

# The Clarkston News



## Swooping skier

Grant Huber, team captain, takes on the giant slalom at Pine Knob Ski Resort for Clarkston High School's Boys Ski Team. Photo provided by Dave McClaghry

## In today's edition

16 pages of wedding specials  
Views on school bond  
Clarkston Village Players  
Columns, Public Safety,  
Classifieds and more!

Clarkston News

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D-GP 002

# "Twas the Night before Christmas"

Children and staff of The Learning Experience Academy of Early Education in Clarkston starred in "Twas the Night before Christmas" on December 16. The Christmas program was performed at Clarkston Junior High Performing Arts Center. The children performed in front of a packed auditorium by singing and using sign language to illustrate their songs. Solos were performed by teacher Caren Volante and Addison Spears. Family and friends rounded out the night with refreshments and treats from Bubbles the Elephant!



Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer as performed by Preschool 2!



Teacher Tami Lowrie shows off James Mackey while teacher Sarah Petkowitz laughs with Isabella Klos



PreK Children wish you a Merry Christmas in Spanish!



Addison Compton poses for a photo with Bubbles!



"My Favorite Things" by PreK with Trey Pochmara, Cara Parker, Evan Illis, Cayden Degrendel and Parker Stalcup



Noah Berg in his first Extravaganza with teacher Dawn Sharette



Ryleigh Thomson signs Away in a Manger with teacher Dannielle Benway



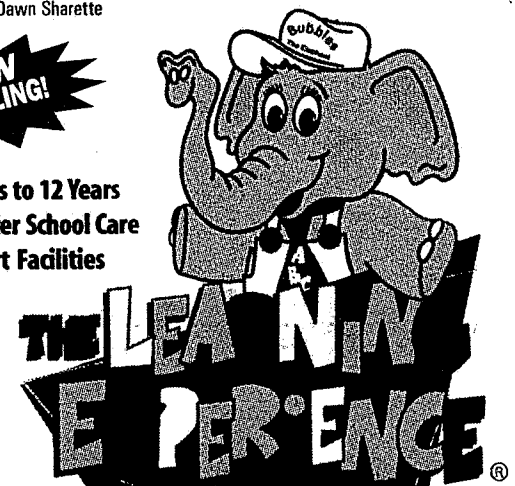
Summer LaDuc waves to Mom and Dad



It's the finale! Marley McClendon, Mia Carles, Brianna Klatt, Audrey Heist and Ryan Rudolph are so excited!

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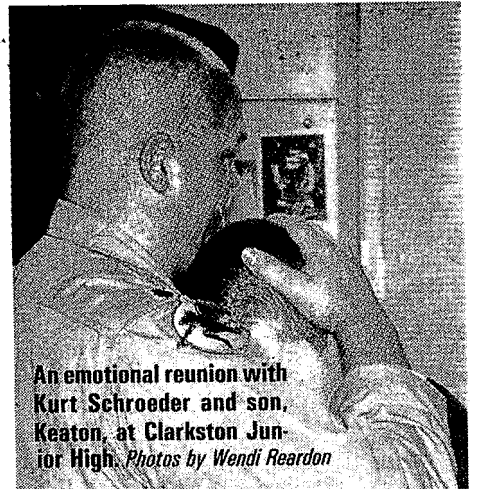
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# Surprise visit from Afghanistan

**BY WENDI REARDON**  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Griffin Schroeder was just getting settled in Ms. Grasso's class on Jan. 10 when Clarkston High School Assistant Principal Jeff Kosin knocked on the door. He stepped in followed by Lt. Col. Kurt Schroeder, his dad. It was a surprise since Griffin didn't expect him home until the next day.

After not seeing his dad since September, Griffin got out of his seat and welcomed his dad with a tight hug.

Kurt, a lieutenant colonel in the International guard and a 810 pilot, came home Monday along with 280 others from Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom.

Kurt and wife Debby surprised all four of their sons, stopping by each of their schools. They began at Orion Oaks Elementary for Weston and Bryson before heading to Clarkston Junior High School for eighth grader Keaton and the last stop was the high school.

"This was the first opportunity we had to surprise them like this," Kurt smiled.

Debby admitted it was hard to keep it a secret.

"I didn't know if it would be better to have them there when he came home," she added.

The sons were obviously excited. Bryson and Weston already planned playing football and wrestling would be on the agenda.

"They don't do a tag team," Kurt shook his head. "They do it all at once."

"It is always nice to come home and get reunited with the family," he said. "I

don't know if it is more difficult on me or these guys. Sometimes it is more difficult on them."

Kurt was gone not only for Thanksgiving, Christmas and bringing in the New Year with his family but celebrating his and

his wife's birthdays.

"Everyone over there went through the same thing and that is part of it. That's my job," Kurt added. "We don't get to choose when we go. Any military family

Continued on Page 5

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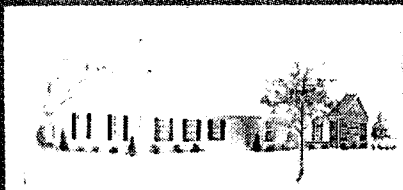
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SUNSET SKIER: Olivia Dunn contemplates the setting sun before hitting the slopes for Clarkston High School ski team. Photo provided by Dave McClaughry

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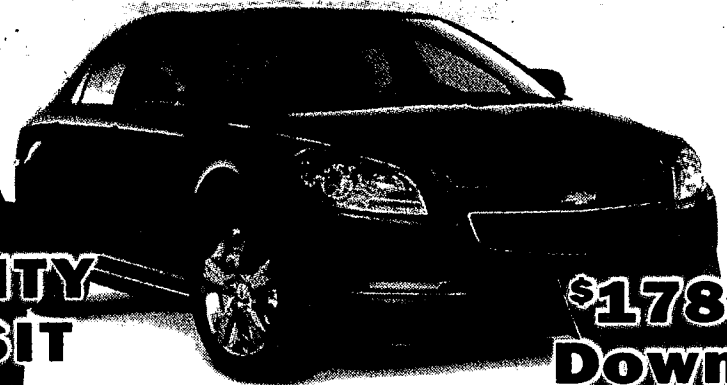
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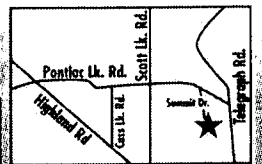
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## 'Drinking Alone' opens at Depot Theater Jan. 20

Life is interesting for Joe's family in the Clarkston Village Player presentation of "Drinking Alone." Above, left Joe as played by Sean Harbert. Above right Renee, as played by Angela Roberts, talks with her "father in law" Ivan, played by Rick Shaw. Below, Harbert, Shaw and Johana Bell, who plays Carrie. Below right is Joy Oetjens, who plays Phyllis. Jan. 13. The comedy drama opens Jan. 20 at Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road. Call 248-625-8811. Photo by Trevor Keiser



## Dad makes surprise visit from Afghanistan

Continued from Page 3

is signed up for it but family doesn't always get a choice. They are just as strong as the military members going over there and that's what they need. They need to know when they are gone they are safe."

Kurt's unit was in Afghanistan to support NATO troops and U.S. forces on the ground.

"It is difficult to always get an accurate picture of what is going on over there," he said. "But we were doing some good work. The biggest thing is win the hearts and minds of Afghan people."

While soldiers were on the ground in-

teracting with civilians, Kurt was in the air providing security and air support -- looking for potential danger on the ground from the Taliban. They also provided reinforcement if needed.

"Even in wartime they were being engaged by the enemy and being pinned down. We were kind of that additional force that helped a lot of guys come home safely when they were engaged out there. It is a good feeling to help those guys like that," he said.

His work didn't just get noticed by the ground forces. As he followed his family out of Ms. Grasso's classroom last Tuesday and into the hallway he was greeted

with an overwhelming sight. The hallway was lined with students and teachers applauding. As they turned down another corridor more students and teachers waited for them.

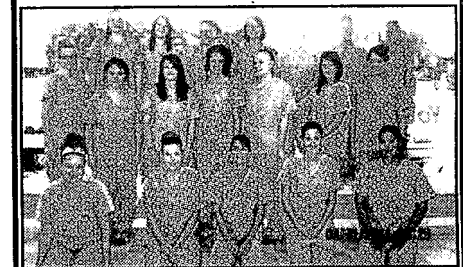
Kurt smiled with a gleam in his eyes after reaching the front office and modestly said, "it was nice."

The Schroeder family celebrated their missed holidays this past weekend and are now getting into the routine of having Dad home.

"It is the challenge and anticipation of how everyone is going to integrate back together," said Kurt.



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## Free athlete heart screening

Beaumont cardiologists perform free Student Heart Checks, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 21, at Clarkston High School, 6093 Flemings Lake Road.

The heart screening, which takes about 30 minutes, includes medical history, blood pressure check, and electrocardiogram. Echocardiograms will also be provided if needed.

The screening looks for signs of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, or HCM, a

serious condition that can cause sudden cardiac death in young athletes, and other heart abnormalities.

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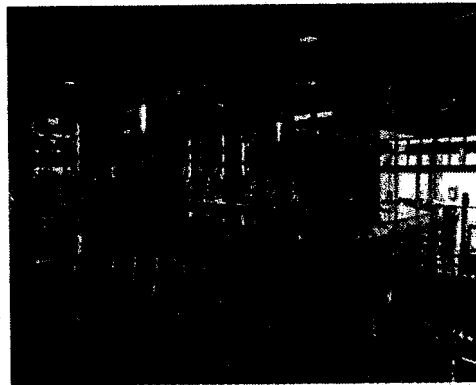
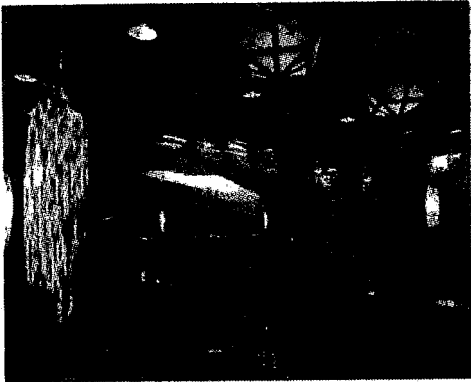


## Taking down the Dragons

Matt Boczar takes a shot for the Clarkston Boys Freshman Basketball Team against Lake Orion, Jan. 3. They won, 38-34. Photo by Larry Wright

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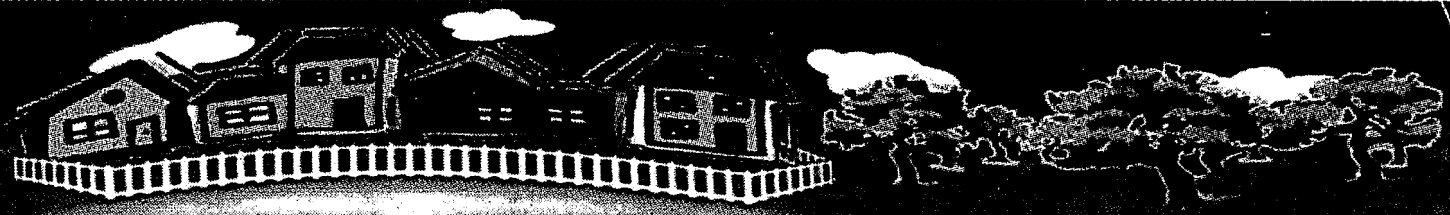
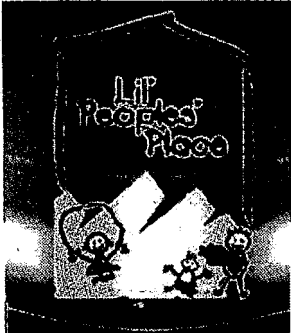


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# CNews People Poll January 18, 2012

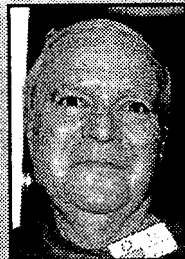
## Thoughts on the \$20M school bond issue?

"I'm not sure about the bond, but I'm interested in supporting technology improvements for the schools. The world is changing. They need to stay up to date."



- Julie Meyer

"I'm for education, but I think this is ill-advised - \$35,000 should be spent much more wisely. They needed a whole lot more canvassing of people before making that vote (to approve the bond issue)."



- Joel DeLong

"I'd like to support the schools, but \$20 million? I wonder if we really need it. The 2003 bond (\$83.7 million) wasn't that long ago."



- Joe Wauldron

"It will help keep everything up to date. If we want kids to know what's going on in the world, they need the infrastructure in place."



- David Boersma

By Phil Custodio

# The Clarkston News' Millstream

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

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From left, finalists Jennifer Starnes, Dallas Hood, and Emily Hayward study a map during the Geography Bee. See page 15B for more pictures from the Bee. Photos by Phil Custodio

## Title won with map smarts

When finalists were asked which Asian country is made up of islands on the eastern edge of the South China Sea, Jennifer Starnes knew the answer.

Her response, the Philippines, won her the North Sashabaw Elementary Geography Bee, Jan. 13.

"I'm very proud of her," said Cathy Starnes, her mother. "She's an excellent student. We're very blessed."

"I just study a lot," said Jennifer, fourth grader. "It's good to know about the world and cultures. It's just interesting."

Teachers nominated 21 contestants from grades 4-5 for preliminary competition, narrowing to seven for the finals.

Jennifer will complete a written test, which will be used to determine if she qualifies for state level competition in March. After that comes the National Bee in May.



Jennifer Starnes emerges victorious.



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Brad Martin gives Cindy Stanaback a cupcake from Village Boutique at last year's party. *File photo*

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## Strolling downtown fun

BY TREVOR KEISER  
 Clarkston News Staff Writer

Retailers from Lisa Confection Connection all the way down to Clarkston Flower Shoppe and in between will offer various drinks, snacks, and discounts on merchandise as the Clarkston Retailers Group celebrates their second annual Strolling Cocktail Party this Saturday, 6-9 p.m.

"Last year we had an actual menu, but this year we're just letting everybody handle their own shop individually," said Peg Roth of the Clarkston Retailers. "Whatever they are serving, whatever discounts on merchandise that's all up to the individual shop owners."

Different from last year, noted Roth, is Rudy's Market will host a wine tasting in the store as opposed to the Clarkston Mills Mall.

"We will serve light refreshments and drinks at the mall," she said. "The entire event is free, but we are asking for donations for the O.A.T.S (Offering Alternative Therapy with Smiles) program."

Like last year, The Birdfeeder, Clarkston Flower Shoppe, Bonnie & Clyde will have live music. Different this year, they will have a roulette wheel.

"We will serve hor d'oeuvres and

cocktails including B. Nektar Meadery's from Ferndale," said owner Shari Shultz.

"They will pour samples of their award-winning honey wines and mixing up a cocktail called the Real Detroit, made with their Wildberry Pyment, Faygo Rock & Rye and vodka from Valentine Distilling Co."

Other retailers include Advanced Energy Therapy, Artichoke Interiors, Attuned Mind, Essence on Main, Encore Pilates, Frank & Me, Ironton Cottage & Cabin Furniture & Home Décor, KH Home, Kinetic Systems, Morgan and Milzow, Nuview Nutrition, Parsonage Events, Real Estate One, Rudy's Market & Catering, Silver Kiss, Union General, and Village Fashion Boutique.

Roth said they have many retailers participating, twice as many as last year.

"I think it shows the Clarkston Retailer's Group has become a much stronger group of people. We are promoting each other, supporting each other and everything that's been going on downtown at with people lined up to get into Union Woodshop," Roth said. "Our community as a whole is on the map now."

For more information on the O.A.T.S program, please visit [www.oatshr.org](http://www.oatshr.org). For Saturday's event, call Roth at 248-462-3008.

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# Pro's, cons of \$20 million bond

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

The proposed \$20 million bond vote this May is about children and learning, school officials say.

"It's \$100 for children, to get the technology they need," said Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock. "The community has the option to agree – it's up to them."

Henry Woloson of Independence Township sees it differently.

"This is about a small group of individuals on the School Board attempting to circumvent the recently passed Michigan law which consolidated elections in order to save scarce taxpayer funds," Woloson said.

## Timing

Rock said the election was set for May 8 so its programs can be implemented this fall, and to avoid partisan politics.

"Voters deserve an opportunity to speak on this issue alone – it's not Democrat or Republican," he said.

The bond proposal supports the Learner Profile and Strategic Goal Areas approved by the School Board last year, Rock said.

"I just hope people think this is important for kids, whether they have children or not," Rock said. "This is what we believe is best for kids – that's what this is about."

Woloson doesn't buy it.

"There is absolutely no valid reason as to why taxpayers should be spending \$35,000 for a special election in May just to vote on the school tax increase when there is an election already scheduled to take place in August," he said.

"This has nothing to do with when the fiscal year ends and has everything to do with the administration and certain school board members trying to stack the deck in favor of passing this school tax increase while schools are in session in April and May to better access their supporters."

Richard Bisio of Clarkston agreed.

