

Vol. 82 No. 16 Wed., February 10, 2010



Budget debacle

Public has its say in planned school cuts

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Kara Marsac, Clarkston High School senior, stood and walked to the podium.

"I understand class sizes have to be raised," said Marsac, who is taking three advanced placement classes.

"Some of our highest level classes are smallest. I don't want the higher level of education to be cut because we had to make budget cuts."

She was one of hundreds filling Clarkston Junior High School auditoriun at Monday's Board of Education budget hear-

ing. We are here tonight to not only stand up for our jobs, but our children," said bus driver Mike Morris. "We work here, we live here, we spend here. We have been told we are family but it's harder to get that into practice when times are tough.'

Morris explained how when he was younger, his dad lost his job but the family maintained their lifestyle and fought past the tough times.

'He didn't go to my sister and say you are let go, you have to find a new family." Morris extended an invitation for Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts to ride his bus

one morning when he goes in at 6:30 a.m. or join him in the afternoon. "I challenge you to come and see what

60 or 90 minute

money can't buy," Morris said.

Concerned parents, students and employees throughout the district listened to the recommendations to cut \$13 million from the budget to get the district out of deficit.

Some included cutting 50 staff members, switching trimesters back to semesters, privatized busing, closing schools, or creating sister schools, in which elementaries close in proximity would split grades.

Many also wondered how the district got to this point and whether it could have been avoided.

"I think some decisions made in the past have not borne fruit for the district," said Brooke Davis, president of Clarkston Education Association. "I am not going to point a finger at any one person or one program. I think it

More school

is a combination of a lot of things. I don't think we could be \$13 million over budget unless somebody made some mistakes." Davis and Joan Trustee

Patterson do not believe the fault is from the state leg-

islature alone.

"The state has not cut us that much," said Davis. "Only \$165 per pupil equaling \$1.2 million. One million and \$13 million do not equal."

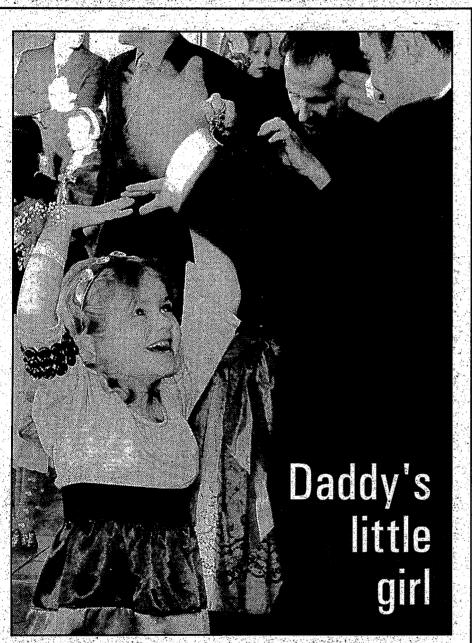
"When you get into these kinds of situations, it's time to really look at what we are doing," said Patterson. "You can't blame it on the state."

Patterson also thought back to decisions the board made at the beginning of the school year, such as approving Fast ForWord and Superintendent Dr. Albert Roberts' salary increase.

"I voted no on his salary," said Patterson. "I kept asking where was the money coming from because I couldn't see how we could have the money.

"For Fast ForWord, voting for it was difficult. I voted for it so the students could

Please see Patterson on page 4A



Morgan Kacanowski giggles with her dad, Jim, at the Daddy/Daughter Valentine Dance on Feb. 6 at Clarkston High School. Please see page 13A for more photos from the dance. Photo by Phil Custodio

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budget info in this edition Trustee files FOIA report, p. A3 • Letter questions and makes suggestion for school board, p. A6

A 2 Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News

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Bailey Lake reaches out with 'Hearts 4 Haiti'

After a list of 15 of ideas and narrowing it down to four, the Bailey Lake Elementary Student Council Service Division finally decided a way to raise money for Haiti.

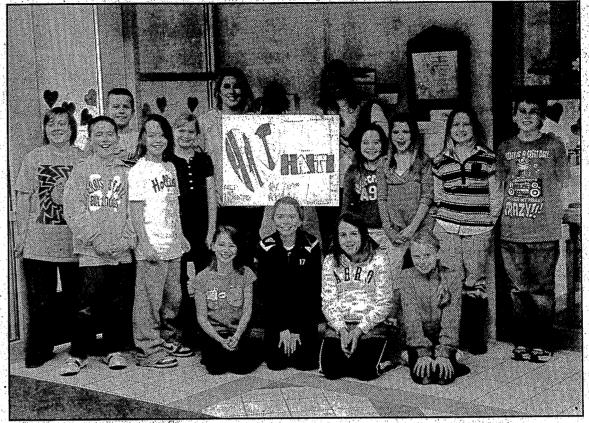
"We cut out hearts and people wrote their names on them," said council member Marisa Johnson. "We charged one dollar."

They called it "Hearts 4 Haiti."

"For \$5 you could get six hearts," said counci member Dana Pangori. Teachers Mrs. Minot

and Mrs. Patterson-Brown said the students planned everything and did it all.

"All the money went for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF," said council ember Kristen Page. ~Trevor Keiser



Bailey Lake Elementary Student Council Service Division raised money for Haiti.



Briefly

Early road salting

County road workers hit the roads, Tuesday morning, in a preemptive strike against expected snowfall.

Road Commission for Oakland County trucks sprayed salt water on selected roads to help slow formation of ice. Trucks switch to rock salt when snow begins.

Water quality meeting

The Wild Ones, Oakland Headwaters Chapter, and Clinton River Watershed Council host a free "Little Things You Can Do To Protect Water Quality" presentation, 7:30-9 p.m., March 3, St. Daniel Catholic Community Church, 7010 Valley Park Drive.

Featured speaker is Anne Vaara, Clinton River Watershed Council executive director. She will discuss rain gardens, rain barrels, and other initiatives in the home to help protect rivers and lakes. Admission is free, though registration is recommended. To register or for more information, call 248-601-0606, or check

Rotary aid work

crwc.org.

(1, 0)

Rotary Club delivered ShelterBox help for 20,000 people in Haiti so far, and are preparing help for 11,000 more. Boxes are filled with emergency supplies for 10 people each, with a tent, cooking equipment, sleeping bags, blankets, and tools.

made out to Donations ShelterboxUSA can be sent to Clarkston Rotary, P.O. Box 43, Clarkston, MI 48347. For more information about ShelterBox. contact Mary Sloan 2.1 marymsloan@comcast.net.

The Clarkston Rotary club is accepting donations for shelterbox for anyone interested. Donations made to ShelterBoxUSA are tax deductable and can be sent through the Clarkston Ro-

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.

Trustees find info lacking

BY WENDIREARDON Clarkston News Staff Writer

In light of surprising difficulties, at least one Clarkston School Board member was not satsified with information supplied by school administration.

School board trustee Rosalie Lieblang filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with Superintendent Dr. Al Roberts, Feb. 1, seeking budget-impact sheets used by administrators for making recommendations for budget cuts.

We have to make a significant cut to our district." she said. "It's important for the board to have the information to make a well informed decision - it's going to affect our students and the lives of our employees."

She orginally requested the information orally at the Jan. 25 school board meeting. However, board President Steve Hyer turned it down, saying the entire board would have to agree to the request.

"I received enough information from administrators and superintendent's office to make a decision," he said, adding the board would have enough time to get the information and discuss cuts before they have to vote on it, March 8.

Prior to the Jan. 25 meeting, the school board had expected at \$6.4 million deficit in its \$87 million budget. At the Jan. 25 meeting the board was presented with the possibility of a deficit almost doubled -- \$13 million.

At the Jan. 25 meeting, school board trustee Joan Patterson was surprised how quickly the projected deficit exploded.

"It was five months ago the ISD (Oakland Intermediate School District) was going to cut money and services to the district. I asked 'how is it going to impact our district, do we need to make changes?' For months I have been saying are we going to have a problem,

Enjoying

a day at

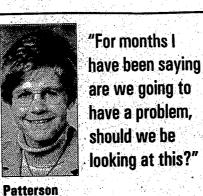
the spa

on Jan. 27.

waxing.

McLaren Breast Center, sponsored a 'Pink and Pam-

counseling, and eye brow



should we be looking at this?"

The answer she and the rest of the board got from the administration was the district was in good shape. Patterson supported Lieblang's FOIA request.

"I think it is very valuable information," Patterson said. "This situation is serious. We need to have all the data and to tell us we can't have it - that's irresponsible. It is not allowing us to do our job"

She wants to see the information used in their decisions, she said.

"I trust Billie Pambid, I trust Shawn Ryan, we have some really good administrators doing this, but I haven't heard what they have been told," said Patterson. "I haven't seen why some of the programs haven't made it on the cutting block. I am an analyst. I want to see the data to make a decision."

Since her FOIA request, Lieblang received all of the information administrators had, which was the budget impact recommendation sheets and budget reductions sheets. She also asked to look at suggestion-box

ideas, written by teaching staff and parents in all Clarkston schools.

Township layoffs looming

BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer For Carol Gabris, human resource director for Independence Township, budget reductions are a matter of dollars, not people.

"If you budget for \$100,000 and you have to reduce it to \$75,000, as a department head, you have to cut \$25,000 out of that budget," she said. "It can be through cutting programs, cutting expenses in your department or division, and people are a part of that whole process.'

Due to economic downturns, "reduction in force" is unavoidable, Gabris said at the Feb. 2 township board meeting,

She is hoping to have final layoff numbers by Feb. 19, assuming "there are no glitches in the road." Gabris had her first set of employee meetings the last week of January and will have the last set this week.

The employee job bumping process in the current AFSCME collective bargaining agreement, though designed to save jobs, is difficult at best," she said. "It also creates a domino effect, which adds to its complexity. I think even the union would agree this process is difficult. However, the process does work."

Without collective bargaining agreement, they could have seven layoffs, but she is only hoping for three or four, she told township trustees.

"The numbers I gave are basically tentative because there is another meeting, and out of that meeting will come the final placements and layoffs," Gabris said. "People can't realistically hang their hat on those numbers."

Employees placed on "final layoff" will meet with her and union representatives to receive a "transition package," she said.

AFSCME Union President Craig Richardson said they have some "large hurdles to get over to get things back in balance.'

"Concerning negotiations we're just getting started, trying to cooperate on both sides as best as possible to solve some of the financial problems the township is facing," he said.



Kimberly Tyno gets a neck massage from Charri Davis. Photo by Trevor Keiser

Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News 3 A



Patterson, Davis question district's future after cuts

Continued from page 1A

have it," she continued. "I was uncomfortable about Fast ForWord but they held up all the savings we were going to have."

Trustee Rosalie Lieblang also would have voted differently if she had known the effect it would have had four months later.

"We were told it wasn't going to be a problem," she said. "Now we know it isn't just a little problem it is a significant problem "

Administration took on the task of going through programs and ideas to make cuts throughout the school district. They created three scenarios, \$300, \$600 or \$900 in state per pupil cuts for the next fiscal year.

Going line by line, administration and staff took into account program costs, how many students and staff affected, and if it fit into existing curricula.

They considered a flat student count, 8,171 pupils, with no gains or lossess in the next fiscal year - even though one in 60 homes in the Clarkston Schools district is in foreclosure and families are moving out.

"The reason for it is because of the innovative programs we have implemented," said President Steve Hyer. "All Day Kindergarten, Advanced Studies Program, Young Five's program, CSMTech, International Baccalaureate (IB) - these programs are bringing students into the district. It has really boosted our enrollment."

CSMTech, Advanced Studies and IB are offered as School of Choice programs, although Clarkston as a district is not - stu-

dents not in the district can attend those programs.

The board will also look at how the cuts will affect the district in years to come.

'We need to make sure. in the long run, we are doing what is best for the kids,' said Patterson. "We have to make sure all K-12 programs are strong and we aren't weakening some of the earlier grade levels '

Davis is concerned with how teachers can provide the same quality of service with less staff and programs.

"There is no way we can run our district the same or can we have the same district we consider ourselves," said Davis. "It can't happen. Everybody is going to be working extra hard. We will not have the time to do the things we have always done to make sure we are a world-class school district."

The changes will send a ripple effect into the years to come.

"In the next five years, we could be partnering with outside entities like universities and online services because we won't be able to deliver the services." said Davis.

