

The **Clarkston News** My Clarkston. Buy Clarkston.

Vol. 84 No. 33 Wed., July 6, 2011

1 Section, 32 pages 50 ¢

In today's edition,

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A young Uncle Sam, portrayed by Blake Clements, gives Ben Traynor a "fist pound."



An American muscle car heads down Main Street. Photos by Trevor Keiser

Parading on the Fourth

Thousands lined the streets of Clarkston as community groups and businesses, marching bands, fire trucks, restored military vehicles, and politicians marched down Main Street in celebration of the Fourth of July.

The hour-and-a-half parade, filled with about 90 entries, almost didn't happen, but was saved by volunteers from throughout the community. Please see page 8A for more pictures from the parade

Four more years for Dr. Rock

BY WENDI REARDON
 Clarkston News Staff Writer

Dr. Rod Rock got four more years as Clarkston's superintendent in his new contract, approved June 27.

Clarkston Board of Education voted 4-3 to approve the contract, which runs from July 1, 2011-June 30, 2015.

His contract approved last year was for three years, ending in 2013 – Board Vice President Susan Boatman questioned the extension.

"I am curious why we are making it longer until we find out more about his plans for the district," Boatman asked.

"I was surprised to see we extended it," added Secretary Joan Patterson. "When we gave him a three year contract, it would give him the opportunity to show us he is growing into his job. Let's hold it and look at it for next year."

Rock hesitated before he leaned to the microphone.

"We have a strong direction we are headed in and we are doing what the board set forth," he said. "I feel positive and good about our future."

Trustee Cheryl McGinnis supported the extension.

"I think it is important for our administrators, teaching staff and parents to see the process going on," McGinnis said. "It is honorable for this board to continue to our number one employee by solidifying the contract that is present."

Treasurer Rosalie Lieblang said it wasn't that they didn't support Rock, but wanted to work on setting goals and re-evaluate next year.

"I feel Dr. Rock is doing a great job and has a great impact on teaching staff," added Boatman. "I do not think in any way this is a vote of confidence it is a practical move to get another year of experience before talk about extending the contract."

Please see Rock on page 14A and page 24A for Sup't Viewpoint

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Lots of talent at Oakland County Fair

The new Oakland County Fair Idol singing contest is shaping up well, said L.C. Scramlin, general manager

"Lots of people are contacting the office to set up a tryout," he said. "One worry is that there are more than we can get in."

Auditions will be 6-9 p.m., July 12, 14, and 15, with finals set for 1-2:30 p.m., July 17. The contest is open to all ages - solos, duets, trios, and choirs. Email ssp5078@yahoo.com for a registration form and more info.

With the loss of the Michigan State Fair to budget cuts in 2009, adult exhibits and classes have greatly expanded at the county fair, he said.

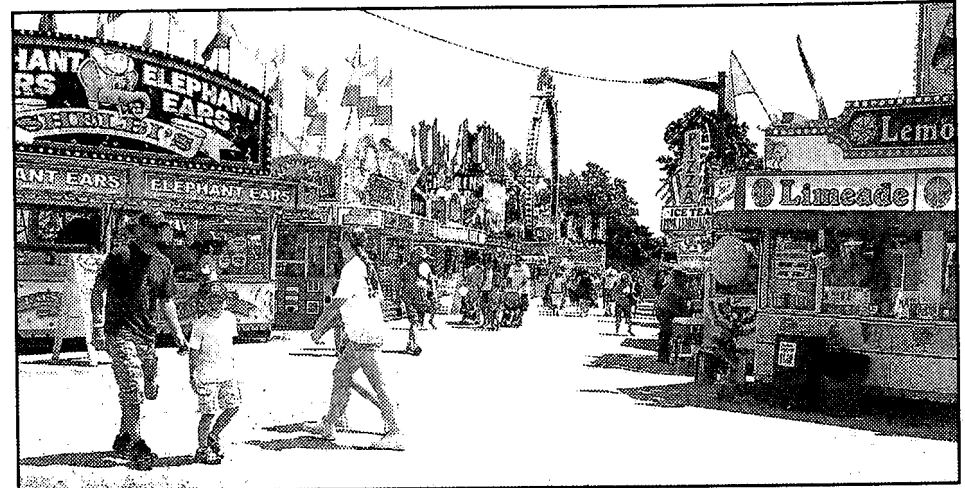
"We went from 40 exhibits to about 286, in photography, cooking, sewing, small engines ... we're ecstatic about it," he said. "It gets the whole family involved."

The fair is also going green with exhibits, programs, and information on recycling, soy products, biofuel, and other environmentally friendly alternatives.

"It helps the ecology and the economy - we're pretty excited about that," he said.

Parking and fair entry is \$4 per person walk-in, or \$10 per car, no matter how many people are in the car.

"Pack it as full as you want - bring the neighbors," he said. "Once you're in, there's



Oakland County Fair returns, July 12-17. File photo

lots of free events, from the circus to racing pigs and livestock. With the economy the way it is, it's one of the best things around."

Free activities also include Globe of Death, Miracle of Birth Barn, Show Me Petting Zoo, 4-H Farmer for a Day, Farmer John, Kids Contests in the Pavilion, and Horse Shows in the Horse Arena.

Oakland County Fair is at Springfield Oaks County Park, 12451 Andersonville Road in Davisburg, 9 a.m.-11 p.m., July 12-16; and 9

a.m.-9 p.m., July 17.

Main Arena Events, carnival rides and food cost extra. The carnival is open Tuesday-Friday, 1-11 p.m.; Saturday, 12-11 p.m.; and Sunday, 12-9 p.m. Main Arena Events include the Super Kicker Rodeo, Demolition Derby and Monster Trucks.

For complete list of fair happenings, rates, and event times, call 248-634-8830 or visit www.oakfair.org.

- Phil Custodio

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Briefly

High-speed lake Quake

This summer's 12th annual "Quake on the Lake" hosts the 2011 National Inboard Hydroplane Championships, July 16-17 at the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area.

The last time the National Inboard Hydroplane Championships were held in Michigan was at Ford Lake near Ypsilanti in 1969.

About 400,000 spectators are expected at the event – racers will approach 175 miles per hour in the one-mile Pontiac Lake race course, one of the fastest in North America.

Proceeds benefit The Rainbow Connection, a charity granting wishes for children with terminal or life-threatening illnesses, as well as other community programs.

Spray Masters show

Davisburg's Spray Masters Water Ski Club and Show Team perform a Water Ski Show, 7 p.m., Thursday, July 21, at Big Lake in Springfield Township.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy an amazing show filled with costumes and breathtaking skiing.

Admission is \$3 per person, free for children 2 and under. The show is performed rain or shine.

For more information, call Springfield Township Parks and Recreation at 248-846-6558.

Volunteer opportunities

Local volunteer opportunities include: Avalon Hospice, sit with patients, hold their hand, listen to stories, personal care, or just be there. Two hours a week or more. 800-664-6334;

Oakland County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, 248-559-1147;

McLaren Hospice, not-for-profit, companionship-type to visit and provide emotional support for patients living with terminal illness, 248-320-0106;

and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Oakland County, 55+, opportunities at hospitals, cultural institutions, food pantries, schools. 248-559-1147 ext. 3427.

Got news?

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Hold on for fun!

Sofia Traver holds Collin Prize's hand as they go down the slide at Clarkston Community Church's Liberty Fest on July 4 before they watched the fireworks. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Trustees want long-term disability changes

BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Until Independence Township Supervisor Dave Wagner applied for it, trustees didn't know the township's short-term disability insurance applied to elected officials.

To find out what else they don't know, they set up a Disability Study Group.

The group – Clerk Barbra Pallotta, Trustee Neil Wallace, and Human Resources Director Carol Gabris – will look at short- and long-term disability coverage for the township's three full-time elected officials.

According to state law, elected officials receive full pay "whether they show up to work or not." For unelected township employees, disability insurance pays 70 percent of their wages, Wallace said at the June 21 meeting.

Also, the township cannot make an insurance claim when an employee is disabled – the employee does that, he said.

"We're in situation where we're carrying this insurance, but we as a township have no ability to make a claim," he said.

One solution is to offer disability insurance to full-time elected officials when they come into office. If they choose not to

take it, than they would forego pay in case of long-term absence.

If the insurance company determines an official is on long-term disability, the township could also require resignation, he said.

"We don't want them collecting long term disability and monies from the township (at the same time)," he said.

With Wagner absent from the board for the past three months, the board needs to take action, Wallace said.

"If somebody is on long term disability, such as for 13 weeks, they have been unable to function in their role and they do not resign, it seems to me it would be incumbent upon this board to do something because it isn't simply just a matter of money, it is also a matter of getting the work performed," Wallace said.

Treasurer Curt Carson said there was a difference between disabled and incapacitated.

"Someone can be disabled at home and able to work," he said. "This is a tough thing for anyone or a board to decide you're not in a position to do your job anymore. There can be point where someone is incapacitated and doesn't have a chance to come back

and we have to address it (then)."

Trustee David Lohmeier thought it wise for the board to have "this discussion."

"I think the whole idea about putting some structure around the mechanics of how you do disability application is smart," he said. "I like the direction we're going."

Lohmeier also said the board needs to be clear and legally consistent when it comes to asking someone to step down.

Trustee Larry Rosso agreed.