"This doesn't appear to be an emergency that can't wait until November, when there will be a heavy voter turnout," Bisio said. "The fact that the board majority who approved this doesn't blink at the \$35,000 cost is indicative of a lack of attention to eliminating unnecessary expenditures."

Voter turnout will be higher during the regular elections, he said.

"More senior citizens and voters without children attending K-12 classes are likely to vote in August, thereby increasing the likelihood that the vote would better reflect the demographics of the community, something the supporters of the special election school tax increase apparently do not want," he said.

Mike Powell of Independence Township sees the bond request as irresponsible.

"Considering how long the board has known about the 2012 election, it's surprising that they waited until now to bring a bond to the voters."



Dr. Rock

"Any business person would invest \$35,000 on a \$20 million return – any investment made in kids returns multiple times in what they contribute."

May is a shameful waste of \$35,000," Powell said. "Decisions like this are exactly why they defaulted at the state level. Asking for higher interest rate, non-qualified bonds for non-essential items continues the trend of irresponsibility."

## Technology

The first \$10 million would be used to install wireless access in all buildings over the summer. Technology training for teachers would also begin at Sashabaw Middle School this fall.

"That's the place that makes the most sense," Rock said. "Then it would spread across the district over the next six years."

The first year's experience would be used to adjust training for the rest of the district, he said.

The bond would also provide iPads, tablets, or other mobile learning devices to all teachers this fall.

"It's very important that all kids have access to tools to use beyond school," Rock said. "It's important that students be able to use technology. We want to go from a system where students fill in bubbles on a multiple choice test to a system where they figure out how to demonstrate what they know – create something to show that they know how apply what they know. It's not enough just to know it."

Bisio isn't sure the bond is necessary for achieve that.

"There are schools that provide an excellent education without excessive technology investments and at less than the per pupil cost of the Clarkston schools," Bisio said. "Many municipalities have made hard decisions about priorities in this time of declining property values and corresponding declining revenues. It's easy to go to the taxpayers and ask for more money – harder to live within your means."

## Cost

The bond is a wise investment in improving economy, Rock said.

"Any business person would invest \$35,000 on a \$20 million return," Rock said. "Any investment made on kids returns multiple times in what they contribute."

The bond would increase property tax for each \$1,000 of assessed property valuation, or one-half market value, so it would cost a family in a \$200,000 home \$100 per year more through the year 2029.

If property values decline, the district will reduce the amount of spending, Rock said.

"Or, if it improves, we might benefit from that," he said.

"What we're asking for is \$100 for a resident with a \$200,000 home for updates we need to ensure students have what is needed. It's up to the community to decide if it's important enough to spend \$100 annually to make it happen for every child."

The issue is more than \$100 more per year for "the kids," Woloson said.

"Especially when the term of almost nine years to pay off these bonds is longer than the useful life of the technology and repairs that are being financed," he said.

## School finances

Rock said district finances are sound. "We are absolutely living within our means," he said. "The budget is balanced – the school board set parameters to balance the budget."

The district reduced staffing and spending, shares administrators with another district, and increased energy efficiency. Employees changed insurance as well as accepted pay freezes and cuts, he said.

"The community should be very proud of what employees and what they have done," said Anita Banach, human resources executive director.

Expenses have piled up as state funding declined, Rock said.

"We've kept cuts as far from the classroom as possible, and put off updates to parking lots and other things like that – the longer you put them off, the more it takes to fix," he said. "We have to maintain what we have. There's not a lot of money in the general fund for parking lot updates."

The bond would be a non-qualified loan – the state wouldn't have any say in how the district uses the funds. However, the interest rate may be higher. According to the State of Michigan, qualified bonds provide school districts access to the state's credit rating, which is usually lower.

"Taxpayers should know that these non-qualified bonds will be at a higher interest rate, and additional mills can be levied without a vote of the people," Powell said. "It would be foolish to give this board an open checkbook."

As a non-qualified loan, however, the bond is much more flexible, Rock said.

About half the bond is for capital improvements including roof and paving repairs, furniture updates, energy efficiencies, and band instruments and uniforms.

Rock will host informational meetings, and invites churches, civic organizations, businesses, and other groups to contact him to set up a meeting.

## Briefly

### Talent night

Join singers for Vocal Talent Night, Jan. 24, 7 p.m., at the Clarkston Junior High School Auditorium. Doors are open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 at the door.

The Vocal Talent Night is a long standing tradition, sponsored by the CJHS Choirs.

### Bowl for Lacrosse

Clarkston High School Boys Lacrosse hosts their Fourth Annual Bowling Fundraiser at Cherry Hill Lanes, Jan. 29.

The cost to bowl in the event is \$25, which includes two hours of bowling, pizza and pop.

Raffle tickets are available for \$5 and prizes include a 50" high definition TV, iPad, and a Blu-ray player. The event will also have prize giveaways and a silent auction.

Local businesses are welcome to sponsor a lane for \$100 and will receive their organization name on a lane banner and on the Clarkston Lacrosse website. Door prizes, auction items and monetary donations are also accepted.

For more information, please contact Kim Kneisel at 248-620-3840.

### Everest open house

Everest, a catholic school, in Independence Township hosts an Open House on Sunday, Jan. 29, from 1-4 p.m.

It will include tours of the school, testimonies from students, and the chance to speak with them about their experience at Everest. All parents and students are welcome. Once you enter the Clarkston Road campus, follow signs for the Girls' School. For more details, check: [www.everest-clarkston.org](http://www.everest-clarkston.org).

RSVP suggested – contact Maura Plante at: 248-241-9012 or [mplante@everestacademy.org](mailto:mplante@everestacademy.org)

### Spaghetti dinner

Young At Heart Senior Citizen Group hosts Lots-N-Lots of Spaghetti fundraiser, 5-7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 23, at Hart Community Center in Davisburg.

Homemade baked goods will also be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit Springfield Township Parks and Recreation and Young At Heart group.

All you can eat. \$6/ages 9 and older; \$3/ages 5-8; free/age 4 and under.

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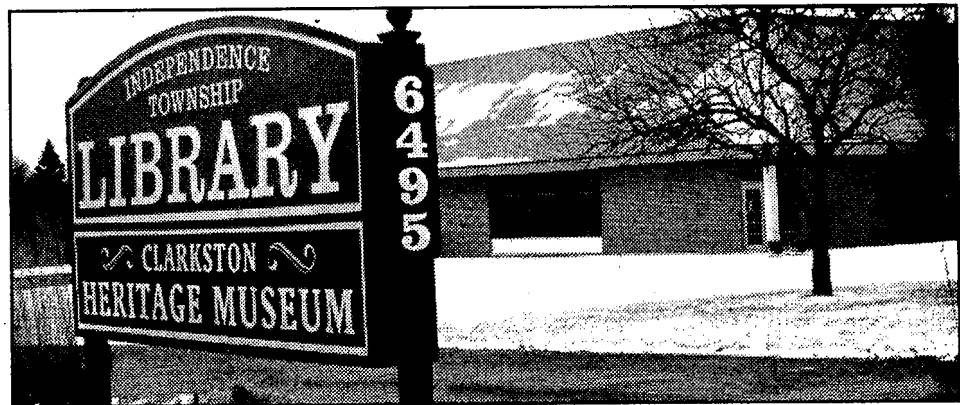
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Independence Township is considering re-establishing the library into a district library with the City of the Village of Clarkston. Photo by Trevor Keiser

## Library may join district system

BY TREVOR KEISER  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

According to the Library of Michigan, of the 101 libraries in the State of Michigan, Independence Township is one of the only two remaining under the repealed law Public Act 269.

"We technically are recognized as a legal public library, but when there are questions about governance there is no law to go back to," said Library Director Julie Meredith. "The law was repealed, it's gone."

After being "frozen in time" for 36 years under the repealed law, Meredith believes it's time to re-establish the library under a current and valid law.

Two laws exist, one is Michigan District Library Law, a set of laws designed to serve multiple communities. The second option would be to re-establish under PA 164, which is designed for a library that's one municipality.

Since Independence currently services both the township and the City of the Village of Clarkston, Meredith believes a district library would be the way to go. Not only would it allow city residents the opportunity to vote on millage rates, but it would also allow residents from both municipalities to serve on a library board.

"We have a friends of the library group and there are lots of people from both municipalities," she said. "When we educate

the public when the library has a millage on the ballot, we have a number of people in the city who help promote the millage because they want the library to be funded. But they can't vote on how much goes through, which I think is unfair."

She noted the township attempted to become a district library with the City in 1992, but the two municipalities could not agree on an appropriate millage rate in time to meet the ballot language deadline.

If the library re-established under PA 164 city residents would not be able to run for library board and things would run similar to the way they currently do.

"To me it's about the governance of the library," Meredith said. "Everybody thinks it's about the money. Money is an important piece of it, but to me it's really about the oversight of the library."

Treasurer Curt Carson said he doesn't know enough about it.

"I'm definitely interested in listening to what they'd like to do, I have a lot of respect for Julie and a lot of respect for Friends of the Library," Carson said. "I love the library and want it to be highly successful."

Trustee David Lohmeier agreed.

"At this point I'm in favor of doing the analysis," he said.

Meredith plans on attending a future city council meeting to discuss the possibility of a partnership and becoming a district library.

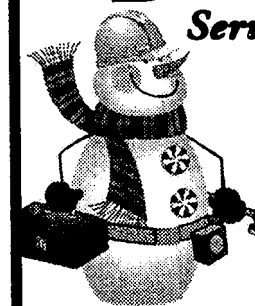
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# State finds deficiencies in building department

BY TREVOR KEISER  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Independence Township finds itself again in trouble with the State of Michigan, but this time it's the building department.

"I think they're very serious on their intent to insure the construction codes which are state mandated are properly enforced. It's incumbent upon the local municipalities who have to locally enforce the codes, to do so," said Superintendent Bart Clark. "This report tells us of all the shortcomings in how we've been doing business, but we'll fix them."

Failure to comply with state recommendations could mean an issuance of Notice of Intent to Withdraw Code Administration and Enforcement of Responsibilities from the Township.

It means if contractors wanted to do construction work in Independence they would have to go to Lansing to get permits and inspection schedules, because Oakland County doesn't have a building office, noted Clark.

Trustee David Lohmeier doesn't see anything not correctable.

"It's a little bit aggressive to get everything they want in the time table, but we asked them to tell us what the condition of the department was in and if there was

anything that needed to be done," he said. "We're getting actually what we asked them to tell us."

At the Aug. 16, 2011 board meeting, the board voted 3-2 for the state to review the building department. Treasurer Curt Carson and Trustee Mark Petterson voted against it at the time. The review included an assessment of the administrative procedures, department records, plan review functions, and field inspection procedures utilized by the township. The state rendered its report at the Jan. 4 State Construction Code Commission meeting in Lansing and cited nine deficiencies in which codes are administered and enforced by the township.

Many of deficiencies dealt with lack of documentation and come with a 60-day deadline to correct the issues.

Two of the deficiencies are a 30-day deadline. The first is a field inspection of the Independence Township Library. When evaluating the present condition of six roof top units and associated duct work installed in 2006 due to a lightning strike, the township's mechanical inspector found three code violations, Senior State mechanical inspector identified an additional 15 code violations.

According to the report the township could not provide documentation relating

to an application for a mechanical permit, mechanical report, inspection records and reports, code violation notices and correction orders or sealed and signed construction documents for the installation.

The township also requested the bureau's inspectors perform inspections at the township's Fire Station No. 3. The township records indicated the township acted as general contractor for the project and the township's building official applied for the building permit as the owners authorized agent which appeared to the bureau as a conflict of interest.

After researching township records for project documents there were no records of plan review being conducted, no final building and mechanical inspections performed, and no record of Certificate of Use, or Occupancy being issued. During the inspection the state's mechanical inspector found eight code violations and the state electrical inspector three code violations.

The board has a 30-day window to give an action game plan report on the library and the fire station.

"We've got to have some meat on the bones for the 30 day report," Clark said. "We can't just blow it off."

Treasurer Curt Carson said he doesn't know enough to indicate the township has a

major problem.

"I don't have a knee jerk reaction, I have a 'we need to look into it further ourselves.' Frankly, I don't think bringing everybody and the kitchen sink into it is necessary," Carson said. "This is an internal administrative issue that needs to be worked out."

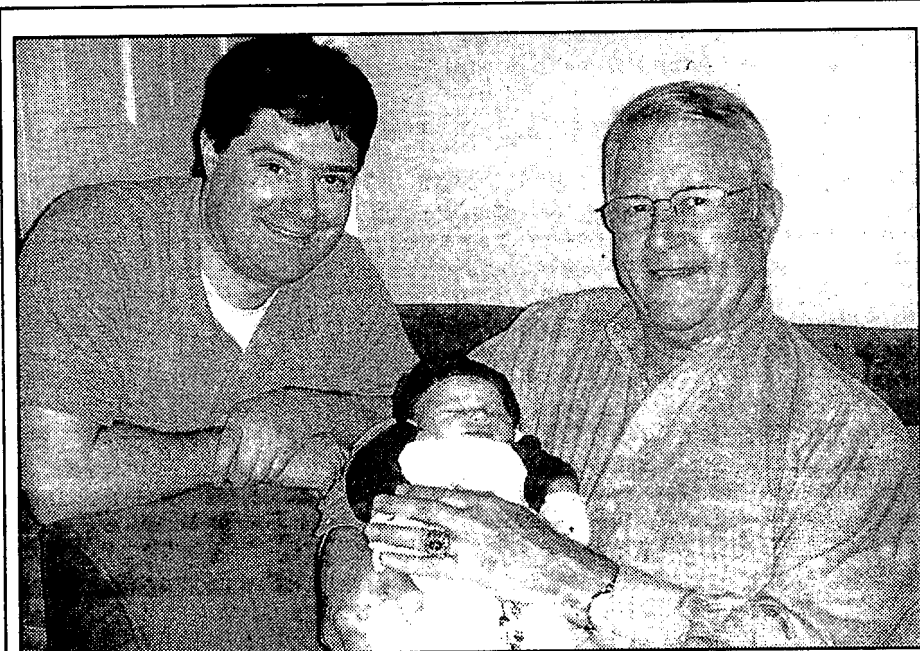
Trustee Mark Petterson said part of the problem was how the state conducted their inspection process.

"The state came in and inspected us under the 2009 codes. Those buildings (the library and fire station No. 3) were built under the 2000 codes and they should have been inspected under the 2000 codes and they weren't," he said. "Most of that can all be cleared up, not a problem."

His biggest issue is that the report was withheld from Building Director Dave Belcher, who Petterson says had to find the report on the internet.

"As far as I'm concerned it was on purpose," Petterson said. "There was no reason for them to hold that report because it makes the whole township look bad. It really does, not only discrepancies in the building department, but the huge discrepancy in the administration."

Clerk Barbara Pallotta could not be reached for comment.



Bart Clark of Independence Township, right, holds his new grandson Bartlett Lee Clark II while his son Ben Clark looks on. Photo provided

## Clarks welcomes next generation

Bart and Diane Clark are happy to announce the arrival of their first grandson, Bartlett Lee Clark II, born on Nov. 14, 2011.

The baby's parents, Ben and Kristie Clark, and big sisters, Samantha and

Cassidy live in Coventry, Connecticut.

Baby Bart is the great, great, great, great grandson of Jeremiah Clark III, one of the two Clark brothers from whom

Clarkston takes its name.

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## Wendi's Word

A column by Wendi Reardon

### Bond info needed

If you haven't heard by now, Clarkston Community Schools Board of Education voted for a special election on May 8 for a \$20 million bond.

The special election comes with a price tag for \$35,000 – money the district could save by having the election in November.

Not only do I appreciate trustees Susan Boatman, Joan Patterson and Rosalie Lieblang, who voted "no," but the parents who spoke up during the school board meeting on Jan. 9, when it was approved.

They had good insights but unfortunately four of the board members voted "yes" to continue with the May election.

The district has its reasons for the May election but here are some reasons to hold off. One, you are paying \$35,000 (yes, going to keep repeating the cost) when you voted not so long ago to move May elections to November to save money. Two, more community members and taxpayers go out and vote in November.

Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock said the bond is good for the kids. I don't disagree with doing what is right for the kids but when you need money, wouldn't you try to save every penny you can?

Within the \$20 million bond, \$10.5 million will go into technology upgrades including iPads and netbooks. Right now the district has a few classrooms doing pilot programs with these technologies.

I visited a math class at Clarkston Junior High School using them. The students were doing well and excited with being able to use netbooks. It helped them be organized, still be able to work with the class while sick, keep up with the information, and show they know how to do the math problems.

During the meeting, Trustee Boatman brought up a good point – let's see how the students are doing in the pilot program.

Of course it leads to how are students doing on tests because it all comes down to test results, unfortunately.

But these are just tools. We still need teachers that not only teach but can reach students. The graphing calculator was great in Pre-Calculus in my high school but it was Mr. Martin who reached us.

Make your voice heard - vote May 8.



### Treasurer's view on Triumph lawsuit win

I feel compelled to respond to Mr. Woloson's letter to the editor in the Jan. 11 edition ("Reader appreciates township victory").

