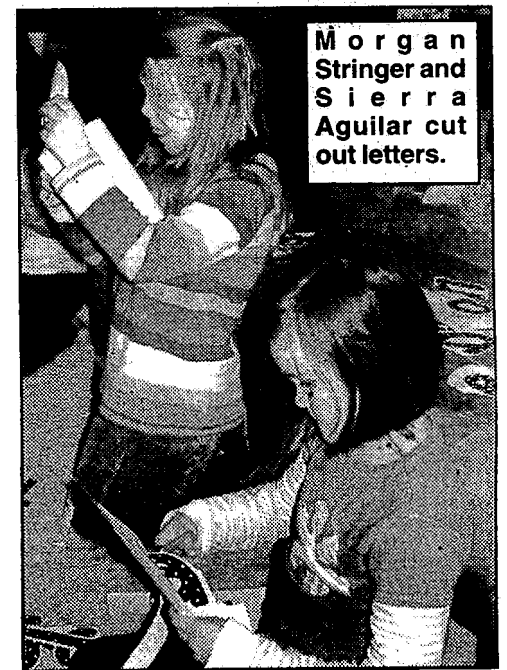
About 50 floats, vehicles, and marching groups are expected to fill downtown Main Street with colorful light, Saturday evening at the Holiday Lights Parade.

Organized by Team RUSH of Clarkston High School, the parade begins at Clarkston Community Education, 6558 Waldon Road, heading north through downtown to St. Daniel Church. Start time is 6 p.m.

The day's festivities also include Candy Cane 5K and Santa Fun Run, 4 p.m., starting from Depot Park, and Clarkston Art Show at Clarkston Mills.

The art show starts Friday, Dec. 11, 6-9 p.m., with a wine and cheese reception, and continues Saturday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sunday, 12-4 p.m.

For more information, call 248-625-8223.



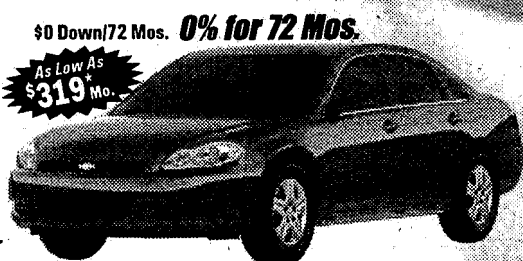
Morgan Stringer and Sierra Aguilar cut out letters.



Cub Scouts Clayton Hall, Will Silvey, Tom Silvey, and Nathan Brenner get to work.

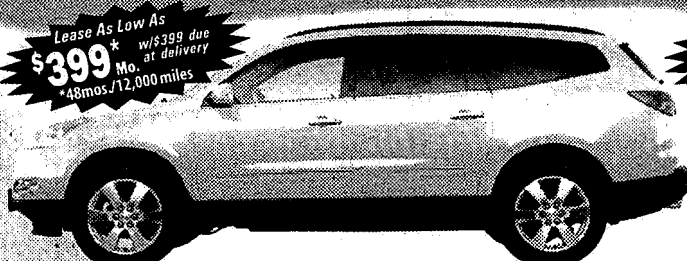
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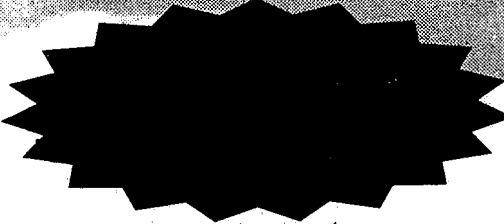
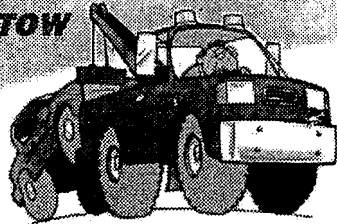
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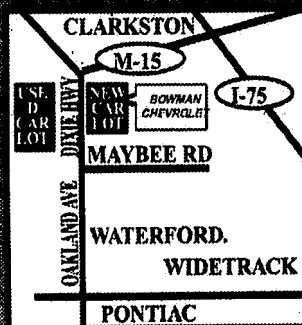
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People Poll

December 9, 2009
Page B1

What do you think of Obama's healthcare plan?

"I think that healthcare should be available to everybody and if it takes us in that direction I'd like to see where it goes."



- Craig Riggs

"I don't like it. My main concern is if you can save \$500 million on Medicare, why don't they do that now?"



- Bob Cruz

"I haven't read into it much at this point, but I'm not in favor of the government interfering in our healthcare."



- Lanna Coder

"I do not support his healthcare program. There's too much government involvement."



- Theo Mergen

By Patrick Riggs

Millstream

The Clarkston News'

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Teenagers in the Christian Life Group take a break from wrapping toy drive boxes. Photo provided

Volunteers in Action set sights on toys

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Large, wrapped boxes sit waiting for people to pass by and drop a toy in, courtesy of Volunteers in Action (VIA), a local Christian Life Group collecting toys during the Christmas season.

"We work with the youth to have them go out in the community and serve," said Marlene Mansour, a parent and organizer of the toy

drive.

"We have them out in the community talking to business owners and ask if they will put out a toy collection box in their business establishment."

Drop-off spots in the Clarkston area include Mesquite Creek, Saturn of Clarkston, Everest Academy, and Oakhurst Golf and Country Club. More drop-offs are located at Palace Chrysler Jeep in Lake Orion and LaFontaine dealerships

in Highland and Waterford.

Once all the presents are collected, VIA will wrap them and take them to St. Michael's Parish in Pontiac.

"We are going to have a Christmas party there for the underprivileged kids and hand out the toys we collected," said Ben Bates, a freshman at Everest Collegiate.

As of last week, he knew one box was filled

Please see Toys on page 9 B



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Around Town

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.

Bellissima Handbell Choir, Clarkston Community Band, 3 p.m., Dec. 12, Clarkston Junior High School auditorium, 6595 Waldon Road. Free.

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. Tree Lighting follows parade in Depot Park. Live reindeer, carolers, music, thousands of lights and children's activities. Free popcorn, coffee and hot cocoa. 248-625-8223.

Women Self Defense Seminar, 7-9 p.m., Dec. 15, Powerhouse Gym, 6475 Sashabaw Road. Taught by Darwin Banister, law enforcement instructor. Discussion followed by hands-on escape techniques. \$25 before Dec. 8. \$35 after. 248-240-7801.

Holiday Party, 11:30 a.m., Dec. 18, Adult Activity Center-Carriage House, 6000 Clarkston Road. Lunch, holiday music. visit by jolly Ol' St. Nick. \$6. Sign up before Dec 11. 248-625-8231.

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

Tracks - Tales in the Snow, 1 p.m., Jan. 9, Indian Springs Metropark Nature Center. Dress for the weather and bring a white or light-colored T-shirt. \$2 per child. Pre-registration required. 248-625-7280.

Marbled Paper Note Cards, 1 p.m., Jan. 9, Indian Springs Metropark Environmental Discovery Center. Make a set of marbled paper note cards. All materials included. Ages 5 to adult. \$4/person, \$12/ family of 4. Pre-registration required. 248-625-6640.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clarkston Rotary Club, Mondays, 6:30 p.m., Clarkston Community Education Center, 6558 Waldon Road. \$10. 248-625-4244.

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

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

Volleyball, 9 a.m., Mondays, competitive; Wednesdays, Fridays for fun. St. Trinity Lutheran Church, 7925 Sashabaw Road. 248-625-8231.

Pickleball 50+, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., First Congregational Church, 5449 Clarkston Road. Drop in, \$3. 248-625-8231.

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

Breast Cancer Support Group, first Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., MIRO Mid-Oakland Medical Center, 6770 Dixie Highway. 248-625-3841.

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

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

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. Diners, 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.

