

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

Vol. 85 No. 6 Wed., January 4, 2012

1 Section, 28 pages 50¢

Township preserves benefits

BY TREVOR KEISER
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Retirement benefits for local elected officials are safe, at least for now.

Independence Township Trustee Neil Wallace's proposal to eliminate retirement benefits for current and future full-time elected positions failed, 4-2.

"The rationale I've heard in the past is that we need these kinds of benefits to attract good people and I don't believe that's true. I believe people come to public service and those are the people we want in these jobs," Wallace said at the Dec. 20 meeting. "It's a pretty recognized fact that these out-of-control kind of benefits are costing communities dearly."

Deputy Supervisor Mike Clark said Wallace's motion was aimed at Supervisor Dave Wagner.

"I can't think of another good reason to put this policy in place and I have some question of the motivation behind this," Clark said.

Clerk Barbara Pallotta said she supports cost savings because the township has three former elected officials receiving retirement benefits, costing the township \$30,000 per year. However, she wants to look into other options.

"We know we have to address it for the whole township and all of our employees, the elected officials should be no different," she said.

Trustee Mark Petterson agreed elected officials shouldn't get retirement benefits after eight years, but struggled with the language of the motion.

Treasurer Curt Carson felt the motion was too narrow.

"As a board, we need to look at everything and all of the benefit packages for everyone, right now what we're doing is looking at one piece of the overall picture," he said. "I'm never really in favor of that."

Wallace disagreed.

"We need to be looking at benefits as it benefits the township," he said. "It doesn't benefit the township to have benefits that are costly particularly to healthcare. Those are all going out of sight."

Carson said it would discourage young candidates.

Please see Township on page 22

Happy New Year!



From left, local residents Tyler Toupin, Alexis Stone and Tyler Norman celebrate the new year with some handy noise makers. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Township leadership crisis in 2011

In this first week of 2012, let's take one last look at 2011. In the second half of the year, Independence Township had to deal with the loss of leadership, as Supervisor Dave Wagner went on long-term disability.

June 22

Interim supervisor sought: Springfield Township accepted applications for an interim supervisor until they could find a permanent replacement.

Supervisor hands duties over to deputy:

Independence Township supervisor Dave Wagner sent a letter to the board June 13 officially transferring operational duties to Deputy Supervisor Rick Yeager.

June 29

Schools \$2.6 million: Clarkston Community Schools will start the year \$2.6 million short as they began the 2011-2012 fiscal year on July 1. The difference would be taken out of the district's fund balance of \$5.6 million.

July 6

Trustees want long-term disability changes: Independence Township trustees set up a Disability Study Group to find out more about the township's short-term disability insurance for elected officials.

July 13

Safety meeting on intersection after walker hit: After hearing a local city resident was struck by a car in the cross walk at M-15 and Clarkston Road, City Manager Dennis

Please see New on page 3

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Deputies called on deputy supervisor

BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Mike Clark told Independence Township Board that if they wanted to go into closed session without him, they would have to call the sheriff.

They did. Clerk Barb Pallotta called deputies at the Oakland County Sheriff's Independence Township substation.

Deputies arrived, but only to take statements.

"It was ridiculous," said Trustee David Lohmeier. "If he was an employee, he would have been fired. If he'd been a private citizen and disrupted the meeting, he would have been arrested."

Mike Clark, township deputy supervisor, and Superintendent Bart Clark both wanted to sit in on a closed session meeting.

Township Attorney Steve Joppich said the Open Meetings Act says only elected members of the board have the right to attend closed sessions. Also, officials are not permitted to send a proxy.

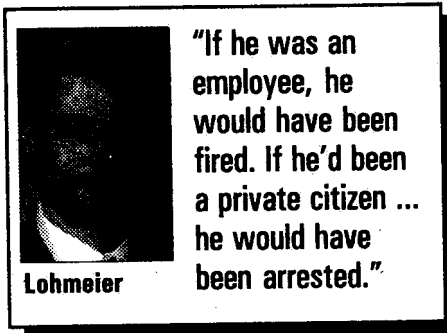
"Nobody else has the right to be in there with you, unless they are a sitting member of your board. None of us (Joppich, the superintendent or deputy supervisor) are that," Joppich said.

The board gave both Clarks a chance to explain why they wanted to attend the closed session. Bart said as superintendent he was interested in the topic being discussed.

"However, I yield to the board and not attend," he said. "I will wait outside in the other room and if you need my advice I will be waiting for you unless you ask me."

Mike said he was there on behalf of Supervisor Dave Wagner who could not be there himself. He also informed the board he had confidential memos that had been sent to all the board members.

"I'm here not to speak but to merely sit and observe and report back to the supervisor," he said. "In no way do I have



Lohmeier

"If he was an employee, he would have been fired. If he'd been a private citizen ... he would have been arrested."

any intention to be disruptive."

Trustee Larry Rosso said Mike could be excluded because he wasn't a voting member of the board.

Trustee Neil Wallace saw no reason for either Clark to be in the closed session.

"I also think it was wrong of the supervisor to provide confidential memorandums to the deputy supervisor in this particular situation," Wallace said. "One of the matters we're going to talk about concerns the supervisor and we need to be able to talk frankly."

Trustee Mark Petterson asked why the board was going into closed session.

"Personally, I don't have a problem with either one of them (Bart or Mike) being in there because there is nothing on here that is detrimental to the township or the taxpayers," Petterson said.

The board will discuss potential employee disciplinary action towards Mike at the Jan. 31 meeting.

"He's (Mike) a political mercenary. His full motivation as far as I'm concerned is to satisfy his own ego," Lohmeier said. "He's like a special interest part of one."

Due to being on vacation, substation commander Lt. Dale LaBair could not be reached for comment.

A call to the Michigan Township Association was not returned for comment.

New Springfield supervisor in 2011

Continued from page 1

Ritter call the city engineer Gary Tressel.

July 20

Vote deadline error repeated: History repeated itself after the City of the Village of Clarkston posted the wrong deadline date to run for city council a year after the deadline error had occurred the first time.

Family was always first for former editor: For Jean Saile, family was most important. As Clarkston News editor from 1971-1977, her husband and six children were a frequent

topic in her weekly column "Hill 'n Gully."

July 27

Eight up for supervisor appointment: Interviews were complete and the Springfield Township Board met during the the week to appoint a new board supervisor from the seven candidates.

August 3

Tractor digs up trouble for resident: H. Wallace Parker of Independence Township was angry when he learned township offi

Please see Rock on page 9

Briefly

Upcoming meetings

Did you make a resolution to be more active in the community? One step is to attend a meeting. The Clarkston Community Schools Board of Education meets Monday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m., Clarkston Community Schools Administration Building, 6389 Clarkston Road.

The City Council meeting for the City of the Village of Clarkston also meets on Monday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m., 375 Depot Road at City Hall.

The next meeting for the Independence Township Board of Trustees is Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m., at Independence Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Drive.

Snowmobile safety

Instructors from Michigan Safety Classes will teach snowmobilers to be safe and responsible on the trail, 6-9 p.m., Jan. 24 and 26, at Hart Community Center in Davisburg.

Course topics include snowmobile history, safe snowmobile handling, laws and regulations, personal preparedness, survival skills need in an emergency. Participants must attend both days and successfully pass the test to receive the Snowmobile Safety Certificate from the Michigan DNR. Those 12-17 years of age are required by law to have a Snowmobile Safety Certificate.

The class is for those 8 and up. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Fee is \$20/resident, \$25/non-resident.

Call 248-846-6558

Tree recycling

Independence Oaks and Springfield Oaks are offering free Christmas tree recycling. Please drop off your tree from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Independence Oaks, 9501 Sashabaw Road until Jan. 30 or Springfield Oaks, 12451 Andersonville Road, now through Jan. 16.

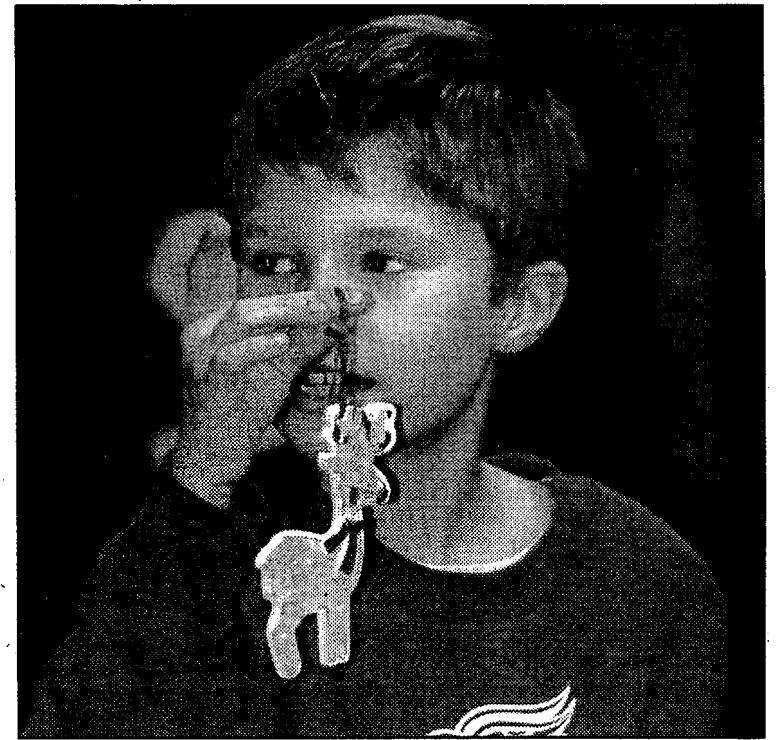
For more information, please visit www.DestinationOakland.com.