"There has to be a strong level of fairness that we don't discriminate against and elected or against anyone," Rosso said. "I think there is obviously more work to be done and I'm sure that the committee has been charged what to do."

Carson said disability insurance for both the elected and non-elected is needed. However, he struggles with resignation in order to receive long-term disability.

"I don't think an elected official should be required to resign to receive the benefit the township offers not only to the elected but to every employee in the township."

Wallace said he will take the board's comments back to the group and perhaps "draft something for the board to look at and sink its teeth into."

Hypertension: Learn the facts

Q. What is hypertension, and why is it so dangerous?

A. Hypertension is another name for high blood pressure. It can cause potentially fatal conditions and frequently is referred to as the "silent killer" since people often live with it for years without experiencing any symptoms.

Left untreated, high blood pressure can inflict serious damage to the body, including heart attack, stroke, kidney failure and vision damage.

Q. How do I know if I have hypertension?

A. There's only one way to find out if you have hypertension: Have your blood pressure measured regularly. Typically, blood pressure is measured by two numbers and recorded as a ratio, for instance, 117/76 mm Hg (pronounced "117 over 76 millimeters of mercury").

The top number of the ratio registers systolic pressure, which is the amount of pressure in the arteries when the heart muscle contracts. The bottom number, by contrast, measures diastolic pressure, or the amount of pressure in the arteries between heart muscle contractions.

Q. What is normal blood pressure? What is considered high blood pressure?

A. According to the American Heart Association, normal blood pressure is anything less than 120/80 mm Hg. People with blood pressure readings of 140/90 mm Hg or higher are said to have high blood pressure, while people with blood pressure readings of 200/120 mm Hg or higher need immediate treatment.

Q. Who is at risk for high blood pressure?

A. Those at high risk for hypertension commonly have a family history of high blood pressure, heart disease or diabetes; are over age 55; are overweight or not physically active; drink alcohol excessively or smoke; eat foods high in saturated fats or sodium; or take certain medications.

Q. What are the warning signs for hypertension?

A. To truly determine if you have hypertension, you must have your blood pressure

checked regularly. However, if your blood pressure is extremely high, you may experience some of these symptoms:

- Headache
- Fatigue or confusion
- Vision problems
- Chest pain
- Difficulty breathing
- Irregular heartbeat
- Blood in the urine
- Pounding in the chest, neck or ears

If you have any of these symptoms, see a doctor immediately. You could be experiencing a hypertensive crisis that could lead to heart attack or stroke.

Q. Are there any ways to prevent high blood pressure?

A. Yes. Lifestyle modifications are critical to preventing and treating hypertension. You can lower your blood pressure and/or enhance the effectiveness of drugs used to treat high blood pressure by:

- Losing weight (if you are overweight or obese)
- Quitting smoking
- Eating a healthy diet
- Consuming less than 1,500 milligrams of sodium daily
- Getting regular aerobic exercise
- Limiting alcohol consumption

Q. What should I do if I suspect I have hypertension?

A. If you think you have high blood pressure or if you believe you are at risk, schedule an appointment with a physician qualified to diagnose and treat hypertension. The good news is hypertension can be successfully controlled, if detected in time.



Anthony Aenlle, MD, is a board-certified internal medicine physician at POH Regional Medical Center, Dixie Highway, 6815 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI. To schedule an appointment, please call 248.625.1011.

ADVERTORIAL



Matthew Ross collected toy donations from all over the community.

Scout donates hundreds of toys

When it comes to making a difference, 11-year old Matthew Ross showed age holds no limits.

After a recent tornado devastated the town of Ringgold, Ga., Ross decided to help by donating toys to the affected children.

"I was watching the news and I saw how devastating the tornadoes were and I just wanted to do something to help," he said.

A resident of Independence Township and member of Boy Scout Troop 199 in Clarkston, he began his efforts by contacting a representative of S.A.F.E., Stuffed Animals for Emergencies, a non-profit organization in Georgia.

After learning where to send the toys, Ross

contacted local businesses, his school, and other organizations to request donations of new and gently used toys. He also donated some of his own toys.

After six weeks, he collected over 500 toys along with monetary donations from L.A. Cafe's Peacefest. The donations were delivered to Ringgold by the Ross family.

Although Matthew says that the process was long, he has high hopes for the children of Ringgold.

"I hope that it made them joyful and just reminded them that people still knew that they were there," he said.

- Elise Shire

Coffee Clubs

7:30-9 a.m.

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Clarkston United
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Wednesdays
in Ortonville

at Brandon
Township Library

Fridays in Lake Orion

at Culver's Restaurant on M-24

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Annika Jankowski finishes the song with a smile.



Lyndsey Fenton sings and dances during the mash-up of "Umbrella" and "Singing in the Rain."



Halle Haneckow gets into the spirit of "Singing in the Rain." Photos by Wendi Reardon



Kyle Conroy twirls the umbrella before the next dance move.

Gleeked out

Enthusiastic singers, dancers and actors performed to two of their favorite songs during Glee Musical Camp on Thursday.

On the first day, the campers auditioned and worked in pairs, pitching songs they wanted to sing and dance to.

The top two choices, Ke\$ha's "Tik Tok" and the mash-up of Rhianna's "Umbrella" and "Singing in the Rain" were performed.

The camp, based on Fox's TV show Glee, was led by Cynthia Bass from Starz Performing Arts in Lake Orion and offered through Clarkston Community Education.

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Wendi's Word

A column by Wendi Reardon

Toxins tossed

I watched with interest and distaste as I eyed the water in the Aqua Chi Ionic foot bath change color.

As part of my 12-week program at Nuview Nutrition I signed up for the detox. Another painful but hopefully helpful 12 days of helping my liver to a happy life.

The detox included two foot baths from Holistic Harmony and it would pull toxins out of the body. Most of mine were from the liver, gallbladder and I did have yeast - which creates sugar cravings.

It was interesting like someone reading tea leaves but reading toxins. It definitely explains sugar cravings (I really need to say no to sweets and stop feeding the yeast.)

I still have one more foot bath and as I write this two more days of detox and started back on grains, which I happily gave my body.

While restricting, it was only frustrating at restaurants, more frustrating than when I first started the program. Many restaurants have added the healthy friendly items in hopes not to lose customers. But it is still limited.

My first day of detox I ate at a restaurant basically cutting the salad down to the bare minimum including no chicken. Sadly still charged for the chicken. It was not a \$9 salad.

Most restaurants, it was easier to find their gluten menu, if they had one, or just stick with a salad.

While at times I could be heard saying "I can't eat that, I can't drink that" I don't think about it and consider it done. I thought I'd be more of a "I can't eat that, I can't drink that" type of person. I started all over again. I really want to start all over again. I really want to start all over again. I really want to start all over again.



The Clarkston News Viewpoints

Questions about pay-to-play fee

Dear Editor,

I am commenting on Clarkston Schools' decision to raise the pay to play amount for grades 9-12 (to \$325 per student for high schoolers).

Although they say it is a one time fee, it does not seem fair to the students that only participate in one sport.

When I was in high school it was not unheard of for a student to participate in three sports, one during each season. Now it seems that every sport can be played year round.

This "one time fee" does not cover summer sports camps that are recommended by the team coaches and it does not cover the admission fees to the games and meets.

I would like to know why Clarkston's pay to play is so high, especially when other schools in Oakland County, i.e. Oxford, do not institute this practice, yet have state

champion teams.

The kids have enough issues to deal with while attending school...having the cool clothes, shoes, bags, peer pressure etc. They are bullied for all kinds of reasons and most suffer from self esteem issues.

Now with the economic climate, these issues are compounded and some now have to worry about if there parents are employed. I understand that the schools are hurting for money, but the parents/households are also.

This increased fee is ridiculous and will hurt the community as a whole.

There will be less kids participating in sports, because of their inability to pay the fee and as a result these kids will then look for "less positive" things to keep them busy after school.

A concerned parent
Clarkston

Letters to the editor

What have you to say now?

Dear Editor,

Dan Travis who ran for Independence Township Supervisor during the last election is today healthy. But imagine for a moment that he had been elected instead of the current supervisor.

Based on the plans Dan had announced, Independence Township would have a professional township superintendent running the day to day operations.

So if Dan had now missed a few days or a few weeks, or like supervisor Wagner, a few months, the citizens of Independence Township would still have a full service general manager.

It is time for *The Clarkston News* to acknowledge it was wrong in 2008 to endorse Supervisor Wagner's re-election. It is time for *The Clarkston News* to admit it was wrong in 2008 to say having a professional manager was unconstitutional.

(Ed note: the endorsement was based on opposition to the professional-manager slate of candidates. Wagner was subject to a recall effort, which was unsuccessful, which a superintendent wouldn't be. In any case, his status doesn't retroactively affect something's constitutionality.)

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(Ed note: the endorsement was based on opposition to the professional-manager slate of candidates. Wagner was subject to a recall effort, which was unsuccessful, which a superintendent wouldn't be. In any case, his status doesn't retroactively affect something's constitutionality.)

In Wagner's absence, the Township Board and staff have so far plugged the gaps. But it is time for Independence Township to do so better.

It is time for *The Clarkston News* to acknowledge it was wrong in 2008 to endorse Supervisor Wagner's re-election. It is time for *The Clarkston News* to admit it was wrong in 2008 to say having a professional manager was unconstitutional.