Pickleball Ball, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., First Congregational Church, 5449 Clarkston Road. Combination of tennis, ping pong, badminton. \$3. 248-625-8231.

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

H.O.P.E., Health Optimism Perseverance Education, cancer support group for people with any type of cancer, third Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m., Great Lakes Cancer Institute - Clarkston, Conference Room, 5680 Bow Pointe Drive. Emotional support and education to help with adjustment and coping. Care-givers, family, and friends are welcome to attend with the cancer patient. Walk-ins welcome. 877-627-6248.

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

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

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

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

Please see Around Town on page 8B

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Local man featured in film on Greatest Generation

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

The new documentary "Detroit: Our Greatest Generation" honors hundreds of local veterans, including Ray DeFiore of Independence Township.

"It's excellent, a good idea – it give us oldtimers some visibility," said DeFiore, 83, who was drafted into the U.S. Army and served as a musician in Germany, 1946-1947, before returning to Michigan for a 42-year career with General Motors.



Ray DeFiore, in his Army days.

"We talked about how the filmmakers can make us look younger. We had fun doing it."

The 90-minute film, directed and produced by Keith Famie of Visionalist Entertainment Productions, premieres 7 p.m., Dec. 13 at the Fox Theater in Detroit.

Developed over 16 months, it features interviews with veterans and their families, who reflect on how their service impacted the rest of their lives. Additionally, the film takes an in-depth look at Detroit's role as the Arsenal of Democracy.



Front, from left, are veterans Al Mele, Larry Velick, Harold Sims, Doug Hooper, middle, from left, Jim Maisano, Ray DeFiore, Rudy Kramer, Joe Bush, and George Keller, and, top, from left, Al Biecego, Larry Mannes, Hank Gartner, and Bill Clissold. Photo provided

"It's the celebration of an era, one that belongs to Detroit and was critically influential in the freedom Americans share in to-

day," said Famie. "The film tells the narrative of Detroit's heroes like never before, while we are still able to hear the stories from the

people who were there to experience them."

DeFiore is featured along with veterans active in local senior softball leagues. A ballplayer all his life, he plays softball as well as volleyball in Independence Township and Detroit.

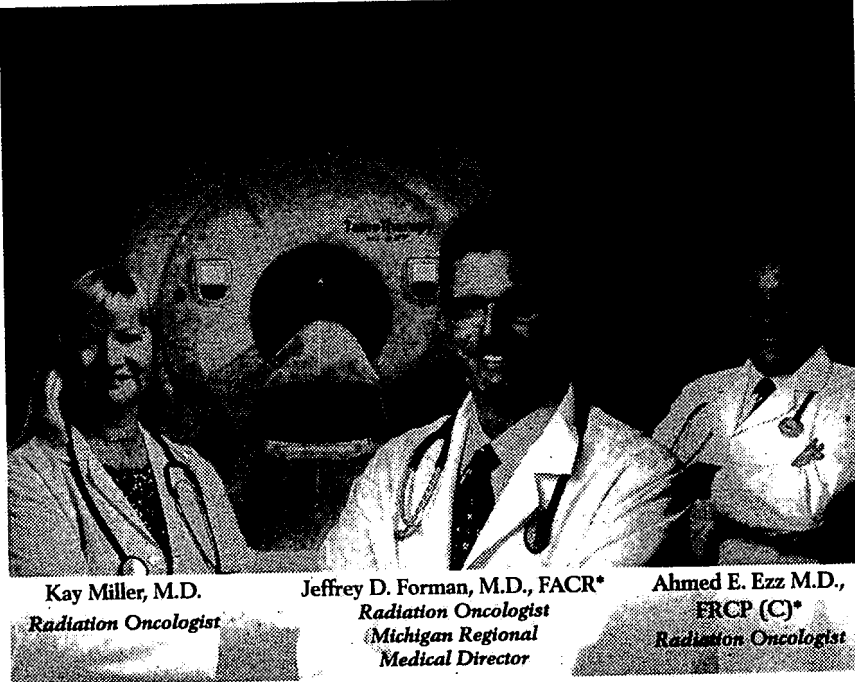
He and fellow veterans worked with Famie as well as Chuck Gaidica of Detroit Local 4 and Detroit Tigers hall-of-famer Al Kaline during filming.

"It was a great time," DeFiore said.

A native of New York, he settled in Clarkston with his family, Joyce his wife and their sons Tony and Larry, because of its location between GM plants in Flint and Detroit. He retired 21 years ago.

The premiere event features WJR's Paul W. Smith as MC, Mitch Ryder and Stewart Francke performing with the United States 338th Army Band. Also featured will be a special Andrews Sisters revue and the Cornerstone Concert Choir singing the National Anthem.

The film benefits the Michigan Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America and the Yankee Air Museum. Tickets are \$23 and \$33. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. A one-hour version of the film will be shown on WDIV-TV with no commercial interruption, 8 p.m., Dec. 16, and 2 p.m., Dec. 25.



Kay Miller, M.D.
Radiation Oncologist

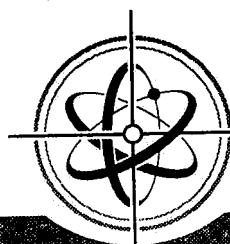
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Michigan Regional
Medical Director

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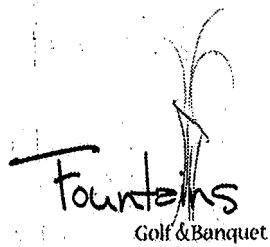
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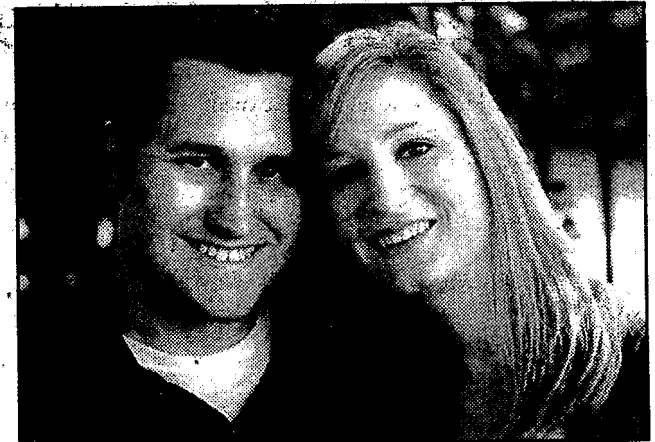
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Milestones

Nedock -Ginn



Kassandra Catherine (Kasey) Nedock and Jeffrey Lee Ginn of Royal Oak announce their engagement.

The future bride is the daughter of Kathryn Williams of Farmington Hills and David Nedock of Southfield. The groom to be is the son of Mickey and Ted Ginn of Clarkston.

Kasey is a 2000 graduate of Farmington Hills Harrison High School and a 2004 graduate of Michigan State University's James Madison College. She is also a recent graduate of Madonna University's Paralegal program. She is employed as a paralegal for the

Jeffrey and Cassandra

firm of Kirsch and Satawa in Southfield. Jeff graduated in 2000 from Clarkston High School and in 2004 from Central Michigan University. He is employed as a senior software engineer for Metastorm in Southfield. They are planning a May 2010 wedding.



Jeremy and Angie

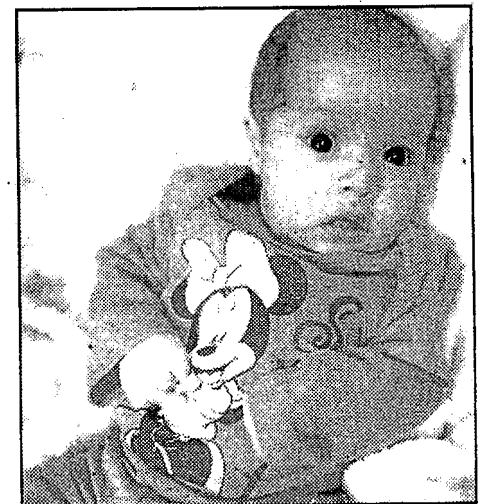
Thomson- Klobucar

Family and friends are excited to announce the engagement of Angie Thomson and Jeremy Klobucar.