News tip

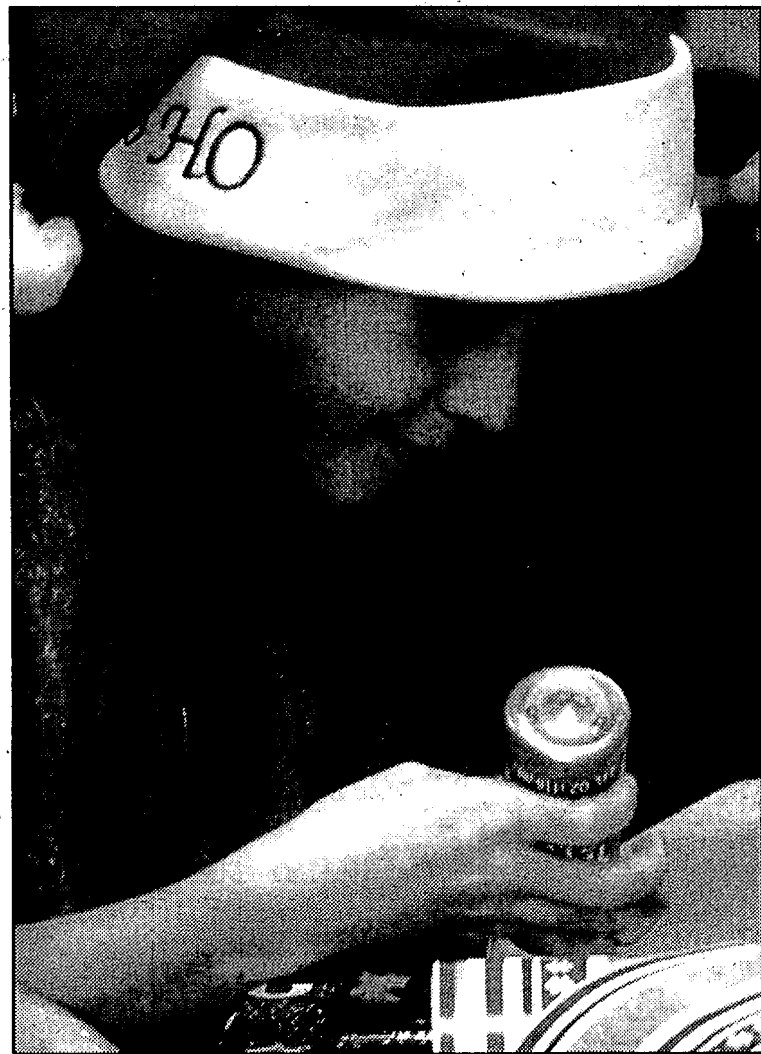
Have a news tip? Contact us by phone 248-625-3370, by email clarkstonnews@gmail.com, or by mailing us or stopping by for a visit at 5 S. Main Street in downtown Clarkston.



Max Ashley gives his handmade reindeer a try.



Will Posby shows his finished ornament.



Emma Olson puts the finishing touches on a present she is making.

Party time

Clarkston Elementary students had one last assignment before they headed off onto break - to have fun at their classroom holiday parties.

Students enjoyed games, creating crafts to take home and delicious and nutritious treats.



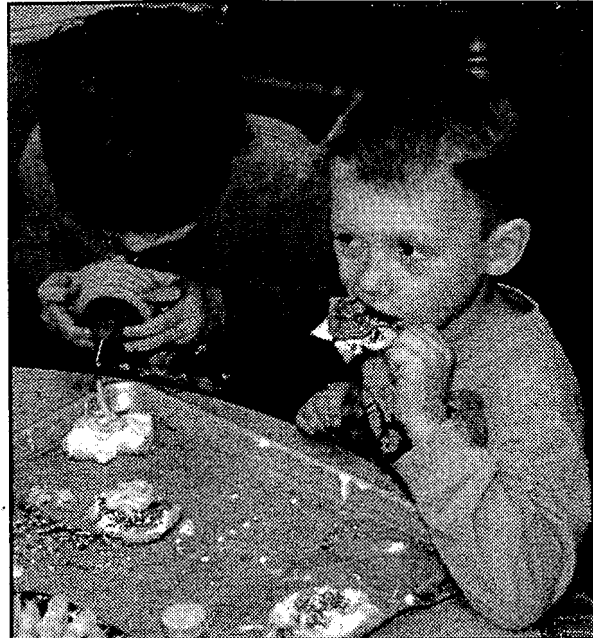
Trevor Garrett gets his Christmas future read - lots of presents and a happy new year!



Josh Adams and Matthew Smith create poinsettia pens. Photos by WAR



Gretchen O'Neill helps her daughter Branigan.



Ryan Farley decorates his cookie, while Will Dickens takes a bite of his.

Ho Ho Ho fun

Whether it was the crafts, the games, or the sugary snacks, Springfield Plains Elementary classes were

filled with Christmas cheer Dec 23, as students celebrated their holiday parties prior to Christmas break.

Photos by Trevor Keiser

Rediscover Shopping & Dining In Beautiful Downtown Clarkston

Lisa's Confection Connection

Lisa's Confection Connection offers custom cakes and cookies, cupcakes, gift baskets, cookie bouquets and more, for all occasions. Lisa enjoys the opportunity to work and live in Clarkston, "It's especially nice to work everyday in the friendly small-town-downtown Clarkston atmosphere!" Lisa says. "I'm fortunate to have a wonderful staff who are passionate as I am, about what we create here." She has been creating cakes for over 30 years and is celebrating her seventh year as a Clarkston business. Lisa thanks all of her customers and the community for their support and patronage. Lisa's Confection Connection is located at 64 S. Main Street. For more information please call 248-625-9881 or visit their website, www.LisasConfectionConnection.com

Upcoming Events in Downtown

Strolling Cocktail Party
Saturday, January 21
Look for information in The
Clarkston News

We invite you to rediscover your
hometown business district.

My Clarkston Buy Clarkston

Check out our FaceBook page for
event and sale updates!



Santa Claus and his helper elf were seen handing out presents in Mrs. Kroll's class.

Keiser's Role

A column by Trevor Keiser

Bird for bird

I find Independence Township Trustee Neil Wallace's proposal to eliminate retirement healthcare for all current and future full-time elected officials very interesting.

While I still believe there should be no healthcare benefits for full-time elected officials beyond their term of office. Wallace's motion seems to be more than just for "costing savings and the good of the township."



In his memo to the board Wallace states Trustee Mark Petterson's has repeatedly stood for the elimination of retirement healthcare benefits for elected officials and "on reflection" he agrees. Anyone who's been around the township knows Wallace has been opposed to these benefits since they were brought forth during the administration of Dale Stewart.

He also opposed them again when the board voted to move the benefits from eight years to 16 years and grandfathered current Supervisor Dave Wagner into the eight year category.

Wallace also noted in his memo the benefits "could in the future encourage elected officials to hang on to the job when they should not." Isn't that what Wallace said Wagner was doing? Isn't that why he brought forth the motion to give Wagner 30 days to accept his lifetime healthcare benefit early and permanently retire from Independence Township government?

Why was Wallace so adamant the vote to eliminate healthcare had to be at the Dec. 20 meeting and not discussed further and voted on at a later date? Was he afraid the supervisor might come back in January and he would lose the opportunity to get rid of him?

I believe Wallace's proposal is nothing more than an attempt to return "the bird" after Wagner denied the proposal to resign as supervisor and appointed Mike Clark as deputy supervisor. A way of saying "Wagner didn't accept our deal to receive his benefits early and retire. Fine, let's eliminate his retirement benefits all together. Maybe that will get rid of him."

Should retirement healthcare benefits be eliminated for full-time officials? You betcha, but the vote should not be just to spite another board member whom you don't like.

I believe the board made the right decision to reconstitute the benefits committee to look at all healthcare savings.

Reader sees example in city action

Dear Editor,

In the story "90 N. Main lake access approved," Dec. 21, one of our honorable elected officials is quoted as saying it was "a good example of how government works." Well perhaps, but certainly not an example of our government working well.

While the original ordinance amendment was supposed to address non-conforming uses of historical commercial property, it was really to address one particular property, the old township hall at 90 N. Main Street. The original ordinance amendment was paid for by the owners of the property, drafted by the city planner, and adopted by the City Council. It was then immediately amended by the city attorney and planner, recommended by the Planning Commission and rejected without discussion by the City Council in favor of yet another version. As soon as everyone found out there was a potential buyer, it wrongly turned into addressing the issues of that one person.

The building in question has now been sitting empty for about three years and the potential purchaser has decided not to purchase because of the restrictions placed on the property, or so it was stated at a public meeting. An ordinance has been created that will probably be challenged or amended as soon as there is another possible tenant and it will probably never be enforced regardless of what it says as few ordinances are ever enforced. The building continues to sit empty with an unknown future and use.

Thanks to all who helped family

Dear Editor,

We are writing this letter to express our gratitude to the North Sashabaw Elementary staff and school families.

Although NSE supports each and every one of their students, they have gone out of the way for Ryan Kennedy. Ryan is a fourth grader who has Ependymoma Brain Cancer and has battling it for the past five years. Recently our family had to switch hospitals to be able to get the best treatment option for Ryan. He currently is going to Childrens Memorial Hospital in Chicago is a CERN hospital, Collaborative Ependymoma Research Network. Ryan was accepted into a clinical trial study through the hospital. It is wonderful Ryan was accepted into this trial and he is now part of a system that specializes in his type of cancer. This means Ryan and our family members have to travel to Chicago for treatments and medication.

In order to help the family pay for traveling expenses, the fourth grade teachers and families hosted a two-day bake sale at NSE, raising \$1,000. We want to thank Alena Hall, Pam Boewe and Maureen Moss for going above and beyond for Ryan, not just in this situation but everyday they are with him. To all of the families and staff who baked or sent

Most of us only know what happened from this *Clarkston News* story. As of Friday, Dec. 23, there were no City Council meeting minutes for this reported action. I asked for them and have not yet received a response.

This particular ordinance resolution was printed in the Dec. 22 *Clarkston News* and we have 20 days before it takes effect. In that time, we might all consider if this ordinance really works as it has only one actual restriction - there can be only two watercraft anywhere on the entire property. It does, however, allow unlimited parking, paving, and people, including the property owner, all employees, and all friends and families, to use the property and water from sunup to sundown.

How does this in any way fulfill the opening purpose statement of the ordinance which starts with, "the water bodies situated in the city are small, with relatively low environmental and recreational carrying capacities, and may be adversely affected by the introduction of new and significant use."

But this is the Village of Clarkston where we pay 64 percent more in local taxes than our neighbors so that laws can be regularly ignored, even those laws and resolutions created by our own elected officials. I'm sure this one will receive similar treatment.

We do indeed have yet another good example of how the government of the Village of Clarkston works.

Cory Johnston
Clarkston

in money for baked goods, thank you!

Thank you to all of Ryan's teachers and staff members who have made baskets for him when he is in the hospital, attended his birthday parties, visited him in the hospital or stopped by the house to show their love and support.