"Making these significant number of cuts is still disturbing to me," said Lieblang. "Waterford is in the news all the time and they are making a \$1.6 million cut. We have to make a \$13 million cut."

The district plans to hold community hearings to hear concerns and answer questions for the public. Month and Andrew

.... The date has yet to be determined and will be posted on www.clarkston.k12.mi.us -and www.ClarkstonNews.com.

Suspect sought in robbery

An Independence Township pharmacist served a tour in Vietnam without getting shot at, A store robber broke that record, Feb. 1. The suspect, wearing a "Scream" mask and rust-colored hoodie, approached the 63year-old pharmacist, placed a red bag on the counter, and demanded drugs.

Thinking it was a joke, the clerk refused, saying "I'm not giving you anything."

and fired a round into the counter, saying "I have five more and I'm not messing around." The pharmacist hit the floor and called 911 on his cell phone. The suspect, soon frustrated at the lack of response, fled.

erty when confronted by an armed robber,

but this situation happened too quickly, said Lt. Dale LaBair, commander of the Independence Township substation.

"He just pulled it out and touched one off," LaBair said.

Responding deputies secured the scene and a perimeter, calling in a tracking K-9 and police helicopter.

The deputies and K-9 were able to track The suspect pulled a black, 9mm pistol sto the west, then north, ending in the parking area of an unoccupied church on Clarkston Road, where it appeared the burglar got into a waiting vehicle.

Anyone with information regarding this Police recommend victims give up prop-ty when confronted by an arrive up and the stoppers at 1-



Bob Geric on drums and brother Dan on guitar. Photo by Trevor Keiser

Singers rock Depot theatre

Depot Theatre off White Lake road was filled Saturday night as a large crowd came to listen to the sounds of "The Geric Brothers," Bob and Dan, along with David Moesher.

Bob and Dan have played both individu-

ally and together for 20 years singing about "life, love, dogs and monkeys."

Meanwhile Moesher who plays a hybrid of bluegrass, folk, country-blues, and swing performed some of his original songs about "nature and man's place in it."

Springfield forms budget committee

With double-digit tax revenues drops expected, Springfield Township officials are getting an early start on budget work.

Supervisor Mike Trout, Treasurer Jamie Dubre, and Trustee Dennis Vallad met for the first time, Jan. 26, as the new Budget Finance Committee.

"Everyone is struggling with this subject," said Vallad, who proposed creating the committee, Jan. 14. "I'd like to begin the budget cycle pretty quickly."

Based on township and county assessing data, property value in Springfield Town-

ship is expected to drop 12-13 percent this year. The goal of the committee is to figure out what personnel, program, and efficiency changes can be made to compensate, Trout said.

"It's a good idea to figure out what we need," he said. "I think things will get much worse."

The committee's goal is to develop a multiyear budget plan, reviewing financial reports, investments and loans, Capital Improvement Plan, staffing, scheduling, salaries, benefits and contracts, and millage and bonds.



Melissa Marriott Joins John Bowman Chevrolet

Melissa Marriott is the newest member of the John Bowman Chevrolet Sales Team. Ms. Marriott, recent MSU graduate, comes from generations of Chevy tradition. Her grandfather owned Bob Marriott Chevy-Olds in Upstate New York and her mother and father were both employees. Her father then attended GMI and became a

GM District Sales Manager.

"I could not be more blessed or proud to follow in my family's footsteps. I want to give back to Chevy since they have given my family and I so much over the years. Bowman Chevrolet is truly a wonderful place to work." Melissa said. Stop in and see Mellssa for all your automotive needs or just to say "Hi". She can be reached at 248-575-5018 or email mmarriott@bowmanchevy.com. She will do everything she can to make you happy!

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"My family has been caring for your family for almost 50 years. I want to continue the tradition by caring for your pets."



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A 6 Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News .

Keiser's Role

A column by Trevor Keiser

Rules made for a majority

The philosophy "one bad kid ruins it for the whole classroom" makes a bad rule. You don't punish all the kids because one is misbehaving. Trustee Neil Wallace seems to think you should.

Wallace gave an 807-word speech at the Jan. 19 Independence Township board meeting about a newspaper and story ("Mum's the word," Jan. 13) he deems "irrelevant."

However, I find it interesting the day the *Clarkston News* became "irrelevant" to Mr. Wallace was the day he found out the *News* didn't endorse his slate for the 2008 election. Eight-hundred-some words are a lot on something "irrelevant," don't you think?

Wallace said in his comments the newspaper's coverage of the township's new rule limiting residents to one agenda item per meeting "did not examine the



rationale, which we (the board) have endured the entire time we've been here, the abuse of these meetings that has gone on and that drove the board to this decision."

Actually, Mr. Wallace, I did examine the rationale and here's what I came up with. There are about 47,960 residents in the Clarkston area (Independence and Springfield townships, and Clarkston), 1,203,000 residents in Oakland County, 10 million in Michigan, and 309 million in the United States. You just made a rule change because of ONE single person who has "abused the board" and with whom you disagree.

Neither our story nor our editorial "endorsed" any abuse. Instead, we offered suggestions for stricter rules or greater enforcement of existing rules. Unfortunate as it may be, Mr. Wallace, enforcement of those rules falls into the hands of the supervisor, who is the chairman of the meetings.

He also said the rule is to "prevent someone who has not been elected from commenting on every single agenda item that comes before this board."

Pardon me, but it is a **PUBLIC MEETING**, and if members of the public whom **YOU WORK FOR** and are essentially **YOUR BOSS** want to comment on every single agenda item, they have that right to do so in a **RESPECTFUL** manner. Those who are not respectful should be forced to sit down. Being elected does not give the board the right to shut the people out of the conversation – that's the difference between democracy and dictatorship.

Wallace claims in the 30 years he's watched township meetings, people have never come to meetings to speak on multiple agenda items. Funny, because I've been at nearly every board meeting for the past three years and have seen him stand before the board two or three times throughout a night. Even resident and Planning Commissioner Ron Ritchie said the night of Wallace's speech. 'I've not spoken many times at the meetings, but there's been nights where I have spoken two or three times."

Sure, you can change the public comment section of the agenda to allow the public to address the board on any matter including agenda items, but it's a little hard to say anything if they haven't heard the board's conversation yet.

I would like to also point out a part of the Open Meetings Act, which states "a person can be excluded from a public meeting due to a breach of the peace actually committed at the meeting," perhaps you should pursue that angle rather than limiting the majority to attempt to silence the abuse of one.

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School board responsible for budget

Dear Editor,

The Clarkston School District presented the following Budget information at their last meeting. Revenue for 2007-2008 was \$77.6 million, expenses were \$76.2 million. Revenue for 2009-2010 is \$81.9 million while expenses have ballooned to \$88.3 million. So revenue

has risen by \$4.3 million, thanks mostly to temporary Federal Stimulus, while expenses have risen by \$12.1 million.

There is a projected deficit in this 2009-2010 fiscal year's budget of \$6.38 million, and a projected budget deficit of \$13.0 million in fiscal year 2010-2011. The fiscal problem is not caused solely by the combined loss of \$433 per student over 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

The key expenses which have risen over the last three years are salaries, increased \$4.64 million, 10.6 percent; fringe benefits increased \$2.5 million, 12.3 percent; and capital outlay, increased by \$3.97 million. The other expenses account only for \$985,810 of the \$12,092,925 increase over the last three years. Salaries, fringe benefits and capital outlay make up 91.85 percent of the increase. I believe the capital outlay is mostly a school bus lease back transaction, which can be eliminated.

The superintendent's administration didn't understand the implications of the 3.42 percent, annual increases in salaries over the last three years, nor the 3.93 percent annual increases in fringe benefit expenses. Administration did not get a clause in the labor contract which would reopen and adjust the contract if revenue fell.

Administration had no qualms about depleting almost half of the \$14 million Equity (rainy day) Fund in 2009-2010, with a budget deficit twice as large as that of 2009-2010, now projected for 2010-2011. How could any capable superintendent not see this radical fiscal shift from a \$1.4 million surplus in 2007-2008, to a combined revenue shortfall of \$21 million over the 2008-2009, \$1.6 million; 2009-2010, \$6.4 million; and 2010-2011, \$13 million?

Each and every board member, not just the two newest members and Ms. Joan Patterson, must take responsibility for personally understanding the financial implications of the decisions they have to make over the next couple of months.

Unfortunately, Superintendent Roberts doesn't seem to perceive school board members as a resource of seven individuals who can apply themselves to solving this fiscal issue

if he reaches out and includes them in decision making.

To come to an informed decision, board members must ask questions, demand accurate information, and discover criteria for evaluating each and every proposed spending cut. Board members must pursue this information even if scorned by the superintendent and colleagues as lacking respect or trust. It's their responsibility to make an informed decision, and they must use their authority to ascertain data and criteria for cutting expenses.

Ultimately, the board must remember they are responsible for providing an educational product to consumers, children and parents in the district. If the Clarkston educational product becomes inferior, through larger class sizes, shorter school years, fewer services and programs, many consumers will find a substitute for the public schools, which will lead to a downward spiral.

The solution lies in choosing a curriculum which is world class, i.e. 200 school days, class sizes in the very low 20's, offering programs and services such as art, music, foreign languages, sports, and clubs, which enrich the educational experience of each student, then determining how much the district can afford for labor and fringe benefits. The district cannot make any commitments which are fiscally unsupportable in short run, wages and benefits, or are an unsound burden in the long run – pension benefits.

Jeff Gibbs Independence Township

Charity starts at home -- let's take care of our own

Dear Editor,

Actually, this is directed to our government. Are there any governmental officials reading this? I would like to know why President Obama decided to give \$100,000,000 to Haiti. They had a disaster, a crisis you say? Oh, I'm sorry; I live in Michigan, of the United States of America. We don't have a crisis here!

Don't misunderstand, I'm all for helping people and supporting charities. In fact, I do more for charities than most. I also am a college student who requires financial assistance, a student continually told my governmental assistance may be cut.

Did I mention that I am also employed full time? Oops! Let me just say I am currently employed full time, but my job security is seriously in jeopardy now. I reside in Clarkston, having never yet been able to afford my own home. I've had to jump through hoops in order to receive a very minimal

amount of aid to try to provide for my family.

How many foreclosures are there? How many hard working respectable citizens have lost their jobs? How many people have resorted to criminal acts out of desperation? How many poor souls have no hope?

I apologize, President Obama. Why did I ever question such a generous act in giving a gross amount of money to a country that truly needs it when the citizens who live in this country are living so high on the hog?

How many more negative factors do the average U.S./ Michigan citizens need to have put on their shoulders before WE are allowed to benefit from OUR government's money? What has happened to our nation? Is this what our forefathers fought for? I once heard that charity begins at home. Let's take care of our own!

Tammy Layton Independence Township

Letters to the editor

Clarkston News 🔊

iewpoints

Drowning bowls, Haiti and tolerance: a recap

Not too long ago I wrote of the schizophrenic feline that prowls the dark and dreary dwelling, commonly known as Casa de Rush. That cat is Thomas and I don't think he's right in the head.

I've written on the carnage of his youth. How, as a relatively young kitty, one night, as darkness fell, he systematically decimated the Beanie Baby population in said home.

He's a bit older now, but he really hasn't mellowed with age. In short, he's still a freak. For example, he'll purr loudly as you scratch under his chins, or behind his ears, but if you scratch and pet too long, or if he gets tired of the pampering, or if the temperature changes, time moves forward -- whatever the trigger -he'll bap you with clawed paw. (I say he'll bap "you", because he doesn't do it to me, just everybody else. I guess that makes me First Feline, Alpha Cat, or the biggest pussy in the house, take your choice.)

There hasn't been much blood (or bean) shed on Rush Mountain these days. Mostly because I have hid all the small stuffed animals, but also because Thomas The Terrible has changed his modus operandi. He is now a drowner.

He takes his victims, drags them to the big-enough-for-large-dogs water bowl and drowns them. Is this normal behavior for a cat? Size doesn't matter, these days, either. Where once he only attacked smallish Beanie Babies, he has now moved up the food chain to stuffed critters far larger than himself.

I came home the other week and he drug

Thanks for library help with Lions

Dear Editor,

The Clarkston Area Lions Club wants to thank Julie Meredith and her wonderful staff at the Independence Township Library. Their enthusiastic and well organized assistance helped make Project Kidsight a huge success

In total, the Clarkston Area Lions Club screened the vision of 54 pre-school children. The photographs taken during the screening have been sent to Project Kidsight at Children's Hospital for analysis and subsequent parental notification.