A Look Back

From *The CNews* archives

15 years ago - 1996

"Rubbing elbows with the stars"
George White served as Pine Knob Music Theatre's director of community relations during the first two decades of operation. During this time, White described experiencing many interesting moments, such as meeting Gene Simmons.

"New Youth Assistance caseworker for Clarkston" After nearly 13 years with Waterford Youth Assistance, Fred Morden became Clarkston's new Youth Assistance caseworker. Morden was transferred where caseworker Theresa Blundell-Zucker was on sick leave. Morden was given a copper-covered boot along with a certificate recognizing his contribution.

"Garden club wins national honor"
The Clarkston Garden Club won first place in the national level for its community gardening activities. The club also tied for first at the state level.

25 years ago - 1986

"Richardson honored; Farough to Hillsdale" For the second straight year, Clarkston girls track coach Gordie Richardson was chosen Oakland County Coach of the Year.

"Sixth-grader places 2nd in national contest" Jessica Miller, Clarkston Elementary School sixth-grader, won second place in the State Scenario Competition in Michigan and continued to the national contest along with about 60 entries representing the top three winners from states across the nation. For her topic, Jessica chose "Feeding the World" and she called her work "Feedo."

"Heatheringington and Centerfold show skill" Holl Heatherington and her horse Centerfold won both the intermediate Junior Hunter and Low Hunter classes at the May Hixley Hill show.

50 years ago - 1961

Clarkston was named one of the most beautiful communities in Michigan.

Faded Ink

What to do when road commission comes acallin'

A couple of weeks ago, I received an e-mail from a certain Sherrie V, of Groveland Township in regards to trees lining the road, safety concerns and the Road Commission of Oakland County.

For the sake of space conservation, here's a condensed version of her message . . .

Don,

Since 2002, Emerald Ash Borer has killed more than 30 million ash trees in southeastern Michigan alone . . . By 2005 I had over 25 dead ash trees, half of them with diameters over one foot, between my house and Groveland Road.

So one day in the winter of 2007, we hired two men to come over and drop those dead trees to the ground. Then my husband and I and some friends cleaned up.

We cut larger logs for burning in our wood burning stove, and piled small branches into piles we call rabbit-tat.

. . . The roads out here are tree lined, with above ground utility wires about 20 feet from the edge of the road. And many of the trees that line these roads are now dead ash trees. . . .

. . . The abundance of these trees worries me. I have heard of a few fatalities caused by trees falling on roads during

high winds. Just this past September, late in the evening a tree fell into the road here on Groveland Road and a young man hit it, doing a great deal of damage to his car. Fortunately he was not injured.

I've called the RCOC for a few years now, expressing my concerns about the danger of dead trees lining the roads. When I was told that the money wasn't available to cut these trees down, I suggested that they just drop them, leaving the clean up to the many scavengers that would be happy to collect the firewood.

Well, yesterday a crew of I believe six men showed up, and spent the entire day cutting down perhaps a dozen trees, many of them tall, but with small diameters. Only one tree had a diameter of over six inches. They left the trunk of the one large tree, but every other bit of wood was carried off.

The smaller diameter trunks and limbs (perfect for the fireplace) were loaded onto a truck, and the rest of the branches were chipped into mulch. The few pieces

of trunk that were left will be picked up by a separate county truck they tell me. Now I can see why it has taken them years to get to my request, and why their work is done at great expense.

If safety is truly the top priority of the road commission, they will concentrate on dropping these trees to the ground and let the local citizens clean up the branches, and limbs. We could use the exercise and the firewood.

Sherrie V

* * *

So, I posed the questions above to Craig Bryson, public relations dude at the RCOC, and here is his response.

Don,

Our practice, based on years of experience, is to simply go out and cut down the trees. We don't approach the homeowners (many times it's not real clear on large lots in rural areas who the appropriate property owner is). However, the trees are marked days or sometimes weeks ahead of time . . . If they call us or approach at the site, we're happy to work with them.

However, please keep in mind, our primary objective is to get rid of potentially problematic trees in the road right of way, and to do so as quickly and efficiently as

possible — not to provide firewood for area residents . . .

Again, we are more than happy to try to oblige the wishes of the homeowner (to get the wood) if we can do so without impacting our work process, but that is not why we are there. And, while it may seem simple to just provide the wood to the homeowner, years of experience tells us it is often not nearly as simple as it might seem at first blush — the last thing we want to do is get in a dispute over wood.

For example, we've had residents say, "Yeah, I wanted the wood, but I didn't realize there would be so much. Can you come back and remove the rest?"

This can cost us a half day of unplanned labor for an entire crew — costly and inefficient, at a time when we've got far more trees that need removing than we will ever possibly be able to get to.

Craig

* * *

So, when the road commission comes a'callin', get out there communicate and then follow through.

PS: Thank you to Sherrie and Craig for making this holiday-shortened week's column easy to write. I love it when a plan comes together!

Observations and realizations of little note

The rising cost of a gallon of gasoline has wrought opposite reactions to drivers. There are those who drive slower and coast to stops at signs and lights.

Then there is the majority of drivers who don't consider the cost, don't fear the hereafter and insist on being ahead of whatever and whoever is ahead of them.

It's a "cost be-damned, my taxes paid for this road and my time is very important" attitude.

Well, folks, newspapers have space on their pages for all. There's the police and accident reports, and there is the obituary columns.

- - - 0 - - -

During my active fishing life I've bought lures for walleye, bass, perch and salmon. My mother took me fishing when I was less than 10, and we had a pole, line, hook and worms.

With buddies I've fished in big lakes, small lakes and rivers. They might have said, "Let's go catch some pike" or whatever.

Never in all my years has anyone suggested we go "tilapia" fishing.

I swear every restaurant these days has tilapia on their menu. I don't know what a tilapia is so I've never ordered it.

I've come to the conclusion tilapia is part of a political campaign speech, a conservative or liberal word for health care initiatives, a misspelling on the teleprompter or something from India that Gandhi couldn't get past in the United Nations.

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

"A small town is where everyone knows whether the wife should have been beaten." -- S. Cook.

- - - 0 - - -

I'm convinced schools of "higher learning" have courses for the airwave-media hopefuls that teach both the weather and news reporters from the same text.

Tragedies, quakes, storms, killings, raids, violence, etc., are the leads. Somewhere along the line tragedies are a

"might," quakes are deep tremors and storms are iffy.

However, killings, raids and violence are only hidden because they are so repetitive.

We see and hear them featured with every newscast and "news bulletin."

We are calloused!

- - - 0 - - -

Oh, there are so many ways for me to play this tune. During the ceremony prior to the showing of the U.S. Open golf tournament on June 21, NBC omitted the words "under God" from the pledge.

They apologized, but so did Chris Wallace for asking Michele Bachmann, "Are you a flake?"

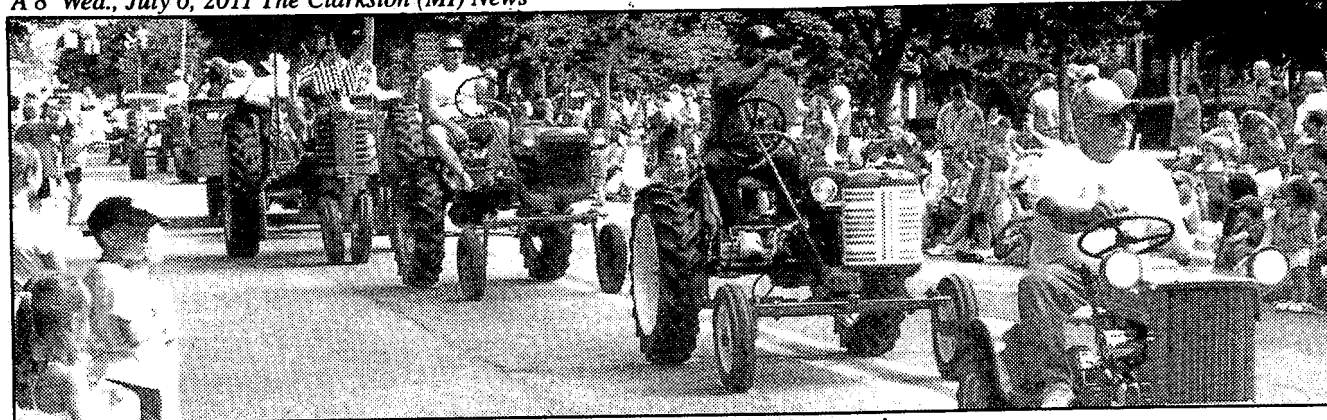
NBC, Channel 4, is not the first button on my clicker I touch for local news. Channel 7 is. Four leans so far left they could fall to three.

Who was running the teleprompter, word streamer or control room when this blatant disrespect to our nation took place?

I suppose, in keeping with TV's frightful exaggerations, the Taliban, al-Qaeda, Gaddafi or el nina could be blamed.

- - - 0 - - -

- In Italian, "ah choo" is "eccì eccì."
- A pack-a-day smoker will lose approximately two teeth every ten years.
- Miss Piggy's measurements are 27-30-32.
- Where was the first Roman candle invented? China.
- Cats almost never meow at other cats. (They save that for humans.)