We also want to thank Principal Tara Ouellette for the phone calls about his progress, and doing what she can to make sure Ryan is comfortable throughout the day. Thank you to the team that set up an alternate place for Ryan to eat lunch and have recess, he truly enjoys this time.

We want to say how fortunate and blessed we feel to be a part of the extraordinary NSE school and family community. Thank you NSE for the generous monetary donation, but most of all thank you for the prayers and support you provide each and every day.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season!

Rob and Kim Karp, Nathan, McKenzie and Ryan, Jill Santola and the rest of Ryan's Family

P.S. The band, The Locals, is playing at Buck Shots on Jan. 28, a fund-raising event to help the family pay for Ryan's travel expenses.

A Look Back From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1996

"Iced-over Allen Road gets no attention" Local residents and deputies were upset with Road Commission for Oakland County's lack of snow plowing of the Independence Township road, despite several accidents. The commission said it had to concentrate on paved roads first.

"Master plan, Depot Road are priorities in '97" Clarkton wanted to have a new master plan complete by April, along with parking and sidewalks on Depot Road.

"Township officials look ahead to '97" Independence Township Supervisor Dale Stuart looked forward to completion of Vision 2020, safety path construction, completion of the new Citation Street fire station, and new computer system at township offices. Other priorities included resolving investment troubles, senior center improvements, and controlled growth.

25 years ago - 1986

"1986 sets record for new homes" All records were broken in 1986 for residential building in Independence Township. Over \$31 million in residential building and 318 new home permits beat the old record of \$11.5 million and 309 homes, set in 1977.

"Teen keeps on toes with ballet" Donna Cataldo, a 14-year-old Independence Township resident, rehearsed six days a week to make herself the best ballerina she could be. She earned a spot at the School of American Ballet in New York City that past summer.

"Fish tales" Alan Chenoweth Sr. and Jr., Eric Stephens, Amie Harrington, and other local residents enjoyed ice fishing on Cranberry Lake. They caught perch and bluegill.

50 years ago - 1961

"March of Dimes to have airlift" The charity organized a fund raiser in which local pilots donated their time and planes to give rides to donors. Tickets were \$2.50 for a ride over most of northern Oakland County.

"Mrs. Weber wins 4-H award" Mrs Paul Weber was awarded the State of Michigan's Outstanding Tractor Leaders Award in the 4-H Tractor Program. She was the first woman in Oakland County and Michigan to be honored with the award.

"Clarkston locals" Hurrying home to be with their son after a visit to Tennessee, Mr. and Mrs. John Sexton of Independence Township wrecked their car in the snowy mountains of Kentucky. They hung on the side of a cliff for two hours before help could come. No one was hurt.

Here's 2012 Jottings with some guides and rules

Three guides I've sometimes tried to live by:

1. Think ahead -- be ahead.
2. You'll never have if you don't save.
3. If it's inevitable do it now -- whether it's taking out the trash or going into bankruptcy.

Proof of Number 2, in my case. For a while the Navy withheld half my pay.

When I got the balance it was enough to start buying a house. Later, we sold the house to buy a weekly newspaper, which led to our buying three more papers and retirement..

Of course, you can't depend on the Navy or government to withhold then give back.

As to Number 3, it took maybe 20 years of marriage before I realized most of what Hazel was asking me to do could be done in minutes.

--- 0 ---

I found a misplaced note to myself recently complaining about seeing a classroom teacher in blue jeans. That just ain't right!

About that same time I took note at a restaurant that I was the only one not wearing blue jeans.

--- 0 ---

One of my former editors in Oxford moved to Alaska some decades ago. Linda Weld started a newspaper there, then yielded to doing 350,000 traveler's guides a year.

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

She called to tell me she's writing a book about the 1898 gold rush in Alaska. She read enough of it to me to make me anxious to read it.

One of teasers was of the thousands of rushers who came to Copper River Canyon, a huge, practically uninhabited area north of Valdez. The canyon was formed by a glacier, that when melted, left sand.

There is no gold in sand, but these greedy gold seekers didn't know that. They also didn't know there were no horses or roads.

And, Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward listed their need for flour, bacon, saccarine and more, so much they couldn't possibly carry it. Many, many died of scurvy, etc.

--- 0 ---

• Political observation: It's amazing what liars can hope to make us believe.

• My grilled steak tasted bad recently. I concluded my grill is too close to the garage, and I mistook the WD40 for the Lawrys. -

• Remember when we'd put the postage stamp on the envelope, meaning, "I love you!"

• Every day millions of people buy lottery tickets hoping to become some of the one percent who pay 90 percent of the taxes.

--- 0 ---

Now for the rules (5) that I promised in the headline:

1. Money cannot buy happiness, but it's more comfortable to cry in a Mercedes than on a bicycle
2. Forgive your enemies, but remember the buggers' names..

3. Help someone when they are in trouble, and they will remember you when they're in trouble again.

4. Many people are alive only because it is illegal to shoot them.

5. Alcohol does not solve any problems, but then again, neither does milk.

You can help make this newspaper better

As the dawn of yet another year approached, the leaders of the universe that is Sherman Publications sat atop their ivory towers and looked down at me. From far atop I heard their voices, bellowing like rolling thunder. In unison, three voices spoke as one . . .

"Donald," they summoned. "Donald. It is time. We have you here to hear of our desires. You are the chosen one to tell our people."

"But," I interjected, "Will they listen?"

Their voices boomed out their annoyance at my doubting, "No buts! Tell them, tell them it all!"

And then, as if under some unearthly command, cumulonimbus clouds converged to obscure my vision of the Three Towers. They spoke no more, were they still up there? Watching me? What were they doing up there in those ivory towers?

Silence.

"But, you forgot to tell me what it is you wanted me to say, and to whom," I said softly, obviously to myself.

What had they said? "Our people . . ." What did that mean? Our people?

Their children? No. Their employees? No. Then, out of nowhere a thought hit me. *Their people are their readers.*

So what message did they desire me to send to you, the reader?

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

My best guess is about a golden rule of community journalism - one we may have gotten away from recently. That rule?

"Thou shalt accept for publication, those announcements from individuals, groups, moms, dads, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grandmas and grandpas -- any interested party. Thou shalt accept said announcements with smiling faces and plenty of thank yous -- and then follow through and publish said announcements promptly."

That means we cannot make you readers jump through hoops to get information published. Mail it, e-mail it, drop it off, call it in -- if you make the effort to furnish us with information it

is our job to get it in our community newspaper. (Of course, we reserve the right to correct spelling, etc. -- come on, it's still our business.)

As editors and reporters for a community newspaper, we need to get out there and pound the pavement, press the flesh and meet new people.

We have to hear different points of view. We cannot rely (solely) on one source of information. We cannot rely (solely) on public relations personnel for info from our local forms of government.

Many residents criticize elected officials and administrators of being smug and beyond reproach. Those same folks may think the same of us.

When we get a letter to the editor criticizing us, we have to realize there are other points of view.

We need to come to grips with the fact that criticisms are not necessarily a bad thing. When readers see spelling errors and let us know, they actually care enough about us to tell us to shape up.

The message seems pretty simple, we need to be open to our readers.

We need to get back to the idea that everyone in our community has a story, and that it is our job to tell it. Before we can tell it, though, we need to get out and talk to the community.

What was the message those leaders of this community newspaper want me to share?

I guess it is to share our renewed commitment to the readers and our community. If you want to see something in the paper, think we should do something better, by all means let us know.

I think they mean, you can help us. Keep us on our toes. Be our ears and eyes. And, when you do, send us your phone number so we can call to verify.

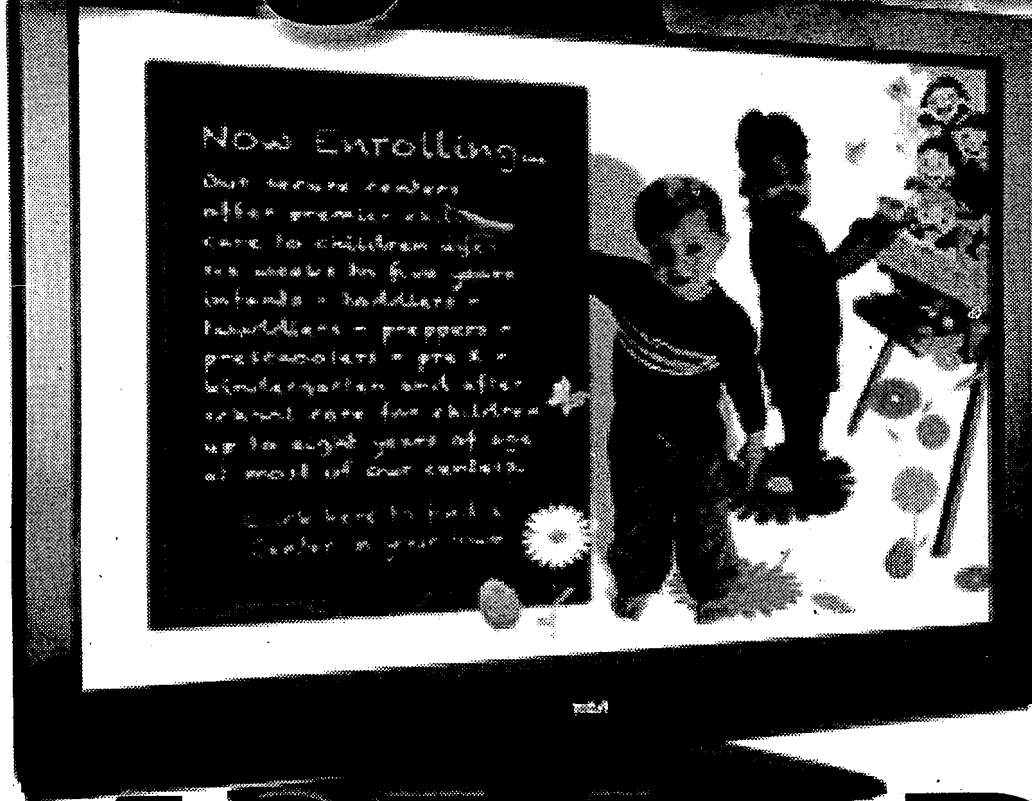
Send in your announcements of births, weddings, anniversaries and life's achievements.

Send in your recipes and letters to the editor. Send in those funny pictures you take that make you smile. We have room for it -- we are your community newspaper.