The screening checks for many conditions including ambylopia (lazy eye), nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, strabismus (misaligned eyes), anisometropia (unequal refractive power), and cataracts.

Ron Savage Clarkston Area Lions Club

over to the drowning bowl a fake bear rug from youngest son Sean's room.

That is one maniacal cat. And, I have taken to sleeping with the bedroom door closed, lest I wake up one night "drowned."

I wondered out loud, how much is enough in regards **Rush Me** to making donations to the overly corrupt, but still poor and recently earthquake ravaged Haiti?

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If you didn't read that, or forgot, don't call me a meanie or Haiti hater. I didn't say it was wrong to donate to the humanitarian efforts down that way -- I just wondered when we (Americans) would mobilize like that to

help our neighbors here in Michigan. So, that was my question . . . this past

Friday, as I opened up my phone bill, I found that I -- Don Rush (read: cheapskate, stingy, skinflint, tightwad and scrooge-like) -- donated \$10 of my hard earned money to Haiti. And, I would personally like to thank my son Shamus, for having such a big heart, trying to save my immortal soul, by texting the Haiti relief fund number and signing me up to make a donation.

"Thank you, son. And, remind me again -- why do I pay for you to have your own cell phone?'

It is a relatively new phenomenon that I have watched slowly grow over the last decade. There is little tolerance these days. We all talk about it is "okay" for folks to live this

way, or live that way, or go to a church of their choice, or not to believe in a power higher than themselves, to live and let live and all that, but I think we're hypocrites.

I think we are more critical than ever. I think today folks are more, "You're either with me all the way, or you are against me."

I think Americans are so deeply divided in their politics and beliefs that we border on fanatical adherence to whatever it is we think we know. I think we spout our own beliefs and when someone dares to disagree, we stick our fingers in our ears and shout "la, la, la, la," until the heresy is completed.

I say it's relatively new because while it has been a national trend, it has only recently hit home, locally. Don't believe me?

If I as a columnist, or we, as a newspaper dare to disagree with, say the school district on any issue, folks drop their subscriptions, start up anti-us websites, tell businesses not to advertise with us -- they basically try to put us out of business.

In the past, they would write their opinions and we would publish them. We would all look at the each other's side, move on and in the process grow.

I am here to testify, them days is gone. to comments Send don@dontrushmedon.com

Local government in action **Springfield Township City of the Village of Clarkston Township Board City Council** 7:30 p.m., 2nd Thursday 7 p.m., 2nd and 4th Monday **Planning Commission** Planning Commission 7:30 p.m., 3rd Monday 7 p.m., 1st Mondav **Zoning Board of Appeals** Village Hall, 375 Depot Road 8 p.m., 3rd Wednesday, as needed www.cityofclarkston.org Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road 248-625-1559 Independence Township **Township Board**

7:30 p.m., 1st and 3rd Tuesday Planning Commission

7:30 p.m., 2nd and 4th Thursday **Zoning Board of Appeals**

7:30 p.m., 1st Wednesda Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Drive

www.twp.independence.mi.us 248-625-5111

Make your voice heard with a letter to the editor!

We'll edit them for spelling, grammar, punctuation, clarity and length. We take the liberty of publishing (or not) all letters we receive. Please sign your letter(no photo copies!) and include a daytime phone for verifications. Deadline is noon, Monday. Send them to 5 S. Main Street, Clarkston, MI 48346; fax 248-625-0706; or e-mail Clarkstonnews@gmail.com.

A Look Back

Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News 7 A

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1995

"Learning from the source" American Indian Wayne Jackson showed off an array of Native American tools and garments, and explained some of his ancestors' beliefs to students at North Sashabaw Elementary. His visit was part of the school's Multicultural Day.

"Local jazz singer's got it all – heart, soul and talent" Clarkston singer Danielle Blanchard performed jazz tunes with the band The Steve Adams Trio throughout the area. The group was looking to start a recording career.

"OM" Parent volunteers Sherry Regiani and Penny Shanks organized Odyssey of the Mind teams at Clarkston elementary schools. Students worked together in teams to solve problems in various categories including science, nature, and history.

25 years ago - 1985

"Wint wins Heart of Gold award" Lewis Wint earned the United Fund award in honor of his volunteer work with SCAMP, Oakland County Parks and Recreation, and other community groups.

"These birds of a feather can't flock together" County health ordered Rudy and Bob Schwarze of Rudy's Market to stop feeding a flock of about 250 pigeons, saying it caused a "nuisance, unsanitary condition, or cause of illness." Rudy said the order was stupid. "I've been feeding them for 55 years," he said.

"Teacher tops with CHS students" Jan Modesitt was voted Teacher of the Semester by the Clarkston High School National Honor Society. The 20-year math teacher was selected because she was respectful, firm, and willing to help her students.

50 years ago - 1960

"Tea and reception honoring Mrs. Nixon" Local Republican women helped organized the reception in Royal Oak, sending out thousands of invitations and serving as hostesses.

Dairy leader honored during Farmers' Week" Q.F. Forster of Clarkston was named Michigan's Dairyman of the Year for his success in developing the Lakefield Holsteins, sheep, and swine, his unselfish devotion to his family, and many other activities.

"Localite honored at convention" Business executive Robert W. Kraud wrote a prize winning essay, winning a cash prize and the chance to read it at the Automotive Service Industry Association convention in New Year City.

www.springfield-twp.us 248-634-3111 **Clarkston Community Schools Board of Education** 7 p.m., 2nd and 4th Mondays Administration Building. 6389 Clarkston Road www.clarkston.k12.mi.us 248-623-5400

1.41

A column by **Don Rush**

Don't

A 8 Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News



Autumn Nelson, 2, picks out a color for her nails. Photos by Wendi Reardon



Fourth-grader Drew Sagowitz is the big winner with three fish.

Fun night at Andersonville

Andersonville Elementary School students stood with their tickets ready and practiced their throws.

They waited in a long line for a chance to win a fish to take home. All they had to do was get a ping pong ball into a glass bowl.

5 to 1438

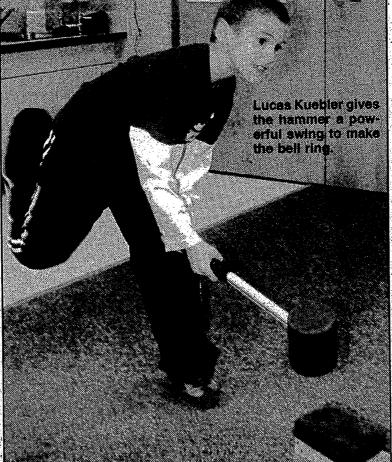
It was one of the Carnival inspired games at the school's Fun Fair, Feb. 5.

Other popular activities for the families were the Cake Walk and the Rock Climb. The students enjoyed fair favorite food

The students enjoyed fair favorite food popcorn and cotton candy, both freshlymade by parent volunteers.



Makayla Collins peels off a sticker for her bag.





Adrian Dohrian makes his next move on the rock climbing wall.



Multiple crash on M-15

Firefighters and deputies quickly cleaned up a crash on M-15 north of I-75, about 5 p.m., Feb. 8. Two pickup trucks and a minivan suffered severe damage in the wreck, which blocked traffic both ways on M-15 for about an hour.



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

Identity theft

A Independence Township resident reported someone used her debit card without permission three times, Jan. 26, one to a company in Detroit. She closed the account.

An Independence Township resident was contacted by her bank, advising her of suspicious charges on her debit card, Jan. 27. She looked for her purse but couldn't find it in the car, unlocked parked in the open garage. Charges were traced to Pontiac, Waterford, White Lake and Davison.

Flaming pipes

A Joy Street home's pipes were frozen, 8:57 p.m., Jan. 28, so the resident connected a portable heater to a propane tank to thaw them. He smelled smoke, checked under the mobile home, and saw flames. He tried a fire extinguisher, but it had no charge. He tried the water hose, but remembered the lines were frozen. He pulled the propane tank from under the trailer and called 9-1-1. Independence Township firefighters extinguished the fire.

Purse stolen

The car's rear passenger window was smashed out and purse stolen, 10 a.m., Jan. 29, at a Hubbard Road elementary school. Security video shows a dark-colored vehicle backed in next to the victim's vehicle. The victim cancelled credit cards, and notified police someone tried to use her cards at four gas stations in Detroit.

Drug bust

A Clarkston High School assistant principal got a tip student a 15-year-old student had marijuana, 8:39 a.m., Feb. 2. She was escorted to the office and found with a small amount, which she said she got from a 16year-old student. He said got he got the drug from a third student, a 15-year-old Independence Township boy. He was escorted to the office and found with five gram-size baggies of marijuana. The students were turned over to the parents. Deputies submitted petitions to probate court.

Car fire

An Indianwood Drive resident was inside when he heard a thump from the car, parked in the driveway, 9:30 p.m., Feb. 3. The car alarm went off, which he shut off using a remote from inside. A minute or so later, he heard another thump and the alarm went off again. He went outside and saw smoke coming from under the hood. He called 9-1-1 and tried to extinguish the flames by shoveling snow on it. Firefighters extinguished the blaze.

Into the ice

A stolen car ended up in Big Lake, 5:31 p.m., Feb. 4. Thieves reportedly drove it recklessly on the icy lake, lost control, hit a dock, and fell through the ice. Occupants fled. The vehicle, reported stolen from White Lake Township, was pulled from the water by Springfield Township firefighters:

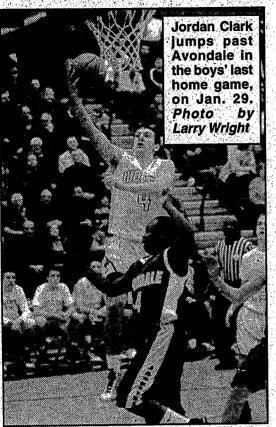


A 10 Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News TE TO SAVINGS Your Official Chrysler
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Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News 11 A

Lessons for Wolves continue after close, tough losses



BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

After two consecutive losses the Cagers ended the week with a powerful win over Academy of Oak Park at the Dorian Style Classics on Sunday.

Senior Matt Kamieniecki dominated the scoreboard with 26 points as the team won, 69-42.

The boys were up by six points going into the first half and defense put on powerful blocks as their opponents only scored 11 points in the remainder of the game.

"I was proud," Wolves Boys Basketball Head Coach Dan Fife. "I hate to get proud because I don't want to get soft in my practices but I was proud of their reaction to the losses. As a coach, I am anxious to see how our kids come out of the loss."

Fife commented on how well the boys responded on both sides of the floor defensively and moving the ball well on offense.

The boys first loss last week was against Southfield-Lathrup, 64-61. They followed it up with another close loss to Pontiac on Friday, 54-51.

The game was another close game and the boys found themselves near victory as they neared the end of the game with nine seconds to go. Pontiac's Juwan Moody sank a 3-

pointer tying the game at 51 points from half court.

Clarkston sent an inbound pass to Kamieniecki and Pontiac knocked it away. DeBrian Lewis shot another 3-pointer from the mid-court to end the game.

"I am 60 and in 55 years of my life I have never seen what happened, happen," said Fife. "One half court shot is amazing, then to have two half courts shots is a tough way to lose."

Kamienieck led the team with 15 points, and Tyler Scarlett followed with 13.

Each game aided the team in looking at what they are doing in the game.

"Losing like we have done and winning like we have in most situations have been good situations," said Fife.

During most of the situations the boys have been under pressure, from both their opponents.

"You find out about yourself," contin-

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ued Fife. "You figure out what you need to do to win and how you can win under the circumstances. Then if it translates back to practice, you realize the significance of working hard all the time or should. Those losses are great lessons."

Though the team's youth showed at the beginning of the season, Fife said the last 13 games have made them grow up quick.

As the boys going into the last half of the season Fife said they will see what happens especially as they host Oak Park on Friday.

"We should be in good shape," he said. "We have a lot of young kids. They know they have expectations on them. They are going to follow in the footsteps (of the seniors) and leave a legacy and expectations for the next team. The legacy is the effort they put into it, mental and physical and say you gave it your best."

The boys are now 9-4 overall and 5-3 in OAA Red. They look to improve their record when host the Knights on Thursday. They head to West Bloomfield next Tuesday. JV begins at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

Athlete of the Week Siegfried plays with the best

BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer Hannah Siegfried was excited to hear was chosen to play soccer for the Michigan Olympic Development Program.