The bride-to-be is a 1998 Clarkston High School graduate and a 2002 Michigan State University Alumni. She is employed with Mascari Sales and Marketing.

The groom-to-be is a 1996 Utica High School graduate and has a Mechanical Engineering degree from MSU. He also has his Law Degree from MSU College of Law and is an attorney at Dickinson Wright in Bloomfield Hills.

A September 2010 wedding is planned. The bride and groom will reside in Rochester Hills, Mich.



Leah Josefina Ginn

Welcome Leah

Brian and Thelma Ginn of San Ramon, Calif, announce the birth of their daughter, Leah Josefina Ginn, on Sept. 7, 2009.

Leah was 6 pounds, 13 ounces, and 19 inches in length. She is welcomed by sisters Abigail and Briana; grandparents Ted, and Mickey Ginn of Clarkston and Josie Flores of Laredo, Texas; and great-grandparents Don and Gerry Seeterlin of Waterford, Sandy and the late Robert Ginn of Capac, Mich., and Jose Flores of Laredo.

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

Religion

Advent prepares way for Christmas season

I have a dear friend whose sister is expecting a baby in December.

Ultrasounds have confirmed that the child is a boy. The mother is young and unmarried. The father is currently making his way guardedly through life, trying to provide for his new family by doing the right thing and is away preparing for his future service to the military. While they have an extremely supportive family, the couple certainly could be described as poor.

Sound familiar? All analogies aside, the circumstances of this story are a great reminder of a simple truth.

The Christmas story did not just happen 2000 years ago in Bethlehem, a land far away and often glorified in our imaginations. The Christmas story is as real today as it was then, and we can learn much by reflecting on the humble circumstances of both of these very special families—then, and now.

We are in the middle of the Advent season, a time of preparation for the season of Christmas.

During this season, Christians are called to be watchful and hopeful, preparing for the

coming of Jesus and reflecting on the very real ways Jesus meets us in our everyday lives.

Traditionally, the four Sundays of Advent represent the coming of Jesus manifested in four different ways: as the Incarnation, God made man; at the end of time, the Second Coming; at our own natural death; and finally, into our hearts, which we might describe as the process of conversion.

It is this coming of Jesus into our hearts that has compelled me to become so interested in the family I described above.

Their story has gotten me to thinking that none of us can predict the circumstances of our lives or anyone else's for that matter, but that we can prepare ourselves spiritually to react to them.

One of the best ways to prepare is to seek first to understand the people we meet and do this without first passing judgment upon them. Mother Teresa once remarked that her spiritual discipline was to seek to see the face

of Jesus in everyone that she served, no matter their race, creed, economic situation, or health.

In our Advent prayer, we might ask ourselves how well we accomplish this. Who will you come into contact with today that deserves your understanding and compassion?

Remarkably, when we practice understanding and compassion, we transform ourselves at the same time we cast the light of Christ onto others.

This manifestation, or sign of God, is an indication that something very real is present. It will not go unnoticed. Jesus comes into your heart in a profound way and has an effect on all for whom you pray or serve.

I do not personally know the little family I described above, but I can tell you they have been an integral part of my Advent prayer. I thank God for them, for the reminder that I am called to be understanding and compassionate toward all God's people.

Have a blessed Advent season, and a joyous Christmas!

Cheryl Smith is director of Adult Faith Formation at St. Daniel Catholic Church.

Spiritual Matters



Cheryl Smith

In our churches...

Coffee House, 7 p.m., Dec. 11, Peace Unity Church, 8080A Ortonville Road. Open mic and featured performers. Donations benefit Lighthouse Emergency Services of Independence Township. 248-625-5192.

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,

In Our Churches, page 12 B

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

CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston
(W. of M-15, just S. of I-75)
625-3288
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8:15 am (traditional worship)
9:30 am (blended worship)
11:00 am (contemporary praise)
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9:30 (Seasonal)
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CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
6600 Waldon Road, Clarkston
248-625-1611
Website: clarkstonumc.org
Sunday Worship: 9 am & 11:15 am & 6:11 pm
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CIV-10/20Sun. 2:00pm, Thurs. 9:00pm
Broadcast Worship - Waterford
CATV-10 Tues. 2:30 pm
Worship:
Sunday 8:15 am & 11:00 am
Sat. 6:00 pm
Sunday School 9:45 am
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Preschool: 620-6154

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Rev. Christopher Maus
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Scripture Study, Youth Group

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Wednesday 7:00 pm
Youth Groups 6-12
Wednesday 6:30 pm
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Clarkston, 48348
(248) 625-1344
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Morning Worship Service
Exploration Station - Children's Ministry
Wed. 6:45pm Fit For Life - Adult Life Ministry
c.r.a.v.e.-Student Life Ministry
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6:00 pm Evening Service
Wed: 6:15 pm Awana Club
6:30 pm Teen Ministry
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
6300 Clarkston Road - Clarkston
(248) 625-1323
Home of Oakland Christian School
Pastors: Greg Henneman, Bonita Laudeman, Kevin Kuehne, Dan Whiting, Geoff Black
Sunday: Worship 9:15 & 11:00 am
Nursery Care at all services
Wednesday: Children's Ministries 6:00-8:00 pm
Sunday: Youth Ministries 5:00-7:00 pm
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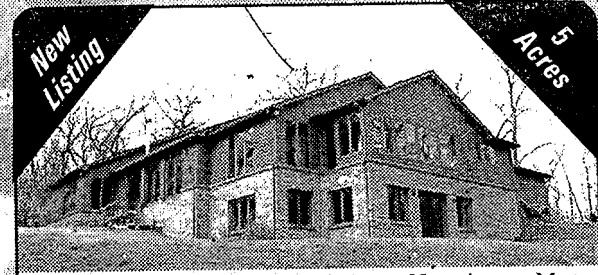
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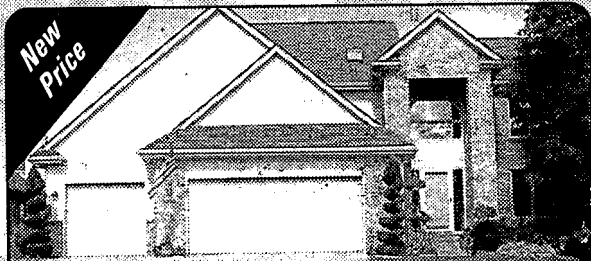
New Listing **Oakhurst**
 Oakhurst Golf/CC's finest w/5,400 finished sq. ft. facing the 12th tee. 5 bedrooms, 4 full / 1 half baths, granite kitchen, great room w/w/wall of windows, columned living room, 3-car garage. **\$344,731 47-OAK**



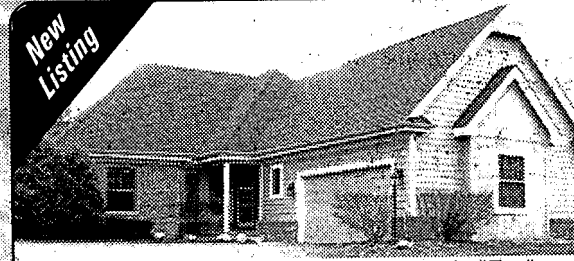
New Listing
 Alluring 4 bedrooms, 2 full/1 half bath abode boasts a granite kitchen, great room w/16 ft. ceiling, formal dining room, and a sea of hardwood floors. Peaceful cul-de-sac locale. **\$229,000 63-WAL**