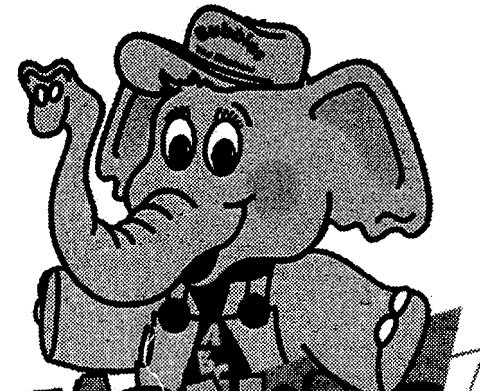
(Oh, then thank the local businesses who advertise, they make it all possible!)

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GOOD LUCK

Public Safety

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

Break in

Two locked rear doors were pried open to a home in the 5000 block of Clarkston Road, sometime between 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m., Dec. 20. Someone went through dresser drawers and took jewelry, laptop, and camera.

Unwanted visitor

A Fox Creek resident was watching television when he heard his apartment door slam, 10:37 p.m., Dec. 20. Finding a stranger standing inside, he told him to get out. The man said he was sorry and thought he was in his girlfriend's apartment, and left.

Windows smashed

A minivan's side window was smashed out, Dec. 21, in the 6000 block of White Lake Road.

The right front window of a vehicle was broken out in the 4000 block of Clintonville Road, Dec. 28.

Present from stranger

An Independence Township resident received a present in the mail, a comedy book for adults, for her young daughter, Dec. 23, from a Connecticut man. They don't know anyone in Connecticut. She was concerned he could have gotten her daughter's information from Internet social media.

Left open

A Chickadee Lane resident reported a garage door left open by neighbors away on vacation, Dec. 24. Deputies found everything undisturbed, but noticed a car left unlocked inside the garage with windows down and vehicle keys in the front seat. They left a note.

Phone con

An Independence Township resident got a call from someone calling himself an attorney representing her grandson who was in jail for drunk driving, Dec. 23. Then they called back with someone who said he was their grandson, and he said he needed \$2,995 to get himself released. They talked her into wiring \$3,300 to the Dominican Republic. She got suspicious and called police, but by then it was too late to stop the transfer.

Park vandal

Someone drove over and damaged sod, signs, fences, and trashcans at Independence Oaks County Park, Dec. 24. Deputies are looking for a reddish, maroon vehicle with damage to undercarriage, front end, and right side.

Hit and run

A 19-year-old Springfield Township man hit a telephone pole at Clarkston Road and Steeple Ridge, 3:04 a.m., Dec. 25, then drove home. A deputy had a hunch and checked on him, finding his pickup at his home with fresh damage to it. The teenager admitted hitting the pole. He smelled of alcohol and had a preliminary breath test of .133. He said he drank after he got home. He was cited with driving with a suspended license, leaving the scene of an accident, and underage drinking.

Christmas break in

When a resident in the 6000 block of Ascension Street returned home, 7:48 p.m., Dec. 25, she felt a draft. She found a back door broken down and jewelry taken from a dresser.

Call Oakland County Sheriff's Office CRIME TIPLINE, 888-TURN-1-IN.

Rock, Fieri visited last August

Continued from page 3

cials thought he had their property.

He's back: Collins Walls' brief retirement ended as he took the Springfield Township's supervisor seat, appointed to finish Mike Trout's term.

August 10

Harvest time is here: During the August 6 Clarkston Farmer's Market, the official tally was 1,249 shoppers - more were expected as the season's main harvest was about to arrive.

August 17

Backpack food program at Andersonville: Many children don't get enough nutritious food, even in Clarkston. For students at Andersonville Elementary it was going to change with the Blessings in a Backpack program.

August 24

Main St. double feature: News crews, film crews, bodyguards and screaming fans lined up outside the Clarkston Union on Aug. 18 as Kid Rock and Guy Fieri, from the Food Network's Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives, came to town.

August 31

Home sales looking up: In the three weeks Assessor Kristen Sieloff has been on the job, she's noticed home sales are going up.

New treasurer for Clarkston: Clarkston got a new treasurer, Sandra Barlass, its fourth in three years.

September 7

Killer was a stalker: Matt Adair, 26, of Brandon wanted to know why a 19-year-old Independence Township woman wouldn't talk to him when he hid in her bedroom Saturday night. He attacked her and shot her parents, killing her mother, before shooting and killing himself.

Parade marks summer's end: Crowds gathered under umbrellas and blankets for Clarkston's Labor Day Parade, Sept. 5. Sponsored by the Clarkston Rotary Club, the parade featured Karen Newman, voice of the Detroit Red Wings, singing the National Anthem.

September 14



Kid Rock and Guy Fieri check out the Clarkston Union for the Food Network.

Things looking up for Clarkston State Bank: The local bank suffered from bad loans during national economic downturns, but reorganized and got itself off a national troubled list, one of the first to do so.

Vandals cause problems in downtown Depot Park: Ralph Naigle, Clarkston city employee, called 2011 a banner year for vandalism in Depot Park. Playground equipment has been turned over and broken and the Depot Park Gazebo bore scars from folks riding skateboards and scooters down the steps.

Please see Supervisor on page 19

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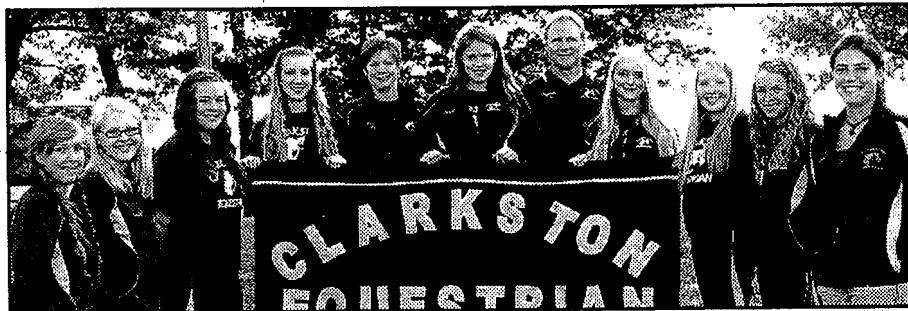
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ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



Congrats Athletes of the Week, July-Dec.

July

Hitter Matt Rodgers, Hitters Oakland Sidewinders 16U team, Runner Bo Anderson, Hitter Chase Toth

August

Hitters Players Edge Sluggers U14 team, Lacrossers Cash Cows team, Triathlons Autumn and Nathan Steinman, Hitters Clarkston Riverdaws 10U team, Clarkston Girls Varsity Volleyball team

September

Kicker Conor Bright, Clarkston Equestrian team, Grappler Nick Vandermeer, Floor hockey player Drew Canada

October

Spiker Angela Niezgod, Tennis doubles team Zach Finn and Alex Richards, Running back Joey Goss, Clarkston Girls Varsity Cross Country team

November

Clarkston JV Football team, Clarkston Boys Varsity Cross Country team, Tennis player Katie Brozovich, Rider Josilyn Roberts

December

Defensive tackle Ethan Frick, PlayAllBasketball.Net Pride team, Cager Nick Tatu

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Athletes achieve goals in 2011

The second half of 2011 was marked with more memories as the Clarkston Wolves' Football program opened the season with their third annual Game for a Cure and Rush for Food to help boost the community always there for them. As the fall season progressed the Clarkston High School Girls Varsity Volleyball team made school history by winning their MHSAA Quarterfinals match - sending them to the semi-finals at Battle Creek.

Join us once again as we take a look at some of the highlights from July-December 2011. Thank you for a great year everyone! We look forward to being there as you achieve your goals for 2012.

August 10

Game for grandma: When Travis Smith suited up for the third annual Football for a Cure he was thinking about his grandmother, Marcia Leavy, who died of colon cancer in January 2002.

August 24

Returners rally for win over the Highlanders: The Wolves hit the field hard in practice as the countdown continued to wind down as the season opener at Rochester Adams was only days away.

Wolves ready to take on fresh fall soccer season: Kickers opened their first week of games with two wins in the Traverse City Invite, Aug. 20.

August 31

Wolves show Highlanders the low road in season opener: The atmosphere was charged as the Wolves' defensive line got into position at the line of scrimmage. Chris Calvano took action and intercepted Rochester Adams' pass to capture the win for the Wolves, 28-21.

Clarkston crush Lake Orion foe: Kickers added three more games to the win column including a 2-1 win over cross town rivals Lake Orion.

September 7

Dominate Lakers, 34-7: The crowd cheered and screamed as senior running back Joey Goss made the first touchdown of the game against West Bloomfield. It spiraled into success for the team as the Wolves' won their first OAA Red match-up, 34-7.

September 14

Wolves back on track with win: Though Clarkston had yet to lose a game on the field during in three match-ups, the Wolves had their first win, a 40-20 rout over Troy Athens.

Victorious Mountaineers: Everest Academy Girls Volleyball team made an impression on Sept. 6. In their first ever volleyball match they defeated Macomb Christian in three sets, 25-6, 25-12, 25-19.

September 21

Wolves stampede Colts: Senior running back Evan Montgomery brought the Wolves three yards closer to a touchdown after his 87-yard run. Teammate Joey Goss finished the job two plays later with 2:51 left in the first half. The boys ended the game, 28-13.

September 28

3 more wins for playoffs: The spirits were high after Clarkston's gridiron gang defeated OAA Red foes Pontiac at Homecoming, 42-18.

Regionals coming up on the court: Victories came in three for Clarkston Boys Varsity Tennis player J.P. Budzinski, for the third consecutive year he won his flight at the Van Dyke Classic, this year for Singles #2.

October 5

Runners on top as head to county race: Senior Natalie Smith kept her pace through the wet and muddy terrain of Dehlia Park. She finished first leading the Clarkston Girls Cross Country team to first place finish.

October 19

Wolves open with shut out: Kickers put away their first win of the MHSAA District playoffs by defeating Flint Carman Ainsworth, 8-0.

Lightfoot digs Lady Wolves to win: Spikers began preparing for playoffs by going 5-1 at the Beast of the East tournament where a few of the team they beat were Novi and Lake Orion.

Smith leads pack to second place: Senior Natalie Smith led the Clarkston Girls Varsity Cross Country team as they finished second place at the Father Gabriel Richard Cross Country Invitational. The boys team finished
Please see Cereal City on page 11



Wolves celebrate scoring against visiting Oxford. Photo by Wendi Reardon



Katie Chadwell, Kaley Konjarevich and Brianna Frakes celebrate their 3-2 win over Canton. Photo by Larry Wright

Spikers visit Cereal City

Continued from page 11 in third.