He says, "Treasurer Curt Carson opposed renegotiating the Triumph Telecom contract.

That is not accurate. In fact, I contacted and then met with the owner of Triumph Telecom. I said the board would most likely not agree to continue paying Triumph 50 percent of the savings we were enjoying and that something more equitable would have to be worked out. In our meeting, he agreed to offer concessions to appease the board. That evening at the Township Board meeting, he offered the board approximately \$12,300, in addition to a \$4,000 credit he provided the township on their last invoice.

This would reduce Triumph's proceeds to about \$82,000. The board rejected the offer.

What may have seemed like a simple money saving action in 2008, turned into something much more in 2010. In 2008, an Independence Township resident, who works for Triumph Telecom, came to promote his company's ability to save the township money on its telephone bills. If agreed, Triumph would find the lowest cost carrier to provide phone service to the township. Triumph's charge for this service would be 50 percent of the cost savings.

If the savings were small, it would hardly be worth their effort. If the savings were large it could be rather lucrative over the life of the contract. After reviewing the township's phone bills, the company came back and showed the supervisor that the township could save approximately 66 percent or two thirds on its phone bill. That cost savings amounted to \$5,460 a month, give or take. Under the agreement, Triumph Telecom would make approximately \$2,730 a month for three years and the township would have a gross savings of about \$196,700 for the same period. This all transpired during the last board term that ended at noon on November 20, 2008.

In simple terms, there happens to be law that when entering into a contract with a governmental municipality, the governing board must approve it to be binding. Whether the previous board knew about this contract or not or was leaving it up to the supervisor is not totally clear. In any case, there is no evidence that it came back to the board for approval.

When considering this issue, there were a number of other things to be concerned about, such as: the precedence that would be set; would this board and administration get stuck in a quagmire of endless reviews of previous board decisions that the current board did not like; the public image of the township reneging on a executed contract.

### Letter to the editor

the review of cost to benefit and what about the effects on the local businessman who believed he sold a service to the township in good faith. All of these things deal with time, money, resources, relationships and image.

The assertion that the township saved over \$100,000 from winning its litigation over Triumph is also not accurate. Triumph was to receive an estimated \$98,350, less the \$4,000 credit they gave the township. In the end, the Township paid Triumph \$12,600, plus

through October 2010, the township has incurred legal expenses of over \$43,000, with additional bills expected.

In the meantime the township has now experienced a gross savings of more than \$196,700 on its telephone bills. Who should we thank for that?

Curt Carson  
Independence Township Treasurer

### Embarrassed with gov't

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the recap of 2011 for Independence Township ("Township leadership crisis in 2011," Jan. 4) and Trevor Keiser's piece concerning the recent township government dispute which took sheriff's deputies off their normal jobs ("Deputies called on deputy supervisor," Jan. 4).

Both made me wonder if the supervisor is trying out out-do Kwamee in the civic contribution department. Is there another recall initiative underway? How embarrassing for us as a community.

Mark Johnson  
Independence Township

### Comments hit the head

Dear Editor,

Even a disinterested observer following the machinations of the Clarkston City Council regarding the property at 90 N. Main knows that letter writer Cory Johnston hit the nail on the head with his comments in the Jan. 4 edition ("Reader sees example in city action").

This ordinance is nothing more than special interest legislation and serves as a classic example of why government at all levels engenders heavy doses of cynicism from the public.

Richard A. Meyer  
Clarkston

### Deduct fees from benefits

Dear Editor,

Just curious, this man is still on the payroll, and will get lifetime benefits ("Township triumphs in court," Jan. 3)? Is that correct?

How about deducting whatever taxpayer dollars were spent without board approval, and for legal fees from those lifetime benefits and salary? That sounds about right, eh?

Tammie Heazlit  
Independence Township

## A Look Back

From The CNews archives

### 15 years ago - 1997

"Horses saved from icy pond" Independence Township Department was called to the house of Tom Patti to rescue three horses that fell through the ice of Patti's pond. The horses were brought safely, only experiencing sore muscles, bumps and bruises.

"Brothers bound over on drug charges" Matthew and Jesse Covarrubias were in 52-2 District Court to determine whether their cocaine charges would be sent to Oakland County Circuit Court. Two undercover officers testified three controlled buys had been made prior to a search warrant.

"City speeding fines get noticed in cyberspace." Ticket writing by the Clarkston Police Department became so well known the department was called the Clarkston Revenue Service by surfers on the world wide web. A website dealing with speed traps listed 8,000 areas nationwide where speedtraps are. The City of the Village of Clarkston was one of them listed.

### 25 years ago - 1987

"Call to residents for school views" About some 400 Clarkston school district residents recieved phone calls to share their thoughts about a new high school. About 30 questions were included in the survey

"Fuel leak contained on Dixie" A potentially dangerous situation was averted when firefighters controlled a fuel leakage at a local gas station. A gas pump at the Playless Station on Dixie Highway began spouting gasoline while an employee was changing an internal filter in the pump. Approximately 270 gallons of unleaded gas flowed onto Dixie and toward a Michigan Bell building before a dike was constructed.

### 50 years ago - 1962

"Heroic youth saves house" While skating on icy roads past the Jacob Drake residence on Snow Apple Dr. when he saw 10 year old Tom Drake come running out of his house, his clothing in flames and hurl himself into the snow to extinguish the flames. The fire had spread from the fireplace to the tile and a chair near-by. With pans of water, David put the fire out.

"Mrs. Doran wins Jackpot" Mrs. Joseph (Della) Doran was the first person to win the WPON, Pontiac Broadcasting Systems contest. Mrs. Doran answered her phone by saying WPON, 1460, thus winning the money in the jackpot.

# A gift of friendship is such a precious thing

It is probably a good thing we don't use logic in picking our friends.

Were that the case, Jim Fitzgerald and I never would have become good friends.

He was Catholic, I Methodist. He was a liberal Democrat, I a conservative Republican.

He was from the city of Port Huron, I'm a boy from Vernon.

He was graduated from Michigan State journalism school, I was a MSU journalism school dropout.

Our common denominator was weekly newspaper experience.

Fitz started working for *The Lapeer County Press* in 1951. I started working for the *Clinton County Republican News* in St. Johns in 1951.

Both of us started in sales, both of us wrote high school sports and both of us wrote personal columns for those newspapers.

These two weekly newspapers were in the top five in circulation and prominence in Michigan. They had outstanding publishers.

About 1953, Jim and I met at the annual Michigan Press Association convention at Kellogg Center in East Lansing. We discovered immediately we both enjoyed

beveraging and insulting each other. Too, our wives Pat and Hazel hit it off equally well.

In 1975, Fitz was interviewed three times by editors of *The Detroit Free Press*, then hired as their Back Page columnist. A job he had for years.

## Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

He was syndicated in 50 other daily newspapers. While Fitz was writing for *The County Press* we were permitted to print his previous week's column in our *Oxford Leader*. I think it cost me \$50 a year.

In 1985, *The Free Press* published a book of "If It Fitz" columns. The introduction was written by well-known author Elmore Leonard.

He wrote, "He spots the incongruous, the absurd, the pretentious, then treats them with a wry form of logic, straight-faced, that would bring cheers from Mark Twain and Will Rogers."

In his book to me Fitz wrote, "Onward and upward to my favorite publisher of lousy newspapers."

He wrote his own obituary, which was only "to be read after my death." It also said, "I was persuaded

to write this by Jim Sherman who said I should help write my obit."

We've stayed beveraging and golfing friends all this time. Neither of us are even average golfers, but we did all right in the other category.

We've met at least a couple times a year at The White Horse Inn in Metamora to continue our verbal sniping.

--- 0 ---

I had something like a million things to do today, January 11, when son Jim called to tell me Fitz had died.

Suddenly I had nothing to do. Everything became trivial and unimportant.

What can I do? Should I call the family? Maybe I should re-read his "If It Fitz" book. So, I just sat in my easy chair, just as Jim did.

Pat told me recently Jim said he wanted to die like his dad did, sitting in his easy chair.

But I didn't sit there thinking of dying. I sat for a long time thinking of our opposites, our likenesses, our friendship, our experiences, the similar but different trails we wandered and what a fine thing life gave me when God put we two Jims together.

## Feel the 'power' that is awesomely Don

Long before it was chic to puff up kids ego by making sure most get on the honor roll, or making sure all athletic participants get trophies, I was pretty sure I was "special."

Well, different.

I figured that out early in life. From about 7th grade through high school a black crow used to follow me to the bus stop and caw. I didn't know anybody else followed by a crow. I was different.

I got bonus points in school and college for doodling on my homework assignments. Tell me that ain't special!

Then there was that time, the first bad-snow day, years after the crow cawed its last, when I was winding my way through the curves on Clarkston Road, near Walters Lake.

I was heading to *The Oxford Leader*, driving my very first front wheel drive vehicle (a black 1984 Dodge 600 convertible with red pinstriping and red, leather bucket seats). I made it all the way to Eston Road and lost control.

Round and round I and my black 1984 Dodge 600 convertible with red pinstriping and red, leather bucket seats went.

Once every revolution I saw an Oak-

land County Deputy's vehicle parked behind another car's driver who "lost" it.

And, on each revolution my stomach and butt cheeks tightened a little more, cause I knew said deputy's vehicle was what was gonna stop my forward and sideways and spinning momentum.

## Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

It didn't happen.

Miraculously, my black 1984 Dodge 600 convertible with red pinstriping and red, leather bucket seats stopped directly behind the patrol vehicle, on the shoulder of the road, pointed in the correct direction -- about

two feet shy of the deputy's rear bumper.

He must have been watching, too. As soon as I stopped, he exited his vehicle pronto-like, checked the distance between our two vehicles and then came up to my door. I rolled the window down, certain I was getting a ticket.

"You tried real hard to get me," he said. "You okay?"

After I said, "yes, Sir" he told be to

be careful and bid me farewell.

Are you starting to feel the awesomeness of Don? No, wait. There is more.

Last winter some of you may recall I wrote about shoveling during one snow storm. Wrote I, "*For fun, I wore my pedometer while I shoveled. By night's end I had shoveled the same patch of cement five times, and had shoveled over 2,500 steps. Assuming there are 2.7 feet per step, let's do some easy ciphering.*"

"*2,500 x 2.7-feet = 6,750*

"*A mile is 5,280 feet.*"

"*Now let's do some calculator math, 5,280 feet (one mile) divided into 6,750 = 1.278 miles.*"

This year I vowed not to spend as much time with shovel in hand. I skimmed and saved and before winter asked my friendly lawn equipment dealer (Joel at University Lawn) to sell me a snow blower.

He, knowing I am a cheap, tight-waddedly predisposed individual said a "like-new used" model would be right up my alley. We agreed, shook hands and I took home my first ever mechanized device that throws snow.

Despite my excitement, I only started the machine after reading and comprehending the owner's manual. "Bring it!"

I taunted the gods. I waited. That was December 2. I waited. I waited and waited some more. I am still waiting.

See, you all can thank me for this mild, practically snowless winter. When was the last time we have had less than four inches of snow -- total -- by mid January? How about almost never! The only variable, the only change in the cosmos is that I opened my wallet and spent cash on something that wasn't essential, like food, petrol and copious amounts of coffee from A Bean To Go.

Had I *not* bought snow blower, had I had to shovel, we'd be socked with snow. Don't you see? Don't you feel the power that is awesomely Don?

(To prove my point, now that I have written this, to prove me wrong the gods will pound us with a snow storm soon. Just wait and see.)

\* \* \*

Of course, this is the first winter in about 10 that I am driving a front wheeled vehicle. The 1999 Racing Sonoma I drove forever (until last fall) was a rear-wheel drive truck.

I wonder if I know how to handle it in the snow? Word of advice this winter: if you see me and don't want to feel the power of cold, hard steel. Steer clear.

# Church helps women, children in need

BY TREVOR KEISER  
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Church of the Resurrection Episcopal Church off Clarkston Road is helping abused women and children.

The church is partnering with Haven, headquarters in Pontiac, to help provide new underwear for women and children leaving domestic abuse situations, through an effort known as Undies Sundays.

"We're kind of the conduit because we feel it's real important to support people," said reverend of the church, Mother Cynthia Garman. "You can borrow somebody's coat, you can wear hand-me-down jeans, but the dignity for women and children to have their own underwear until they get back on their feet is real important."

Garman noted the children of the congregation understand the importance very clearly.

"It was really kind of exciting to see them really get it," she said. "In some ways it took a little longer than the adults."

Garman said Undie Sundays is not just the church helping, but an opportunity for the community to get involved as well.

"The name of this church sometimes sounds like an inside word. 'Resurrection,' but it really means new life, she said. "We believe in our name and we are the name. We can't do it all that's why we want to look to the community."

Community residents can drop off new packages of underwear of all sizes for women and children at the church. Independence Township Library across the street is also a drop off site as well.

Library Director Julie Meredith said she laughed when she first received the call to be a drop off spot for underwear.

"I get asked unusual questions on a regular basis, and it was a new one on me," she said. "We've been asked to collect food, asked to



Young volunteers help out at Church of the Resurrection Episcopal Clarkston. Photo submitted

collect batteries, pet supplies, but never underwear."

After the laugh, Meredith said she thought of the importance of the church's project and it struck home with her.

"Once I thought about a battered woman and her children leaving a dangerous situation without the basic daily necessities we all take for granted," she said. "I thought you know what? Let people laugh a little that we're doing this. Hopefully they'll think about the importance of the actual outcome."

Tracy Thomas, a worker at Haven, said they rely on community support.

"We can't do what we do without the support of the community," Thomas said. "A lot of women who come to the shelter with their children come with very little. We provide support for them, from pajamas to clothing to underwear, everything they need while they're in our care. This is a great help to us."

Dorothy Dowlan, a member of the church congregation, hopes publicity will help the effort be an ongoing effort by the church.

"Although we consider our Clarkston community to be a safe and trusted environment that by publicizing we're doing this effort, perhaps someone can be reached by it," she said. "Be encouraged and be empowered to seek out safety and to make a change for the betterment of themselves and their children."

Church of the Resurrection is located at 6490 Clarkston Road. Church office hours are Mon. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and Wed-Thurs 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Independence Township Library is located at 6495 Clarkston Road and is open Mon-Thurs. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sun. 1 p.m.-5 p.m. For more information on Haven visit [www.haven-oakland.org](http://www.haven-oakland.org).

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# Al Deeby supports school with Drive

Chrysler's Drive for the Kids program raised \$660 for North Sashabaw Elementary School.

Jim White, general manager of Al Deeby Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram of Clarkston, was happy to help.

"We're pleased to support our local schools and enjoy demonstrating a terrific, world class product," White said. "Parents are genuinely interested in testing our Chrysler minivan with all the advanced safety, technology, and economy features, and we are happy to help raise extra dollars for the school. We all work together for the kids. Everyone has a great time."

They provided the program at the school's festival last year. Participants earned a \$10 donation to the school from Chrysler by taking a test drive in a Town and Country minivan.

Since 1993, Chrysler has contributed about \$4 million to local schools for playgrounds, field trips, reading programs, computers, and other student needs. Check [www.chrysler.com](http://www.chrysler.com).



From left are Lisa Selwocki and Donna Russell, PTO; Jim White, general manager of Al Deeby Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram; Tara Ouellette, principal of North Sashabaw Elementary School; and Melanie Wilson, PTO. Photo provided



# Public Safety

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

## Alarm leads to arrest

Responding to a business break-in alarm, deputies found two men standing nearby next to a truck, 3:24 p.m., Jan. 6, in the 5000 block of Bristol Parke Drive. They said they were contractors. A records check showed one of them, a 32-year-old Hale resident, had numerous warrants for his arrest. He was jailed on a Friend of the Court warrant out of Tuscola County.

## Drivers with marijuana

A 19-year-old Davisburg man was pulled over for expired tags, 8:10 p.m., Jan. 6, at Sashabaw and Maybee roads. He smelled of marijuana, and had a baggie of it in the center console. He was cited for expired plate and possession of marijuana.

A deputy stopped a 20-year-old White Lake man for driving with no headlights at 12:36 a.m., Jan. 8, on Sashabaw at Bow Pointe. He smelled strongly of burned marijuana, and said he smoked some half an hour before. He was arrested for driving under the influence of marijuana.

## Money in the wind

A deputy on patrol stopped when he saw money blowing around in the street, 3:49 p.m., Jan. 6, at Sashabaw and Waldon roads. He recovered some \$20 bills, and a passing motorist also turned one in. Other motorists were also pulled over and out looking, but they didn't turn anything in.

## Felony warrants

A 39-year-old Independence Township man was a passenger in a vehicle stopped for expired tags, 7:16 p.m., Jan. 7, at Clintonville and Spring Meadow. He had felony warrants out of 50th District Court for drunk driving, third offence, and driving with a suspended license, second. He was arrested and jailed. The driver was cited for expired registration and no proof of insurance.