New Listing **5 Acres**
 Brilliant 2,800 sq. ft. ranch nestled at the heart of 5 scenic acres. Master suite w/dreamy bath, vaulted great room w/wood stove, Florida room, hardwood floors, and an enormous walkout. **\$215,000 15-PAR**



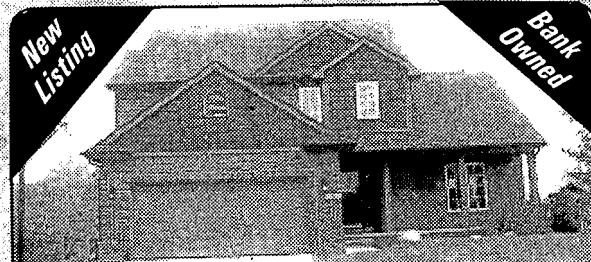
New Price
 Pleasant West Bloomfield contemporary w/4 bedrooms, 2 full / 1 half baths, cathedral foyer, vaulted great room w/ fireplace, eat-in kitchen, study/den, and a 3-car garage. **\$210,000 59-PET**



New Listing
 Feature-loaded freestanding condo infused w/ a "Zen" aura. 3 bedrooms, 2 full / 1 half baths, library w/built-ins, family room w/serving bar, and a finished walkout w/daylight windows. **\$185,000 56-NOR**



Move-In Ready
 A large, fenced yard dotted with mature trees sets the stage for just about 2,300 thoroughly updated sq. ft. w/4 bedrooms, 3 fully updated baths, and a 2-car garage. **\$139,900 55-CRU**



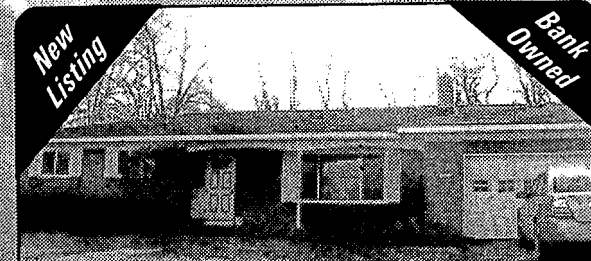
New Listing **Bank Owned**
 2,000 sq. ft. contemporary located in a popular sub w/3 bedrooms, 2 full / 1 half baths, firelit family room, island kitchen, and a daylight basement. Awaiting personal touches. **\$139,900 66-LOC**



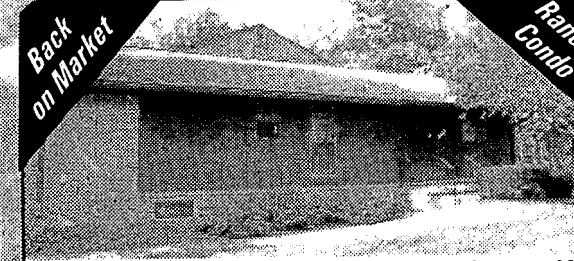
New Listing **Ranch Condo**
 Neat & neutral ranch condo w/2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, kitchen w/snack bar, great room w/corner fireplace, all appliances included, full basement, and a 2-car garage. **\$120,000 69-BLU**



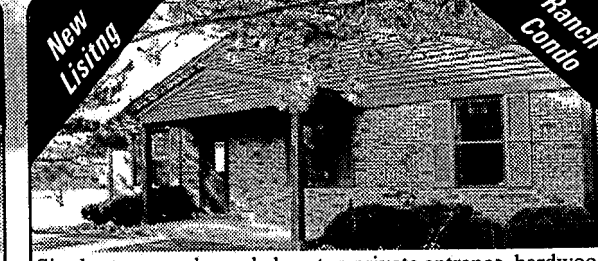
New Listing
 Emerald green landscaping and a meandering stream serve as the backdrop to this freestanding condo w/3 bedrooms, 3 full / 1 half baths, and a finished walkout. **\$109,000 56-NOR**



New Listing **Bank Owned**
 Rambling 1,400 sq. ft. ranch sited on nearly an acre. 3 bedrooms, 2 full / 1 half baths, living room w/fireplace, super sized kitchen, full basement, and an in-ground pool. **\$79,900 34-PAS**

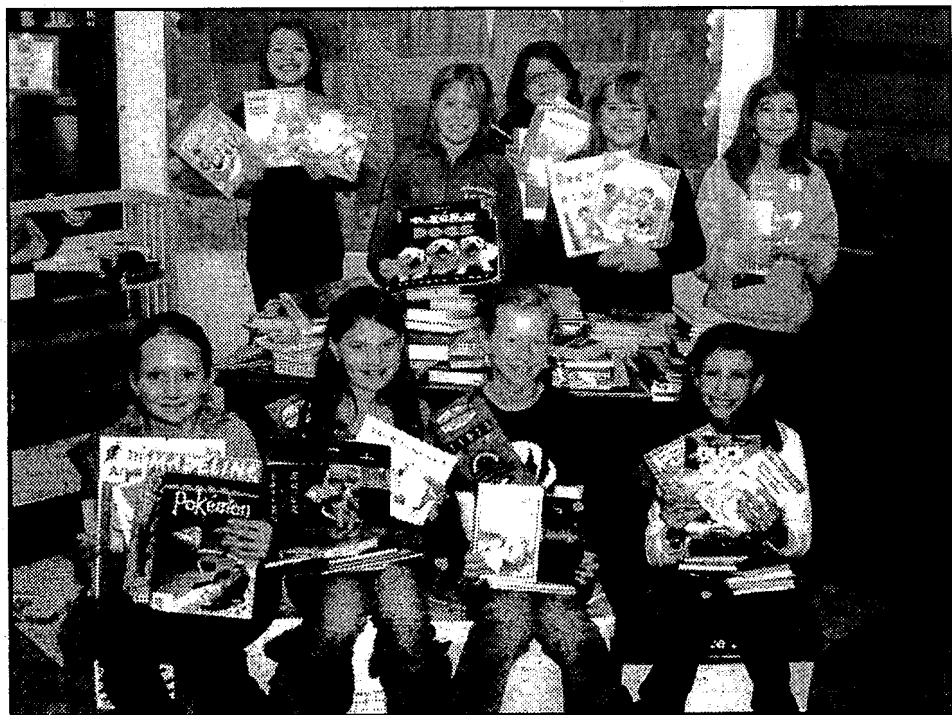


Back on Market **Ranch Condo**
 Dashing end-unit ranch condo facing woods & water. New Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, base moldings, and warm paints found t/o. Short sale approved at list price. **\$70,000 18-STR**



New Listing **Ranch Condo**
 Single story ranch condo boasts a private entrance, hardwood floors, newer mechanicals, full basement, and an attached garage. Quaint complex w/low association fees. **\$48,900 77-PON**





In front are scouts Sidney Sitar, Kari Ormsby, Michaela Moore, and Michelle Bollini, and in back, Sarah Rooks, Micah Angus, Martha Steupert, Nicole Brisse, and Matisse Vitale. Not pictured is Jessica Moore. Troop Leaders are Jennifer Angus, Valerie Moore and Thelma Peterson. Photo provided

Girl Scouts collect 482 books

Junior Girl Scout troop 11913 from Independence Elementary worked on their Bronze Award project this fall. The fifth-graders col-

lected books to help create a library for children at Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac. They will deliver 482 books on Dec. 12.