October 26

Fight starts for Ford Field: The Wolves secured their spot in the playoffs with a 38-31 win over rivals Lake Orion.

Team set for districts: Spikers marked their journey to the the OAA Red battle against Lake Orion with one win and two losses to their rivals. But after five sets on Oct. 18 the journey ended as the Lady Wolves won their fifth consecutive league title:

November 2

Hungry like the Wolf: With the first-round defeat of Lake Orion, the Wolves prepared to take on Walled Lake Central in the second round of the MHSAA District playoffs after finishing the first round with a 40-12 win over Pontiac.

Lady Wolves set to block Grand Blanc at districts: The Clarkston Girls Varsity Volleyball team won the first round of MHSAA Districts against Holly, 3-0.

Runners cut time to place at state finals: The Clarkston Cross Country teams prepared for the state finals after a successful regional run. The boys varsity team finished in second place and the girls team in third.

November 9

Queens of the district court: Spikers claimed their fifth consecutive MHSAA District title after beating Fenton, 3-1.

Boys, girls cross country finish in state top 20: Senior Natalie Smith and junior Sam Tanielian led their teams to finish in the top 20 in the state. Tanielian finished in 12th place and Smith in 13th place. The girls team finished in 16th place as the boys took 14th place.

All Chiefs at Superbowl: For the first time,

Clarkston Chiefs JV White and Gold teams faced off against each other in the National Youth Football League Superbowl.

November 16

Defense fights for win: The Lady Wolves won their second consecutive regional title, beating Midland, 3-0.

November 23

Season ends with 56-6 record: Spikers made Clarkston history by advancing to the MHSAA Volleyball semifinals by beating Canton in a close 3-2 battle in the Quarterfinals. They lost to Lake Orion in the semifinals, 3-1.

December 7

Lady Wolves up rivals in opener: Lady Cagers had no problem putting the heat on their crosstown rivals Lake Orion in the second half of their season opener for the 53-17 win.

December 14

Wolves hustle for the win: Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball win the season opener at Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep. The points added to the Wolves' 60-49 win.

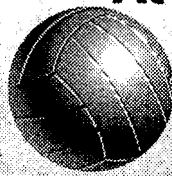
December 21

Wolves hold down opponents to place high in tourney: Grapplers took the top fifth spot during the 52nd Annual Oakland Wrestling tournament.

Opportunities lead to win against Davison High School: Icers split their annual Christmas tournament, ending in third place after beating Davison in the consolation round, 5-3.

Lady Cagers rule court on defense powers: After beating Southfield-Lathrup 37-33, the Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball team headed into the holiday break with a 6-0 record.

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3 on 3 • WEDNESDAY NIGHTS • Beginning Jan. 18, 2012

Open adult league: Minimum 4 player roster

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All player fees must be paid by Jan. 18, 2012

OVER 40 LEAGUE

3 on 3 • MONDAY NIGHTS • Beginning Jan. 23, 2012

Adult age 40+ league: Minimum 4 man roster

League runs for 10 weeks plus 1 playoff week

All player fees must be paid by Jan. 23, 2012

OVER 21 LEAGUE

3 on 3 • THURSDAY NIGHTS • Beginning Feb. 2, 2012

Adult age 21+ league: Minimum 4 man roster

League runs for 10 weeks plus 1 playoff week

All player fees must be paid by Feb. 2, 2012

YOUTH BASKETBALL LEAGUE

3 on 3 • FINAL REGISTRATION March 11, 2012

All players MUST be at evaluations on March 12th or 14th

Early registration Jan. 31, 2012 - SAVE \$5.00



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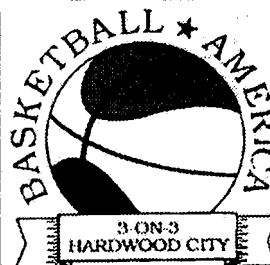
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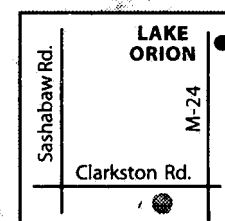
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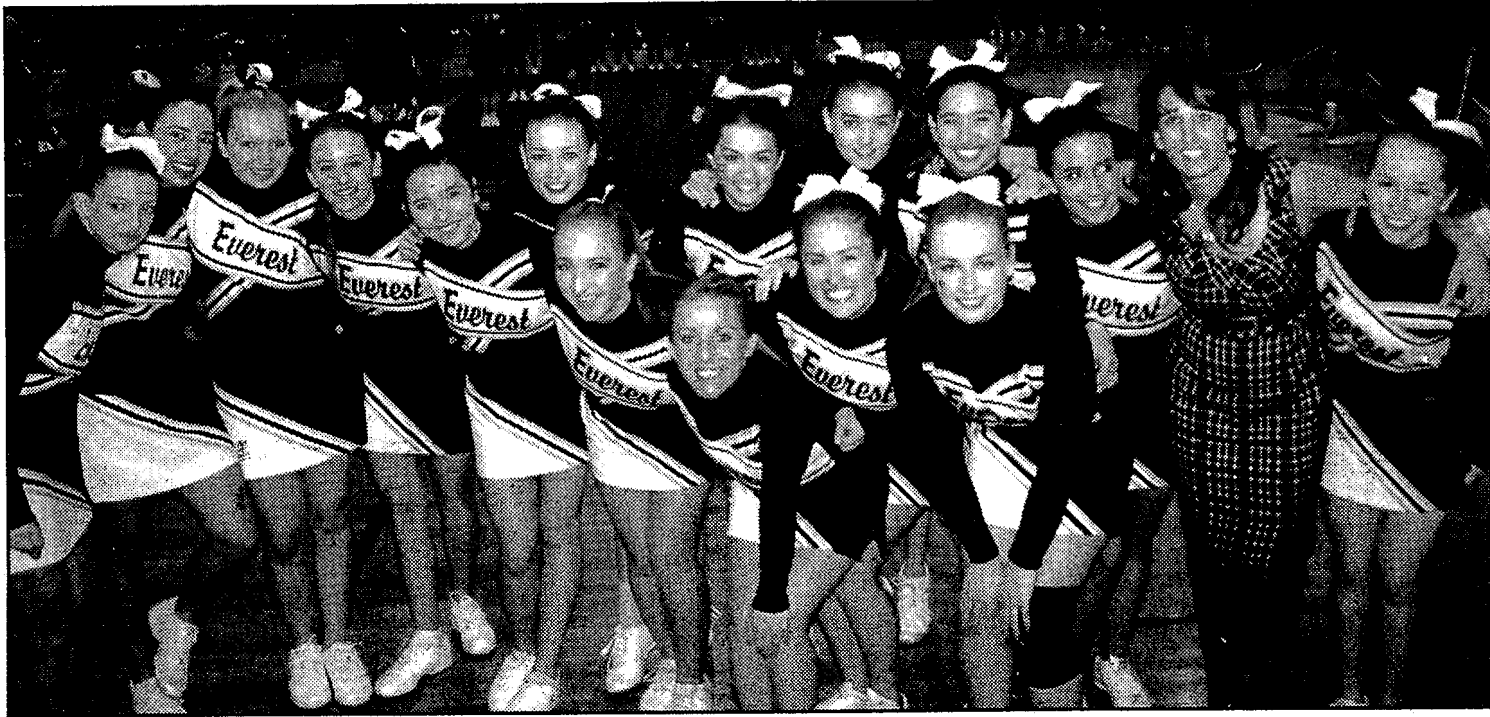
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Mountaineers take second in tournament

The Clarkston Everest Collegiate Competitive Cheer Team took second place at the Brandon Blackhawk Invitational, Dec. 17.

The Lady Mountaineers scored 194.7 in their first round, 174.9280 in their second round and 256.4 in their final round. They

took second place with 626.0280 points. Goodrich place first with a total of 698.6404 points. Parkway Christian finished third and Brown City took the final spot in fourth place.

This was the team's first MHSAA Competitive Cheer meet in school history. In ad-

dition to taking second in Division 3-4, they had the highest score among the Division 4 teams.

Their next meet, The Chemic Competitive Cheer Invitational at Midland High School on Jan. 12.

Back in action

Wednesday

4:30 p.m. Clarkston JV Ski Giant Slalom v Cranbrook and Detroit Country Day at Pine Knob Ski Resort

Thursday

3:30 p.m. Clarkston Bowling vs. Oxford High School at Collier Lanes
4:30 p.m. Clarkston Varsity Ski Giant Slalom vs. Cranbrook and Detroit Country Day at Pine Knob Ski Resort

6 p.m. Clarkston Boys Swim vs. Troy High School at Clarkston High School Nanatorium
5:30/7 p.m. Clarkston Girls Basketball at Avondale High School

Friday

5:30/7 p.m. Clarkston Boys Basketball vs. North Farmington High School

Saturday

9:30 a.m. Clarkston Varsity Wrestling at Manning Vieau Invite in Brighton

10 a.m. Clarkston JV Wrestling at Lakeland tournament

8 p.m. Clarkston Varsity Hockey vs. Rochester United at Rochester Onyx

Baby New Year Contest 2012

The date is fast approaching to see who will be the firstborn baby of 2012. Parents who are expecting on or close to January 1, 2012 may get another special delivery: a valuable bundle of prizes!

The Parents of Clarkston's First Baby of 2012 Will Receive Prizes!

Steps to Enter:

1. Photo should be of child only. Photos of child with objects and other people will not be accepted.
2. Birthday must be on or after January 1, 2012.
3. Birthdate and time must be verified in writing by attending physician.
4. Each eligible child entered will be featured in our First Babies special pages.
5. The parents must be residents of Clarkston, Independence or Springfield Townships.
6. Deadline for entry submission is 5 p.m. Friday, January 18, 2012
7. Entry denotes permission to publish submitted photo in this newspaper.

Baby New Year 2012 Contest Entry Form

Mother's/Parent's Full Names: _____

Child's Full Name: _____

Baby's Birth Date: _____

Exact Time of Birth: _____

Location of Birth: _____

Mother's/Parent's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Send completed entry form, photo and proof of birthdate to:

The Clarkston News

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**Look for Our
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This special announcement feature will include photos of all the babies entered in our Baby New Year 2012 Contest.