"I felt really happy, but nervous because there is still one more round," the 13-year-old Sashabaw Middle School student shared. The final round is the first weekend in March at Michigan state - five players will be cut.

"We play for an hour and a half," she explained "Once they do the cuts that is the team and we start playing tournaments."

Siegfried hasevery intention on being one of 30 players chosen for the team and is getting prepared to show off her talent.

Proud parents Ken and Valerie are excited to see her chosen to continue to the next round.

"All of her hard work and dedication has paid off," said Ken.

The Michigen ODP started their initial tryouts during the surfacer where Stegfried joined over 100 of the top alayers in the state. During the first cut only 50 remained.

More tryouts and training sessions were held in the fall and January until they made

the cut to 35 players.

"It is a great program," said Hannah. "You meet a lot of different people from around Michigan and play with the best of the best players in the state."

Though Hannah is a veteran to playing soccer, playing since she was four, she said she playing with the Michigan ODP.

"I have become a better player all around after being exposed to better competition from all around the state - Grand Rapids, the upper peninsula and from southern Michigan," she explained "The ODP staff of coaches are really good. They are great teachers and do great with the team."

Hannah started soccer in Kiddy Kickers. "My wife and I are sports people," said

Ken. "We had her try different sports." But it was soccer and basketball that held her interests. Hannah also plays for WAZA. She plays basketball for the middle school

team and Clarkston Wolfpack, a AAU team. "I really like soccer," she said. "I have gotten really good at it. I still have a long way to go."

Hannah plays as a center midfielder and has set her goal to play college and professional.



248.625.5470 Your Home Town Disposal Service A 12 Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News

Gridiron heroes sign on to play at college

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer Teammates Tyler Scarlett and Dakota Bender have shared a lot of memories during the last few years.

They added one more as they signed their letters of intent to continue playing football in college on Feb. 3.

Scarlett will aid Michigan Tech as a quarterback and Bender will be a running back for Grand Valley State University.

"It is awesome," Wolves Head Football Coach Kurt Richardson said about watching his players sign. "They have a great chance if they want to play at the next level. They have two great universities, two great football programs."

Bender had seen a few schools and was still undecided until GVSU approached him. They asked him to look at the school. He

visited and met some of the players. "I am really excited to go to the good program. They have won so many national championships," he said.

His parents, Kris and Mike, were excited to see him sign.

"He was nervous about the whole thing but when he saw Grand Valley he knew it was a good fit for him," said Kris.

Bender joined the Clarkston Chiefs when he was seven, but had the ball in his hands long before then.

"He was born with a ball in his hands." said Kris. "When he was tiny he couldn't sit still to do anything, unless you gave him a



Tyler Scarlett and Dakota Bender sign their letters with their coaches Rich Porritt, Phil Price, Head Coach Kurt Richardson, Pete Gallagher and John Bennink. Photo by Wendi Reardon

ball."

Kris used to bring Dakota to the high school when she would watch her cousin play volleyball. He would be memorized and stay still.

"If there was a game with a ball he would stay still," she said.

He started playing the sport because his family has always played football and after he watched his uncle play.

"It was what he always wanted to do,"

Kris said.

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

He has yet to decide what he is going to study in the fall.

Scarlett has chosen to study engineering, stating it was one of the reasons why he chose Michigan Tech.

"I am excited to get the decision out of the way," he said. "It seems like it has been a long time I have been thinking about this."

Other reasons why he chose Michigan Tech were the coaches, the players and the atmosphere.

"It is kind of far away from here but I can deal with it," he said. "They have good coaches and good players."

"It is a good fit for him," said dad, Todd. "I am very happy for him," said mom, Kim. "He was throwing the football when he was two or three."

Tyler began his football career in fourth grade when he joined the Clarkston Chiefs.

He started out as a running back but moved into his current role when his teammate Greg Keller was injured.

Both joined the varsity team in their sophomore year.

"We were talking about how it seems like it went really fast. Especially to see them as sophomores and kids and now they are young men," said Richardson.

For their last season, they aided the team to a 12-1 record, and took the team past the district finals, regional finals and quarterfinals.

Dakota assisted the team during the winning season by scoring 27 touchdowns. He had 1,200 yards rushing and 340 receiving vards.

Tyler had 1,700 passing yard and 1,286 rushing yards and ten touchdowns.

"It is a great day for Clarkston football," said Richardson.

Grapplers take league title at 'Red' tourney, ready for Districts this week

The Wolves walked away from the OAA Red Tournament with the league title.

The boys scored 173.5 points, blowing seven teams out of the water, including Lake Orion, who ended up taking second place.

Seniors Zak Roberson (112), Matt Deitz (140) and Evan King (160) walked away with their second consecutive league titles. Roberson put a hold on Rochester's Kaelen Richards to win the final round, 4-1, while King defeated another Falcon, 8-1. Deitz outmatched Brad Lowe from Avondale, 9-2.

171-weight class by keeping Rochester Adams' Matt Hart to one point when the two

Jeff Sloney (125) took out Dragon Matt

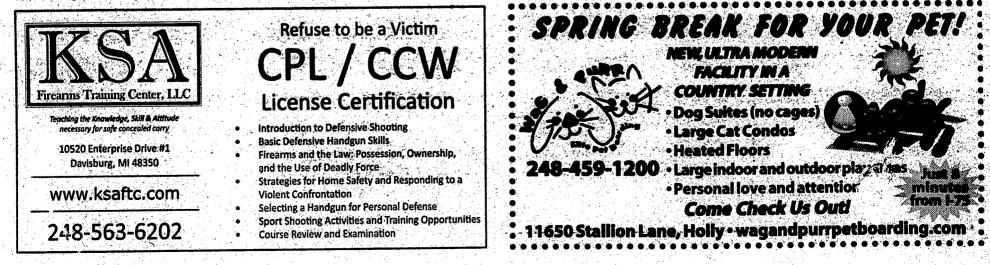
Raymond Wilkie (103), Ty Foltz (135), and Mike Henige (145) placed in second while Mike Cardinale (119), Naron McDougal (152) and Scott Devos (285) took fourth place.

The boys head to Lake Orion on Wednesday for Team District finals where they will compete to win the title of District Champs against the Dragons, Pontiac and Rochester Adams. They begin at 5:30 p.m

They continue on Saturday in the Individual Districts finals to take on wrestlers from the same three teams again, plus ten other schools.

They began at 9:30 a.m. The winning teams and individual wrestlers continue on to Regionals next week.

Check www.ClarkstonNews.com to see if who moved on to the next round.



Matt Vandermeer won a league title in his

went into overtime.

Musary to win his league title.



Tyler Shrout dances with her dad, Steve.



Darryl and Mykala Wendt share a dance.



Dancing with daddy

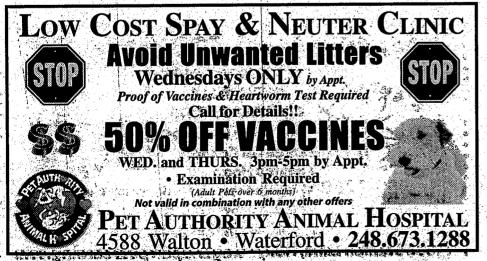
Clarkston High School cafeteria, twice, during Clarkston Community Education's annual Daddy Daughter Dances, Feb. 6.

More than 1,000 attended the dances, one in the afternoon and the

Dads and their daughters filled 'other in the evening. Jim Tedder Productions provided music. National Honor Society students volunteered their time to decorate and help out. Also, this year donations were collected for Lighthouse of Oakland County.

Jesse Moyet simultaneously twirls his daughters Samantha, left, and Kaley. Photos by Phil Custodio

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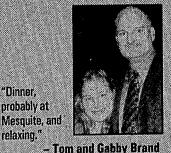


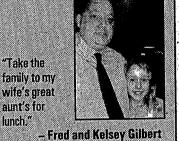
SPI Classifieds Wednesday, February 10, 2010 AND COUNTY'S BEST 074 K E P SEC LEASING IS . . WELL AND 6 Sales & Service **Only** Are Always Due Delivery BETTERN GUAR GION Only 10 Minutes From Almost Everywhere in North Oakland County TOP TEN REASONS TO BUY @ BOWMAN CHEV **1) Fair & Honest Deals** of Over 15 Years Experience at John Bowman Chevrolet 2) Receive ALL Factory Incentives, No Games Played 7) Big Enough to Deal, Yet Small Enough to Care 3) Highest Trade-In Values in Michigan 8) Hand Wax and Full Tank of Gas with Every New Car Purchase 9) NEW Facility 4) Trained & Certified Salespeople 5) NEW & USED Chevrolets 10) Hand Picked by the New General Motors to be a Leading **Chevrolet Dealer in Oakland County** 6) 25 YEARS in the Same Location w/All Managers Having an Average 183 Mileage 66/A Color Year Make Model Stock # Color Price Year Price 611 BEENZO 1,995 GRAND PRIX GRAND PRIX 2007 Pontiac P6914 42K \$11,988 Wate in since 3,995 8,988 9,988 7,988 \$11,988 \$11,988 \$11,988 \$11,988 \$12,988 \$13,988 \$13,988 \$13,988 \$13,988 225K Pontlac P6927 2007 45K C 1.7.1 99K 2007 Chevy HHR Bleck 24K P6957 **İSK** 2007 Chevy HHR 10365A Silver 35K 2007 Chevy IMPALA P6894 Silver 20K 1.129 P6908 2007 Chevy IMPALA Silver **10**K 2007 2007 IMPÁLA IMPÁLA P6965 P6966 Chevy Maroon 156 **TRK** Chevy Red 14K 29K 12 IMPALA \$13,988 Chevy P6967 Blue Chevy MALIBU MAXX P6968 Gray \$13,988 171 i i i i TRAILBLAZER 4X4 RENDEZVOUS TRAILBLAZER 4X4 TRAILBLAZER 4X4 RENDEZVOUS DENDEZVOUS Chevy Buick P6925 Blue 46K \$15,988 COBAL 17X 44X 24X 24K 18K 231 301 141 131 Chevy Chevy Pontlac Chevy Chevy Pontlar Chevy 2020 \$16,988 in stated <u>C</u>IO P6942 P6399 P6916 P6917 P6960 Structure Chevy Chevy Bulck Bulck 1.19 . . Gray Silver Black 2006 2006 2006 2006 2006 2006 2006 2007 P690) P6931 in juntantien mateurien \mathbf{x} 11 11 24 40 40 8 24 8 13:19 REDINGUS P6947 2007 2007 2008 2008 2008 2008 2008 <u>SCIN</u> the second second UPLANDER CONTRACTO CT 5 2.77 Silvo P6962 P6893 Chevy SILVERADO 1500 4X4 EXT CAB Pontiac G6 Cray Red 55 77 MANEU P6964 P6913 P6911 ROI 510 TRAILBLAZER 4X4 TRAILBLAZER 4X4 TRAILBLAZER 4X4 34K 38K Bleck 03 Satum $\Delta 0$ 20905 Ocean Siro G6 MALIBU VUE IMPALA ΘK g-spectre Pender 2006 Blue P6920 P6941 ¥8. White Blue SOK Chevy Saturn Chevy White White Red Gold 17K 31K 18K 200.9 1.1. ΘŔ IORRENT P6912 P6929 TRANSBAZER EXTAX4 19K \$18,988 Silver -2111): 2.1.1.6 1 46K 24K Black 9,988 VUE Impala a i k 2009 Shum P6937 ec XIII .56 \$ 9,988 \$10,588 P6956 Silver <u>a kini</u> 2010 Chevy P6930 GA White 37K Ê LÛ Price plus tax, title 6 ALWAYS B \mathcal{Z}_{2} シンコ 1] () mj 1/1 = ₹ t-] I 1:1-1 -10 10 8 CLARKSTO M-15 1-75 MAYBEE RD 6750 Dixie Highway CLEIKSTON View All **Inventory** At 293 - 78WATERFORD. BowmanChevy.com WIDETRACK PONTIAC

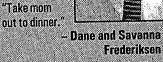
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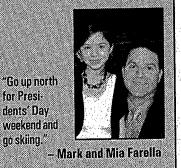
People Poll February 10, 2010 Page B1

Plans for Valentine's Day?