Brownies busy helping others

Brownie Troop 13363, third-graders at Clarkston Elementary, made "Kitty Huts" for donation to the Michigan Humane Society last week. In addition, the scouts collected more than 70 pairs of shoes, 58 bottles of shampoo, 71 soaps, 30 tooth brushes, 40 wash cloths, and five bottles of vitamins for Helping Hearts Helping Hands Charity for kids in Honduras. Photo provided

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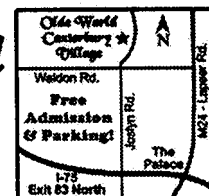
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Obituary

Timothy A. Nicholson, 34

Timothy A. Nicholson of Holly passed away, Dec. 1, 2009, due to an auto accident, at age 34.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Tom and Pat. He was the brother of Sharon (Ray) Hoenicke of Swartz Creek, Tom (Stephanie) Nicholson of Holly, Keith (Rena) Nicholson of Holly, Brian Nicholson, Janet Strickland, Kevin Nicholson, and David Townson; grandson of Florence Rader of Ortonville; also survived by many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

Mr. Nicholson graduated from Holly High School, Class of 1995. He was employed at Tri-City Aggregates and was a member of Teamsters Union Local 332. He enjoyed snowmobiling, hunting and fishing.

Funeral service was Dec. 5 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home,



Clarkston. Any donations to the family will be used toward a marker in his memory. Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Leslie R. 'Les' Cook, 56

Leslie R. "Les" Cook of Clarkston passed away, Dec. 1, 2009, at age 56.

He was the loving husband of Valerie; beloved father of Lindsay Cook; dear son of Frances and the late Frank Cook of Toronto; brother of Diane (Stan) Hardcastle of Vancouver; friend of Bill W.; uncle of Sean, Justin, Alexa, Kaitlyn, Lynn, David, Terri, and Kristi; brother in law of Roger, Dan (Elena) Puskar and Noreen (Shawn) Kennedy, and Karen Dobbs.

Visitation was Dec. 3 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Funeral Service was Dec. 4 at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Clarkston.

Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.



James F. Drogosch Sr., 81

James F. Drogosch Sr. of Waterford passed away Dec. 4, 2009, at age 81.

He was the husband of Peggy; preceded in death by his first wife Patricia; father of John, P e g g y (Shirley), Richard (Jan), James Jr. (Nancy), Dan (Dori), and Chris (Anne); stepfather of Scott Kurz and Kristen (Steve) Gurka; also survived by 12 grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and five surviving siblings.

Scripture service was Dec. 6 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Funeral Mass was Dec. 7 at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, Waterford.

Memorials may be made to Coalition for Temporary Shelter "C.O.T.S.," Detroit.

Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries updated at Clarkstonnews.com



Remembrance ceremony, Dec. 15

Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home of Clarkston hosts its second annual Holiday Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 15, at Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass.

Psychologist and Grief Specialist Dr. John Canine provides a brief presentation and special

remembrance ceremony where participants will be invited to light a candle in honor of a loved one who has passed away.

Light refreshments will be served. No registration is required but RSVP is encouraged by calling the funeral home at 248-625-5231 or emailing wintfuneralhome@aol.com.

Around Town

Continued from page 2B

Main Street. 248-505-5091.

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

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 Fit-

ness, 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.

Community events?

Tell us about them at ClarkstonNews@gmail.com

**Holiday Memorial
Candle Lighting Ceremony**

- Step away from the busy activity of the winter holidays to honor a loved one.
- 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
Psychologist & Grief Specialist
Dr. John Canine

Light refreshments will be served

RSVP encouraged to: **(248) 625-5231**
or email: wintfuneralhome@aol.com
A Service Of:

Wint
LEWIS E.
AND SON FUNERAL HOME

Use Your
**2009
Flexible
Spending
Account
Dollars**
before the end
of the year.

OAKLAND EYE CARE

We now have DOUBLE the advantages!

- TWO offices/opticals in Clarkston to serve you.
- TWO board certified ophthalmologists with extensive surgical experience, Dr. Thomas Biggs and Dr. Arlin French.

Services Include:

- Cataract Specialists
- Diagnosis & Treatment of Eye Diseases
- Diabetic Care • Glaucoma
- Macular Degeneration • Laser Vision Correction
- Eyelid Plastic Surgery • Routine Eye Exams

OAKLAND EYE CARE

(248) 620-3000
5825 S Main St Ste 100
Clarkston, MI 48346

(248) 922-0400
McLaren Health Village of Clarkston
5701 Bow Pointe Dr., Ste 100

Toy drive collection runs until Dec. 16

Continued from page 1B

but wasn't sure of the total count – especially since the VIA still has one more week to collect toys.

"It is a great thing to do for them and for them to have a Christmas," Bates added. "We have been blessed."

VIA expects 160-200 kids to come to the Christmas party. Not only will the students wrap presents, but they will also run the party, including running booths with different games and a pinata.

"They will put on a little skit," said Mansour. "A little nativity at the beginning for the kids and parents."

Toys are handed out during the party by VIA participants. The group will collect toys until Dec. 16, so they have enough time to wrap them for the Christmas party on Dec. 19.

They are accepting toys suitable for children ages 3-14, and ask for them to be unwrapped. They will also accept hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves.

The youth group includes students from Clarkston High School, Everest Academy, Notre Dame Prep, and Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep.

"We are trying to groom the freshman and sophomores to solicit businesses to allow them to put the toy collection boxes out, hopefully by the time they are in their junior or senior year," said Mansour. "They take more ownership and confidence to go out there and do it on their own."

Food drive at Art Van

Art Van Furniture, 5053 Dixie Highway, hosts the Together We Can Food Drive through Dec. 13.

Nonperishable food donations go to Gleaners Community Food Bank and St. Vincent de Paul community food depots.

Also, donate new, unwrapped toys as part of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program, and Santa visits the store, 12-2 p.m., Dec. 12.

Call 248-674-4731 for more information.

The Following Merchants Encourage You To Shop Locally

Throughout the Holiday Season and All Year Round!

Clarkston Cleaning Services

www.clarkstoncleaning.com
248.620.9410

Gift Certificates Available

Mesquite Creek
steaks & seafood

248-620-9300
www.mesquitecreek.com

Onyx Salon & Spa

Gift Certificates Available

Hair • Massage • Nails • Tanning
248.620.2626

Tue-Thu 9-8, Fri 9-6,
Sat 9-3

Happy Holidays!

The Clarkston News

5 S. Main St. • Clarkston
248-625-3370

Subscriptions \$30/yr.

in Oakland County

Support YOUR Community!
Shop LOCAL
Buy LOCAL!

Lisa's Country Cupboard

15% OFF

ENTIRE PURCHASE

Expires 12/31/09

248.625.0109

9355 Dixie Hwy. • Clarkston

(Located 1 Mile N. of Bordino Nursery)



It's About Time
Christmas
Specials

248.625.7180

7151 N. Main St. • Clarkston

Clarkston Book Center
Independence Commons



50% OFF

RETAIL PRICE OF ALL BOOKS
248.623.6028

5875 Dixie Hwy. • Clarkston

GREAT TURTLE TOYS

20% OFF

One Item

Expires 12/15/09

248.623.3200

6160 Dixie Hwy. • Clarkston • Next to Pete's Coney II



First Annual
Clarkston

Art Walk

Dec. 11, 12, 13

Wine & Cheese Party on
Friday -- 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday -- 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday -- Noon to 4 p.m.