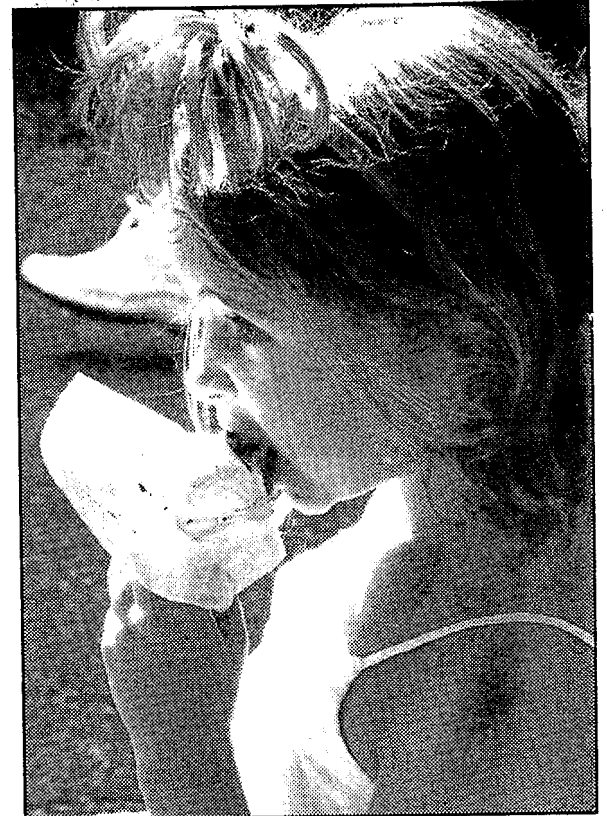
The tractor club rumbles through town during the Fourth of July parade.



Bikers show their American spirit.

Successful 4th parade

Whether it was the sound of kids screaming for candy along the parade route, or the long line of tractors, motorcycles, fire trucks and various floats traveling down Main Street, the "almost didn't happen" July 4 parade proved to be a success.



Whitney Acker enjoys an ice cream sandwich.



Tom Lowrie of Lowrie's Landscape, in his best Founding Father costume, blasts a bubble out his water cannon.



Katy and Savannah Ramirez wait for some parade candy throwers to come by. *Photos by Trevor Keiser*



Oakland County Sheriff's mounted deputies march in Clarkston's Fourth of July Parade. Photo by Trevor Keiser

Public Safety

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

Bad bill

A Sashabaw Road service station manager found a counterfeit \$100 bill in the register when counting out the money, June 17. She spoke to the overnight clerk, who said he thought the bill was questionable, but the customer was a regular and said it was OK. They spoke to the customer, a 37-year-old Independence Township man, who said he got it playing in a poker tournament. He agreed to provide a real \$100 bill and asked for the counterfeit bill back. The manager kept the bill, and provided it to police, June 23.

Sashabaw Road break-ins

Two Sashabaw Road businesses were broken into and cash registers opened, June 23. Someone smashed through a glass front door of a Sashabaw Road business and smashed open cash registers, 10:11 p.m., June 25.

Disorderly concert conduct

A 19-year-old Independence Township man was charged with damaging police property and disorderly conduct after getting into a scuffle with DTE Music medical and security staff, 7:40 p.m., June 24. After he was arrested and put in a police car after punching staffers and pushing a deputy, he yelled and kicked the car's back door. He had a .14 preliminary breath test.

Motor thefts

Someone took an outboard motor and trolling motor from the side yard of a W. Circle Drive home, June 25. An outboard motor was stolen from Deer Lake Beach, June 26.

Unexpected visitor

A Reese Road resident called police after a neighbor showed up, crawling due to a visibly broken leg, 3 a.m., June 24. The neighbor, a 32-year-old Independence Township man, said he jumped from his second floor apartment to escape a man he had met at a casino and brought home. He was taken to Genesys for treatment.

Thefts from vehicles

A purse was taken from a vehicle with broken locks parked in the 5000 block of Drayton Road, June 22.

Someone took vehicle registration and proof of insurance paperwork from an unlocked pickup, parked in the 5000 block of Forest Valley Drive, June 25.

A dollar bill was taken from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 6000 block of Dixie Highway, June 25.

Thief chased

A Dixie Highway restaurant employee walking to the parking lot caught someone in her car, 9:45 a.m., June 25. Employees chased the suspect, who escaped on a bicycle with a portable CD player, MP3, and iPod. The vehicle was locked but window was partway down. Deputies are seeking an 18-year-old Independence Township man.

Drunk driver

A deputy on patrol found a car parked on the side of Maybee Road near Waterford Road, 2:06 a.m., June 26. The driver, a 35-year-old Flushing woman smelling strongly of alcohol, said she pulled over because she was too drunk to drive. Her PBT result was .18. She was arrested for drunk driving.

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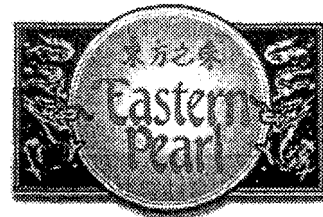
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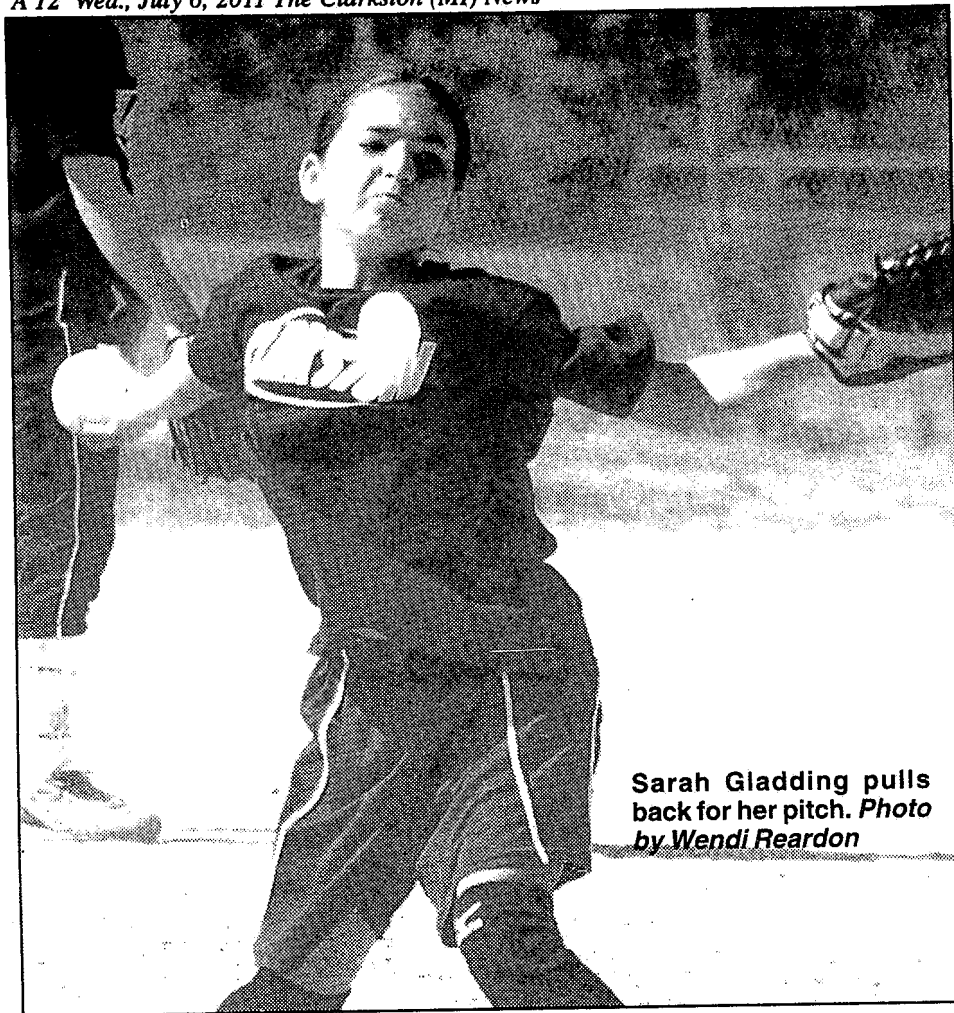
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Sarah Gladding pulls back for her pitch. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Ready coach!

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Sam Wycoff joined the rest of the group as they got ready to play their last scrimmage on Thursday in Adventures in Softball.

The softball clinic was held last week by Don Peters, Clarkston High School Girls Varsity Softball head coach with help from his coaching staff and varsity players.

Hitters ages 7-12 learned and improved their skills in throwing, hitting, sliding, base running, pitching, catching, bunting and fielding.

"I like it," said Wycoff. "This is the second camp I have ever done. The first one was a basketball camp. I learned how to bunt, catch and pitch a little better."

"It is a great group of young ladies," said Peters, adding he has watched them improve during the four days.

"Their sliding has really improved," he noticed. "We did a feet first and head first slide by. The first day they were really awkward about it. Their hitting has really improved, too. It was getting them to use their hips a little better when they are hitting."

Many of the young players they had at the camp were also players for travel softball

teams and play ball all year. For them it was improving their skills while the younger players with little or no experience learned how to do everything.

The campers were also coached by varsity players and former Lady Wolf Taylor Hasselbach, who currently plays for the University of Michigan.

"All the girls said they want to go watch softball at Michigan," said Peters. "They said 'she's our hero.' They see these role models want to be like them - 'I want to be a varsity player. I want to play softball like you.'"

"The coaches were really nice," said Lillian Schuster during a break. "They gave me tips so I can practice over the summer and get better."

The players received T-shirts and autographed softballs. They were also treated to a slip-and-slide on their last day to help them cool off after all of their hard work.