## Home break-ins

A Mann Road resident returned home, Jan. 8, to find someone had climbed in through a bedroom window and taken a watch and jewelry.

Someone pried open a rear sliding door of another Mann Road home, Jan. 9, and took change, tie clips, and jewelry.

## Car break-in suspect

A resident reported seeing a white man, about 17 years old, about 5 feet, six inches tall wearing a tan jacket, try to get into his and a neighbor's vehicles, 11:53 p.m., Jan. 11, in the 6000 block of Lancasterlake Court.

## Theft on video

Deputies are examining video of a theft from an unlocked car, 6:22 p.m., Jan. 11, at a business in the 5000 block of Maybee Road. In the video, a black woman, about 5 feet, 6 inches tall wearing a black coat with brown fur trim around the hood, pulls up in a black car, possibly a Pontiac. She goes into the store, makes a purchase using a credit card, returns to her car, looks around, opens the victim's car, takes a laptop computer, and drives away. The credit card was reported stolen earlier that day in Waterford.

## Loose load

A deputy pulled up as a 39-year-old Highland man was picking up tools that had fallen out of his truck, 5:35 p.m., Jan. 11, at Sashabaw and Waldon roads. A records check showed the man has a suspended license. An impound search of the vehicle revealed a jar of marijuana, with a label indicated it contained 29.4 grams of medical cannabis. He said he had been approved for a medical marijuana card but hadn't received it yet. He was cited for driving with a suspended license and possession of marijuana, and given a warning for unsecured load and no proof of insurance.

## Looking for gun in school

Deputies investigated a report of a student bringing a gun to school, 3:51 p.m., Jan. 12. A student had told administrators at Sashabaw Middle School a classmate told him he was bringing a gun to school in response to a deal gone bad regarding glass pipes. The pipes are typically used for marijuana, but the student said they would have used them to smoke tobacco. Deputies checked lockers and spoke to the students and their parents, but found no sign a gun was brought to school. The classmate said he mentioned bringing his pellet gun to school, but didn't actually do it. When asked about it, his father got the boy's two pellet guns and said the deputy could keep them.

## Formula shop lifter

Store employees in the 6000 block of Dixie Highway watched a 24-year-old Roseville woman put eight cans of baby formula in her handbag and walk out, 5:05 p.m., Jan. 12. They stopped her and called police. Store security said they have her on video taking a total of 72 cans of formula worth more than \$1,000. She said she had a heroin habit, but no longer uses. A convicted shoplifter, she was jailed for retail fraud, second degree, along with a misdemeanor warrant out of Roseville for probation violation, and bench warrant out of Chesterville Township for retail fraud, second degree.

## Why All the Household Dust?

I'm Keith Meadows, owner and operator of American Power Vac, Inc. For years, I've been improving our community's health one family at a time. By now we've all heard the statistics: 50% of all illness is a direct relation to dirty indoor air and our indoor air is up to 90 times more polluted than outdoor air. Yet, 90% of the calls I receive everyday are from des-



April & Keith Meadows help keep indoor air clean with their local business, American Power Vac.

perate people complaining about dust. They tell me they dust the T.V. on Friday, but by Sunday they are pushing the dust out of the way again so they can watch Desperate Housewives, and none of them know exactly where it's coming from. Well, I'm here to tell you that it's not because you're a bad housekeeper, I tell people that by simply having your ducts cleaned will drastically reduce household dust, and the reason is, your cold air returns.

Cold air returns suck in dirty air, and overtime it builds up until you have the same type of debris that you would find in your vacuum bag.

Visit our website at [www.americanpowervac.com](http://www.americanpowervac.com) for an actual photo of the debris that is pulled from a typical home.

Cold air returns are also the reason new homeowners are experiencing dust. While your dry-wall was being sanded, your cold air returns sucked all of the dust through the system and it settled on the bottom of the duct lines where a little at a time gets blown back into your home. To prove it, take a walk down into your basement, look up at the ceiling for thin sheets of tin nailed between your floor joists. These are your cold air return lines. Give them a good pounding. You'll see puffs of dust seeping out of the edges. That my friends, is the reason you have uncontrollable dust problems!

This debris cannot be removed without a professional. Which brings me to my next point: choosing an air duct cleaning com-

pany. Most companies use portable units, which are like a shop vac that you would vacuum your car with, obviously absolutely useless. Then there are companies who claim they have a truck-mounted system. In reality, they have a low powered portable system attached inside a van, again, absolutely useless. Visit our website for photos of our equipment vs. portable or truck mounted equip-

ment at [www.americanpowervac.com](http://www.americanpowervac.com).

American Power Vac has the equipment that is powerful enough to get the job done right and that equipment is a Power Vac truck. It is the most powerful equipment in the industry. This is where the entire truck is the vacuum and the truck motor powers the equipment. You'll know it's a Power

Vac truck because it's the size of an ambulance and when engaged twelve large air bags will come out of the roof. What makes the difference in equipment? Power! To put things into perspective, your furnace moves 2,000 CFM's (cubic feet of air per minute), basically what you feel coming out of your register. Truck-mounted equipment only moves 4,000 CFM's. American Power Vac moves over 16,000 cubic feet of air per minute, more than quadruple the power of any truck-mounted equipment. Beware of companies using cheap equipment and advertising cheap prices... most are unlicensed or advertise that they are licensed and are not!

Avoid scams by asking for and confirming all state mechanical license numbers at [mich.gov/bcclicense](http://mich.gov/bcclicense). Type in business name & click on "Mechanical License". American Power Vac is family owned and we're here to help by offering a

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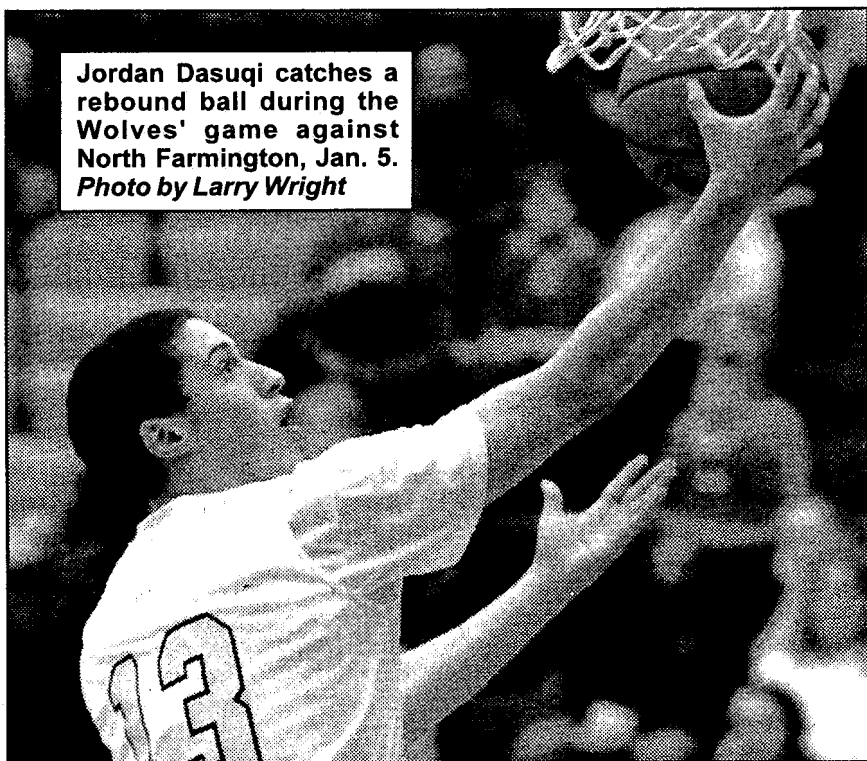
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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Jordan Dasuqi catches a rebound ball during the Wolves' game against North Farmington, Jan. 5. Photo by Larry Wright

## Defense first priority

BY WENDI REARDON  
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Junior Jordan Dasuqi has grown since he was a ninth-grader on the Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball and owed it all to defense.

"The big thing for me is I didn't play a lot last year because I didn't play defense," he admitted. "Now they have me start as point guard and it has helped me relax a lot more and let offense come to me instead of being worried about offense. That is the biggest thing - I am not worried about my shots anymore. I know they are going to come."

They did come - Dasuqi opened the first quarter against OAA Red rivals Pontiac with 13 points, boosting the team to a 21-14 lead going into the second quarter.

"He was very good," said Dan Fife, head coach. "He got us started."

He attributed the boost in skills from playing off season with a AAU league team and practicing shots with assistant coach, Eric Chambers.

Playing basketball has been a dream for Dasuqi since he was just a toddler shooting hoops with a Little Tikes basketball hoop in his living room.

He moved to Clarkston from Arizona

when he was in first grade and grew up in the Clarkston basketball culture. He participated in the McGrath league and went to Fife Camp for a few summers.

"I learned a lot about Clarkston and what it means to play Clarkston Basketball," he said.

He also knows he and his teammates are an inspiration to the players they coach at McGrath.

"I try to work hard at McGrath and make sure the kids have a fun time and enjoy basketball," he smiled, adding he can pass on what he has learned especially to watch defense.

Dasuqi currently has a 3.5 GPA and is taking AP Psychology and Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry in addition to his required classes. He has also taken AP Biology.

"My dad is big on school so I try to make it my first priority," he added.

Dasuqi has another dream - to play for a Division 1 college basketball team, particularly Michigan State University.

"I have been a big Michigan State fan since I was in first grade," he added.

He plans to become a nurse or an anesthesiology assistant.

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## Phoenix wings snipped

BY WENDI REARDON  
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior Nick Tatu eased the minds of Clarkston fans within the first three minutes in the last quarter against Pontiac last Thursday.

He finished three consecutive 3-point shots to boost the Wolves to a 50-32 lead in the OAA Red rivalry.

"Tatu kept shooting," said teammate junior Jordan Dasuqi. "When we came out of the third quarter I told him to keep shooting the ball and they are going to go in. He kept shooting."

The Phoenix were able to put eight more points on the board before the game ended but it wasn't enough and Clarkston won, 56-40.

"Pontiac is a tough place to play," said Fife. "We did a good job. They threw a lot of different stuff at us. We had the noise, lack of ability to communicate but it was a good atmosphere for high school basketball."

Dasuqi agreed adding, "we weren't in sync after their zone. We weren't running like we were the first half."

Dasuqi opened the game with 13 points in the first quarter to get the boys going. Eight more points at the end of the quarter put them at 21-14.

The momentum continued as they finished the first half of the game leading 32-24.

Pontiac closed in on the Wolves in the third quarter as they made it within four points to their visitors with three minutes remaining.

Clarkston pulled away adding eight points to the board before the quarter closed. With

Tatu's field goals boost in the opening of the fourth quarter, the Wolves scored 15 points to put the game away.

"We kept great composure," said Dasuqi. "It is going to carry us a long way."

"They played how they were suppose to play," Fife added. "They took care of the ball, made some good decisions and made some baskets. It seemed if they shot a three we came back and responded with a three. Eventually we wore them down."

Tatu led the boys with a game high of 25 points, scoring seven 3-pointers and going 2-2 at the free throw line.

"Tatu was good offensively," Fife added. "Especially in the second half. Offensively he held us together in the second half. Zach Collins and Matt Dellinger are still leading defense - that is how we are winning these ball games."

Dasuqi added 17 points to the board with one field goal. Dellinger contributed eight points to the game.

The boys opened the week on Tuesday against Detroit Community, looking to improve on their 8-0 record.

"They are a great team," said Fife. "This should be a good test for us. I am anxious to see how we do. They have talented kids being recruited to Division 1 colleges. It will be more of a challenge."

They play at Southfield High School for an OAA Red match up on Friday night.

Varsity opens at 4:30 p.m.

"It is an earlier game," said Fife. "It will be a whole new scenario for us."

The freshman and JV teams both at 6 p.m., 24675 Lahser Road in Southfield.



Mark Tynan blocks a player from making a shot. Photo by Larry Wright

## Ruling the lanes

The Wolves rolled in two wins last week after taking on Troy at Cherry Hill Lanes North on Jan. 9.

The Clarkston Varsity Boys Bowling team won their match, 28-2, improving their record to 4-0. Chris Gemborys had a 223 for the game high.

The boys JV team also improved to 4-0 with a 28-2 win over their visitors. Brock Nowak scored the high game with a 209 game.

The girls varsity team won their match by sweeping all possible points 30-0, bringing them to 2-1-1. Stephanie Lavelly had the high game with a 215.

The teams opened the new year against Oxford, Jan. 5.

The boys varsity team beat the Wildcats, 22-8. Gemborys had a 213 and 202 for a 415 game. Eric Wagner shot a 233 and 418 for a 451 series.

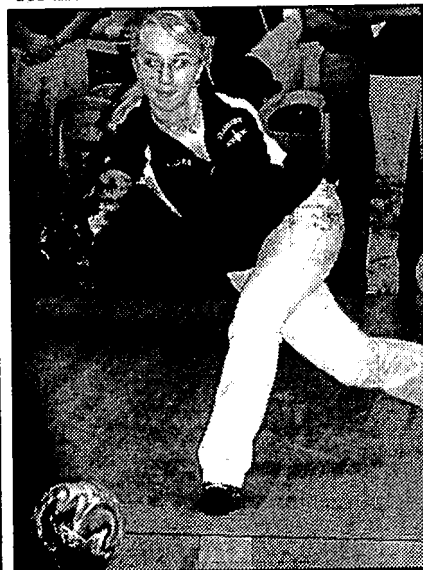
The boys JV team won with a score 21-9. Nowak had a 203 game, Anthony Hernandez had a 201 and Carl Meyer had a 200 game.

The Lady Wolves tied, 15-15. The girls were down ten point but fought back to tie the match.

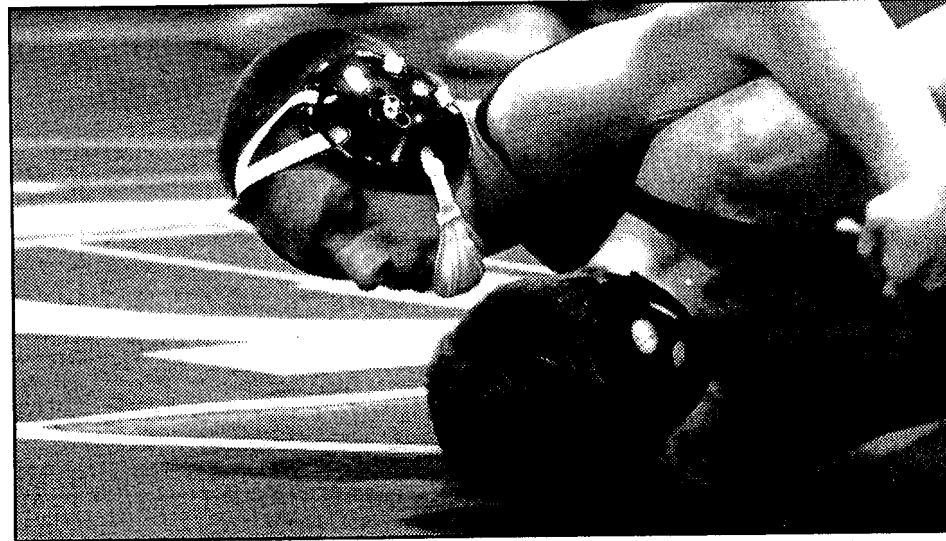
Erika Nowak had a high game of 222 and Stephanie Lavelly shot a 214 and 234 for a 448 series.

The teams competed against Troy Athens on Tuesday and will spend the rest of the week preparing for the county meet this weekend.

The Lady Wolves head to Fairlanes Bowl in Madison Heights for their Saturday meet. The boys play at Thunderbird Lanes in Troy on Sunday for their meet.



Erika Nowak keeps the ball rolling against Oxford. Photo by Andrew Moser



Mike Cardinale works on a win during a meet. Photo by Wendi Reardon

## Pinning down rivals

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Grapplers posted their first two wins in the OAA Red league last week after defeating Lake Orion and Avondale.

"We did good," said Clarkston Varsity Wrestling Coach Derek Moscovic. "I was happy about it. Lake Orion and Avondale always send kids out to compete. They both have a long history of outstanding programs. Our guys had to be ready every time."

He noted a few wrestlers were missing from the line up due to injuries.

"The other guys stepped up and did well," he added. "I was proud of them."

The boys defeated Lake Orion, 43-22.

Grapplers contributing with pins were Brett Foltz (112) over A.J. Shepard; Chris Calvano (171) over Durham, 53 seconds into the match-up; Ethan Frick (189) pinned John Yeglinski with 21 seconds remaining in the match; and Scott Devos over Paul Scott, 42 seconds into the first period.

Mike Cardinale defeated Anton Letica, 4-0, in the 135-pound weight class. Grant Ulrich (145) defeated Dan Sheridan, 5-3; Nick Vandermeer won the 152-pound weight class with a 10-2 win over Dan Deachin. Adam Myers (215) rounded out the win over the Dragons against Mac Boyer, 7-3.