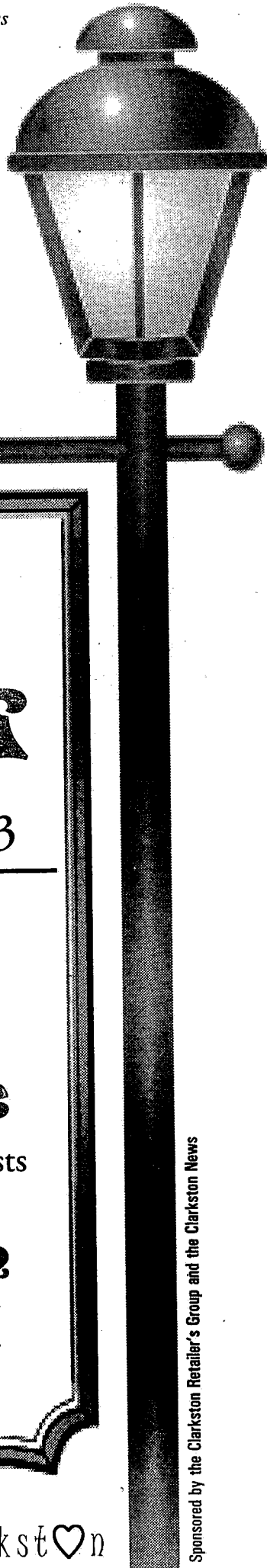
Art Sale

presented by local artists
at the

Clarkston Mills Mall

20 West Washington Street
in Downtown Clarkton

My Clarkston BuyClarkston



Sponsored by the Clarkston Retailer's Group and the Clarkston News

**Clear Out, Close Out,
BLOW OUT
PRICING!**

Queen Pillowtop Sets
\$299

King Sets
\$499

Twin Sets Starting At \$179
Full Sets Starting At \$199

Plush Euro Top
Queen Set \$499 Full King Set \$399 King Set \$699
Foam Encased • 10-Year Warranty!

LUXURY Plush Pillowtop With Memory Foam
Queen Set \$699 Full King Set \$549 King Set \$899
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MATTRESSES & MORE!
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4685 Walton Blvd. • Waterford
(On Walton 1/2 Block E. of Dixie)
248-673-1160

**HOLIDAY
SALE**

Thursday Dec. 11th
THRU
Sunday Dec. 20th

Green Ribbon Specials
on Bicycles, Active
Clothing & Gear!

(we have *fah-lah-lah-lots*
of great deals!!!)

Kinetic Systems
248.625.7000
BICYCLES.com

60 South Main St., Downtown Clarkston OPEN 7 DAYS!

Visit us and become a fan on Facebook

Join Us At The Historic Pine Knob For Brunch with Santa.



Join Santa for a spectacular Christmas Brunch. Bring your camera for a photo with Santa, and kids, don't forget to bring your Christmas list!

Sunday, December 13th and 20th, 2009

Reservations recommended, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Complimentary valet parking • Brunch from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Adults \$21.95 • 4-11 years old \$10.95 • Children under 4 years-free

A Special New Year's Evening

A fabulous venue for that special evening.
The Historic Pine Knob Mansion and all of it's magical splendor.

8:00 p.m., Thursday, December 31, 2009

Reservations taken daily Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • \$99.00 per person
Complimentary valet parking • Open premium bar • DJ and Dancing • Hors d'oeuvres • Champagne Toast at Midnight

PINE KNOB GOLF CLUB & BANQUET FACILITIES 5580 WALDON ROAD
CLARKSTON, MI 48348(248) 625-0700 • WWW.PINEKNOBMANSION.COM



The UPS Store

Ask Us About The
PACK & SHIP PROMISE

7111 Dixie Hwy.
Clarkston, MI 48346

(at the corner of White Lake in
White Lake Commons)

Phone 248 922-2795

Fax: 248-922-2796

CHRISTMAS HOURS:

Mon-Fri 8:30a.m. - 7p.m.
Sat 9a.m. - 4p.m.

Ship by *December 12* to
insure the Best Rates for
Christmas delivery.



\$2.00 OFF
UPS Shipping

7111 Dixie Hwy., Clarkston
Expires 1-15-10

CUT YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE

Come enjoy quality family
fun with us!

Spruce, Pine & Fir

Spruce & Pine
Any Tree \$49.00
Fir Tree \$59.00



**Free TRACTOR DRAWN
HAY RIDES**
Weekends Only

- * Warming Sheds
- * Hot Chocolate
- * Tree Drilling, Shaking & Wrapping

HOURS:

Tuesday & Thursday
1 p.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday
10 a.m.-5 p.m.

5767 Fox Lake Rd., Goodrich

248-627-2764



BRING IN THIS AD FOR A
FREE GIFT



TOWN CENTER

AUTO WASH



Best Auto Wash in Clarkston Three Years in a Row!

TRUCKS • VANS • SUV'S • NO EXTRA CHARGE

Coupon Books & Value Cards

Make GREAT Gifts & Stocking Stuffers

Located between
Waldon & Maybee Roads



We Accept

SAVE 10% OFF

Coupon Books & Value Cards

6380 Sashabaw • 248-625-5054 • M-Sat. 7am-7pm, Sun. 8am-6pm

REGULAR

- Bug Removal • Presoak
- Whitewall & Tire Cleaner
- High Pressure Wash
- Body Lather
- Soft Touch Wash
- Towel Dry

\$5

DELUXE

- Bug Removal • Presoak
- Whitewall & Tire Cleaner
- High Pressure Wash
- Body Lather • Soft Touch Wash
- Underbody Wash
- Clearcoat Sealer Wax Protectant
- Towel Dry

\$7

ULTIMATE

- Bug Removal • Presoak
- Whitewall & Tire Cleaner
- Wheel/Rim Cleaner
- High Pressure Wash
- Triple Foam with Clearcoat Protectant
- Body Lather • Soft Touch Wash
- Underbody Wash
- Clearcoat Sealer Wax Protectant
- Towel Dry

\$9

In our churches

continued from 5B

Dec. 13, Faith Baptist Church, 3411 Airport Road, Waterford. 248-623-7330.

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

Christmas Concert, with Westminster Handbell Choir, 10 a.m., Dec. 13, Community Presbyterian Church, 4301 Monroe St at Sashabaw. 248-673-7805.

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 syl-

labus. 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.

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

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

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

Unemployed Men's Community Support Group, Bridgewood Church, Compassion, prayer, encouragement, with networking, job search, skill development. 248-625-1344.



Christmas Services

'Tis the season to reaffirm your faith by celebrating Christmas at the House of Worship of your choice.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

5449 Clarkston Rd, Clarkston
(Just East of Sashabaw)
248.394.0200

Rev. Dr. Martin Hall

www.FirstCongregationalChurch.org

Christmas Eve, Candlelight Services

4:00 pm Family Service
7:00 pm Traditional Service
9:00 pm Communion Service
(Childcare at 4:00 & 7:00 pm Services)



GRACE CHAPEL

7325 Maceday Lake Road
Waterford, 48329
248.623.8880

Sunday December 13th @ 11:00 am

Children's Christmas Presentation

Sunday December 20th @ 11:00 am

Christmas Carols & Christmas Message

Thursday December 24th at 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

www.gracechapelwaterford.org



EPISCOPAL

Church of the Resurrection

6490 Clarkston Rd.,
Clarkston
248.625.2325

Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, December 24th

5:00 pm Family & Children's Service

10:30 pm Choral Music

11:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Sunday Services

8:00 & 10:00 am



CLARKSTON • WHITE LAKE

6805 Bluegrass Dr.,
Clarkston, MI

(Southwest corner of M-15 & I-75)

248.625.3288

Christmas Eve

5:30 pm - Family-Friendly Puppet Theatre

8:00 pm - Carols and Candlelight

10:00 pm - Carols, Candlelight, Communion



St. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

7925 Sashabaw Rd. • Clarkston, MI 48348
248.625.4644

www.sainttrinitylutheran.org

Kendall L. Schaeffer - Pastor

Christmas Eve Services

Wednesday, Dec. 24th

7:00 pm & 11:00 pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Service

Thursday, Dec. 25th - 10:00 am Service

New Year's Eve Service

3:00 pm Service

BRIDGEWOOD CHURCH



TWO SERVICES: 3:00 & 4:30
6785 Rattalee Lake Road - Clarkston
bridgewoodchurch.com 248.625.1344



Christmas Eve Worship Services

4:30 pm Children's Pageant & Carols

7:00 pm Choirs, Hand Bells & Carols

9:00 pm Choirs & Carols

11:00 pm Communion & Carols

6600 Waldon Rd.
248.625.1611

All Services Closed by Candle Light

www.clarkstonumc.org

"Wishing you the warmth of home, the love of family, and all of the deepest joys of the Holiday Season"

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF OAKLAND**

**FILE NO:
2009-326, 800-DE**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate**

Estate of Ronald A. Reincke, Sr. Deceased. Date of birth: 06/28/1958
TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Ronald A. Reincke, Sr., who lived at 5802 Sutherland, Waterford, MI 48327.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Ronald A. Reincke, Jr., 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.