"I am really interested in doing this again next year, too," said Wycoff.

"It was really fun," Schuster added. "I am going to come next year."

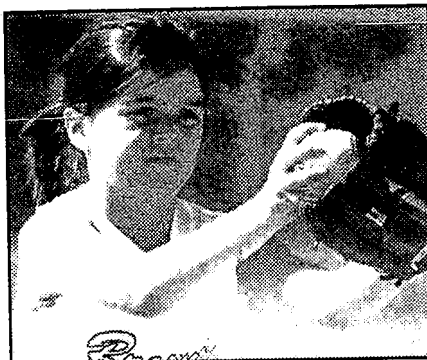
Adventures in Softball was offered through Clarkston Community Education. For more information or to find out about other camps, call 248-623-4326.



Carigan Price practices her hitting during the last day of softball camp.



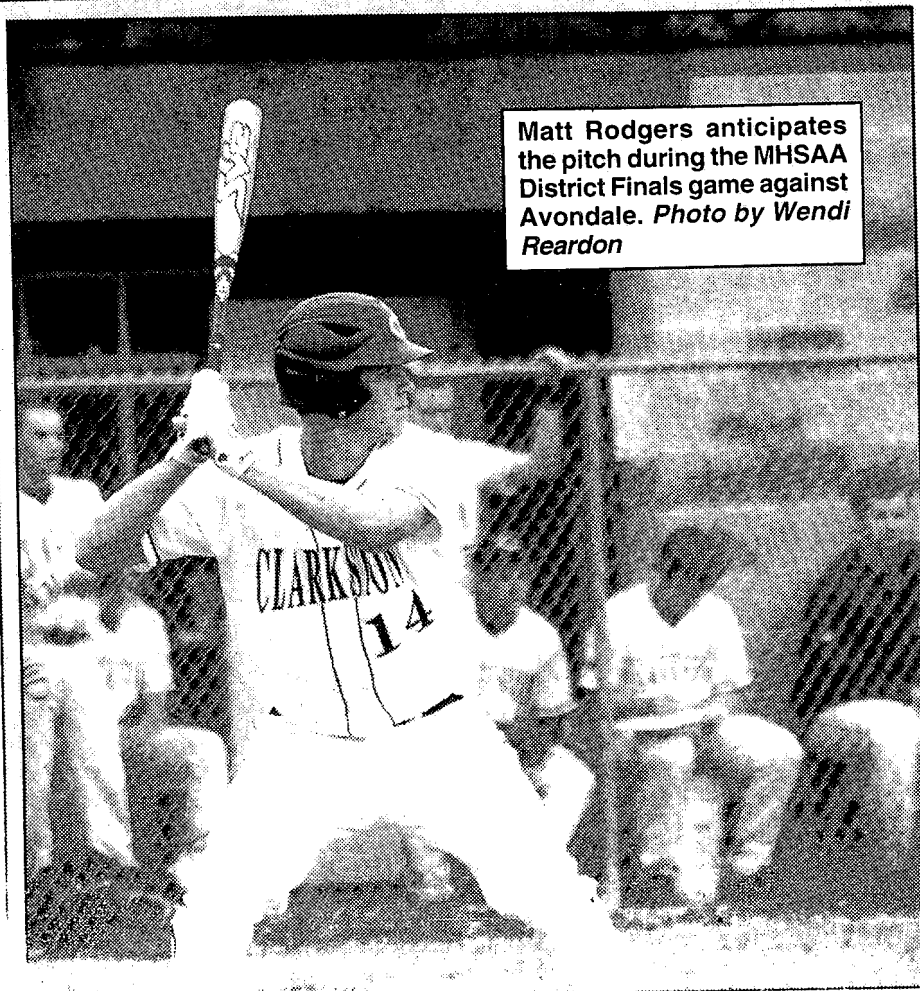
Miles Hamilton strikes the softball using all the tips he learned during the week.



Sam Wycoff takes a moment before her pitch.



Lillian Schuster closes in on the ball with her mitt. Photos by Wendi Reardon



Matt Rodgers anticipates the pitch during the MHSAA District Finals game against Avondale. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Athlete of the Week

Rodgers impacts finals

Before the Wolves closed their spring season, Clarkston High School 2011 graduate Matt Rodgers helped lead the way to victory.

During the district playoffs he brought in two runs with his homerun hit over the fence to tie the score in the first inning, 2-2.

It led the way as the boys beat Avondale, 12-9 for the district crown on June 4.

"Matt was a helluva player," said Phil Price, Clarkston Boys Varsity Baseball head coach. "He started the game. Avondale hit a two-run home and Matt answered and went 'we are here to play, we aren't going to roll over.' It really set the tone of the game."

Against Utica Eisenhower in the first round of MHSAA Regional playoffs, the boys won 6-2, June 11.

Rodgers also started the game off for the boys with a two-run homer in the first inning and ended the game hitting 2-for-3 with three RBIs and was the winning pitcher with no walks and six strikeouts.

"Matt pitched and played really outstanding," said Price.

The team finished with an overall record 23-8 and Rodgers joins 11 players as they left their last year on the team.

"Our seniors have been phenomenal and they have led us on the right path," said Price.

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New contract to help retain Rock, officials say

Continued from page 1A

Lieblang addressed a concern she has heard from parents and the community about Rock not currently living in the district.

"If you were to get this four year contract what are your thoughts about moving to the district," asked Rosalie, looking at Rock.

"It is not in my family's plans right now to change from our current situation," Rock answered.

Boatman made a motion to amend the contract term to 2010-2013. Patterson supported

the motion.

Board President Steve Hyer strongly disagreed.

"I think the notion to retain existing term is preposterous," Hyer said. "The superintendent has been with us and has had a positive impact on our district. Not extending would be nothing short of telling him to find another job elsewhere. I am extremely proud of the job Dr. Rock has been doing and I don't want to do another superintendent search."

The contract extension sends a message to staff, students, and community, he said.

"Dr. Rock is here, we are behind him and you should listen to what he has to say because he is going to lead us along into the future," Hyer said.

"I agree with Mrs. Boatman," Lieblang added to the discussion. "We are looking to protect the district as well as get more experience."

"In 1999 I became a principal after being a gym teacher," said Rock. "There were notes

under the door when I opened the from teachers needing to talk to me. I am a superintendent of Clarkston Community Schools. It doesn't matter if I have 100 years or 15 minutes of experience, I have no excuses to make a mistake. I am not keeping anything back."

Patterson added she didn't think he was making excuses.

"With any new job there are different expectations," she said. "It's an evolution of a group coming up with what the job is, how we are going to accomplish it, getting all the pieces together and becoming Clarkston."

Hyer disagreed and said it sounded like the message being sent was lack of experience.

The amendment was turned down, 4-3 with Boatman, Patterson and Lieblang supporting it.

"I am disappointed the board extended Rock's contract," said parent, Dawn Schaller. "Dr. Rock does not answer to anyone, does not answer to the public. I believe Dr. Rock is not committed to Clarkston because he has not moved his family to Clarkston."

The contract includes an annual salary of \$140,000, automobile allowance of \$600 per month for auto expenses and mileage, tax shelter annuity of \$10,000 per year, health insurance and \$5,000 upon relocation within the boundaries of the district.

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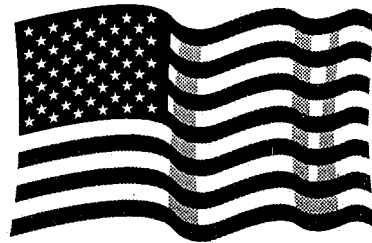


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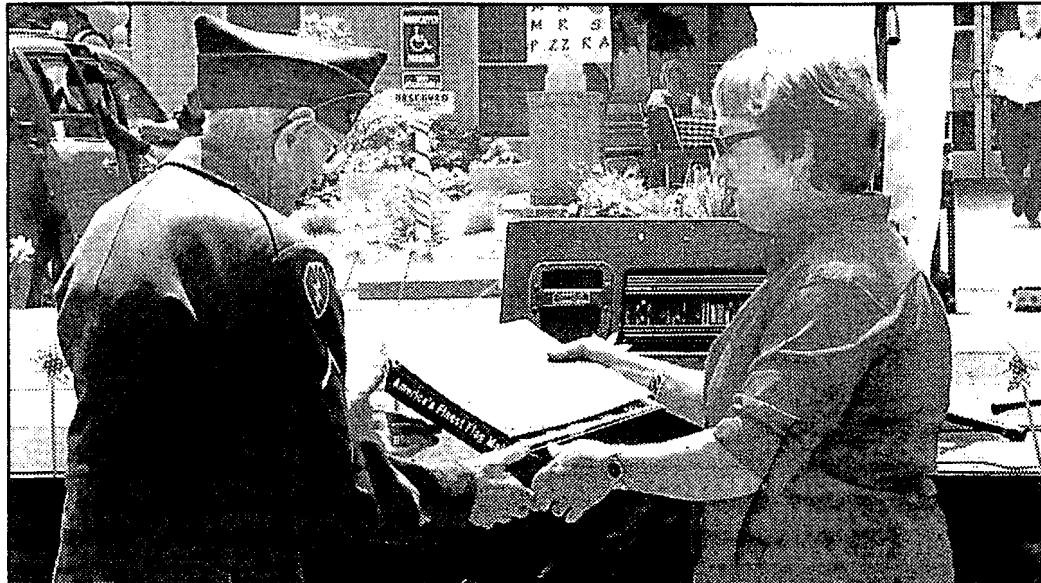
"I hope your dreams take you... to the corners of your smiles, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunities, and to the most special places your heart has ever known."
 Unknown.