"It is a nice rivalry we have with Lake Orion," said Moscovic. "It is always competitive. We always look forward to competing against them."

The Wolves beat Avondale, 67-6.

Winning with pins over their competition were Vandermeer against Cartier Shelton; Calvano against Jacob Blomberg; Frick against Wilson; Myers against Cody Badgero; Scott Devos against Chris Wilson; and Cal Heady (119) over Baldwin Liu.

Ulrich won his match over Colby Tuck with a 8-4 scored. Greg Hill (140) defeated Tyler Slating, 9-8; and Dillon Brancheau (160) defeated Josh Cohoon, 8-2.

Foltz, Greg Miller (103), Matt Wright (125)

and Jack Dione (135) won by voids.

"Chris Calvano had a nice match," said Moscovic. "It was a good day for all of them."

The Wolves finished the week at the Detroit Catholic Central Super Duals and went 0-4.

"It is a tough competition," said Moscovic. "Every match was a battle so the end score didn't show how we really performed against that caliber of wrestlers. You are dealing with the number one teams across the state in each division. Some of those teams are ranked nationally in the top ten."

The boys lost to Richmond, 49-24; Detroit Catholic Central, 40-12; Bedford, 40-12; and Dundee, 34-30.

"It was a good dual meet against Dundee," Moscovic added. "Devos wrestled really well to kids from Dundee and Richmond, both ranked. He lost a close match to Bedford. Greg Miller wrestled well also. Vandermeer had one loss."

He added the next toughest meet is the state meet and it helped to see these teams because one of the goals is state finals.

"It was a long day but it was a good day to see where we measure up because that is where we strive to be with that kind of caliber," said Moscovic. "I was proud of them even though we didn't come out of there with a win."

The Wolves keep the toughness in mind as they head to Rochester Adams on Wednesday to take on the Highlanders and North Farmington.

"You always have to be ready to compete and Adams has a nice team," said Moscovic. "The Super Duals showed the guys we can go down to the dragon's lair and come back with two arms and two legs. We should be able to compete at the same level with other teams like Adams. It definitely tested us and gave us preparation for this week."

The boys go in with an overall 13-6 record and 2-0 in the OAA Red. The dual meet begins at 5:30 p.m., 3200 Ticken Road.

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## Strolling Cocktails

The Clarkston Retailer's Group thanks all shoppers for making this a very successful holiday season for downtown Clarkston businesses. If you haven't been downtown recently, now is the time to check us out!

Join about 20 downtown Clarkston businesses this Saturday, January 21, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m., for our Second Annual Clarkston Retro Strolling Cocktail Party.

Select businesses will offer snacks and beverages -- we are not charging for this event. Instead we ask for donations to help the OATS Program -- an alternative therapy for handicapped children, which uses horses.

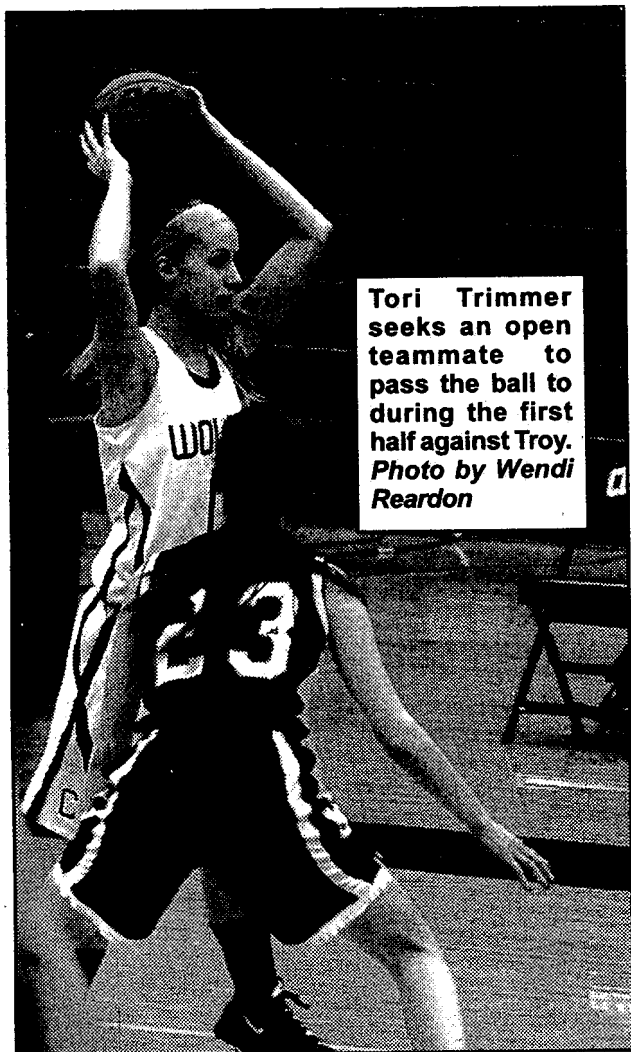
Last year's event was a huge success, with live entertainment, lots of laughs and fun. Come down with your friends and rediscover downtown Clarkston!

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# Lady Cagers put reins on Troy Colts for win



**Tori Trimmer seeks an open teammate to pass the ball to during the first half against Troy. Photo by Wendi Reardon**

**BY WENDI REARDON**  
*Clarkston News Sports Writer*

After taking the day off school in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., the Lady Wolves hit the court.

They had a dream, too. They were going to hold on to their undefeated title going into their game against Troy.

It was a hard battle with turnovers, foul trouble and issues here and there but as Clarkston does - they made it through with a 52-39 win over the Lady Colts.

"If you come out like a night like tonight not ready to play - you are going to get beat up," said Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach Tim Wasilk after the game. "Our kids know how to win because they have been in this position before. When it comes to crunch time the girls come together to find a way past it. Anytime you can win through ugly games it is a good day."

Troy opened the game with a three pointer and held onto the lead as Christina Jokisch added four points off a basket and two free throws and Megan Hastings scored a basket. With one point away from tying with Troy at 6-7, the Lady Wolves reacted.

Tori Trimmer intercepted a pass and passed the ball to Breanca Cantrell, who scored and put the girls into the lead.

Clarkston held onto the lead until Troy tied the score 12-12, ending the first quarter.

Hastings scored at the beginning of the next quarter and a 3-pointer from Cantrell boosted the girls to a 17-12 lead.

They continued to climb up the board quickly as the Lady Colts tried to make their shots past Clarkston to score. With five seconds left in the half Erin Davenport passed the ball to Cantrell. She took her shot and finished the first half at the buzzer, 27-21.

"A big thing for us is defensive pressure," said Wasilk. "Don't give them time to think. Credit to Troy. They did some things that gave us some fits and we got rebounds and deflections. The second half we cleaned up a little bit."

Cantrell led the team with 12 points, scoring two 3-point shots. Davenport had ten points, Hastings, six, and Jokisch, eight.

The Lady Wolves also beat West Bloomfield, 65-31, and Stoney Creek, 53-48, last week.

Delaney Kenny scored 21 points for Clarkston, Jokisch had 12 points and Erika added eight to the board against West Bloomfield on Jan. 10.

Hastings led in the Lady Wolves' win over Stoney Creek on Friday with 14 points, scoring three 3-pointers.

"She played a solid floor game," Wasilk added.

Erika had ten points, Cantrell and Trimmer contributed eight points each, while Jokisch scored seven points and Manilla had six.

"It was a competitive game," Wasilk said, explaining the Lady Wolves would be ten points ahead and Stoney Creek would cut down their lead by a couple of baskets.

The team was also without Kenny during the game for the first time in three years since she joined the team in her freshman year.

"We adjusted and played extremely well against Stoney Creek," said Wasilk. "Cantrell stepped up and had a great game. Erika had a great game. They had a good offensive player Manilla defended extremely well. It was a good team win."

Cantrell finished the night with two game clenching free throws in the last minute to boost the girls higher on the scoreboard.

The Lady Wolves host North Farmington on Thursday and look to continue their current 11-0 overall record, 6-0 OAA Red league record.

"I am happy with us finding ways to win especially since we don't have Delaney," said Wasilk, looking ahead to Thursday. "We have a lot of kids stepping up. We hope to get Delaney back and help."

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

## Victories heat up seasons on the ice and slopes

Skiers improved their records last week after their races against Notre Dame Prep and Rochester Adams.

The Clarkston Boys Varsity Ski team beat both teams, scoring 23-58 against Notre Dame Prep and 24-51 against Rochester Adams, putting their record 4-0.

The girls varsity team beat Rochester Adams, 30-48, and lost to Notre Dame Prep, 40-36, putting their record, 2-2.

For the Giant Slalom on Jan. 11, Grant Huber led the Wolves, finishing in third place with 35.93. Ryan Callahan finished in sixth place, 36.48; Derek VanItallie, 15th place, 37.28; and Evan Trout, 24th place, 37.28.

Callahan led during the Slalom race on Jan. 10, finishing first with 41.87. Huber finished second, 42.04; VanItallie in third, 42.07; and Alex McIntosh in fifth, 42.30.

Olivia Dunn led the girls team in the Giant Slalom, finishing fourth with 38.14. Karoline Holsbeke finished ninth, 38.80; Maddy DeClercq, 15th, 39.43; and Lauren Martin in 17th, 39.55.

Holsbeke led during the Slalom, finishing



**Jack Vlazanko blocks a shot from Stoney Creek. Photo by Wendi Reardon**

eighth with 52.56. Caroline Spytman finished in 21st, 58.22; Dunn in 29th, 1:01.70; and DeClercq in 32nd, 1:02.17.

The teams compete against Andover and

Rochester on Thursday at Pine Knob Ski Resort, 3 p.m.

\*\*\*

Icers beat two OAA Red foes last week.

They beat Stoney Creek at home on Saturday, 6-3.

Matt Harrington opened the game with the first goal less than three minutes into the game. After receiving a pass from teammate Adam Bruderick, he shot it through an opening to score.

Adam Larkin was the next to strike, scoring with 2:48 in the first period. Gabe Comos and Zach Gootee assisted.

Gootee added his own goal to the net less than a minute later on a power play. Comos also added a goal in the third period.

The Wolves beat Farmington last Thursday, 4-1.

Garrett Polish, Jordan Henney, Jacob LaPorte and Larkin scored against their opponents.

The Wolves (7-5-1, 4-0-1 OAA Red) head to Troy Ice Arena to take on league opponents Oxford on Wednesday, 1819 East Big Beaver #A in Troy, 7 p.m.

They head to Suburban Ice in Macomb to play Utica Eisenhower on Saturday at 54755 Broughton Road, 6:15 p.m.

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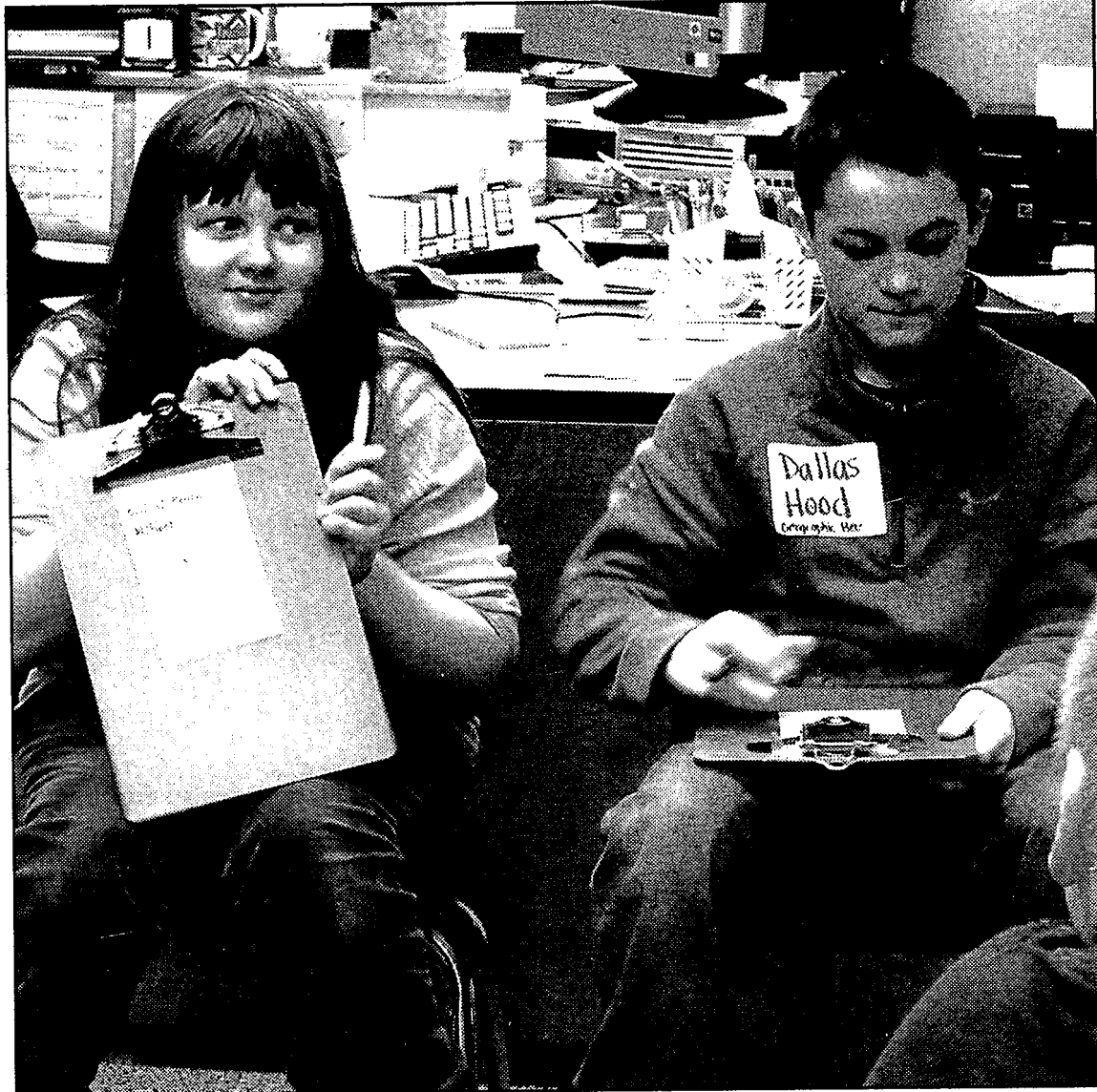
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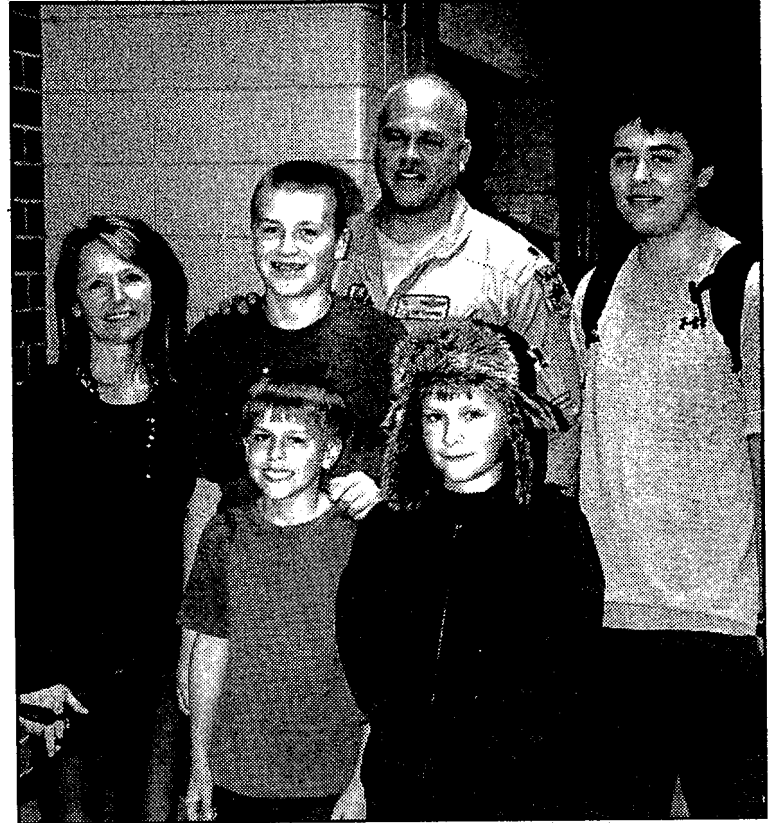
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Top-two finalists Jennifer Starnes and Dallas Hood post their answers at the North Sashabaw Elementary Geography Bee, Jan. 13.