By Phil Custodio



Clara Mackey, 3, makes a snow flake catcher with the help of her mother, Stephanie Mackey. *Photos by Phil Custodio*

Making new memories, sharing old ones at Wint

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor Amongst the photos adorning page 21 of the June 26, 1985 edition of the Clarkston News is Lynn Conover, attaching a stuffed woodpecker to a tree exhibit at the new Wint Nature Center at Independence Oaks.

Twenty-five years later, both are still going strong

"I love what I do and I do what I love," said Conover, naturalist at the Lewis E. Wint Nature Center. "I'm blessed to be able to work here and

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build a strong foundation for children's love of nature."

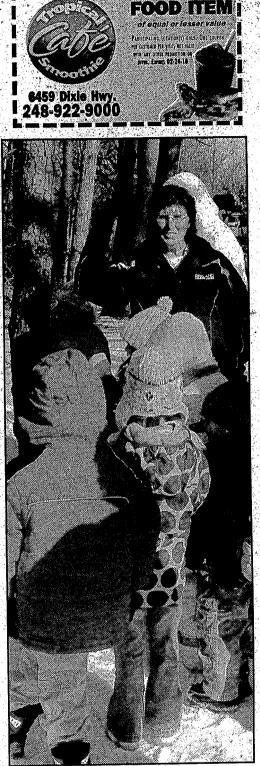
The center, located in Independence Oaks County Park, 9501 Sashabaw Road, celebrates its 25th anniversary all year.

Tuning Your Tot seasonal program for children 3-6, also celebrating its 25th year, was this past weekend. Patrons attending a nature center program through June receive a buy-oneget-one-free wave pool coupon, attend four programs, get one free.

Center. Please see Nature on page 13B







Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News 1 B

Buy One

Get One Free

7150 Sashabaw Rd.

248-620-8005

B 2 Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News

Home Buying Seminar, 6:30-8 p.m., Feb. 11, Fountains Golf and Banquet, 6060 Maybee Road. Free, Home professionals Tom Daigle, Fran Huges, Steven Craft, and Joe the Home Inspector will cover the entire process, from pre-approval to moving in. 248-623-1234.

Red Cross blood drive, 1-7 p.m., Feb. 11, Clarkston Speciality Health Care Center, 4800 Clintonville Road, Walk-ins welcome. Appointments, call Cindy Harper at 248-674-0903.

Art Print and Home Design show, 7 p.m., Feb. 10-11, Michelle Tynan's Drawingboard Studios, 6260 Middle Lake Road. 248-410-6713.

Genealogy HELP workshop, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Feb. 13, Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Bring info and researchers will provide individual and small group help. Free, sponsored by Clarkston Historical Society, Independence Township Library, Sashabaw Plains Daughters of the America Revolution. Register at 248-625-2212.

Cupids and Canines, 12-3 p.m., Feb. 13, Camp Bow Wow, 6374 Sashabaw Road. Canines Companions Rescue Center dog adoption event. Donations accepted. 248-620-9663.

Valentine dinner and dancing, 6:30-9 p.m., Feb. 13, Waterford Elks Club, 2100 Scott Lake Road, benefits Clarkston High School Marching Band's trip to London, England. Silent auction, live music. Childcare available. \$40/couple. 248-393-1368.

Citizens Against Independence Township Waste open house, 12-4 p.m., Feb. 13, 7608 Dixie Highway, Suite 100. Petitions to recall Independence Township Supervisor David Wagner. 248-625-6736.



Valentine's Dinner and movie Fireproof, hosted by First Baptist Church of Clarkston, 5 p.m., Feb. 14, Indianwood Golf and Country Club, 1081 Indianwood Road, Lake Orion. \$25. Register by Feb. 1 at 248-625-3380.

Property Tax Seminar, sponsored by Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel with presenter Michael R. Lohmeier, 6-8 p.m., Feb. 16, Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Road. Free. 248-625-1000.

Wild Game Dinner, 6-9 p.m., Feb. 20, Campbell-Richmond Post 63 of the American Legion, 8047 Ortonville Road. Elk, deer, walleye, wild turkey, bison, other wild game. \$20. 248-625-9912.

Night at the Races, 8 p.m., Feb. 20, Knights of Columbus Hall, 5660 Maybee Road. Wooden reindeer sponsored by local businesses race to benefit Christmas In Action. \$20. 248-625-4711.

Insurance class, 6 p.m., Feb. 20, Harvestland Ministries, 5848 Clintonville Road. Free. Matt Wagner of Caring Insurance Advisors discusses life, health, disability, long-term care insurance. 810-240-8300. ***

Optimist Family Bowling Party, 1-4 p.m., Feb. 21. Cherry Hill Lanes, 6697 Clarkston Road. Bowling and pizza. \$10. 248-561-5974. ***

Open House, 3-8 p.m., Feb. 23, Attuned Mind, 3 E. Washington Street. Info on Brain State Conditioning. 248-922-9490. ***

Kick-Off Event, American Cancer Society's

Relay for Life of Clarkston, 6 p.m., Feb. 24, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Relay is May 15-16. 248-663-3414.

Women in Business, Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce, McLaren Breast Center, 10:45-1 p.m., Feb. 25, Red Knapps; Pure Michigan. 10:45-1 p.m., March 25, Fountains, 6060 Maybee Road; True Colors, 2-5 p.m., April 29, Oakhurst Country Club. 248-625-8055.

Wild Game Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Feb. 26; 5 p.m., Feb. 27, Maranatha Baptist Church of Clarkston, 5790 Flemings Lake Road. Professional wild game caterer, with bear, salmon, pheasant, duck, elk and emu. Door prizes. \$25:248-625-2700

Sadie Hawkins Prom, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Feb. 27, Campbell Richmond American Legion Auxiliary Unit 63, 8047 Ortonville Road. \$20/couple. 248-802-3605.

Fiesta Fundraiser and silent auction, Oakland County 4-H Fair Association, 5-9 p.m., Feb. 27, Springfield Oaks Activity Center, 12451 Andersonville Road. All-you-can-eat tacos, nachos, ice cream bar. \$8. 248-634-8830.

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater, Clarkston Area Optimist Club, 6 p.m., March 13, Paint Creek Country Club, 2375 Stanton Road, Lake Orion. Entertainment, dinner, silent auction, raffle, \$55.248-622-6096.

Bowling for Meals on Wheels, 2 p.m., March 14. Cherry Hills Lanes, 6697 Dixie Highway. \$20, three games, two pizza slices, pop, prize drawings. 248-625-8231.

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

Pony Basketball League, for high school boys not on the school team, mid afternoons, Sundays, Clarkston Junior High, 6595 Middle Lake. \$200/resident team. \$300/non-resident team. 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.

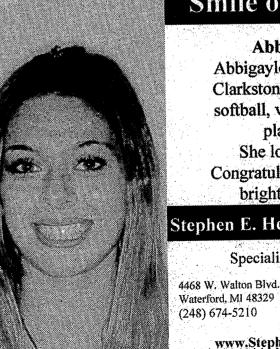
Grief Support Group, Coats Funeral Home, 6:30 p.m., first and third Mondays, Community presbyterian Church, 4301 Monroe Street at Sashabaw. 248-623-7232.

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.





Smile of the Month

Abbigayle Kline Abbigayle is in 9th grade at Clarkston Jr High. She likes softball, volleyball, dance & playing piano. She loves her friends! Congratulations on a smile as bright as your future!

Stephen E. Hershey, DDS. MS. MA. PLLC

Specialist in Orthodontics

4468 W. Walton Blvd. Ste A

www.StephenHershey.com

Grease is the Word at Clarkston High School

BY WENDIREARDON Clarkston News Staff Writer

It's the classic story about two teenagers, Danny and Sandy and their friends, brought to life by the Clarkston High School Drama Club's rendition of "Grease."

"Over the summer Sandy meets Danny and they get separated," said Assistant Dance Captain Katie Hokanson. "They reunite, surprisingly."

Though Sandy is thrilled to see him again, Danny doesn't want to ruin his bad boy reputation with the new good girl setting off a school year of relationships, cool cars along with singing and dancing.

The drama club used the movie version and Broadway version, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey for their production singing the favorite songs "Greased Lightning," "You Are the One That I Want," "We Go Together."

Hokanson assists Dance Captain Tessa Cornwall for all of the dance numbers.

"Some of the dances are easy, but so easy it is hard to remember," Hokanson said. "The 'Hand-Jive' is one dance in particular, it is a lot tougher because it has a lot of partner work."

Kenny Nelson and Stefani Galik take on the roles of Danny and Sandy.

"Kenny is not only a fantastic singer and actor, but also a character. He puts so much of himself into Danny," said Hokanson. "Stefani has recre-

ated Sandy. She is unbelievably cute when she changes Sandy's look at the end."

The remaining T-Birds are played by Dave Alex Seaman as Kenickie, Nathan Larkins as Doody, Max Hefty as Sonny, and Kyle Catalano as Roger. "Dave Alex takes Kenickie to a new level. He

puts the scary, creepy side into his character and also the feeling he really does care," said Hokanson. "Nathan puts his own style into everything he does on stage."

The Pink Ladies are Brianna Minando as Rizzo, Lauren Glowski as Frenchy, Taylor Brown as Marty, Anne Marie Hart as Jan.

"Rizzo is tough and Brianna isn't like that off stage. She is quite the actress. She is the best Rizzo I have seen," said Hokanson.

Hokanson added all the actors and actresses are extremely good and bring their characters to life in a unique way.

"It's a really funny play and the song are amazing," she said.

Performances for Grease are February 25, 26, 27 at 7:30 p.m. A matinee show is on Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. All shows are at the Clarkston High School Performing Arts Center.

Tickets can be reserved by calling 248-623-4042. or purchased at the CHS Box Office, weekdays from 10a.m.-12 p.m.

Prices are \$10 for adults. Students and senior citizens are \$8.



Grease cast members are: back row, Kenny Nelson as Danny, Stefani Galik as Sandy, Brianna Minando as Rizzo, Dave Alex Seaman and Kenicki, Tessa Cornwall as Cha-Cha, Taylor Brown as Marty, Max Hefty as Sonny; front row, Nathan Larkins as Doody, Lauren Glowski as Frenchy, Kyle Catalano as Roger, Anne Marie Hart as Jan and Kendall Kotcher as Patty. Photo by Wendi Reardon



B 4 Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News



Puppy Love

Send your four-legged Valentine to Camp! FREE interview day for first-time Campers.

Premier Doggy Day & Overnight Camp

All Day Play. Snooze the Night Away

Large Indoor/Outdoor Play Area

Spacious Cabins with Comfy Cots

Live Camper Cams

Certified Camp Counselors

Camp Bow Wow Clarkston 6374 Sashabaw Rd. (248) 620-WOOF (9663) www.campbowwow.com/clarkston

Mark your calendar! We're hosting our annual Cupid & Canines Dog Adoption Event on Saturday, February 13th, 12-3pm. Come meet vour best friend at Camp!



Milestones **Business** achievements

Chris Brzezinski successfully completed licensing requirements and is now li-

sional Land Surveyor in Michigan. He is employed with Griggs Quaderer Inc., a civil engineering and land surveying firm in Grand Brzezinski is also a li-

censed professional years of experience in

site development projects for commercial, residential and institutional uses.

His expertise includes initial planning,

design and guidance for preparation of technical documents, sustainable design, boundary/topographic surveys, construction staking and construction administration.

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from Michigan State University in 1998 and his Bachelor of Science degree in Surveying from Michigan Tech in 2007. He resides in Clarkston with wife Stephanie and two children.

Daniel Stencil of Clarkston, Oakland County Parks executive officer, was elected to a three-year term as the Great Lakes Region representative for National Recreation and Park Association and Michigan Recreation and Park Association.

Students achieve success

Jennifer J. Davis of Clarkston earned a Master of Business Administration degree this past December at Baker College.

Heather Baron of Clarkston made the Dean's List for fall semester at Grand Valley State University. A sophomore, she is a resident assistant and was recognized as a student leader in the "I am Grand Valley" leadership program.

Michigan Technological University fall 2009 Dean's List includes Clarkston students Lauren K. Dedow, senior, Biological Sciences; Alexander F. Hardy, senior, Mechanical Engineering: Jillian P. Schwab, freshman General Engineering; and Ashley M. Smokoska, freshman, Civil Engineering; and Matthew C. Hehn, senior, Chemical Engineering, of Davisburg.