The CHS Graduates would like to categorize a special thank you to
 The Clarkston News

for their recognition of our community with the solicitous donation of this advertisement.

Extraordinary thanks to the CHS Class of 2011 Post Graduation All Night Party and Picnic
 Committee Chairs and

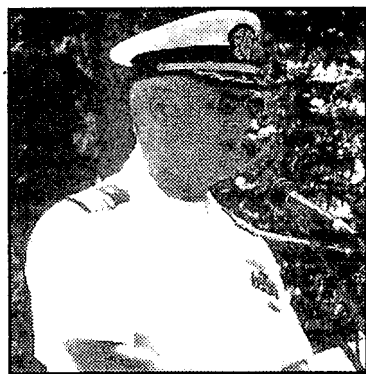
Event Volunteers for their tireless efforts and continued support.



State Rep. Eileen Kowall presents a capitol-flown flag to George Thompson, veteran of World War II – at 93, the oldest vet in attendance.



Charles Michael Hopkins, World War II veteran, and Sandy Pierce look at items in the Carriage House Military Museum.



Bart Clark, captain, U.S. Navy retired, delivers his remarks.

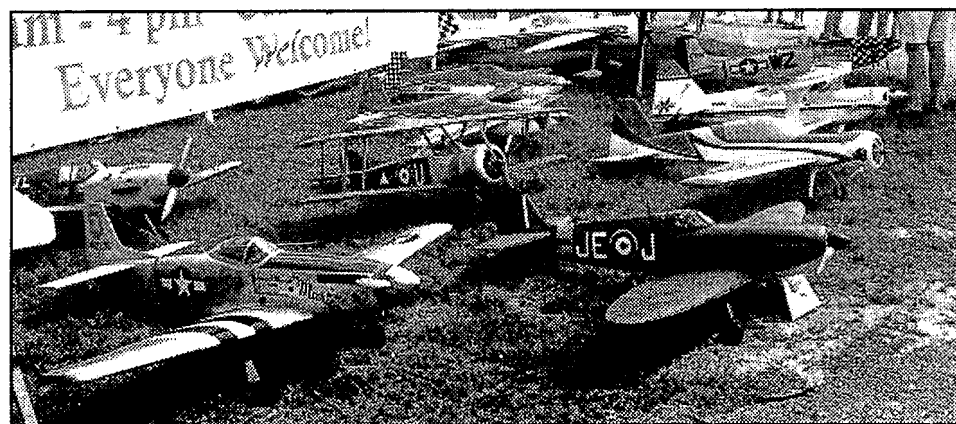
A time for vets

Festival goers took time out from their Independence Day fun to honor veterans, July 4 at Clintonwood Park.

Captain Bart Clark of Clarkston, U.S. Navy retired, recognized veterans from World War II through the current War on Terror during the ceremony, capped with a 21-gun salute by American Legion Post 377 Honor Guard.

Local vets also hosted a meet and greet in the park Carriage House, set up as a Military Museum with uniforms and memorabilia for people to check out.

Photos by Phil Custodio



Pilots with Pontiac Miniature Aircraft Club display their warplanes.



From left, Kyle, Jonathan, and Tyler Crockett, visiting with their parents Phil and Donna Crockett, check out photos from the first Gulf War.



The American Legion Post 377 Honor Guard fires a 21-gun salute.

People Poll

July 6, 2011
Page A18

What does the Fourth of July mean to you?

"Celebrating my independence and being with friends and family enjoying the summer."



- Kellie Garrett

"It means fighting for our independence."



- Shelly Bernwanger

"It means freedom and celebrating with my friends and family and celebrating the United States."



- Krista Anderson

"It means my birthday."



- Stephanie Furman

By Elise Shire

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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

Beauty queen gives her best at states

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

"I can honestly say to this date it was one of my best competitions overall. I felt great in every phase and I did everything I could and was the best I could be on those nights," Hawthorne said. "I'm proud to be third runner up."

She was also the only one up there who was not a "returny."

"It was my first time at states and a lot of the other girls had been there for two or even three years," she said. "It was an honor the first time being there."

Hawthorne was also chosen by Miss America board at the state level for the "Miss America Community Service Award."

"It was great to win that award because not everybody gets that," she said.

Between third runner up and service award, Hawthorne received \$4,000 in scholarships for college.

"In this economy, times are hard, so any money you can get for college is so important," she said.

As far as the competition, Hawthorne said it's a week long process. Saturday was arrival day and getting pictures. Tuesday was when the "real part" of the competition begins, starting with a 9-minute-30-second interview.

"Then you have 30 seconds at the very end to finish up what you were saying or say something else you didn't get to talk about," Hawthorne said.

Wednesday and Thursday were for preliminaries where the girls are split into two groups: Evening Gown and Swimsuit or On Stage Question and Talent. Hawthorne did



Elizabeth Hawthorne, here in Clarkston's July 4 parade, took Miss Michigan third runner up. Photo by Trevor Keiser

evening gown and swimsuit on Wednesday and the on stage question and talent on Thursday. Friday was a free day to relax and go to the teen pageant before the big competition on Saturday.

She noted Thursday night was also when the top 10 was announced.

"I was actually called first, which was funny because I was praying, 'God I really want to be top 10, I just don't want to be called first,' and then I was called first," she said. "My nerves were definitely trying to sneak up on me, but I stayed as calm as I could."

For her talent, she sang "A House is Not a Home," written by Burt Bacharach, but made popular by Luther Vandross.

"One thing I love about the song is it's

relatable to almost everybody at some sort of level. I think everybody has had their heart broken, even if it wasn't by someone they were dating it could have been by friend or someone passing away," Hawthorne said. "It's also great for my voice and my range. It showcased the technicality of what I can do on stage."

Her on stage question was "what is your favorite point of the crown?" The four points of the crown are style, success, service, and scholarship. With adrenalin rushing, Hawthorne answered with the first thing that came to her mind, which was style.

"I twisted it because it sounds a little shallow if you like style, so I said it's not about the fashion, it's about who you are as a person and it shines through," she said. "I really do believe that, that's how I see style."

With Miss Michigan pageant out of the way and giving up her title as Miss Oakland County on Saturday, Hawthorne is ready to take a little time off and regroup.

"Just get prepared for this next season coming up," she said.

Hawthorne will be entering her junior year at Oakland University next year, where she is continuing her major in psychology.

As a National Spokesperson for Best Bones Forever and a Teen Ambassador for the National Osteoporosis Foundation, Hawthorne was able to stand on the floor of the House of Representatives and, with help from Representative Vicki Barnett of the 37 District, pass a resolution declaring October 20, 2011 "Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Day" in the state of Michigan.

"My next goal now is to work again with Representative Vicki Barnett and make this something that is a permanent thing because right now it's only for this year," she said. "I want to see how successful this will be and hopefully it will be a huge blowout and we can make this something that will happen annually."

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Special Events

Concert in the Park, 7-9 p.m., July 8. Swing and Big Band music from Stardusters Band. Depot Park gazebo, downtown Clarkston. www.clarkston.org.

Clarkston Famers' Market, 8 a.m.-12 p.m., July 9, Depot Park. 248-821-4769. **Springfield Farmers' Market**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., July 10, Shiawassee Basin Preserve. 248-846-6558.

Open auditions, Clarkston Village Players' "Tomfoolery" musical, 6:30 p.m., July 10, 12. Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road. Clarkstonvillageplayers.org.

Office hour, state Rep. Eileen Kowall and county Commissioner Tom Middleton, 12-1 p.m., July 11, Pete's Coney II, 6160 Dixie Highway. 866-334-0100.

No Need to Live with Pain, 10:45 a.m.-1 p.m., July 12. Dr. R. James Gregg, D.C. presents seminar on latest pain treatments and technologies. Lunch included. Space limited. Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center. 248-625-8231.

Clarkston Garden Walk, 12-7 p.m., July 13. Features six lovely gardens in and around Clarkston plus Artist Market. Buy advance tickets, \$15. Same-day tickets, \$18, at Independence Township Library. 248-620-2984.

Oakland County Fair, 9 a.m.-11 p.m., July 12-16; 9 a.m.-9 p.m., July 17. Springfield Oaks County Park, 12451 Andersonville Road in Davisburg. Exotic petting zoo, racing pigs, miracle of birth barn, circus, carnival, arena events. \$10/vehicle, \$4/walk in. 248-634-8830.

Weekly meetings

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Around Town

A calendar of places to go, people to see and things to do

Monday

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.

Clarkston Rotary Club, Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Clarkston Community Education Center, 6558 Waldon Road. \$10. 248-880-0027.

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

Exercise program for all ages, joint mobility, coordination, strength, Mondays, 12 p.m., lower level, 7590 Dixie Highway. \$7/session, \$25/four sessions. 248-627-7445.

Outdoor Pickleball, summer, 50+, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Clintonwood Park Tennis Courts, 6000 Clarkston Road. Equipment provided. \$2 drop in. 248-625-8231.

Afternoon Line Dancing, Mondays, Wednesdays, 1-4 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Country, Spanish Salsa, Rock and Roll, Cha Cha rhythms. Rosemary Hall, Instructor. \$3.