The Schroeder family, from left in back, Debby, Keaton, Kurt, Griffin; in front, Bryson and Weston, gather at Clarkston High School to welcome Kurt home from Afghanistan. Photo by Wendi Reardon

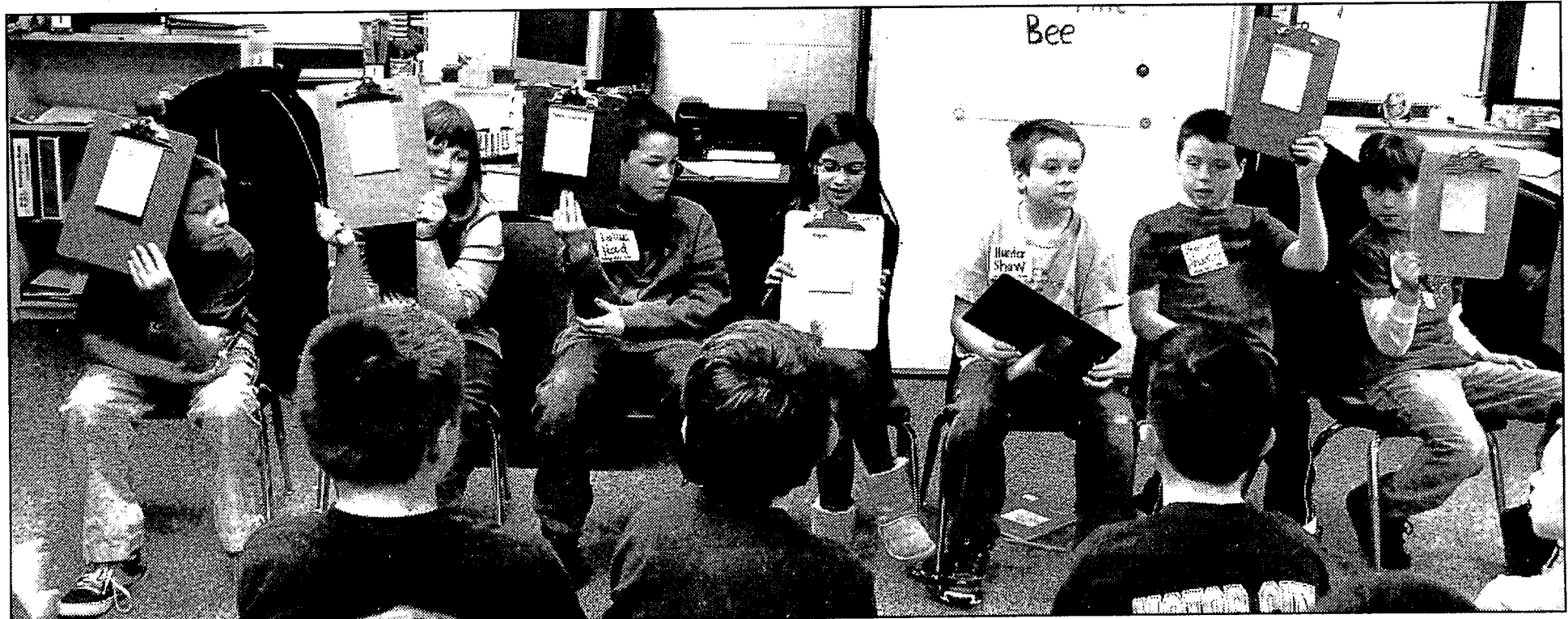
## Stars shine at schools

This was an interesting week for Clarkston students competing in National Geographic's Geography Bee.

For the Schroeder family, it in-

cluded a surprise visit from their dad, Kurt.

An officer in the U.S. Air Force, Kurt came home from Afghanistan. See page 3A for story.



The seven finalists at the North Sashabaw Geography Bee answer a question. Photos by Phil Custodio

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## PIANO LIQUIDATION

- Stored and abandoned pianos sold for back storage charges
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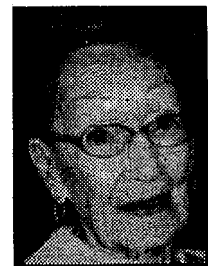
# JP's Piano Moving and Storage

78 N. Washington, Oxford, MI 48371 (248) 310-1808

## Helen Dennis, 98

Helen Dennis of Clarkston passed away Jan. 14, 2012, at age 98.

She was preceded in death by her husband Fred L. Dennis, a local businessman, and her grandson Jeffery. She was the mother of William (Norma) Dennis; grandma of Scott and Barry (Pauline) Dennis; also survived by several great grandchildren and great great grandchildren; sister of Betty Schmidt and Genevieve Fulkerson.



Visitation was Jan. 17 at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Private Entombment Ottawa Park Cemetery.

## Wava L. Green, 86

Wava L. Green of Waterford passed away Jan. 14, 2012, at age 86.

She was preceded in death by her husband Charles, "Bud." She was the aunt of Michael Walsh, Farrell Lee Davis, Linda Freeze, Sandy Catherman, Rosemary Ellis, Alice Hall, Carol Ann Acre and Dixie Holland.

Mrs. Green retired after 26 years from the Pontiac Police Department. Celebration of Life Service, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 1 p.m., at **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, where friends can visit from 12-1 p.m. Private Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery, Clarkston. Online guest book [www.wintfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintfuneralhome.com).

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

### INDEPENDENCE TWP. SYNOPSIS

TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD  
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE  
JANUARY 10, 2012

- A. A Regular Meeting of the Charter Township of Independence Board was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Independence Township Hall.
- B. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.
- C. ROLL CALL: Present: Carson, Lohmeier, Petterson, Wallace

Absent: Wagner, Pallotta, Rosso

There was a quorum present.

Also Present: Bart Clark, Superintendent; Beth Lawrence, Deputy Clerk, Paula Heenan, Finance Clerk, Julie Meredith, Library Director; Carol Gabris, HR Director

D. Approval to appoint Acting Chair

E. Approval of Agenda as amended

F. REGULAR BUSINESS:

- 1. Approved Scheduling of Special Meeting
- 2. Approved Extending 2011 Annual Burning Permits

G. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:

- 1. Budget Presentation - Library (Julie Meredith, Library Director)

H. CONSENT AGENDA: Approved as amended

- 1. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2011
- 2. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2011

I. REGULAR BUSINESS:

- 3. Presentation by Superintendent Bart Clark regarding Building Department Corrective Actions

The meeting recessed at 9:11 PM

Trustee Petterson left the meeting at 9:12 PM, leaving no quorum present

The meeting reconvened at 9:20 PM

- 4. Approval of the Check Run was postponed to the Special Meeting scheduled for January 12, 2012

J. ADJOURNMENT: The Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Published: 1/18/2012



# Beware dangers of 'EVOL,' use 'LOVE' instead

The title of this article doesn't quite spell evil, but when we're not walking in LOVE, evil is what we get. EVOL is love spelled backwards.

As I talk to my pastor friends around the country, there seems to be an increase in relational problems, particularly among husbands and wives.

Sadly, many people don't understand what real love looks like. Even many Christians are still functioning out of old, un-renewed minds. They haven't taken the proper steps to grow in their love walk. In 1 Cor. 13, the apostle Paul makes a long list of attitudes and actions that describe what love is and what love is not. Instead of quoting 1 Corinthians, "The Love Chapter," I'm going to put a little twist on it and describe the opposite. I'm going to describe what EVOL is.

Evol is touchy and gets angry easily. Evol snaps at the drop of a hat. It insists on what it wants and threatens to quit, give in, or throw in the towel if it doesn't get its way. It goes to bed angry and wakes up a little angrier. Evol does not give unless it receives. It has poor manners and acts unbecomingly.

Evol constantly focuses on oneself and the wrong that it's suffered. It chooses to believe the worst in others and refuses to listen to any-

thing other than its own beliefs.

Evol is proud and proclaims its own greatness. It has no endurance and will retreat quickly. I realize that no one has arrived or is walking in perfect love, but people seem to be giving into Evol more than love. If the above attributes seem to describe you, don't fool yourself. You're NOT walking in love, you're walking in Evol.

People seem to think that love is all about being happy and satisfied. They expect fireworks and ooey gooey feelings to flow endlessly. However, the Bible teaches that Love endures, bears up, is long suffering and never weakens. This definition is describing something that's going to take a beating and weather some storms.

Love must bear others sins, faults, and weaknesses. The apostle Paul even said, "In marriage there will be trouble." This kind of love is going to take some supernatural strength.

The Bible teaches that this kind of love is not of ourselves, but rather it's God's love in us. The word of God teaches that when you are born again, the love of God is shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Spirit.

Believers are commanded to draw on God's love and grow in it. Let me add this though, when both parties are walking in love, nothing compares.

The key to operating in Love is found in Eph. 4:23. This scripture gives us explicit instructions as to what must occur after you've been saved.

## Spiritual Matters



Pastor Jeff Stonerock

## In our churches...

**The Saline Fiddlers** in concert, 3 p.m., Jan. 22, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Free.

\*\*\*

**Bethany North**, peer support to all faiths dealing with divorce or separation, 7:30 p.m., fourth Monday, Cushing Center, 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.

\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*

**Discover the Power Within You** book study, meditation, Thursdays, 7 p.m. Peace Unity Church, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-625-5192.

# Church Directory



### ST. TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod"  
Pastor: Rev. Kendall Schaeffer  
7925 Sashabaw Road  
(1/4 mile N. of DTE Music Theater)  
Clarkston, MI 48348  
(248) 625-4644  
www.saintrinitylutheran.com  
e-mail: sttrinity@comcast.net  
Broadcast Worship - Clarkston  
CIV-10/20 Sun. 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

"A Place to Worship & Grow"  
1361 Giddings Rd., Pontiac MI 48340  
248-373-0311  
Services: Sunday - 10 am & 6 pm  
Contemporary Worship  
Children's Ministry 10:30 am  
Tues. - 10 am Morning Prayer  
Wed. - 7 pm Bible Study  
New Series - "Relentless"  
Senior Pastors: Dan & Debbie Burgess  
"Come & Grow With Us!"

### BRIDGEWOOD CHURCH

6765 Rattalee Lake Road  
Clarkston, 48348  
(248) 625-1344  
Services:  
Sunday 9:00am & 10:45am  
Morning Worship Service  
Exploration Station  
Children's Ministry  
Wed. 6:45pm Fri. For Life  
Adult Life Ministry  
C.C.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: 9:00 am & 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

### THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

6490 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston  
Sunday 10 am  
Holy Eucharist  
Sunday School 9:55 am  
Nursery Provided  
www.clarkstonepiscopal.org  
248-625-2325

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CLARKSTON

5972 Paramus, Clarkston, MI  
(248) 625-3380  
Located 2 blks. N. of Dixie Hwy.  
(E. of M-15)  
Pastor: Russell Reemtsma  
Sun: 9:30 am Sunday School  
& Adult Bible Fellowship  
10:30 am Worship Service  
6:00 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 Highway, Clarkston, MI  
(248) 625-2311  
website: www.dixiebaptist.org  
Home of Springfield Christian 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 Clubs & Adult Bible Study  
Nursery available for all services.

### OAKLAND EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Wayne Uppendahl  
Services held at Mount Zion Center  
4453 Clintonville Rd. at Mann Rd., Waterford, MI  
Sunday School at 9:15 am  
Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 am  
Bible Study Wed. Eve., 6:30 pm  
at Church Offices - Yellow House  
7205 Clintonville Rd., Clarkston, MI  
Phone (248) 858-2577  
Fax (248) 858-7706

### ST. DANIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

7010 Valley Park Dr., Clarkston  
(W. of M-15, S. of I-75)  
625-4580  
Rev. Christopher Maus  
Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm  
Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am  
Religious Education: 625-1750  
Mother's Group, RCIA,  
Scripture Study, Youth Group

### SASHABAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Little Church with a BIG Heart"  
5300 Maybee Road, Clarkston  
Worship 11:00 am  
Nursery Provided  
Phone (248) 673-3101

### CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston  
(W. of M-15, just S. of I-75)  
248-625-3288  
Pastor Jonathan Heierman  
Sunday Worship:  
8:15 am (traditional), 9:30 & 11:00 am  
Also at both 9:30 & 11:00:  
Nursery, Children & Youth  
Programming  
Wednesday Evenings:  
6:00-8:30 pm  
Dinner, worship, small groups  
Nursery, Children & Youth  
Programming  
www.calvaryinfo.org

### CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

6300 Clarkston Road - Clarkston  
(248) 625-1323  
Home of Oakland Christian School  
Pastors: Greg Henneman,  
Bonita Laudeman, Kevin Kuehne,  
Dan Whiting, Geoff Black  
Sunday: Worship 9:15 & 11:00 am  
Nursery Care at all services  
Wednesday: Children's Ministries  
6:00-8:00 pm  
Sunday: Youth Ministries  
5:00-7:00 pm  
www.clarkstoncommunity.com

## Special Events

**Christmas tree recycling**, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. through Jan. 30 at Independence Oaks, 9501 Sashabaw Road. Free. DestinationOakland.com. \*\*\*

**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. \*\*\*

**Red, White, and Blue Chili Cook and Bake Off Fund Raiser**, 5 p.m., Jan. 21, American Legion Unit 63 Auxiliary, 8047 Ortonville Road. Entry fee, \$5 per item. \$2/bowl to judge. Raffle: Afghan handmade by Norma Ortman. 248-634-7140. \*\*\*

**Ask the Pharmacist**, with Clarkston Pharmacy, 11:30 a.m., Jan. 30, Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Free, with lunch. Space limited. 248-625-8231. \*\*\*

**Sock Hop**, Bethany North Oakland Singles

# Around Town



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

**Dance**, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., Feb. 4, St. Dan's Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park. DJ Al Pickett. \$15. 248-891-8938.

## Weekly meetings

### Monday

**Buddy Basketball** non-competitive recreational league for boys and girls with special needs, Mondays, Feb. 6-March 19. Players, ages 7-13, paired with buddies, ages 7-17. Registration deadline, Jan. 13. Independence Township Parks and Rec, 248-625-8223. \*\*\*

**Girls Softball Pitching Clinic**, Mondays, Jan. 23-March 5. Conducted by Clarkston Varsity Softball coaching staff and other softball personalities for girls ages 8-13. Independence Township Parks and Rec, 248-625-8223. \*\*\*

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

**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. \*\*\*

**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. \*\*\*

### 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. \*\*\*

**Clarkston Community Band** rehearsals, 7 p.m., Tuesdays. \$30/semester. Band room,

Sashabaw Middle School, 5565 Pine Knob Lane. Independence Township Parks & Recreation, 248-625-8223. \*\*\*

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

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

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

**Got Beads**, share love of beads and beading, second, fourth Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m., Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. 248-625-2212. \*\*\*

**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. \*\*\*

## 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. \*\*\*

## Mary F. Alley, 78

Mary F. Alley of Clarkston passed away Jan. 10, 2012, at 78 years of age.

She was the dear wife of ~~Claude~~ ~~for 36~~ years; loving mother of the late James, Rick (Amy), Jeanne and Jerry Alley; grandmother of five; great grandmother of two; sister of Louise Wieland.

Mrs. Alley retired from Waterford Kmart in 1998 after 25 years of service. She loved her grandchildren.

Funeral service was Jan. 14 at Coats Funeral Home, Waterford. Interment Summerfield Township Cemetery. To send a private condolence go to [www.CoatsFuneralHome.com/Obituaries](http://www.CoatsFuneralHome.com/Obituaries).



# Restaurant Directory

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

## CONEY ISLAND

6325 Sashabaw Road  
Clarkston  
248-620-5122  
leosconeyisland.com  
Let us cater your next event!  
Lake Orion location Opening Soon!

## BREWERY

**Clarkston Union**  
54 S. Main Street • Clarkston  
248-620-6101

## STEAKS/SEAFOOD

**Mesquite Creek**  
steaks & seafood  
7228 North Main Street • Clarkston  
248-620-9300 • mesquitecreek.com

## Increase Your Visibility

Average 4283  
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Spending 12 Mins  
Call Your Sales  
Rep Today!  
**Online & Print Directory**  
only \$12 per week  
248-625-3370 • clarkstonnews.com

## IRISH PUB

**BlackThorn Pub**  
105 S. Saginaw St  
Historical Downtown Holly, MI  
248-369-8714  
www.blackthornpubholly.com  
Visit us at [WWW.BLACKTHORNHOLLYPUB.NET](http://WWW.BLACKTHORNHOLLYPUB.NET)

## Increase Your Visibility

Average 4283  
Visitors/Day  
Spending 12 Mins  
Call Your Sales  
Rep Today!  
**Online & Print Directory**  
only \$12 per week  
248-625-3370 • clarkstonnews.com

## MIDDLE EASTERN

**PITA WAY**  
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248-620-5000  
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Ivan, played by Rick Shaw talks with his son Joe, played by Sean Harbert about taking over his chain of bookstores. Photo by Trevor Keiser

## Players present 'Drinking Alone'

### BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

The stage is set, the lights cued and Clarkston Village Players ready to bring to life the real emotions of abandonment and the need to be accepted in their latest play "Drinking Alone."

Ivan, played by Rick Shaw decides to contact his son and daughter after years of estrangement.

His son Joe, played by Sean Harbert who hasn't done much with his life tries to impress his father by hiring a bubbly fast-talking 'escort' named Renee, played by Angela Roberts, to pretend to be his fiancé.