Nate Austin, Hotel and Lodging Management; Shannon O'Connor, Retail Merchandising; and Mackenzie Hagen, Retail Merchandising, represented Clarkston High School at Michigan DECA District Conference, Jan. 9, Farmington High School.

Teresa Kuhta of Clarkston was selected for Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine 's Class of 2013.

Kuhta has a bachelor's degree in brain, behavior, and cognitive science from the University of Michigan. The daughter of Joe

.

Got a Milestone to share?

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

Kuhta and Kathy Lenc, she graduated from Clarkston High School in 2003.

The following Clarkston students were named to the Northern Michigan University Dean' List for Fall semester, 2009:

Keith W. Voorheis and Steven A. Puroll, both with 4.0 GPAs, and Colette M. Armes, Stephanie M. Bollini, Derek R. Bush, Robert D. Campbell, Nicholas J. DeVault, Joshua L. Garnett, Paul J. Goodrich, Sara J. Hartley, Stephen M. Hunter, Anna T. Kerr, Kathleen T. Kerr, Nicholas L. Lewy, and Philip S. Voorheis.

Clarkston resident Zachary Habermas was named to the Dean's List at Florida Institute of Technology. Habermas is a Space Science: Astronomy and Astrophysics major.

Megan DeCoster of Clarkston made the Dean's List at Michigan State University for the fall semester, 2009.

Patrick McIlrath of Clarkston was named to the Spring Arbor University Fall 2009 Dean's List. He is a senior studying Business Administration, and son of Jerry and Melanie McIlrath.

Michael Klemm of Clarkston graduated from Marquette University in December with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.



civil engineer and has 12 Brzezinski

Religion Want to start feeling hopeful again? Start by serving

You might be tired of hearing about Haiti. It isn't because you are cold-hearted or uncaring; it just means you are human. We can only see so much suffering and death and destruction before we have to step away to maintain our sanity. Caring hurts. Caring takes its toll. Caring in the midst of such overwhelming need can make you feel insignificant and hopeless. In order to deal with it, we tune out. We go to the movies, watch comedies, go for a walk, or go shopping. We do anything that takes our minds off of how horrible things are in the world around us.

We just can't look at one more sad face, one more orphaned child, one more man that lost his wife and kids. We cannot watch one more mother hold her children as they wait for food and water. It hurts something in our hearts. Somehow our soul gets damaged. The problem is that tuning it out doesn't really help. We are still overwhelmed,

and worse, we ignore the suffering. Sometimes we think finding the answer to the question of why it happened will help. Smarter people than me have tried to answer those

questions, so I'm not even going to try. For me, it Spiritual really doesn't matter why. I Matters don't care why

the earthquake happened. I don't care if it was a deal with the devil. I don't care if it was because of what didn't happen in

Pastor Dave Copenhagen. It Gerber happened. It was

devastating. Lives were torn apart. People that God loves were devastated. God weeps.

In times like these, life is not a theological question to answer. In John's gospel, the disciples They asked if it was the man that sinned or his parents. The disciples knew that someone had to have sinned. Jesus said it wasn't the man or his parents. Jesus says, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life" (John 9:3 NIV). But it could be translated, "Neither this man or his parents sinned. Let the works of God be displayed in him!" In other words, Jesus said that there is work to be done and we better be about doing it. You and I have the ability to do something about the suffering in Haiti and it will demonstrate the power of God.

That power is not only demonstrated to the people in Haiti, but for us as well. When we are overwhelmed by suffering as in Haiti, we can question God and the way the world works. We can get depressed, angry, or frustrated. We can sit around and try to figure out

it means for us and them. That won't help.

If we want to start feeling hopeful again, there is one thing we can do: We can start by giving and serving. When we give to people that need our help, we are participating in the work of God and somehow through that participation, we are filled with the Spirit of God. We become hopeful because God is hopeful. When we give we receive. That is powerful, for both the people in Haiti and ourselves.

When the man born blind was given his sight, he saw the Light for the first time in his life. Our sacrifices can bring light into the Haitians' darkness and our own.

What do you say? Would you give to the people of Haiti so they could see the Light? You may not think you can do much, but it will make a huge difference for both you and the Haitians. I promise.

The Rev. Dave Gerber is pastor

In our churches...

Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News 5.B

40 Days to an Awakened Christ Consciousness: Ash Wednesday Special Service, Special music with Cathy Zucker and Rev. Matthew, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 17. Peace Unity Church and Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road, 248-625-5192.

Seder Dinner and program, 5:30 p.m., March 6, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Rabbi Glenn Harris leads the dinner program.'\$15/person, \$40/family. Free childcare. Tickets available at church until Feb. 28.248-625-1611.

Beth Moore Bible study of Esther, Sundays, 9:15-11:30 a.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Childcare available. Call Rev. Christine Wyatt, 248-625-1611

In Our Churches, page 11B

of Lake Louise Church. how all of this happened and what asked why a man was born blind. CHURCH DIRECTORY THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CLARKSTON OAKLAND EVANGELICAL CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** 5449 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston SASHABAW 6600 Waldon Road, Clarkston Pastor Wayne Uppendahl (248) 394-0200 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Services held at Mount Zion Center 248-625-1611 Fax: (248) 394-2142 "Little Church with a BIG Heart" 4453 Clintonville Rd. at Website:clarkstonumc.org **Rev. Doctor Martin Hall** 5300 Maybee Road, Clarkston Sunday Worship: 9 am & 11:15 am Mann Rd., Waterford, MI Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. Sunday School at 9:15 am Worship 11:00 am & 6:11 pm Children's Sunday School 10:00 am **Nursery Provided** Nursery available for both services Sunday Morning Worship Dream Keepers Youth Group Phone (248) 673-3101 at 10:30 am **Bible Study** Bible Study Wed. Eve., 6:30 pm Wednesday 7:00 pm ST. TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ST. DANIEL at Church Offices - Yellow House Youth Groups 6-12 CATHOLIC CHURCH 7205 Clintonville Rd., Clarkston, MI THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE Wednesday 6:30 pm 7010 Valley Park Dr., Clarkston Phone (248) 858-2577 "Lutheran Church www.FirstCongregationalChurch.org Missouri Synod" (W. of M-15, S. of I-75) Fax (248) 858-7706 RESURRECTION Intentional Interim 625-4580 BRIDGEWOOD 6490 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston Pastor: Rev. Kendall Schaeffer **Rev. Christopher Maus** CHURCH **PEACE UNITY CHURCH** Sunday 8 am & 10 am Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm 7925 Sashabaw Road 6765 Rattalee Lake Road Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am 10 am Sunday Celebration Service **Holy Eucharist** (1/4 mile N. of **CALVARY EVANGELICAL DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH** Clarkston 48348 Sunday School 9:55 am Children's Church Nursery Available: 9:00 & 11:00 am DTE Music Theater) **LUTHERAN CHURCH** 8585 Dixie Highwy, Clarkston, MI (248)625-1344 Realizing peace, wholeness and **Nursery Provided** Religious Education: 625-1750 Clarkston, MI 48348 (248) 625-2311 6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston www.clarkstonepiscopal.org abundance in unity. A center for Services: (248) 625-4644 Mother's Group, RCIA, (W. of M-15, just S. of I-75) website: www.dixiebaptist.org Sunday 9:00am & 10:45am 248-625-2325 Scripture Study, Youth Group prayer, peace studies and healing. www.sainttrinitylutheran.com Home of Springfield Christian 675-3288 **Morning Worship Service** Spiritual Education, Community e-mail: sttrinity@comcast.net Sunday Worship: Academy & Children's Exploration Station -Outreach, Holistic Healing, "Green" Broadcast Worship - Clarkston **DIVINE MERCY PARISH** 8:15 am (traditional worship) Ark Preschool Children's Ministry **CLARKSTON FREE** CTV-10/20Sun. 2:00pm, Thurs. 9:00pm Philosophy, Mastermind, 9:30 am (blended worship) "A Mission Chuch" Pastor: J. Todd Vanaman Wed. 6:45pm Fit For Life **METHODIST CHURCH** Fellowship Broadcast Worship - Waterford Mass celebrated at Sun: 10:00 am Sunday School 11:00 am (contemporary praise) Adult Life Ministry c.r.a.v.e.-Student Life Ministry Rev. Matthew E. Long, CATV-10 Tues. 2:30 pm 5482 Winell-Clarkston Davisburg Elementary School & Adult Bible Fellowship Nursery available founding minister 11:00 am Worship Service

5972 Paramus, Clarkston, MI (248) 625-3380 Located 2 blks. N. of Dixie Hwy. (E.of M-15) Pastor: Russell Reemtsma Sun: 9:30 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 6:00 nm Evening Service Wed: 6:15 pm Awana Club 6:30 pm Teen Ministry 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting &



Bible Study

COMMUNITY CHURCH 6300 Clarkston Road • Clarkston Home of Oakland Christian School Bonita Laudeman, Kevin Kuehne Sunday: Worship 9:15 & 11:00 am Nursery Care at all services Wednesday: Children's Ministries

Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 (Seasonal) Meal, worship, small groups Wed. evening - Dinner &

Relevant messages, caring people.

6:00 pm Worship Service

Wed: 6:45 pm AWANA

7:00 pm Teen Meetings

Nursery available for all services.

& Adult Bible Study

Bible Study 6 pm (Seasonal)

12003 Davisburg Rd.

Saturday at 5:00 pm Sunday at 10:00 am Celebrant: Msgr John Budde website: www.divinemercyparish.net

Worship: Sunday 8:15 am & 11:00 am Sat. 6:00 pm Sunday School 9:45 am Preschool: 3-4 years old Preschool: 620-6154

248-623-1224 Service 9:00 • 10:30 www.ClarkstonFMC.org Wednesday 7 pm Youth & Adult Ministry

(corner of Maybee & Winell)

248-625-5192

Peace Unity Church

8080 Ortonville Rd.

Clarkston, MI 48348

A Church For Life

It's not what you lose. It's what you gain.

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At McLaren Bariatric Institute–Clarkston, we take a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to reshaping your life, offering minimally invasive adjustable gastric bands, including LAP-BAND and REALIZE Band. Our board-certified surgeons and caring staff members design a plan that's just right for you and are dedicated to supporting you throughout your entire journey, before and after surgery. With us on your side, you won't just lose the weight. You'll gain a more active, complete and satisfying life.

Take the easy first step to becoming a healthier you today.

FREE MONTHLY INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS

Learn about surgical weight loss options, including adjustable gastric bands and Roux-en-Y procedures.

Feb. 23 or March 23 · 5:30 p.m. Presented by Michael Kia, DO, bariatric surgeon

April 15 • 5:30 p.m. Presented by Harris Dabideen, MD, bariatric surgeon

McLaren Bariatric Institute–Clarkston Clarkston Medical Building, Suite 280 · McLaren Health Care Village at Clarkston 5701 Bow Pointe Drive, Clarkston

Seating limited; registration required. Call 248.922.6830.

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Obituary___

Russell K. Adams. 63

Russell K. Adams of Pontiac passed away, Feb. 1, 2010, at age 63.

He was the father of Cristina (Andrew) Grashuis of Grand Rapids and Jason Adams of Bowling Green, Ohio; grandpa of Brecken and Finley; son of Eileen (the late Lester) Adams of Clarkston; brother of Carol (Fred) Gross of Clarkston and Wayne Adams of Grand Blanc.

Mr. Adams retired from General Motors. He served in the U.S. Marines during the Vietnam conflict.

Memorial service was Feb. 6 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to Michigan Humane Online guest book Society. www.wintfuneralhome.com.

In our churches

continued from 5B

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.

Henrietta I. Bentley (Wallace), 80

Henrietta I. Bentley (Wallace) of Waterford, formerly of Davison, passed away, Feb. 3, 2010, at age 80.

She was preceded in death by her husbands Harry L. Wallace

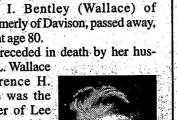
Jr. and Laurence H. Bentley. She was the loving mother of Lee (Linda) Wallace and the Late Lori F. Lenegan; proud grandmother of Lee Wallace II, Lisa (Tim) Roebuck, Tracie (Allen) Cooley, Jennifer I. Wallace, and Nicole

Marshall; also survived by 11 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild; sister of Delmore (Violet) McAboy, Billy Lou Kerr, Lillian Ratliff, Marvin (Debby) McAboy, and the late Mary Etta Hurd and David McAboy.