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Jessica Gordinier fixes the roof on her house.

Home sweet gingerbread home

Andersonville Elementary fourth grade Junior Girl Scout Troop 13463 built and decorated their personal ginger-

bread houses on Dec. 20. Debby Cochren, of Ginger Works, helped to teach them how to make the houses.

Photo story by Wendi Reardon



7743

Sashabaw Clarkston

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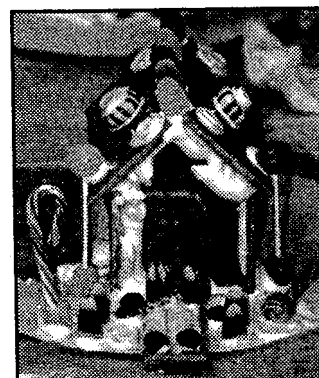
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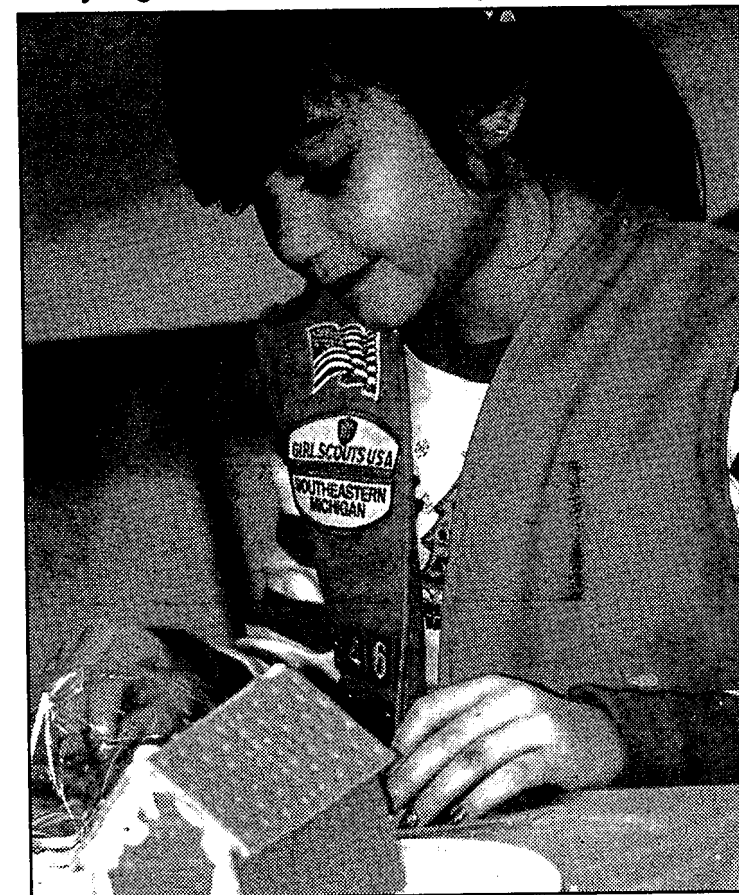
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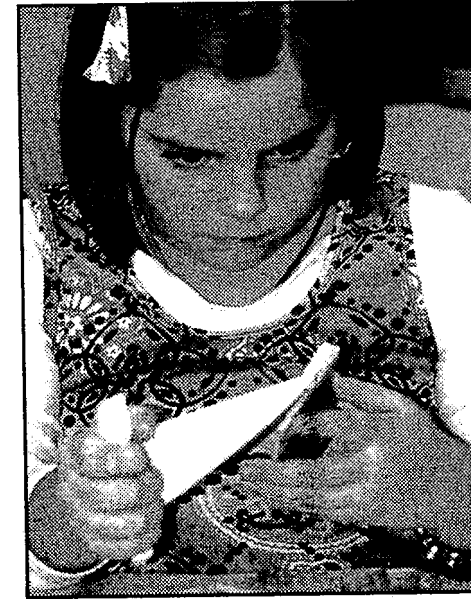
Hailee Maynard samples.



Julia Ruggirello begins to decorate her house.



Sydney Cooper adds candy corn to the top of the roof.



Kaylee Shore concentrates on putting the frosting on one of the sides for the house.

People Poll

January 4, 2012

Page A15

Detroit made the playoffs for the first time since 1999

How about them Lions?

"It's great. They have worked hard during the season despite the highs and the lows."



— Bryan Morley

"Super shocked."



— Alexis Stone

"I am glad they are doing better this year but I still hope they lose to the Patriots."



— Meg Buckley

"It's good for the city of Detroit."



— Jon Buckley

The Lions face the New Orleans Saints in the first round. Go Lions!

By Wend Reardon

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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



Faces of 2011

Millstream features in the second half of 2011 included musicians, authors, craftsmen, athletes, costumed heroes, and many other community activists/



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Milestones



Laura and Chase

Davisburg native married

Laura Jean Johnson of Ann Arbor and Chase William Morris of Ann Arbor were joined in marriage, July 30, 2011, at First Congregational Church in Ann Arbor.

The bride is the daughter of Kurt and DeJay Johnson of Tallmadge Township. The groom is the son of Bill and Sandy Morris of Davisburg.

Matron of Honor was Shaelynn Baas,

and bridesmaids were Christie Carrier, Megan Courtney, Justine Morris, and Caitlin Morris.

Best Man was Conner Morris. Groomsmen were Bobby Slaughter, Mark Yapp, Bill Valentine, and Derek Pritchard.

Ushers were Matthew Johnson, Michael Johnson, and Joseph Johnson.

The couple resides in Boulder, Colo.

Business achievements

James B. Kruzan, Raymond James registered principal and branch manager, 6467 Waldon Center Drive, Suite 110, was recently named a member of the 2012 Chairman's Council.



Kruzan

has more than 29 years of experience in the financial services industry.

Chairman's Council honors are presented to financial advisors who have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to personal service and professional integrity.

This marks the 10th consecutive year Kruzan has qualified for this recognition.

For more information, contact Danielle Nickerson at 810-593-1624.

Got a Milestone to share?

We'd love to see them - births, weddings, engagements, military, business and school achievements! Drop them off at 5-S. Main St. or e-mail Clarkstonnews@gmail.com

Ruth E. James, 91

Ruth Elaine James, 91, of Middletown, Ohio, formerly of Clarkston, died on Dec. 24, 2011 at Hospice of Butler & Warren Counties. She was born in Royal Oak, Michigan on June 10, 1920 to parents Hilmer T. and Ruth E. (Davis) Leaf.

Ruth served in the United States Navy and was a Secretary for GM-Pontiac in Michigan. She was a Member of WAVES National Cincinnati Post, American Legion Aux. Post 63 Clarkston, MI, and First United Methodist Church, Middletown.

Ruth was preceded in death by her parents and husband: Kenneth Earl James; daughter, Patricia Lynn James; brother, Arthur T. Leaf; and sister, Dorothy Wyckoff.

She is survived by a daughter Janet (David) Sauter, one brother; Walter Richard Leaf; three grandsons, Michael (Brandi) Sauter; Paul Sauter; and Jonathan Sauter, and many nieces and nephews. The family wishes to thank the Staff at Rittenhouse Senior Living and the Cardiac Unit at the ATRIUM Medical Center for their care of Mrs. James. A gathering and celebration of Ruth's life will be Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012 at Rittenhouse Senior Living at 1:30 pm. Interment will be at White Chapel Cemetery Troy, Mich. In lieu of flowers Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454 Alexandria, VA 22312.

Condolences may be sent to the family via our web page at www.WilsonSchrammSpaulding.com



Virginia Vassallo, 95

Virginia E. Vassallo of Clarkston passed away Dec. 26, 2011, at 95 years of age. She was the wife of the late Fred; loving mother of Ann (Carl) Holmyard, Carol (Floyd) Dobson, Pamela (Ron) Sadler and Wendy (Phil) Sawdon; beloved sister of Bob Hilton; also survived by 11 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.

Funeral Mass was Dec. 29 at St. Daniel Catholic Church, Clarkston. Interment, All Saints Cemetery, Waterford. Scripture service was Dec. 28 at Coats Funeral Home—Clarkston. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Childrens Research Hospital. To send a private condolence go to www.CoatsFuneralHome.com/Obituaries.

Obituaries

Matthew Moultrup, 60

Matthew Thomas Moultrup of Clarkston passed away Jan. 1, 2012, at age 60.

He was preceded in death by his wife Kathy. He was the father of Derek (Lori) Moultrup, Monica (Bryan) Campbell and Jennifer Coy; grandfather of Brady, Jesse, and Easton Matthew; brother of Mary (Robert) Dorman, Ann (Marty) Conzemius, Marjorie (Rich) Truscello, Daniel (Maureen) Moultrup and Christopher (Kimberly) Moultrup; preceded in death by his brother Mark.

Mr. Moultrup retired from GM after 32 years of service at Drayton Plains SPO.

Memorial Service, Wednesday at 12 p.m. at **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, where friends may visit from 11 a.m. until the time of service. Rite of Committal at All Saints Cemetery, Clarkston.

Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society or American Red Cross.

Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Keith L. Thayer, 82

Keith L. Thayer of Waterford passed away Jan. 2, 2012, at age 82.

He was the husband of Ellen for 62 years; father of Karen, Calvin and Kim Thayer; grandpa of Nicholas (Kelly) and Emily; brother of Georgina Bradley and preceded in death by his sister Yvonne.

Mr. Thayer served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and retired from GM after 38 years, Pontiac. Keith loved woodworking and crafts. Memorial service, Thursday, 12:30 p.m., at the **Lewis E. Wint and Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, where friends may visit, 11:30 a.m. until time of service.

Memorials may be made to American Diabetes Association. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Uldene Ione Jones, 97

Uldene Ione Jones passed away, Jan. 1, 2012, at age 97. She was the third of six children born in Drayton Plains to Ernest and Della Coleman; preceded in death by husband of 69 years, Robert L. Jones.

Uldene is survived by many loving family; sons, Robert C. and John Paul Jones, sister, Dawn Tower, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She belonged to Clarkston United Methodist Church, Eastern Star, and the Garden Club. Uldene loved butterflies, daisies, sunflowers and her family. She always had a snack ready and a gift to give. She will be missed by all who knew her.



Nancy Montgomery, 72

Nancy W. Montgomery of Waterford passed away Dec. 29, 2011, at age 72.