Meanwhile his sister Carrie,

played by Johana Bell, a famous news anchor drowns her hurt and anger towards her father for "walking out on the family" years ago to marry Phyllis, played by Joy OetJens one beer after another.

Director Karen Dobson said she likes the "human element" of the play.

"Playwright Norm Foster is able to create characters people care about," Dobson said. "He gives them all depth, so all the actors have something to work with, as well as with providing us with real life situations."

Dobson said she wanted to direct the play because she could "visualize it."

"That's all I really need to do to

take on a director position," she said. "If I can visualize it I can do it."

Dobson also noted she has a cast that is talented and works hard.

"We got new faces, which is always nice to see. Angela, who has been driving up from Detroit is a lot of fun," she said. "We also got some returning people, so I'm fortunate to have a good cast."

"Drinking Alone" will run Jan. 20, 21, 27, 28, 29; Feb. 3, 4 at the Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

For tickets, call 248-573-4104 or more information, visit [www.clarkstonvillageplayers.org](http://www.clarkstonvillageplayers.org).

## Back to normal

As we embark on the out with the old and in with the new of 2012. Many of us struggle to get it all done, taking down the Christmas decorations and planning our New Year's Resolutions, oh yea and back to work and get the kids back on their routine for School!

Speaking of that dreaded New Year Resolution- What have you decided to change up for yourself this year? Loose a few LB's? Save some money? Pay off a debit? Get your kids to bed on time? Meet with friends more? Be nicer to your spouse? Get it all done? Be more organized?

Be more positive? Whew! That makes me OVER-WHELMED- Xanax please!!

How many of you plan a little in each area I mentioned, to do a little better than you did last year, then after about a month or two you totally forget your plan? I did when just last week, I took down a 2011 calendar and noticed my goals for the year! OMG was I way off! It was a real "ah-ha" to know that I could have done most of my resolutions or goals IF I WOULDN'T HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THEM!.. or maybe even not made a list of 20 things to accomplish! I said, "Self it's time to give yourself a break!"...Geese!

This year I'm going to take a

different tactic- one that I have been practicing the last few months!

OH, this just in... it works! What if we just bit off one bite

at a time? It's not a race we don't have to change everything all by January 31st!

Let's try and stay off of Xanax, and try a new system in 2012-

### Shelly Says



Shelly Kovach

1. Pick the top priority of

your resolutions

2. Set little measurable goals

3. Keep track on some sort of timeline. Ex. No less than 30 days to measure your progress!

4. Get a buddy to help hold you accountable

5. Then let's not forget to CELEBRATE even the tiniest of wins!

Once you have accomplished your First Resolution THEN you can move to your next!

Life gets in the way of Life all of the time. It's up to you to decide what's in it for you!

I'm Shelly Kovach a long time resident of Clarkston, and your new community columnist for "Shelly Says" - style-fashion-advice- solutions for everyday situations with you in mind!

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## Glenn E. White

Glenn E. White, born Jan. 3, 1946, passed away after a battle with lung cancer, Jan. 6, 2012.

He was the dear son of Forrest E White and Iva Z. White, brother of Francise Comstock and Jerry White, dear father of Marie White Miller, Randy and Terry White, son in law Scott Miller and grandfather to Erik and Nicklas Miller.



Mr. White will be greatly missed by family, friends and neighbors. Glenn had a big heart always there for anyone who needed a hand and loved to share his garden with all his neighbors.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to any pet rescue or contact Marie @ mariemill67@yahoo.com.

Obituaries posted daily at Clarkstonnews.com

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know  
**INDEPENDENCE TWP.**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE  
COUNTY OF OAKLAND, STATE OF MICHIGAN  
NOTICE OF

**CLOSE OF REGISTRATION WITHIN THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE: FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2012**

REGISTRATION NOTICE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD Tuesday, February 28, 2012 to the Qualified Electors of the Charter Township of Independence, County of Oakland, State of Michigan:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That in conformity with the Michigan Election law, the final date for registration in order to vote in the Presidential Primary Election is Monday, January 30, 2012 by the close of business.

To vote at this election, all persons must be registered.

Citizens of the United States, 18 years old, who have resided in the State of Michigan at least thirty (30) days and have established a residence in the Charter Township of Independence on or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day prior to Tuesday, February 28, 2012, are eligible to register.

**HOURS OF REGISTRATION:** Notice is hereby given that registration will be taken during regular office hours Monday through Friday of each week, excluding holidays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Qualified electors may also register to vote or change their address in person at the following locations: the Oakland County Clerk's Office and Secretary of State Branch Offices by mail obtaining and completing a Voter Registration Application and forwarding it to the election official designated on the application by the close of registration deadline.

The Tuesday, February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary Election will be conducted in all voting precincts of the Charter Township of Independence, for the purpose of electing candidates for the following office:

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES	
Ballot for Republican Candidates:	Ballot for Democratic Candidates:
Vote for One	Vote for One
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Herman Cain	Rick Perry
Newt Gingrich	Buddy Roemer
Jon Huntsman	Mitt Romney
Gary Johnson	Rick Santorum
Fred Karger	Uncommitted

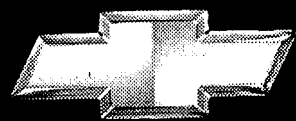
Barbara A. Pallotta, CMC  
Township Clerk

PUBLISHED & POSTED: Wed., January 18 & 25, 2012









# Wally Edgar

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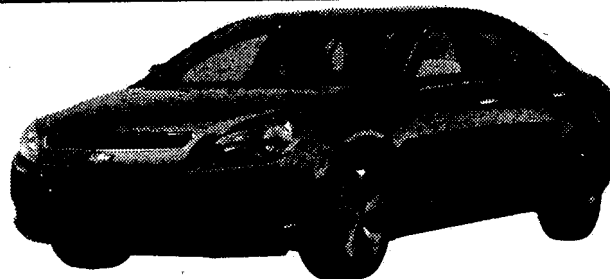


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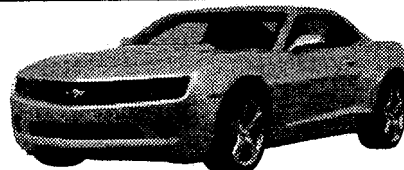
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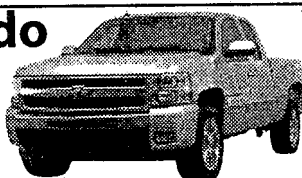


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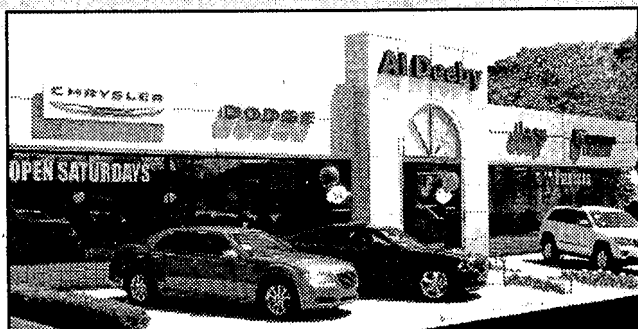
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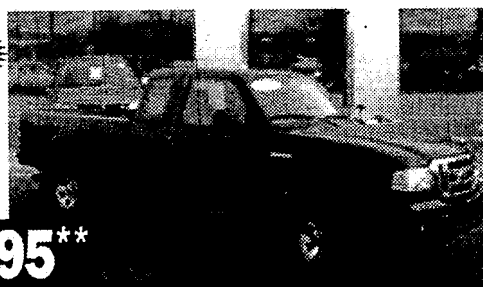
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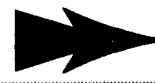
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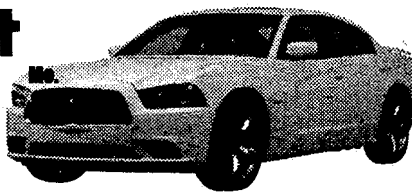
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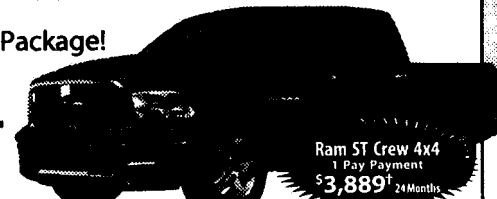
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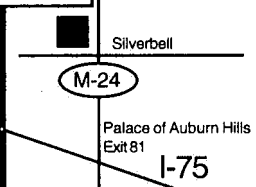
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# Weddings

## Planning

Advantages to a more intimate wedding

## Ceremony

What are the groomsmen to do?

## Weddings

101 tips, ideas, handy directories & more!

Second trip down the matrimonial lane...

What's next?

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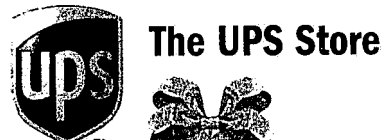
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**Inside: Weddings**

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 Bridal Directory ..... Page 4  
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 How to choose a limousine company ..... Page 9  
 Groomsmen responsibilities ..... Page 10  
 Wedding budget planner ..... Page 11  
 Avoid becoming the 'Bridezilla' ..... Page 12  
 Tips for second time time the aisle ..... Page 13  
 Wedding emergency kit ..... Page 14

Don't forget to send your wedding announcements to The Clarkston News . . . it's free! 5 S. Main St., Clarkston, MI 48346. E-mail: [ClarkstonNews@gmail.com](mailto:ClarkstonNews@gmail.com).  
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# When looking for the perfect wedding gown

**Research:** Tear out pictures from bridal magazines, print photos from wedding gown websites and attend bridal shows to familiarize yourself with the newest styles.

**Selection:** Start shopping soon after you set your date. It could take up to 6 months for special order or designer wedding dresses to arrive. If possible, order at least 9 months prior to your wedding. This will allow time for fittings, alterations, and formal portraits.

**Shopping:** Place calls to local bridal salons as most work by appointment only. Appointments allow the consultant to make sure that plenty of time is given to help you with your choices. If an appointment is not necessary, beware that you may not get the service you desire when looking for the most important dress you will ever wear. Make sure to determine your budget for your gown before you begin the search for the perfect dress. In order to make your day a pleasant and rewarding one, try not to visit too many bridal shops in the same day. When you are fresh, full of energy and enthusiasm, you will be able to make sound judgments. You may want to bring a family member or friend along for a second opinion. Remember, too many opinions can conflict and confuse. Bring along pictures of wedding gowns you like and be open to discuss your plan and idea



with a bridal consultant. You may find that the gown you like in a picture doesn't flatter you as much as you hoped. The bridal consultant will select the styles that look best on you and suit your budget.

Try on all of the dresses the consultant shows you, even if it may not seem like "your style" of dress (as most wedding dresses look much better, and different on, than on the hanger.) Wearing appropriate undergarments can also help to make the wedding dress look and fit better. Take a camera along just in case you cannot decide. If the salon allows, take a picture of yourself wearing each wedding dress and bring them home to study.

**Purchase:** There are now many ways to purchase a bridal gown. Full service salons, big box retail stores and internet discounters are all competing for your business. Please beware if you choose to purchase your gown via the World Wide Web. The old saying, "you get what you pay for" is also true when it comes to bridal attire. It is hard to determine what a gown really looks like and feels like by just seeing a picture on a website. Kim, at A'doraBelle Bridal in Waterford says, "There are many horror stories from brides who were taken advantage of when they were not aware of how to protect themselves (and their money). These brides

Continued on Page 14

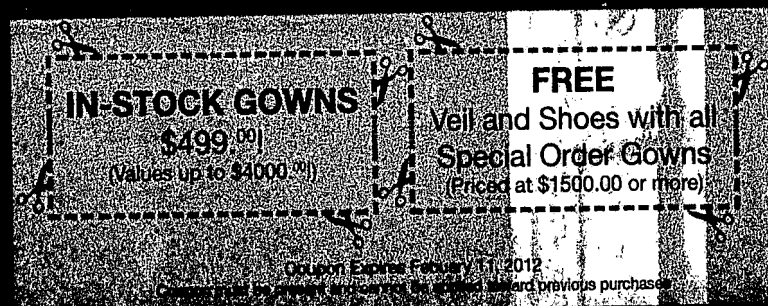
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## Advantages to a smaller, more intimate wedding

Why are couples choosing smaller, more intimate weddings these days?

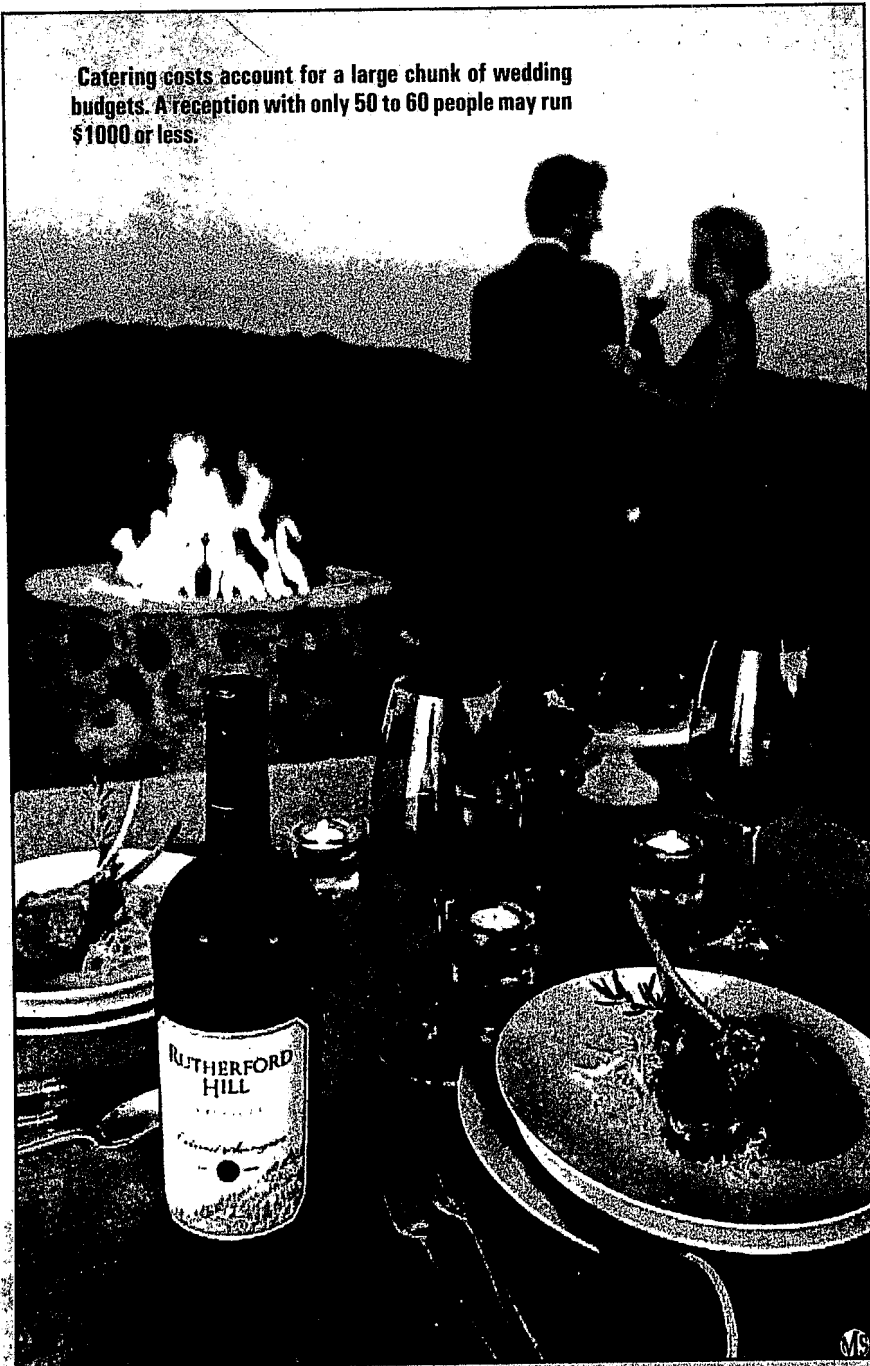
While weddings are about dreams, family, friends and budgets, they are also about individual preferences. While small weddings are not for everyone, a couple may decide to

have an intimate ceremony for any number of reasons. In spite of what people may think, financial restrictions are not the only motivation for having a small wedding.