Henrietta retired from General Motors after 30 years of devoted service. She was a member of the Eastern Star Areme 503.

Funeral service was Feb. 6 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston, Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery. Memorials may

be made to American Cancer Society. Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Understanding changes to estate tax laws

Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News 11 B

Estate taxes may not be something you think about often, but lately they have been in the news due to an eleventh hour change of heart by the United States Congress. Trying to make sense of what was proposed to change and what Congress is now proposing in a new estate tax bill is important. The amount of taxes your estate has to pay upon your death could change depending on what politicians decide to do.

The Proposed Change

As of Jan. 1, 2010, estate taxes will be repealed for anyone who dies that year; this will mostly affect taxpayers with an estate worth more than \$3.5 million who would have been subjected to estate taxes upon their death in years past.

An estate tax, also known as a death tax, affects the amount of money passed from an individual's estate to their beneficiaries. If an individual dies in 2010, his heirs will sidestep the estate tax. Under the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, there is no estate tax on property between spouses, and in 2001, according to the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act, the amount of assets that a person can exclude from federal taxes is completely repealed in 2010.

If the proposed change is passed, estate taxes will be repealed for 2010 however, in 2011 the estate tax law reverts back to 2001 levels and individuals will have to pay up to 55 percent on all but the first \$1 million of their estate. Also when estate taxes disappear in 2010 all estates will have to pay a 15 percent capital gains tax that they currently don't have to pay. Unfortunately, this death tax relief is only beneficial to taxpayers who happen to pass away in 2010.

The New Estate Tax Bill:

On December 3rd, 2009, the House of Representatives passed an estate tax bill that would extend the 2009 estate tax level through 2010 and make the \$3.5 million tax level for an individual and \$7 million level for couples permanent. A 45 percent maximum tax rate has also been proposed by the Obama administration as

Retirement resource

part of the bill. To explain what that means, if Congress does enact the new estate tax bill an individual could exclude the first \$3.5 million of an inheritance and couples could exclude the first \$7 million; under this bill individuals who receive an inheritance are taxed up to 45 percent on the inheritance if it is more

than \$3.5 million. This bill is now with the

If estate taxes are repealed in 2010, or if Congress decided to keep tax rates at their current level, you should consult a financial planner who offers estate planning services so you can determine how to best arrange and distribute your estate, minimizing the tax liabilities on your heirs.

Creating an estate plan can help ensure your heirs receive what you intend to leave them or, in the case estate taxes are not repealed, can help you reduce the amount of taxes your estate owes after your passing.

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





A column by

David Boike

Senate.

B 12 Wed., February 10, 2010 The Clarkston (MI) News

Looking to Enhance your Smile?

By combining the right mix of personal attention, the latest technology, and continuing education, we maintain a commitment of excellence to our patients in every facet of our practice.

"We Create Beautiful Smiles for Patients of All Ages"

Breakthrough Brackets Early Growth Treatment Removable Appliances Invisalian **Invisible Retainers Free Initial Exam New Patients Welcome No Referral Necessary** Wilckodontics - Also known as Fast Ortho

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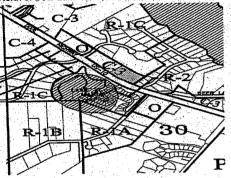
Visit our website www.munkorthodontics.com **248-625-0880 810-653-9070** 5825 S. Main Street 8379 Davison Road

Clarkston, MI MUNK PROFESSIONAL CENTER Davison, MI

248-628-6441 837 S. Lapeer Road Oxford, MI OXFORD PROFESSIONAL CENTER

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

At a regular meeting of the Independence Township Board held on February 2, 2010, the Independence Township Board of Trustees authorized a Second Reading and Adoption of a Rezoning Request from C-3 (Highway Commercial) to R-3 (Elderly Housing Residential), at 7550 Dixie Highway, 3.44 Acres (Formerly Thomasville Furniture), NE side of Dixie Highway, South of 1-75 and North of Deer Lake Road, 08-30-128-005.



The motion to approve this amendment was offered Trustee Wallace, supported by Trustee Rosso, and the vote on the motion was as follows: Ayes: Wallace, Wagner, Lohmeler, Petterson, Rosso, and Carson. Nays: None, Absent: VanderVeen.

The motion carried. The ordinance amendment is effective immediately upon publication Shelagh VanderVeen Township Clerk Published: 2/10/10

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

TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE **FEBRUARY 2, 2010**

- The regular meeting of the Charter Township of Inde-pendence Board was called to order at 7:33 p.m., at the Independence Township Hall.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: Present: Wagner, Carson, Lohmeler, 3 Wallace, Rosso, Petterson, Absent: VanderVeen

There was a quorum.

- The Agenda was approved with Statements and Correspondence moved up before Closed Session
- The Public was given an opportunity to address the
- Board The Minutes of December 21, 2009, January 5, 2010 6.
- and January 12, 2010, were approved. Approved Second Reading of Rezoning Request for 7.
- 7550 Dixie Highway (formerly Thomasville Furniture), from C-1 (Highway Commercial) to R-3 (Elderly Housing Residential). Approved motion for Supervisor and consultants to
- 8. approach the County about amending the Agreement with respect to the CIA and TIF to remove Library and Police.

Update on reduction in force.

- 10. Approved 2010 Budget Adjustment for meter purchase.
- Approved motion to direct Township Attorney to draft 11 an amendment to the Township Ordinances referenc-ing nuisance, blight and other regulation type Ordi-nances and where to find them.
- nances any where to find mem.
 Approved motion to have presented at the first meeting in March information about the organizations to which the Township pays dues and the availability of seminars, conferences and other educational offerings and review educational reimbursement policies.
- 13. Approved motion to adopt the Financial Institution Authorizations and increase the limit in the Oakland County LGIP.
- Approved Accounts Payable Check Run. Approved Records Management Individual Contrac-tor Agreement www Pina Heady.
- Approved motion (a) into closed session to discuss Attorney Opinion Letter at 9:37 p.m.
 Came into open session at 10:55 p.m.
- 17. Regular meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m Shelagh VanderVeen
- Published: 2/10/2010 Township Clerk Publish: 2/10, 2/17, 2/24

Valentine's concert

Barbara Payton and The Big Boss Trio performs live, 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 14, Valentines Day, at Carrick's House Concerts in Independence Township.

For more information, call 248-394-0113 or email carrickhome1@netscape.net.

UBLIC NOTICE NDEPENDENCE TWP. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Independence Township Board of Appeals will meet on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 7:30 PM in the Independence Township Hall Conference Room, 6483 Waldon Center Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346, to hear the following case:

Case #10-0002 Kubicki, Karen, Petitioner for Hamlin Pub APPLICANT REQUESTS VARIANCE FROM ARTICLE III, DIVISION 24, SECTION 50-861 OF

THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW A ONE DAY OUTDOOR EVENT, UNDER TENT IN PARKING LOT, ON WEDNES-DAY, MARCH 17, 2010. Hamlin Pub

6397 Sashabaw Rd., C-2 Independence Town Square

08-27-100-045 NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE RE-QUESTS MAY BE EXAMINED at the Independence Township Building Department during regular hours each day, Monday through Friday until the date of the Public Hear ing. For Further Information call (248) 625-8111. Respectfully submitted,

Shelagh VanderVeen, Clerk

The Township will provide the necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at a public hearing/meeting upon advance notice in writ-ing or by calling the Township Building Department (248) 625-8111



The Charter Township of Independence March Board of Review will meet for its organizational session, MCL

211.29(1), at the Township Hall's Office of the Assessor on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 9:00 am. THIS IS A NEW LOCATION FOR THE

MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW The Board of Review will meet for public hearings at

The Board of Review will meet to public hearings at the <u>Township Hall Board Room located at 6483</u> <u>Waldon Center Drive</u>, Clarkston, Michigan to hear. 2010 year assessment appeals of value, classifica-tion and poverty on March 3, 8, 9 & 11, 2010 from 9:00 am through 4:00 pm, and on March 4 and 10, 2010 from 1:00 pm through 8:00 pm.

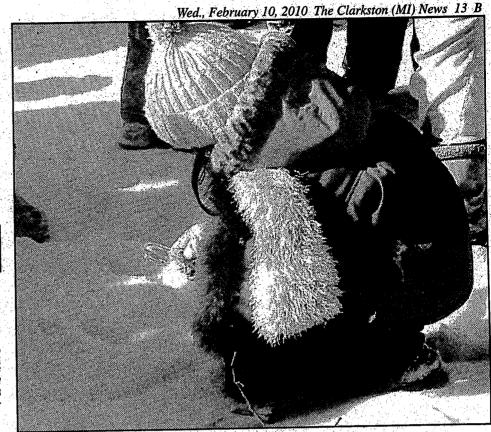
If you wish to appear in person to appeal your as-sessed value, it is required that you have an appoint-ment with the March Board of Review. An appointment can be made through the Assessor's Office by calling (248) 625-8114 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm weekdays. A resident or nonresident may protest to the Board of

Review by mail by submitting a completed and signed "Petition to Board of Review" (Form L-4035). This form is available on line at www.michigan.gov/documents/ 14035f_2658_7.pdf and at the Township Assessing Department at the address indicated above. This form should be mailed to the independence Township Assessing De-partment, PO Box 69, Clarkston, MI 48347. It must be received prior to the close of the March Board of Review and documentation supporting your opinion of value should be attached.

The year 2010 tentative equalization ratio is 50%, and the estimated multiplier is 1.0000 for all property classifications. Please note that taxes are levied against the Taxable Value.

Sincerely Beverly Shaver, CMAE 3

Independence Township Assessor



Jade Burnett uses a magnifying glass to examine a track in the snow.



The Charter Township of Springfield Board of Review will meet at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan for the purpose of

hearing appeals for the year 2010 assessments. Any questions regarding the value or classification staff prior to the hearings. Anyone wishing to appeal the assessment or classification before the Board of Review must make an appointment in advance. Appointments must make an appointent of the state of the 846-6530. The Board of Review has established a ten minute time limit for hearing assessment appeals. Board of Review Hearings

The following dates and times are scheduled for appoint-

ments: Tuesday	March 9, 2010:	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m
		6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday	March 10, 2010:	
Thursday	March 11, 2010:	1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday	March 15, 2010:	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m
Monady		6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday	March 16, 2010:	2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday March 17, 2010: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The following dates and times are scheduled for review only (no appointments):

March 8, 2010: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. March 10, 2010: Wednesday March 11, 2010: March 16, 2010: Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Tuesday March 17, 2010: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. March 18, 2010: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday Thursday Tentative Equalization Ratio: Real & Personal 50% Tentative Equalization Factor: Real & Personal 1.00000

Property owners may also appeal by sending a letter to the Board of Review at Charter Township of Springfield, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan 48350. All letters must be received before 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 17th, 2010. Representatives must submit written authorization from the property owner to protest on their behalf.

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

Vicki L. Sievers, CMAE III Chief Assessor, Springfield Township Publish: February 10, 17, 24, 2010

They are also creating a Wint Nature Center Memory Tree, inviting event participants to write down memories and submit photos on leaf-shaped forms. For a memory leaf form or complete listing of events at the Wint Nature Center, visit

of nature

Quarter

century

Continued from page 1B

DestinationOakland.com. "It's amazing to see what people remember about various aspects of our programming - very gratifying to be a part of people's appreciation of the natural world," said Tim Nowicki, recreation program supervisor.