Tuesday

Tai Chi with Tammy Cropp, 10 a.m. Thursdays. Peace Unity Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road, 248-420-6119.

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

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

Indoor Pickleball, Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., First Congregational Church of Clarkston, 5449 Clarkston Road. Equipment provided. \$4 drop in. 248-625-8231.

Clarkston Area Youth Assistance, second Tuesday, 7 p.m., Clarkston Community Education Building, 6300 Church Street on Waldon. 248-623-4313.

Creative Writing Workshop, Tuesdays, 9-10:30 a.m., July 12-Aug. 16. Focuses on creativity in a no-pressure environment. Bring 8 1/2x11 notebook and pen. \$12. Senior Adult Activity Center. 248-625-8231.

Zumba, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 8-9 p.m.; Saturdays, 12-1 p.m. Clarkston Hot Yoga, 5678 Sashabaw Road. 248-620-7101.

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Clarkston Masons/Cedar 60, first Thursdays, 8 p.m., 1 East Washington. 248-625-4610.

Clarkston Area Lions Club, second and fourth Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., Carriage House, Clintonwood Park. 248-802-8603.

Tell Us About Your Travels, Photo Presentations, second Thursday, 6-7:30 p.m., Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. 248-625-2212.

Lunches for 50+, Thursdays, 12 p.m., made-from-scratch. \$6 donation. Independence Township Adult Activities Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Make reservation by Monday before, 248-625-8231.

Young At Heart Active Adults, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Hart Community Center in Davisburg. \$5 yearly membership, \$5 lunch. 248-846-6558.

MOPS, Mothers Of Preschoolers, first and third Thursdays, 9-11:30 a.m., Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Road. Call Saleena, 734-620-2844.

Stepping Strong, Thursdays, through June 2. Walk 1-3 miles on paved paths. \$10. Senior center. 248-623-8231.

Saturday

Yoga for the fibromyalgia patient, 11:30 a.m., first Saturday. \$12 walk-in or purchase 10 visits for \$100 class card. Jewels Yoga and Fitness, 4612 Mountain View Trail, Clarkston. 248-390-9270.

Kid's Camp Yoga, Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Clarkston Hot Yoga, 5678 Sashabaw Road. \$7, for ages 5-10. 248-620-7101.



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Marching band thanks

Dear businesses of Ritter's Square,
 I would like to personally thank you for helping to sponsor my trip to London.

There were many awesome things I saw in and around the city.

I loved seeing the ancient architecture in the many cathedrals and castles in the London area.

The Marching Band also played in the New Year's Day Parade. This was an amazing experience and a once in a lifetime opportunity.

There were many bands from all over the world participating in the 25th Anniversary Parade.

The Clarkston High School Marching Band and I had an amazing time on our trip and I am very glad to have generous supporters like you.

London is a wonderful city and I am extremely happy I could go there on this trip and represent the city of Clarkston.

Thanks again,
 Alex Markarian

Clarkston High School band members thank community members for their help.



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Religion

Community response resulted in awesome fireworks

I am writing this article before the July 4th Fireworks, but I trust it didn't rain, and the fireworks were awesome in their new location from Everest Academy!

Over the last few months many people have asked us, "Why did Clarkston Community Church offer the \$10,000 matching challenge?" I want to explain why.

There are *three main reasons* our church is getting more involved in reaching out to the community.

In case you're not aware, the matching challenge is just one of the many activities CCC is doing around Clarkston. For example, we are involved with Habitat for Humanity where we build homes for needy families.

We're involved in blood drives and tutoring and elder care homes. We support Light House and Grace Centers of Hope. The list goes on.

Why do we do these things? One reason is to simply *meet needs*. There are hurting people—the hungry, the poor, the widow, the orphan, and the disadvantaged.

As Christ-followers we believe it is a basic human right to have your needs met. We believe that every person is made in the im-

age of God. The image of God is the basis for human rights.

It's easy for us to forget how radical and unique that idea is. Philosophers today are having trouble coming up with a morality code, because if all we are is evolved animals, and there is no Creator, no purpose in life—if you are not made in the image of God, why should I care about you? Why should I take my time and money to help you?

It's the Judeo-Christian teaching that gives us a reason and a motive to care about others.

But there's a second reason we do these things: *to follow Jesus*.

Much of Jesus' teaching has to do with justice and compassion for the poor and disadvantaged. For too long Christians have gone to church to sing their songs and pray their prayers, and not get out into the streets to really love people.

According to Scripture, faith works. The

more we appreciate God's grace and love in our own lives, we will desire to pass that grace along.

A third reason our church is focusing on doing good deeds in the community is pragmatic: *to correct misperceptions*.

Christopher Hitchens, a famous atheist who writes books against religion, says, "Religion poisons everything."

A growing number of people in our society believe that religion is what is wrong with this world.

People divide and hate and kill because of their religion. Maybe what we need to do is get rid of religion.

It's easy to point to churches that fight and crazy pastors that want to protest and burn books.

It's easy to look back in history at the crusades where Christians killed nonbelievers in the name of Jesus. Many people see Christians as arrogant, hypocritical, and narrow-minded.

What this world desperately needs to see is Christians and churches really living out the teachings of Christ.

People need to know that God is not a

cruel, hateful God. In fact, justice reflects the character of God. This is a major theme of the Bible.

Psalm 146:7-9 says, "*He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.*"

Over and over again the Bible says that God is a just God, a compassionate God—a God who cares about the poor, the widow, the fatherless, and the hungry.

And people who claim to follow Christ are supposed to reflect the character of God to the world.

So why are we doing these things? To meet needs. To follow Jesus. And to correct misperceptions.

Simply put: God wants us to DO SOMETHING for his glory. How about you? What are YOU doing?

The Rev. Greg Henneman is pastor of Clarkston Community Church.

Spiritual Matters



Pastor Greg Henneman

Church Directory



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Bonita Laudeman, Kevin Kuehne,
Dan Whiting, Geoff Black
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Scripture Study, Youth Group

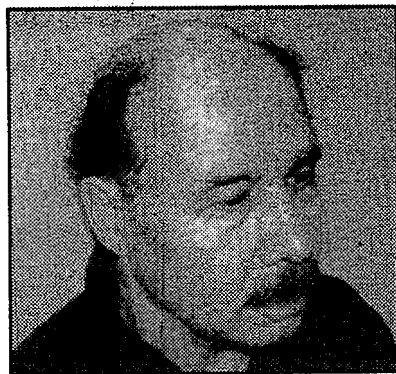
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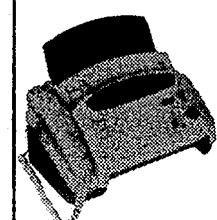
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Schools, community succeed in evolving world

I am blessed to have completed my first year as the superintendent of the Clarkston Community Schools.

I believe that, in this time, we've done *Good Work* (Ethical, Excellent, and Engaging—www.goodworkproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/GW-Overview-04_08.pdf), on behalf of the children we serve. In collaboration with central office administrators, parents, the board of education, teachers and support staff, community members, and building and department administrators, we've accomplished the following in the past nine months:

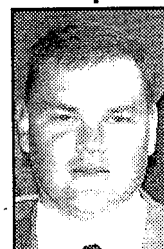
- We settled contracts with our employee groups, including cost-saving and -containing measures.
- We adopted a self-insurance model with all groups.
- We proposed and passed a budget within the parameters set forth by the board of education.
- We reduced expenditures in line with the board's parameters so that we can balance the budget over the next year.
- We instituted a new schedule for teacher professional learning.
- We adopted a new vision, mission, and learner profile.
- We adopted an outline of a strategic plan.
- We put in place plans for enhancing student learning (more on this in the coming months).

We accomplished these in the face of unnecessary funding cuts from the state government, reduced federal funding, and increased costs for retirement.

In assessing my own performance, there is only one measurement: *how does the work I do affect the ways that our children experience schooling?*

I feel strongly that my work has and will continue to positively affect the culture of thinking and learning in our schools. This manifests itself most apparently in two ways:

Words from the Sup't



Dr. Rod Rock

1. My relationships with teachers, parents, administrators, staff, and students.

2. The common sense of direction for our district.

It is my intention to continue to build upon these, and to strengthen my relationship with and the direction of the board of education, so that we can move learning forward for each and every child we serve. In the coming weeks, I will share with you my goals for the 2011-2012 school year.

In the meantime, our world evolves. According to Fareed Zakaria's updated book, *The Post American World, 2.0* (2011, W. W. Norton Company), the United States of America is on the decline in many economic measures.

Soon, we will no longer lead the world in the number of patents and citations in scientific journals. Germany, with a population of

nearly 120 million fewer people than the United States, exports more goods than we do. Shortly, the world's tallest building, fifty largest factories, and economy will reside in Asia. Our aging infrastructure of bridges, our power grid, and our transportation systems, along with our lack of widespread Internet accessibility and our government's declining investment in discovery industries and education, are putting America behind.

Zakaria (2011) also predicts hope for the USA in the fact that, unlike many other countries in the world, our population is growing. This, Zakaria attributes in large part to the fact that we allow immigrants in, which many other countries do not. Population growth means the availability of more workers, which offers great hope for our future (hear more at www.npr.org/templates/rundowns/rundown.php?prgId=13&prgDate=6-30-2011).