She was preceded in death by her husband Dennis. She was the mother of Scott and Devon (Amy); grandma of Samuel and Corryn; sister of Jackie (Bob) Miller, Joan (Paul) Moore and Ann (the late Ed) Hall.

Mrs. Montgomery retired as a nurse from Pontiac General Hospital.

Rosary service, Wednesday, 7 p.m., at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, where friends may visit, Wednesday, 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral Mass, Thursday, 11 a.m., at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, Waterford. Rite of Committal Guardian Angel Cemetery, Rochester. Memorials may be made to Our Lady of the Lakes Legacy Fund.

Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com



Obituaries posted daily at Clarkstonnews.com

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Special Events

Christmas tree recycling, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. through Jan. 30 at Independence Oaks, 9501 Sashabaw Road; Springfield Oaks, 12451 Andersonville Road, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. through Jan. 16. Free. DestinationOakland.com.

Open auditions for Clarkston Village Players' "At the Sign of the Crippled Harlequin," 7:30 p.m., Jan. 8-9, Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road. 248-666-3094.

Free Body Fat Testing, 2-5 p.m., Jan. 15, Anytime Fitness, 9685 Dixie Highway. Open to the public. Call to schedule, 248-625-3002.

Clarkston Village Players, "Drinking Alone," comedy, Jan. 20-21, 27-29, Feb. 3-4; "At the Sign of the Crippled Harlequin," murder mystery, March 9-10, 16-18, 23-24; "Moon Over Buffalo," comedy farce, May 11-12, 18-20, 25-26. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., \$11; Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m., \$13; Sundays, 2 p.m., \$11. 248-625-8811.

Heart screenings for students, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 21, Clarkson High School, 6093 Flemings Lake Road. Free. Registration required, 800-633-7377.

Weekly meetings

Monday

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.

Afternoon Line Dancing, Mondays, 1-4 p.m. Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. \$3. Drop In.

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. 248-507-4839.

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

Around Town



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

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

Basic Yoga with Noreen Daly, 5:45 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays. Beginning, intermediate asanas (postures). Bring practice mat or towel. Peace Unity Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-310-7878.

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.

Job Ministry presentation for unemployed or to hone employability skills, third Monday, 7:30 p.m., St. Daniel's Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park Drive. 248-625-4580.

Slow Flow Yoga Noreen Daly, Mondays, Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m. Beginning and intermediate asanas (postures). Bring practice mat or towel. Peace Unity Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-310-7878.

Tuesday

Pickleball, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., 5449 Clarkston Road, \$3, drop in, all levels welcome; Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., \$4, drop in. First Congregational Church of Clarkston, 5449 Clarkston Road.

Gentle Yoga with Rev. Matthew, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 10 a.m. Bring practice mat or towel. Free-will offerings. Peace Unity Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road, 248-891-4365.

Breast Cancer Support Group, second Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., 21st Century Oncology, 6770 Dixie Highway, Suite 106. 248-625-3841

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.

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

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

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

Adult Acting Classes, Clarkston Village Players, for new and established actors. Those under 18 need parents' permission and approval of the facilitator. Section 2: Tuesdays, Jan 3-Feb 14, 6-9 p.m. Call Bob Gerics, 248-891-9279.

Wednesday

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

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.

Local Business Network, Clarkston/Auburn Hills Chapter, first and third Thursday, 7:30-

8:45 a.m., North Oakland County Board of Realtors, 4400 W. Walton Blvd., Waterford. 248-370-8029.

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., lunches, guest speakers, musical performances, field trips, holiday parties, movies, bingo, games. Hart Community Center in Davisburg. \$5 yearly membership, \$5 lunch. 248-846-6558.

Clarkston Community Women's Club, third Thursday, 7 p.m., Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. 248-625-1326.

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

Divorce Care, Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. through Jan. 5; Jan. 12-April 5; April 26-July 19. Weekly video presentation with small group discussion. \$15 for workbook. Join any time. Childcare provided. at 248-620-8420.

Saturday

Preschool Vision Screening for children 6 months-5 year, second Saturday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Photos taken of child's eyes to check for potential vision problems. Immediate results. Free. Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road, www.clarkstonlionis.org.

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.

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

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Supervisor crisis boiled over in autumn

Continued from page 9

September 21

Thief caught: Shoppers at Dixie Highway and Maybee Road were victimized by criminals in two separate incidents, Sept. 13-14. One of the robbers, a purse snatcher, was tracked down and caught quickly. It took a few weeks to catch the other one, an armed robber.

September 28

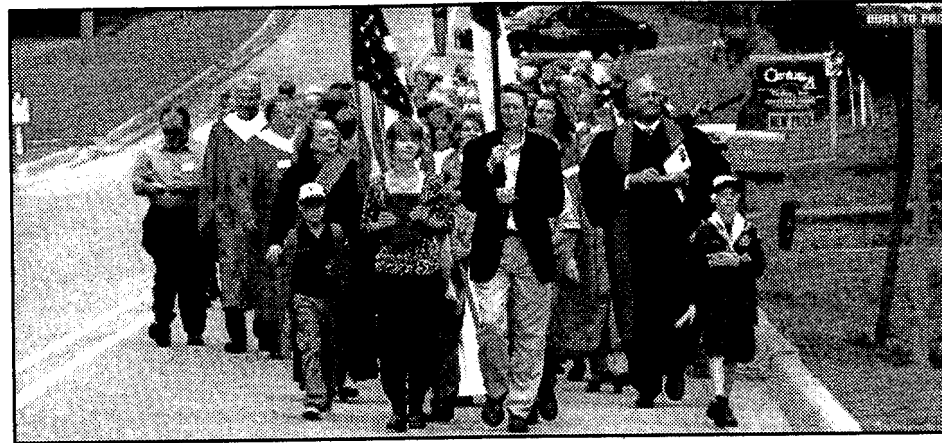
Sunny skies for Taste of Clarkston: Thousands filled downtown Clarkston at Sunday's Taste of Clarkston, enjoying sweet and savory treats under a sunny sky. New this year was a international wine-tasting tent sponsored by Clarkston Rotary Club in the Clarkston News' parking lot.

Supervisor calls in sick for rest of year: Independence Township Supervisor Dave Wagner presented a doctor's note stating he wouldn't be back until after the first of the year, if then. Trustees moved to appoint an acting supervisor.

October 5

Wagner won't go: After six months of sick leave, Independence Township Supervisor Dave Wagner hoped to get back to work the first of the year. After multiple neck surgeries and prescribed over 30 medications, he still didn't know what exactly his ailment was.

October 12



Clarkston United Methodist Church celebrated its 50th anniversary last fall with a re-creation of its march from old to new church.

FOIAs under fire: School officials facing several Freedom of Information Act requests had some questions of their own, including why The Clarkston News donated funds to the FOIA effort. The donation was to support an ongoing news-gathering effort.

With less money, township's scaling back: Millage rates for Independence Township remained the same for the past few years, but the township's total levy was less due to falling property values. That meant township firefighters, library, and sheriff services had to make do with less.

October 19

Celebrating the past and next 50 years: Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrated its 50th anniversary throughout the year, culminating in a special Celebration Worship Event at Clarkston Junior High.

October 26

Superintendent surprise: Independence Township Trustee David Lohmeier proposed appointing a part-time superintendent to cover for the long-absent supervisor. That would offer more flexibility than a temporary

Please see Election, page 20

In our churches...

Holistic Sampler Health Fair, Open House, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Jan. 14. Peace Unity Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-807-8511.

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

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

Divorce Care, Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. through-Jan. 5; Jan. 12-April 5; April 26-July 19. Weekly video presentation with small group discussion. \$15. Join any time. Childcare provided. at 248-620-8420.

Celebrate Recovery ministry for hurting people, Thursday, 7-8:30 pm., Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Road. 248-625-1323. Childcare available.

Church Directory



ST. TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod"
Pastor: Rev. Kendall Schaefer
7925 Sashabaw Road
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Clarkston, MI 48348
(248) 625-4644
www.sainttrinitylutheran.com
e-mail: sttrinity@comcast.net
Broadcast Worship - Clarkston
CIV-10/20Sun. 2:00pm, Thurs. 9:00pm
Broadcast Worship - Waterford
CATV-10 Tues. 2:30 pm
Worship:
Sunday 8:15 am & 11:00 am
Sat. 6:00 pm
Sunday School 9:45 am
Preschool: 3-4 years old
Preschool: 620-6154

CLARKSTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

5482 Winell-Clarkston
(corner of Maybee & Winell)
248-623-1224
Service 9:00 • 10:30
www.ClarkstonFMC.org
Wednesday 7 pm
Youth & Adult Ministry

CALVARY MISSIONARY CHURCH & DESTINY SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

1361 Giddings Rd., Pontiac MI 48340
248-373-0311
Sunday Service: 10 am & 6pm
Tues. - 10 am Prayer Service
Wed. - 7 pm Bible Study
www.calvarymissionarychurchpontiac.org
Senior Pastors: Dan & Debbie Burgess

BRIDGEWOOD CHURCH

6765 Battalee Lake Road
Clarkston, 48348
(248) 625-1344
Services:
Sunday 9:00am & 10:45am
Morning Worship Service
Exploration Station -
Children's Ministry
Wed. 6:45pm Fit For Life -
Adult Life Ministry
c.r.a.v.e. - Student Life Ministry
Ozone - Children's Life Ministry
Nurture Center/Wonderland
available for all services
A Church For Life
www.bridgewoodchurch.com

CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6600 Waldon Road, Clarkston
248-625-1611
Website: clarkstonumc.org
Sunday Worship: 9:00am & 11:00 am
6:00pm Evening Service
Nursery available for all services

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

5449 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston
(248) 394-0200
Fax: (248) 394-2142
Interim: Rev. William Lange
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10:00 am
Dream Keepers Youth Group
Bible Study
Wednesday 7:00 pm
Youth Groups 6-12
Wednesday 6:30 pm
www.FirstCongregationalChurch.org

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Sunday School 9:55 am
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www.clarkstonepiscopal.org
248-625-2325

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

DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH

8585 Dixie Hwy., Clarkston, MI
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website: www.dixiebaptist.org
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Academy & Children's
Ark Preschool
Pastor: J. Todd Vanaman
Sun: 9:45 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
6:00 pm Worship Service
Wed: 7:00 pm Children and Teen
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Fax (248) 858-7706

ST. DANIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

7010 Valley Park Dr., Clarkston
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Pastor Jonathan Heierman
Sunday Worship:
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Also at both 9:30 & 11:00:
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Wednesday Evenings:
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Programming
www.calvaryinfo.org

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(248) 625-1323
Home of Oakland Christian School
Pastors: Greg Henneman,
Bonita Laudeman, Kevin Kuehne,
Dan Whiting, Geoff Black
Sunday: Worship 9:15 & 11:00 am
Nursery Care at all services
Wednesday: Children's Ministries
6:00-8:00 pm
Sunday: Youth Ministries
5:00-7:00 pm
www.clarkstoncommunity.com

Election issues start to take form in late 2011

Continued from page 19
supervisor, trustees said.