12/04/2009
Ronald A. Reincke, Jr. 1115 Monet
20 W. Washington, Ste. 11 White Lake, MI 48383
Clarkston, MI 48346 (248) 625-8010

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF OAKLAND**

**FILE NO:
2009-326, 831-DE**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate**

Estate of SHARON L. FIEMS, DECEASED. Date of birth: 11/5/1946
TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, SHARON L. FIEMS, DECEASED, who lived at 7662 Woodview, Waterford, Michigan died November 27, 2009.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Dennis H. Fiems, 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.

ROBERT G. ISGRIGG, JR. P-24924
2745 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan 48328
(248) 682-8800

Dennis H. Fiems
9095 Satellite
White Lake, Michigan 48386
(248) 698-1188

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.**

SYNOPSIS

**TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
DECEMBER 1, 2009**

- The regular meeting of the Charter Township of Independence Board was called to order at 7:30 p.m., at the Independence Township Hall.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: Present: VanderVeen, Carson, Lohmeier, Wallace, Rosso, Petterson
Absent: Wagner
There was a quorum.
- The Agenda was approved with revisions: Moving Consent Agenda Items a. Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2009, b. Accounts Payable Check Run, e. 2010 Planning Commission Meeting Schedule and f. 2010 Township Board Meeting Schedule to New Business.
- Citizens were offered an opportunity to address the Board regarding subjects that were not on the agenda.
- Consent Agenda Items approved:
c. Sale of Used Library Equipment
d. 2010 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Schedule
g. Records Management Policy
- Public Hearing on 2010 CDBG Funding Application opened at 7:48 p.m. and closed at 7:56 p.m.
- Public Hearing on 2010 Budget opened at 7:57 p.m. and closed at 8:25 p.m.
- Approved resolution to accept and promote Task Force recommendations and facilitate administration of continued studies.
- Approved motion to accept proposal from Mutual of Omaha for Short Term and Long Term Disability
- Update on Clarkston Community Garden
- Approved motion to adopt E-Verify program for all new hires.
- Approved 2010 CDBG Funding Application
- Approved Minutes of 10/20/09
- 2010 Planning Commission Schedule tabled
- Approved 2010 Township Board Meeting Schedule
- Approved Accounts Payable Check Run
- 2010 Budget discussion
- Approved motion to go into closed session to discuss Collective Bargaining Agreement - AFSCME at 11:14 p.m.
- Came into open session at 12:01 a.m.
- Adjourned regular meeting at 12:01 a.m.

Shelagh VanderVeen
Township Clerk

Published: 12/9/09

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
NOTICE TO BID**

Sealed bids will be accepted by the Charter Township of Independence Clerk's Office at 6483 Waldon Center Drive, Clarkston, MI 48346, P.O. Box 69, Clarkston MI 48347, for the supply, delivery and installation of ADA Compliance Power Operators for two bathroom doors at the Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Contact phone is 248-625-5114 and fax 248-625-2585. Bids must be submitted to the Clerk's Office in a sealed envelope marked "Bids for Senior Center ADA Power Operators" by 3 p.m., Friday, December 18, 2009, after which time no further bids will be accepted, and at which time the bids received will be publicly opened and read.

All bids must include the company name, contact person, address, and phone number. All bids shall conform to the specifications on file in the Clerk's Office from and can be picked up at the township... Bidders must submit a complete and detailed description of materials and services. The Township reserves the right to alter or change specifications, to reject any or all bids received, and to extend the bidding period. The Township is not subject to state or federal taxes.

Attention: This is a federally funded project. The Contractor and Subcontractors on this project must comply with HUD contract provisions 24CFR part 85.36(f), the Davis-Bacon Act, Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity, Affirmative Action, Section 3 requirements, Anti-Kickback Act, Federal Occupational Safety and Health Act and Department of Labor Standards and Regulations as set forth in the Contract Bid Documents.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA**

Date and Time: December 15, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.
Place: Independence Township Hall
6483 Waldon Center Drive, Clarkston, MI, 48346

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Forum - *Individuals in the audience will have the opportunity to address the Township Board on an issue that is not on the Agenda, limiting their comments to not more than three minutes.*
- Consent Agenda:
 - Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2009 and November 17, 2009, and Special Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2009 and November 24, 2009
 - Accounts Payable Check Run
 - Reappointments to Planning Commission

Public Hearing

- 2010 Budget
- Unfinished Business
 - Discussion and approval of 2010 Budget
 - Second Reading and Approval of Text Amendment to Code of Ordinances, Chapter 50, Zoning Ordinance #83, Section 50-862, Site Specific Relief Authorization
- PEG Fee Update / Approval

New Business:

- Approval of Sheriff's Contract
- Fire Department - Contract Update
- First Reading of a Rezoning Request from C-1 (Highway Commercial) to R-3 (Elderly Housing Residential) for 7550 Dixie Highway, 3.44 Acres (formerly Thomasville Furniture), Northeast side of Dixie Highway, South of I-75 and North of Deer Lake Road, 08-30-128-005 (AGE V, Inc., Randy Legault, Petitioner)
- Restructuring of Fee Schedule for Building Department
- Outsourcing Report for Building and Planning
- Actuarial Study for OPEB
- Budget Adjustments for DPW and Township Board
- Budget Adjustments for Seniors Statements and Correspondence

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

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

Musical coffee house, Dec. 11

Local musicians Judy Insley, Dan Hazlett, Bob Marshall, John Dobot, and Alan Stuart, join local talent as Peace Unity Church presents a Coffee House, 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 11, to benefit Lighthouse Emergency Services of Independence Township.

This family-friendly evening begins with Open Mic time, followed by featured performers.

Admission is free, but donations will be collected for Lighthouse Emergency Services, which provides financial help with

utility service shut-offs and evictions for low-income residents.

Peace Unity provides Coffee House venue for local artists and fans the third Friday of each month.

For more information about the church, 8080A Ortonville Road, just north of I-75, call 248-625-5192 or visit www.peaceunitychurch.org.

For more information about Lighthouse, call 248-620-6116 or visit www.lighthouseoakland.org.

Community events?

Tell us about them at ClarkstonNews@gmail.com or 248-625-3370

**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. Al Bavarskas
26000 W. Eight Mile Road
Southfield, Michigan 48034

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE
VEHICLES/PLOW FOR SALE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE**
is accepting bids for the sale of:

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE	MINIMUM BID
1997	Chevrolet	Supreme Bus	95,000	\$1500.00
1999	Dodge	Grand Caravan	82,000	\$600.00
2002	Chevrolet	Express 3500	155,000	\$1,500.00
1999	Chevrolet	Suburban	94,000	\$500.00
1997	Western	Snow Plow Unimount		\$400.00

Vehicles and plow may be inspected at the Department of Public Works located at 6050 Flemings Lake Road, Monday thru Friday, 8am-5pm.

Sealed bids will be opened at the Clerk's Office, 6483 Waldon Center Drive at 10:00 am, Monday, December 21, 2009.

All bids must be accompanied by a cashier's or certified check. Checks will be returned to unsuccessful bidders.

The bid will be awarded at the regular Township Board meeting held on January 5, 2010 at 7:30pm.