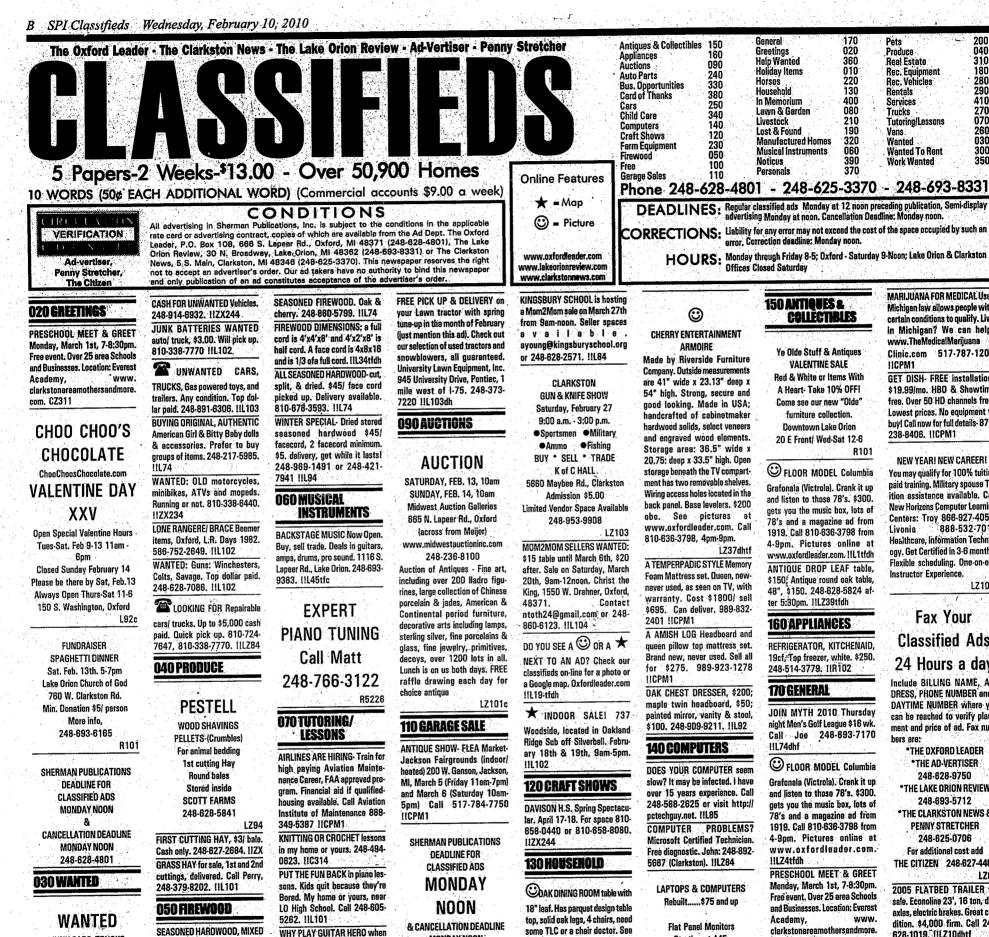
"It's pretty amazing - we're getting a sec-ond generation of participants," said Dan Stencil, Oakland County Parks executive officer. "It's very important for us. it's part of our initiative to get youth reacquainted with the outdoors.'

Entrants are included in a drawing to win an Oakland County Park Family Fun Pass Book, worth \$150.

Winner will be selected at the Tuning Your Tot 25th Anniversary Celebration, set for 1-4 p.m., June 26.

We'll have bouncers, food, music, all free," Conover said. "We'll have the music group Gemina, the best family musicians today."

For more information, call 248-625-6473.



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hardwood \$68, 10% senior discount. 12 mile radius of Oxford. Stacked & delivered. John, 248-830-1837. IIL74 FIREWOOD, SEASONED MIXED Hardwood, 2 face cords deliv ered, \$100.248-421-0222. IIL9 MIXED FIREWOOD: \$55- picked up; \$65- delivered local. 248-2944. 1IZX234 628-5841; 248-408-0462.

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Penny Stretcher

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Lk. Orion Review

L28-dh

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12 GA. SHOTGUN, Mossberg 500A pump action. Almost new. With case, \$135. 248-563-1910. 11 102

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190 LOST & FOUND

LOST CAT. DARK gray female, hazel eyes, Oakland, February 1st. 248-225-7293 UI 101f LOST SHELTIE. "ROSCO", a heautiful tri-colored mostly black with white mane and collar, 25lbs; very friendly, at Bald Mountain Recreation 1.12.10 Reward! 248-933-1033. IIL92f INST. SMALL GRAY stringd femal cat near 887 N. Coats Rd. Oxford. 2428-292-1809. !!L10

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FREE: AKC Cocker Spaniel, 2vrs. old, with papers, Oxford: 734 634-5565. IIL101f AKC AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD puppies, 4 left, \$400. 248-625-2195, IIZX252 LOVELY OLDER PUGS, fawn and black are available for forever homes, 248-625-2775 !!C311F 7 YEAR OLD Jack Russell, Free to good home. 245-245-5871. 11L101f

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BELGIAN HORSE needs good home. Sweet disposition and good companion for your horse. Big Old Pet needs large paddock, not ride/ drivable but loves to be groomed and played with. Please call Marilyn at 810-678-3959 (eve) or 248-568-9503 (day) IIL102 HORSE SIZE HARNESS, good for training, \$125. Winter blanket, 89in. new, \$75. 248-672-4653.

111 102 10x12 STALLS, 4 board fencing, daily turnout & cleaning, safe fam-ily care. \$220, monthly. 248-379-3521, IIL83

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2000 GMC SAFARI AWD- mo-DO YOU SEE A OOR A * NEXT tor shot but drivetrain, body, interior good, \$900, 248-969-TO AN AD? Check our classifieds on-line for a photo or a Google map. 2761. 111.92 Oxfordleader.com III 19-tfdh 1998 TOYOTA SIFNMA white 1999 FORD Taurus, LX, 3.0 V6 92.000 miles, leather interior. automatic A/C PW/PL am/fm cas-

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Southern car, excellent condition

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2008 CHEVY COBALT, 4dr, auto,

all power, 19,000 miles, like new,

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will be accepting sealed bids for the

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2001 MAZDA B2000 pickup, Florida truck: auto, full power. matching fiberglas cap, extra nice, \$5250 obo. 248-467-4670 IILZ98

2002 CHEVY S10 PICKUP Truck, extended cab, 4.3 V6 OXFORD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS engine, 4WD, Many extras! Excellent condition. 71,000 miles. Front brakes recently 144,000 miles, runs good, \$1,500. replaced, \$8,545, Call 248 391-3271, IIRZ74 Auto Shop, Oxford High School, 745 2005 CHEVY SH VERADO 4v4 N. Oxford Road for viewing and bid shorty, 6 cylinder, 59,000 forms. Bids due Friday. February 19. miles. Like new. \$12,800 or 810-664-9380. hast

L101c !!LZ812 2005 FORD FOCUS SES. 4 door. 1982 FORD 100, PS/ PL/ win automatic, all nower, 62,000 miles. dows, 8 track, am/fm, This excellent condition. Extended warlooks nice, is very clean and ranty. \$5,800. OBO. 248-626runs great. 17" like new tires, rims. \$2.500 abo. 248 سمألم 634-9639 1ILZ74 ***** 2004 PONTIAC VIBE, 13,000

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age, Davcare, Church, cinder block building/ house/ 2.41 acres. Lake Orion. 810-797-2085. IIL103

KEATINGTON CONDO, Available March 1st, 7 bedrooms, 1 bath, recently remodeled. Direct access to garage, Lake eges. \$695/ month. 248-802-7921, 1IL102

hlue hook) \$8.500. OBO. 810-441-2 BEDROOM, BRANDON chools \$1,000, 3 hedroom 1999 DODGE MINI van, white. Goodrich schools, \$1,100, Call Marian at Atlas Real Estate, 150.000 miles / Leather interior. 810-636-3400, 11ZX234 \$2,500. 248-640-1549, 248-

fireplace. Attached 2.5 car garage, fenced backvard, Updated, very clean home. All appliances including biob efficiency washer/ dryer. \$1,350. Bill, 248-765-9949, IIL101 STORAGE GARAGE 12'-10"X23', \$85 monthly or \$950 nually, Oxford area, 248-628-3433. IIL101 **ROOMMATE WANTED- lakefront** home, \$450/, month, plus security denosit. Cleap. references. 248-628-6294. 111L92 AVAILABLE NOW! Office space for lease in downtown Clarkston. Approx 1,000 sq.ft. w/ 4 rooms \$1,600 per month. Heat and electric included. Security deposit required. Second floor of the **Clarkston News Building** 5 S. Main St. 248.625.3370 1,744tfdb

4 BEDBOOM, 2.5 hath home, Lake

Orion. Large master suite with

VILLAGE OF HOLLY 4 bedroom, 1.5 bath, large garage with loft. \$875/ month. 248-462-3127. 11ZX271 HOUSE FOR BENT in Clarkston, 2 bedrooms, 2 car garage, all appli-ances. Located on island lakefront on Dollar Lake, \$850/ month. 248-693-4304, 11L102

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693-7120. IIL84

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248-521-0648 1.84 LAKE ORION- 3 bedroom upper

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248-828-3433 UL 101

IR. Directory ONLY \$59 the 12 Noon 68 Thursday

This Open House Directory will appear each Wednesday in the classified section of the following publications:

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Ad-Vertiser

Clarkston News Oxford Leader Penny Stretcher Lake Orion Review Saturday in

The Citizen

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 **OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT. Newly AVAILABLE NOW! Office Space** for Lease in Clarkston, Four remodeled 650 so ft with signage and parking on M·24, in rooms, approx, 1,000 so.ft. Oxford. Call Bob at 248-530-Freshly decorated. Heat and electric included. Second floor of 3202. UI 74c Clarkston News Building, 5 S. OXFORD 2 BEDROOM HOME. Main, Security deposit required Carport, appliances, \$625 ner month. 248-628-7648. !!L101 \$1,600 a month, 248-625-3370. 1111Z7tfdh CLARKSTON 1 BEDROOM apart-HOPE SENIOR APARTMENTS. ment 2 blocks to downtown, No Age 62 or better. 248-628pets. \$590. Heat & hot water 7676. III.7tfc included. 248-623-0711.

WATERFORD, 3 bedroom ranch. 110312 DUPLEX IN OXFORD VILLAGE, 1.385-soft, fenced backvard. deck, new carpet and paint. \$975 1,400 sq.ft, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. month. Call 248.770.0616 \$825, plus utilities, 248-821-111.71 8626. IIL74 LAKE ORION- 2 HOMES; both 4 STUDIO APARTMENT For Rent:

bedroom, built 1998, 2600 sg.ft, \$450, per month includes: washer/ \$900. Jun to 7mos 1, 2300 sq.ft. dryer, dishwasher, central air. \$1,595. 248-393-3347. IIL10 Located across from Lake Orion. HOUSE FOR RENT: 2 story, base-Perfect for 1st apartment or startment, 2 car garage. Total remodel ing over. 248-498-7649. IIL101 with new carpet. Beautiful view INDIAN LAKE 1 ACRE Lakefront of Stoney Lake Park. 1480 Ora. 3 bedroom, 2 full baths, \$950. Oxford. Rent \$900, security de monthly, 248-628-1061, !!L10 posit \$900, last month's \$900. **RECENTLY REMODELED home for** Total \$2 700 to move in Ask for rent in the Village of Lake Orion. Robert. 248-460-3206. !!L92 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, detached VULLAGE DE OXEORD 2 Bedroom garage. 248-632-2734. !!L102 1 Bath. \$650. monthly. 248-KEATINGTON CONDO 2 Bedroom, 431-2716; 248-628-7150. 1 bath, 1 car garage, Very nice. Lake privileges. \$675. 248-561-**CANADIAN FISHING Cabins for**

8616 1184 rent. Walleyes, Jumbo Perch, Big Northerns, Call Hugh or Doris toll \$100. MOVES free 800-426-2550 for free brochure or look at our website YOU IN www.bestfishing.com IICPM1 OAK FOREST APARTMENTS, Apartment, Village of Ortonville Lake Orion, O.F.A. \$199 move-in 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath snecial plus free rent. Call 248

Newly painted/ carpet \$600/ month VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON, 2 bed-248-627-2188 or room townhouse, free health club. 248-318-9584

\$700/ month, 1 bedroom apart ment from \$525 month, 248-LAKE ORION 3 BEDROOM, 3-car garage, family room, fenced yard, LAKEVILLE LAKE 3 Bedroom 2 er lot. \$975. plus deposit.

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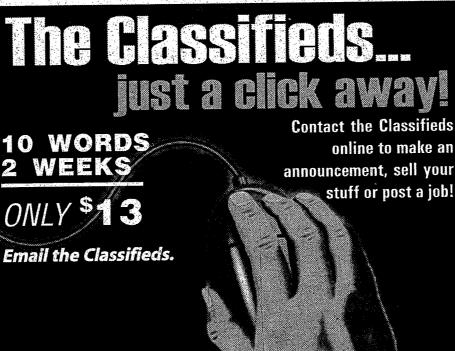
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