Trick-or-treating in the park: Sunny skies greeted trick-or-treaters in Friendly Forest, as young volunteers brought storybook and movie characters to life to give them candy treats.

November 9

Wartime romance: Frank Quinlan of Springfield Township wears his standard issue Navy uniform in local veterans events. He got it serving during World War II, which was also when he met his wife, Annamarie.

30 days: Independence Township board offered Supervisor Dave Wagner 30 days to resign in exchange for early qualification for lifetime healthcare. The resignation would have had to be permanent.

More burn regs recommended: The open-burn committee recommended allowing open burning, but with more regulations.

November 16

Work underway: The improvement project started at Dixie Highway and Davisburg Road in Springfield Township. The project includes new curbs and mast-mounted traffic lights, and is set to be complete by March.

No contest for city election: With three seats and only three candidates running, 116 out of 820 registered voters cast ballots in the Nov. 8 election for Clarkston City Council.



Students honored family and friends who served in the military, during Veterans Day celebrations.

Incumbent Thomas Hunter got 88 votes. Incumbent Steve Hargis and newly elected Eric Haven got 77 votes apiece.

November 23

Making a difference: Clarkston Junior High School student Sarah Head's goal is to make the world a better place, starting with her own classmates who need help. She organized a "Secret Closet" at the school, using a file room donated by the parent-teacher

group.

Competing Clarks: Independence Township Board appointed Bart Clark as township superintendent, while at about the same time Supervisor Dave Wagner appointed Mike Clark as deputy supervisor.

November 30

Donations to feed an army: Clarkston Junior High students join forces with U.S. Army soldiers to help make the holidays easier for

families of deployed troops.

School bond vote in May?: Technology and construction constitute more than half of the proposed \$23.1 million capital needs list under consideration for Clarkston schools. Administration is determining priorities and costs. Then, school board and administration will look at how to pay for it, seeking a bond from the community, sinking fund, using the general fund or taking out a district loan. If it goes to bond, it could be put to a vote in May.

December 7

Supervisor's staying on: The Dec. 1 deadline to resign came and went without response from Supervisor Dave Wagner. His doctor wrote a note to the board last September stating he was "totally incapacitated until Jan. 1, 2012."

December 14

\$135,000 to fill in for supervisor: The township paid Human Resource Director Carol Gabris \$64,150 a year to handle HR duties. Budget Analyst Rick Yaeger was part-time at \$35,100 per year. Newly appointed Superintendent Bart Clark was part-time at \$36,000 a year. The township was also paying Supervisor Dave Wagner \$31,200 a year, while currently on disability.

DPW plowing costs too much: To reduce Please see Holidays, page 22

Restaurant Directory

Taste test these local restaurants for a variety of great food.

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Township sets up benefits committee

Continued from page 1A
benefits the township," he said. "It doesn't
benefit the township to have benefits that
are costly particularly to healthcare. Those
are all going out of sight."

Carson said it would discourage young
candidates.

"If they're going to set aside their career
and have a family then they're not looking
at anything down the road, we need to
provide them something," Carson said. "I
think we need to be looking at how that
employment package will withstand time."

Trustee Larry Rosso agreed.
"We might make more restrictive the
people that runs for these jobs, as being
retirees that worked some place else or are
on a retirement plan with some other type of
company," Rosso said.

Trustee David Lohmeier believes in the
long term the township is on the "wrong side
of history" with retirement benefits.

"I think it's very unlikely today that young
people today come into many companies
expecting to have mass retirement benefits
like their parents and grandparents do," he
said.

Lohmeier suggested splitting the motion
between current and future full-time elected
officials. Wallace declined.

"I just think it should be gone," he said.
"I think the way to do it is now."

AFSCME Union President Craig
Richardson told the board the union in 2007
eliminated full-time healthcare for all future
employees and were under the impression it
would be for full-time elected officials as well.

"In 2007 gave that benefit up, we thought
it was going to be all the way across for
everybody," Richardson said. "We don't see
that as a union at times that things are being
cut at the top."

After Wallace's motion failed, Pallotta
motioned to direct the Human Resource
director to reconstitute the benefits
committee and have that committee in place
by the end of January, so that in 2012 a
determination can be made that is equitable
to all employees.

The board voted unanimously.
"I'm for what are our options and let's
look at the whole package," Carson said.
"Let's make it make sense for those who are
going to consider running for office."

Holidays bring help

Continued from page 20
costs.

Kids send holiday cheer to the troops: Stu-
dents at Springfield Plains Elementary sent a
little Christmas cheer to troops in Afghani-
stan. All four fifth-grade classes at Spring-
field Plains took part, contacting businesses
for sponsorships and collecting donations.



Hoppy New Year!
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HOURS: Monday through Friday 8-5; Oxford - Saturday 9-Noon; Lake Orion & Clarkston Offices Closed Saturday

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L28

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We also have a large inventory of used auto parts. BRIDGE LAKE Auto & Truck, 9408 Dixie Hwy, Clarkston, 1 mile north of I-75. Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Sat 9am-2pm 248-625-5050

ZX224

WANTED: LAWN Equipment, tractors, chain saws, mowers. Will pick-up. 248-804-9915. IIL52

CASH FOR UNWANTED vehicles. Top Dollar Paid. Free towing. 810-969-2415. IIX194

LOOKING FOR Repairable cars/ trucks. Up to \$5,000 cash paid. Quick pick up. 810-724-7647, 810-338-7770. IIL224

WANTED: OCTOBER 24, 2001 edition of The Oxford Leader. Call 248-628-4801 or drop off at Leader office. IIL43tf

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090 AUCTIONS

Auction on Default Units
Auctioneer will be Steven Cole
Thursday, January 19, 2012
Starts Promptly at 12:00 Noon
Lake Orion Self-Storage, Inc
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CASH SALES ONLY

UNIT #10020, Luigi Stocco, Bikes, boxes, tubs & more.
UNIT #30008, David McCloud, Electric saw, tools, boxes & more.
UNIT #30037, Thomas Quick, Pots & pans, framed pictures, TV, bar stool & more.
UNIT #30048, Randy Scott, Armoire, bed, computer desk & chair, furniture & more.
UNIT #50022, Norman Regan, Lawn sweeper, alum. truck tool box, boxes, tools & more.
UNIT #50047, American Home Building David Hodges, Construction tools & equip., new windows, propane tanks & more.

L52

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(Holiday deadlines may apply) L28-dh

GARAGE SALE: Brandon School District, Friday, January 20, 2012 from 9am-3pm. Location: Service drive between Brandon High School and Brandon Middle School. For information, call 248-627-1818. IILZ52

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130 HOUSEHOLD

ON JANUARY 16, 2012 at 10am, various household cabinetry and building materials owned by Loren Pollack will be sold at a private sale at 4882 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion, MI 48359. IIR42

140 COMPUTERS

COMPUTER PROBLEMS?
Microsoft Certified Technician. Free diagnostic. Pick up available. John: 248-892-5667 (Clarkston). IILZ44

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170 GENERAL

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L34

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190 LOST & FOUND

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220 HORSES

WANTED TO BUY: Used English & Western Saddles. 888-828-1849. IIL3tfc

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2008 KIA RIO. Low miles (32,000). Like new. Warranted. \$8,700 obo. 248-252-4130. IILZ28

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1988 BUICK STATION wagon: 65,000 miles. Very clean, no rust. \$4,000. 248-814-8633. IILZ18

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260 VANS

1999 FORD E-150: Great condition. \$3,800. 6-cylinder automatic, 2- wheel drive, 4 Captain chairs, alloy wheels, TV/VCR/10 CD changer. 130,000 miles. Oil changes every 3,500 miles. New brakes. John: 248-245-5382. IILZ24

270 TRUCKS/SUV

JEEP LIBERTY, 2003. Silver two-tone interior/ exterior, loaded, leather. Very clean, recent tuneup. 100,000 miles. \$6,900 obo. 248-872-0528. IILZ212

JEEP WRANGLER 1997. Red with black interior. Automatic transmission, 4 cylinder, 128,000 miles. Excellent stereo, wheels/ tires in great shape, no rust. Runs/ looks like new. \$6,500. 248-693-2527. IILZ24

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2001 DODGE RAM dually 3500 pickup. 4x4, regular cab, 51,100 miles, V-8. \$8,500. 586-752-3312 after 7pm. Mon-Fri, weekends anytime. I1LZ4912

2011 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL-FWD, \$35,000. Leather heated seats, power sun roof, 2nd row skylight, 19" chrome wheels, trailering package, premium audio sound, rear camera, remote start. 13,500 miles. 248-696-5971. I1LZ5212

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2008 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, V6. Black with grey interior. Loaded: power windows, locks, seats, AM/FM/CD. Excellent condition. 48,500 miles. \$18,200. 248-701-8104. I1LZ34

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L54

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LZ42

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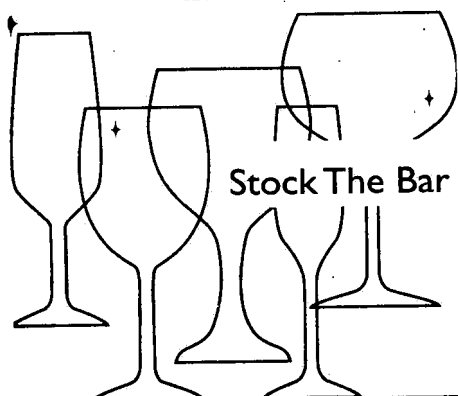
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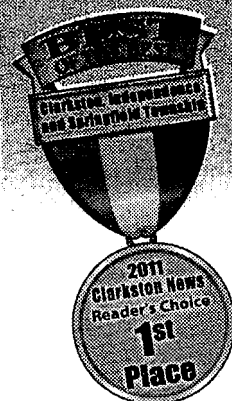
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