All items will be sold "as is" with no guarantees. All sales are final. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

For further information contact the DPW at 248-625-8222.

Shelagh VanderVeen, Clerk

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Charter Township of Independence December Board of Review will meet at the Township Hall Board Room on Tuesday, Dec 15, 2009 at 9:00 am. This office is located at 6483 Waldon Center Drive, Clarkston, MI 48346.

Sincerely,
Beverly Shaver, CMAE3
Independence Township Assessor
1(248) 625-8114

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
CLARKSTON**

**CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON
375 DEPOT ROAD
CLARKSTON MI 48346
SUMMARY MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2009**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Arkwright followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll: Present - Mayor Arkwright, Brueck, Hunter, Hargis, Roth, Inabnit, Gawronski

Absent -
Others Present - City Manager Ritter, Attorney Ryan
The Oath of Office was administered by City Clerk, Jan Gillespie, to three Council members for a two year term (Brueck, Hunter and Hargis) and to one Council member for a one year term (Roth).

Moved by Inabnit, supported by Roth to "Approve the Agenda as presented".
Motion carried.

Moved by Gawronski, supported by Hunter, "To approve the Consent Agenda as presented - Minutes of the 10/26/09 Council meeting, Treasurer's Report with approval of General Fund disbursements 10/14 thru 11/10/09 for \$33,501.75 and Monthly Wire Transfers thru 10/31/09,
DPW Report and Police Report and the removal of the Payroll Report for discussion."

Motion carried.

Moved by Inabnit, supported by Brueck, "To accept the Payroll report thru 10/31/09 as clarified."
Motion carried.

City Manager Ritter and Clerk/Treasurer Jan Gillespie reviewed the FY09 Audit report with Council and answered any questions or concerns regarding this audit.

Mayor Arkwright nominated Councilman Mike Gawronski as Mayor Pro-Term. This nomination was supported by Inabnit.
Motion carried.

Mayor presented the 2009-2010 proposed Committees with the purposed goals of each committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet C. Gillespie, Clerk

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2009 Dodge Nitro SE 4x4



Was \$24,490
Now
\$15,598*

3.7L V-6 Automatic
Customer Preferred 24C Package

Stk. #10D150

2010 Dodge Grand Caravan



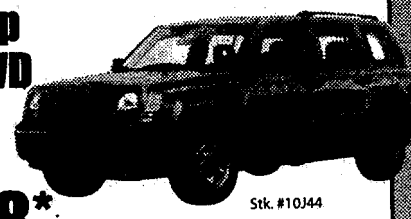
Was \$24,695
Now
\$15,998*

or 48 Mo. Lease \$229** Mo.

V-6, Curtain Airbags, Antilock Brakes, Stability Program, Sunscreen Glass, Roof Rails

Stk. #10D64

2009 Jeep Patriot FWD



Was \$21,495
Now
\$14,998*

or \$248** Mo.

2.0L 4-cyl DOHC engine
24B package

Stk. #10J44

2010 Dodge Avenger SXT

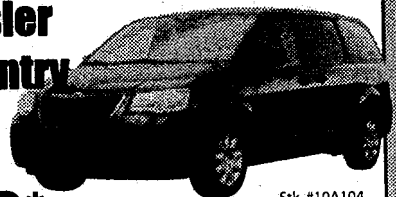


Was \$20,970
Now
\$12,598*

2.4L 4-cyl. DOHC Engine, Auto.
Customer Preferred 24Y Package

Stk. #10B13

2010 Chrysler Town & Country Touring



Was \$29,745
Now
\$21,598*

or 36 Mo. Lease \$259** Mo.

3.8L V-6, Auto., Power Doors/Lift, 3 Zone climate Control, Heated Seats, Power Windows/Locks

Stk. #10A104

2009 Jeep Compass FWD



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Now
\$12,998*

or \$246** Mo.

2.0L 4-Cyl DOHC Engine,
24D package

Stk. #9B017

2010 Dodge Journey SE

Insurance Institute for
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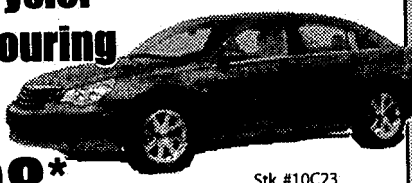
Was \$21,165
Now
\$13,598*

or 36 Mo. Lease \$199** Mo.

2.4L 4 Cyl. DOHC Engine,
Customer Preferred 22F Package

Stk. #10D110

2010 Chrysler Sebring Touring



Was \$21,010
Now
\$13,998*

or 36 Mo. Lease \$168** Mo.

2.4L 4-cyl DOHC engine,
automatic, 24H package

Stk. #10C23

2010 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 4x4



Was \$33,580
Now
\$19,998*

or \$359** Mo.

3.7L V-6 Engine, automatic,
26E package

Stk. #10J115

2010 Dodge Ram 1500 ST Quad Cab 4x4



Was \$32,390
Now
\$22,998*

or \$379** Mo.

5.7L V6 HEMI,
26A Package

Stk. #10B24

2010 Jeep Liberty Sport 4x4



Was \$25,610
Now
\$15,598*

or 36 Mo. Lease \$189** Mo.

3.7L V6 engine, automatic,
28B package

Stk. #10J88

2009 Jeep Wrangler Sport 4x4



Was \$25,960
Now
\$19,999*

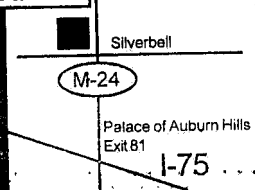
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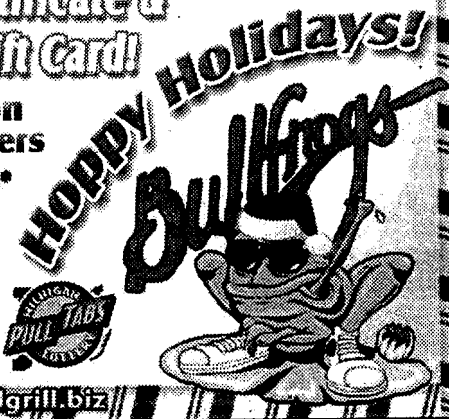
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CARS

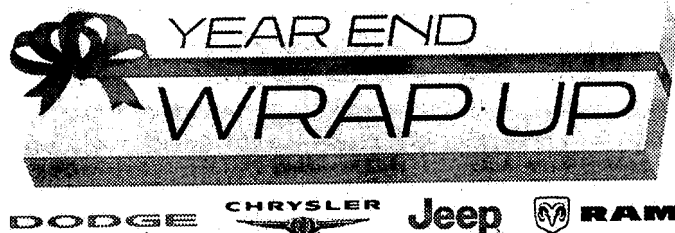
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MSRP \$25,195
NOW \$16,387*
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MSRP \$20,970
NOW \$25,610*
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SAVE \$9,000



Stock #1032002

72 Month Buy	\$0 Down \$287 †/MO.	\$2000 Down \$256 †/MO.	36 Month Lease	\$590 Due \$242 ††/MO.	\$2000 Due \$198 ††/MO.
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MSRP \$29,470
NOW \$20,948*
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Stock #1028015

72 Month Buy	\$0 Down \$347 †/MO.	\$2000 Down \$316 †/MO.	36 Month Lease	\$643 Due \$269 ††/MO.	\$2000 Due \$229 ††/MO.
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2008 Jeep Liberty Sport
 WAS \$19,679
 certified pre-owned
 4x4, 30K Miles.
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NOW \$17,275*




2007 Jeep Wrangler
 WAS \$26,625
 certified pre-owned
 Sahara, 4x4, Hard Top,
 39K Miles. Stk. #2685
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2008 Jeep Commander 4x4
 WAS \$19,279
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 Sport, 23K Miles.
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