It seems that the United States for generations possessed and utilized the knowledge, workforce, and skill to lead the world in manufacturing, engineering, research, ingenuity, entrepreneurship, creativity, and design. According to Zakaria (2011), we're on the verge of dropping out of this dominant role.

In response, President Obama recently established a \$500 million Advanced Manufacturing initiative, partnering several companies and universities, including strong

connections to Michigan in the Ford Motor Company, the Dow Chemical Company, and the University of Michigan (www.mlive.com/business/mid-michigan/index.ssf/2011/06/obamas_advanced_manufacturing). What else can be done? What should we do—as a community and as a school district?

I expect the Clarkston Community Schools—with a mission of *cultivating thinkers, learners, and positive contributors to a global society*—to continue to produce leaders through excellent schools, educators, and learning opportunities such as CSMTech, Team RUSH, Project Lead the Way, Advanced Studies, International Baccalaureate, Career and Technical Education programs, curricular offerings, LEAD programs, athletics, the arts, community education, and many others.

Additionally, I expect our strong and growing relationships with businesses, the community and parents. Oakland University, and Oakland Community College to prepare our students to lead the future.

What do you think? What is our responsibility? What are the possibilities? Please respond at my blog, rodrockon.blogspot.com.

I look forward to hearing from you.

God bless America and all those who have, do, and will continue to stand tall for our freedoms.

Dr. Rod Rock is superintendent of Clarkston Community Schools.

Obituaries

Steven Schneider, 61

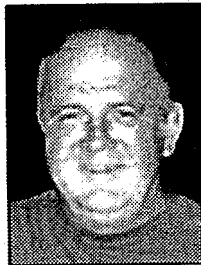
Steven Lee Schneider of Clarkston passed away July 1, 2011, at age 61.

He is truly missed by his loving wife Eileen Marie; father of Cassandra (Joe) Hampton, Tracy (Julie) Schneider and Heidi (Ron) Stamper; grandpa of Joey, Chloé, Savannah, Bobby, Billy and Joshua Hampton, Gavin and Sidney Schneider, Paige and Quinn Stamper; brother of Gerald (Elenora) Schneider; also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends.

Mr. Schneider joins his parents Claude and Ellabelle Schneider and his brother Donald in Heaven.

Funeral service Wednesday, 12:30 p.m., at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to Make a Wish Foundation or Genesys Hospice.

Online www.wintfuneralhome.com guestbook



Bessie Hancock, 94

Bessie Mae Hancock of Auburn Hills passed away July 2, 2011, at age 94.

She has gone to join her Savior Jesus Christ, her first love John Freeman, second husband Rueben Hancock, daughter R. Joyce LaGest and great grandson Josh Freeman. She was the mother of Ken (Margaret) Freeman of Ortonville; grandma of Lynda (Al) Nielsen of Lake Orion, Barbara (Terry) Gagnon of Davison, Robert (Tami) Freeman of Ortonville, Jeffrey (Mary) Freeman of Ortonville and Shari (Chris) Burton of Fenton; sister of Amy (Russ) Moore; also survived by 10 great grandchildren, many loving nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

Mrs. Hancock never met a stranger; she was an excellent cook and could grow anything anywhere. She was born in Steele, Ala., the daughter of Willis "Bud" Dockery and Rosie Duncan.

Funeral service Wednesday, 10 a.m., at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Interment Christian Memorial Cemetery. Special thanks and memorials may be made to Grace Hospice. Online www.wintfuneralhome.com guestbook



Janet M. Shalla, 72

Janet M. Shalla of Clarkston passed away July 2, 2011, at age 72.

She was the loving wife of Tom for 54 years; beloved mother of Irene (Bill) Scott, Jacqueline Lawrence, and Tom (Rachel) Shalla Sr.; loving grandma of Justin, Christopher, Kaitlyn, Samantha, Tom, and Ben; proud great grandma of Jonah; dear sister of Dee Schilbe.

Private family services entrusted to the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home-Cremation Service**, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to Gleaners Food Bank. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

In our churches...

Bethany North, 7:30 p.m., fourth Monday, St. Daniel Catholic Church, 7010 Valley Park, 248-628-6825.

DC4K, DivorceCare for Kids, ages 5-12, Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. 248-625-3288.

Peace Studies, Spiritual Education, Meditation, Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Peace Unity Church, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-625-5192.

PUBLIC NOTICE

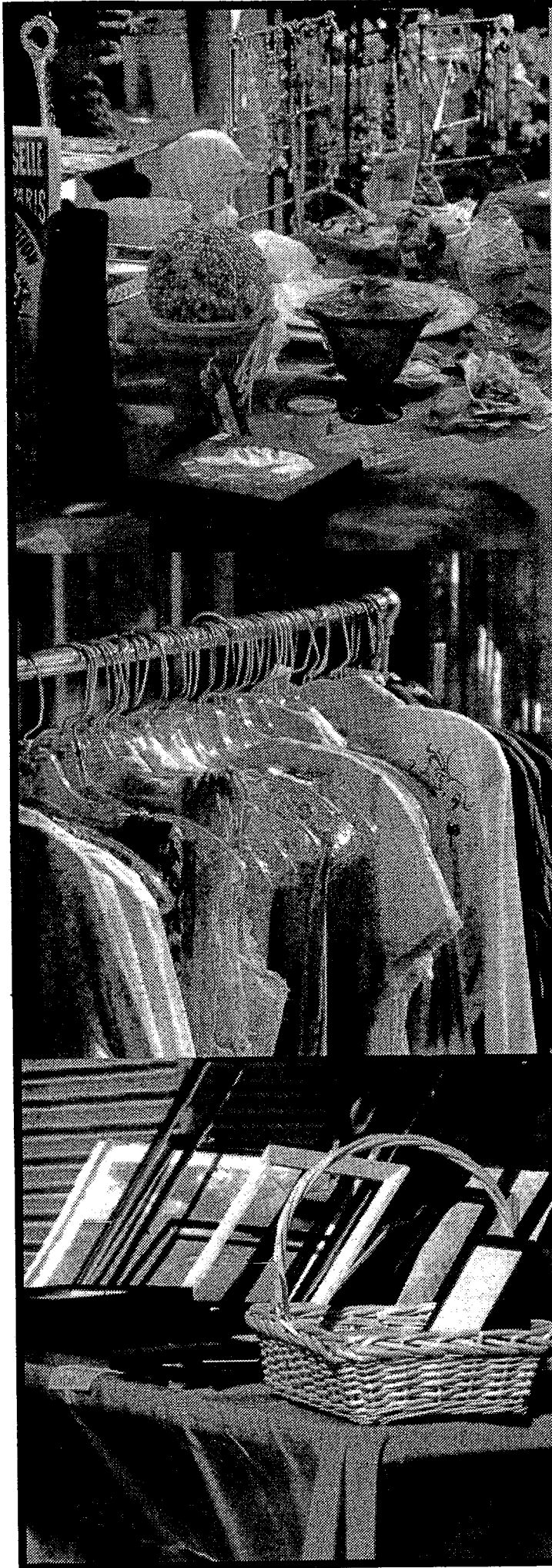
Charter Township of Springfield

NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL ELIZA LAKE IMPROVEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Springfield Township Board will meet at the Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, Michigan at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2011. The meeting will be to review, to hear any objections to, and to confirm a ONE YEAR Special Assessment Roll for the purpose of financing weed and algae control through an aquatic weed management program. Any person may appeal and be heard at the said Hearing, which is called pursuant to the provisions of PA 188 of 1954, as amended. The total proposed Special Assessment Roll is \$15,000. The Special Assessment Roll is on file at the Springfield Township Offices for public examination. An owner of or party in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the Special Assessment, or may protest the Special Assessment by letter filed with the Township.

Clerk, Springfield Township Civic Center, 12000 Davisburg Road, Davisburg, MI 48350 at or prior to the time of review, in which case personal appearance is not required. Appearance and protest of the Special Assessment at the time and place of review is required in order to appeal the amount of the Special Assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. If the Special Assessment is protested as provided above, the owner or any party having interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal within 30 days after the confirmation of the Special Assessment Roll has been published in the newspaper of general circulation.

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L312c

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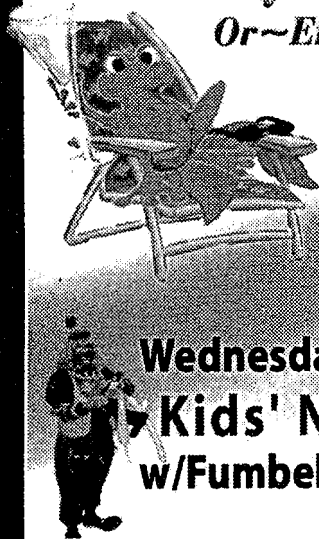
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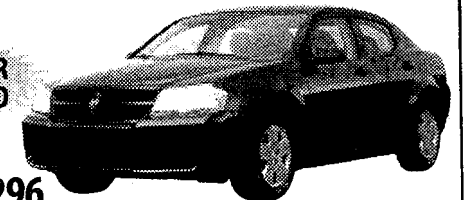
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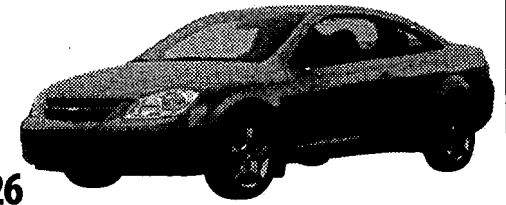
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