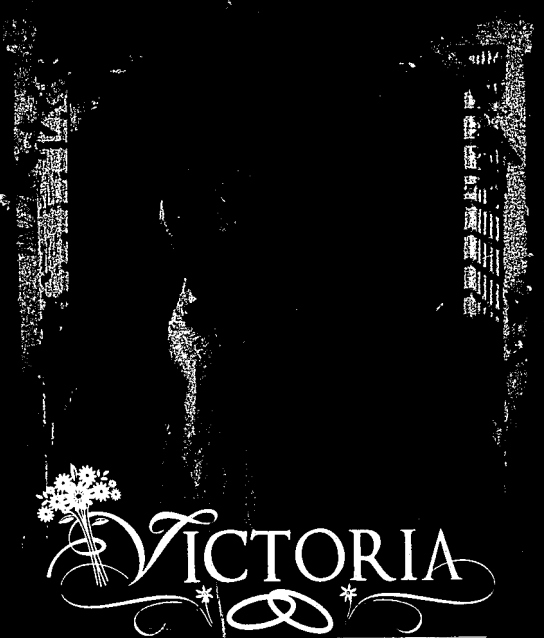
"There are many advantages to an intimate wedding," says Mary of Victoria Wedding Chapel in Waterford Township. "Many couples are choosing to keep their ceremony small. One of the most popular wedding trends for 2012 is the appeal and flexibility of smaller affairs, as opposed to the out-of-control, oversized wedding with unfamiliar faces wishing you well. As the bride walks down the cobblestone pathway to meet her groom in our garden, she seems to be more relaxed when

**Continued on Page 18**

Catering costs account for a large chunk of wedding budgets. A reception with only 50 to 60 people may run \$1000 or less.



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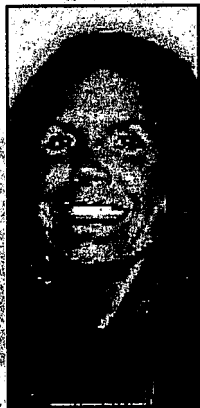
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# When choosing a wedding chapel

By Anne Marie Roop

The day after the magical proposal, you realize you have a wedding to prepare for and you have to start somewhere (but first, you just have to tell all your girlfriends that they will be part of a wedding in Michigan soon)!

After chatting with your girlfriends, discussing ideas for your wedding, you now sit down and list the many things you need to decide on to get to that perfect wedding day. You may or may not hire a wedding coordinator, but you still have to decide on the many significant aspects of getting married and you should start somewhere soon.



Roop

"If there is a particular wedding chapel or church that you and your fiancé would like to get married in, it will be a good idea to immediately book that, since wedding chapels have a way of getting all booked up," said Anne Marie Roop, owner of Oakwood Wedding Chapel and Banquet Hall, in Oxford.

If you haven't decided yet, this should be one of the first items you and your fiancé should decide on. There are many wedding chapels and what you should consider perhaps is the size of your wedding entourage and attendees. Choose a wedding

chapel that will comfortably accommodate all your guests. Wedding chapels are usually categorized as small-capacity or large-capacity. Therefore you first have to determine if you are having a small or large wedding, because everything else will follow after this – the wedding chapel, the reception area, and of course, the budget!

"If you have no particular chapel in mind yet, I am sure that you and your fiancé will have a grand time visiting the area's many beautiful wedding chapels. In order for you to make your trips efficient, do your research first by browsing the internet for *wedding chapels*. These web pages will usually show pictures and locations, so you will already have an idea of how a particular wedding chapel looks like, and you can also plan your trip well so you can visit two or more wedding chapels in one go."

Let your instincts guide you in choosing that perfect wedding chapel for your perfect wedding. You will know it is the right one once you set foot in that wedding chapel, so have no fear. After all, you are getting married no less, to the man you love and everything should easily be manageable.

Many wedding chapels offer services to take the stress and worry out of your wedding so all you have is the joy, love and happy memories. Ask about all-inclusive packages that can help you plan your entire wedding: ceremony, reception, catering (on site and off), tuxedos, invitations, photogra-



phy, videography, minister, flowers and more.

For more information on Oakwood Wedding Chapel and Banquet Hall, visit their website or give them a call: [www.OakwoodWeddingChapel.com](http://www.OakwoodWeddingChapel.com) 248-431-7556.

Anne Marie Roop is owner of the Oakwood Wedding Chapel and Banquet Hall. Their chapel sits on four acres in Oxford. The Chapel sits up to 180 guests. It has oversized stained glass windows, plentiful photo locations, separate dressing areas for the bridal party and groomsmen.



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They also have a large selection of certified diamonds at wholesale prices. "We do custom work on-site to enhance already purchased bridal sets, adding custom made bands or a little more bling and we set your stones while you watch" Dan said. Dan is a licensed and certified precious metal dealer, including gold. He's been a gold smith since 1987.

Clarkston Jewelry Outlet is a full-service shop. When shopping for gifts for your bridal

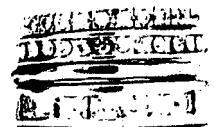
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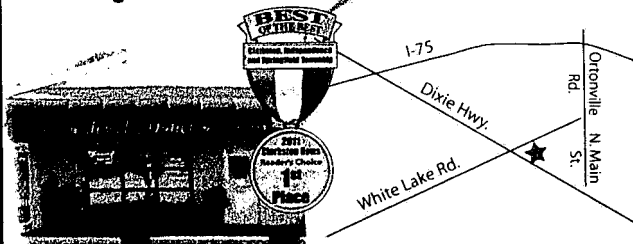
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## Avoid common wedding scams

Matthew and Ellen had the wedding of their dreams on a beautiful June day. All of the details went off without a hitch, or so they thought. When the time arrived to receive their wedding photo albums and video a few months after the wedding, the photographer who had promised them the world closed up shop, filed for bankruptcy and absconded with the new couple's precious memories.

Tales of wedding woes frequent the news, especially as wedding season approaches. Stories about reception sites that have double-booked rooms, photographers who have not delivered photos, bridal gown shops that don't have a dress finished on time and so many similar events are no longer a rarity.

The majority of wedding vendors are respectable businesses looking to provide couples with the ideal services and memories of their special day. However, some other vendors are just looking to make money at all costs.

Avoiding trouble with your wedding means taking matters into your own hands and thoroughly protecting yourself.

\* Investigate the business or individual before exchanging money. A simple search online for reviews or

checking with the Better Business Bureau should reveal if a business has any complaints against it. This easy step can protect couples from going into business with a company that should not be trusted.

\* Get word-of-mouth recommendations. A couple who has used a particular bridal vendor and had pleasant results is the best advertisement. Ask friends and family members who have gotten married who they used for flowers, photos, music and more.

\* Contracts are essential. Have all of the details of the business transaction spelled out in a contract that both the vendor and you sign. Writing "Size 8" gown is not enough. Make sure the model number, price, details regarding deposits, alterations, etc., are included. DJs can write how many hours they will be playing music and how many breaks they will take.

\* Check who will service your wedding. On occasion a business may subcontract its services. For example, the photographer you meet at the studio may not be the photographer who shows up at your wedding. Be sure to request the person you prefer and have it included in the contract.

\* Obtain certification. Some scams are

Continued on Page 11

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## Floral terms to know

Before discussing table settings for their weddings, many couples find it helpful to brush up on some floral terminology before visiting florists.

It can make you appear more knowledgeable and prepared if you understand what will be discussed and are able to choose what you want. It also helps to ensure your money is being spent in the best way possible.

Here are some common and some lesser known florist terms that can be advantageous to know.

\* Biedermeier: A nosegay arranged tightly with concentric circles of differently colored flowers. The flowers are wired into a holder with only one type of flower in each ring.

\* Bouquet: A dense bunch of blooms that are kept together in a bouquet holder, wired or tied with ribbon.

\* Crescent: One full flower and a flowering stem wired together to form a slender handle that is held in one hand.

\* Garden: A centerpiece featuring wildflowers.

\* Nosegay: Small, round bouquets composed of densely packed round flowers and fill.

\* Oasis: Specialized foam that is used in bouquet holders and centerpieces to retain water and keep blooms fresh.

\* Pomander: A flower-covered ball that is suspended from a ribbon. It is often carried by child attendants.

\* Posies: Smaller than nosegays but similar in design.

\* Presentation: A bunch of long-stemmed flowers cradled in the bride's arms. It's sometimes known as a pageant bouquet.

\* Topiary: Flowers trimmed into geometric shapes.

\* Tossing: A smaller copy of the bride's bouquet to use in the bouquet toss.

\* Tussy mussy: A small, metallic holder to carry a posy.

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## How to choose a limousine company

There are many occasions in life when a limousine is a smart mode of transportation -- weddings being one. There are certain steps consumers can take when selecting a limo company to ensure they get the quality and price desired.

Limos offer the convenience of transporting a number of people comfortably. When consuming alcohol, limos can be a wise and safe option. From an environmental standpoint, choosing a limo can also be a green choice. Cutting down on the number of cars on the road curbs carbon emissions.

Shopping for a limousine service shouldn't mean simply picking a name out of the paper or the local business circular. It's best to comparison shop.

It is important to plan well in advance

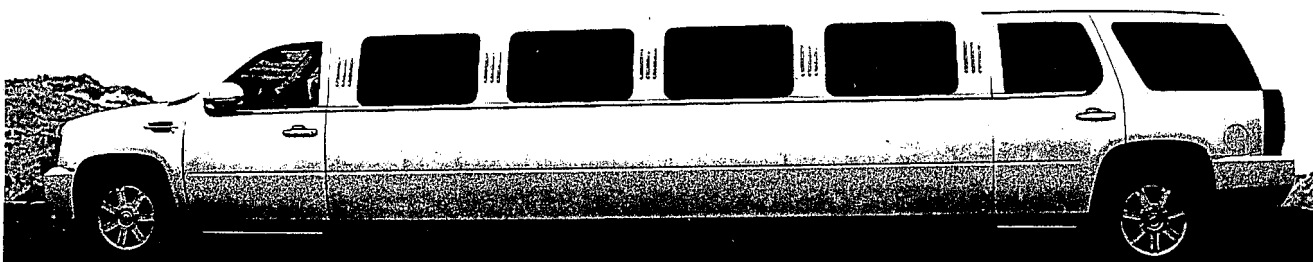
when arranging for limousine service. There are certain peak times of year when they are in high demand. The spring and summer, when it is prom and wedding season, is a busy time of year for limousine companies. If limo shopping is left until the last minute, a person could be stuck with few attractive options, or possibly even face higher rates.

A personal visual inspection is one of the best ways to judge the quality of the limo company's fleet. Be sure to inspect all of the vehicles before making a decision. Vehicles should look updated and clean both inside and out. Select the smallest car for the number of people that will be transported. There is no sense in paying a premium for a larger vehicle if the space won't be needed. Be wary of a company that tries to push the largest, most expensive limo on its cus-

tomers. Select the business with the best recommendations.

When signing a contract, be sure the limo that was inspected will be the one used for the event. Sometimes larger fleets substitute vehicles. A customer should get what they paid for. If an upgrade is offered, it shouldn't be at the expense of the customer. It is also crucial to read over the contract and be clear on what it covers. This includes the start and stop time of the limo service and how much it will cost if the rental goes beyond the allotted time.

A limousine can be a welcome way to get around during any number of life's events. Shopping around for a reputable company that receives good reviews is a way to narrow down the prospects in limo companies.



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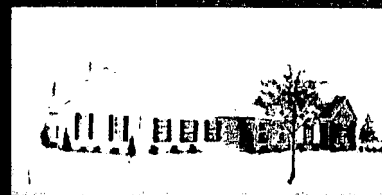
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## The groomsmen have different responsibilities before, after *and* during the wedding ceremony.

Happy couples choose friends and family members to serve as attendants in their weddings. Bridesmaids and groomsmen each have different responsibilities in the wedding.

In ancient times, groomsmen essentially served as the groom's bodyguards, ensuring that he made it safely to the altar and to his future wife. Today, the groomsmen's roles are not based on saving life and limb.

Today's groomsmen serve as assistants to the groom and help plan the bachelor party. They also usher guests down the aisle at the ceremony. They also may have a few other responsibilities, depending on what the couple wants of their assistants.

### Before the Wedding

- \* Help pick out the tuxedos and show up for fittings.
- \* Help plan and share the cost of the bachelor party.
- \* Attend rehearsals for the ceremony and appear at the rehearsal dinner.
- \* Pay for their own wedding attire or formal wear rentals.
- \* Help unload cars with supplies if the couple is doing the decorating the wedding themselves.
- \* Pay for their travel expenses and accommodation

during the celebration.

- \* Return formal wear for themselves and the groom.

- \* Provide transportation for the couple to the airport or honeymoon destination if the best man is unavailable.

### During the Ceremony

- \* Greet and seat guests at the ceremony in the appropriate rows or pews.

- \* Stand near the groom during the ceremony.

- \* Serve as escorts for the bridesmaids at the ceremony.

- \* Cater to anyone's needs and mingle with the guests afterward.

### Party Time

- \* Ensure that the groom does not get too intoxicated.

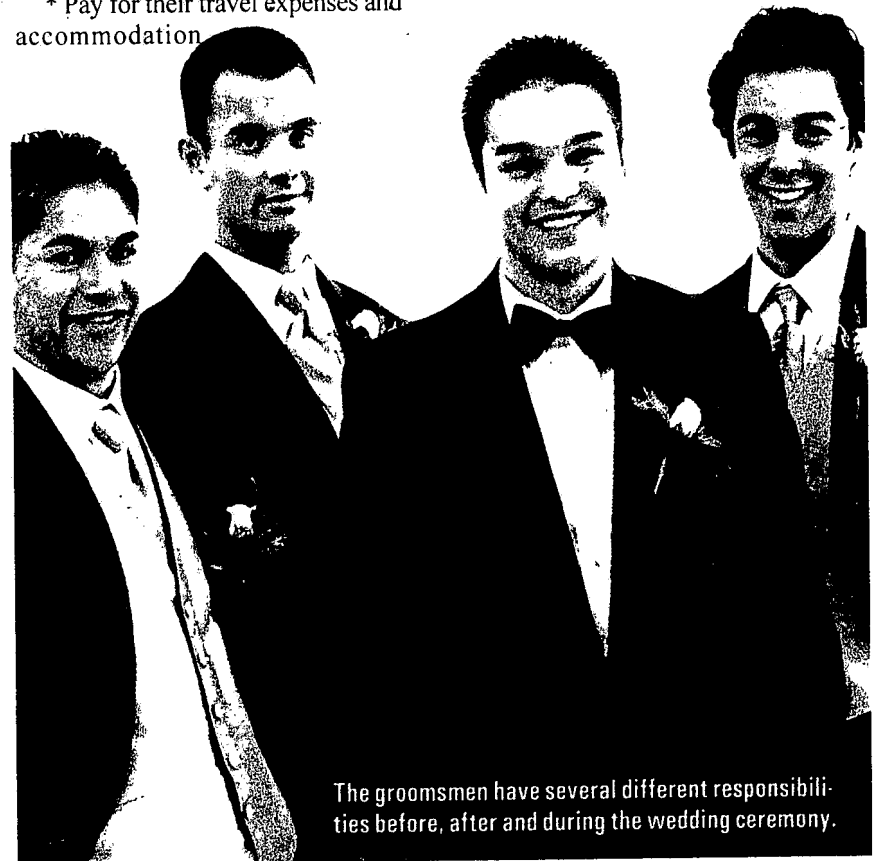
- \* Sit at the table of honor beside the rest of the bridal party.

- \* Mingle with the guests.

- \* Participate in all photos if asked.

- \* Dance with their bridesmaid counterpart.

- \* Help load the wedding gifts into the car afterward.



The groomsmen have several different responsibilities before, after and during the wedding ceremony.

# Wedding Budget Planner

There's no getting around the fact that weddings can be expensive. For many couples, they're the first of the largest expenses they will make together. It's quite easy for individuals to go over budget on their wedding day if they do not carefully keep track of what has been spent on all the elements of the big day. Use this budget planner to keep all of the costs associated with the wedding in one easy-to-manage place.

## Wedding Items

Budgeted Amount:  
Amount Spent:

## Venue and rentals

Food and service:  
Beverages:

Cake:

Miscellaneous fees:

Gown and alterations:  
Headpiece and veil:

## Accessories

Makeup and Hair:  
Groom's tux or suit:  
Groom accessories:  
Floral arrangements:  
Bouquets:  
Ring pillow:  
Boutonnieres:  
Corsages:  
Reception decorations:  
Lighting:  
Ceremony musicians:  
Reception musicians:  
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## Avoid common wedding scams

Continued from Page 8

more subtle. For instance, bridal shops who remove designer labels from gowns because they are not authorized retailers is a subtle scam. Another is jewelry stores that misrepresent the quality of diamonds and other jewelry. Be sure to get legitimate certification when purchasing anything of value.

\* Ensure the vendor has the equipment described. Some limousine companies may send out flyers advertising high-end vehicles they don't actually own or have access to. They subsequently arrive on your wedding day with a different vehicle. Without a contract specifying the vehicle of your choice, you have little recourse against the company. You want to verify that they indeed own the limo, and that it's in good condition.

\* Skimpily floral arrangements. Upon booking a florist, most businesses will sit down with couples and work up a sample bouquet or arrangement based on personal preferences. Come the wedding day, however, couples might find their arrangements have considerably fewer flowers in them or they're not the blooms originally chosen. Flowers are expensive, and some florists cut costs by skimping on the amount of actual flowers (not filler) they use. Be sure contracts spell out how many flowers will be in each arrangement, what type of flowers, how many centerpieces, bouquets, boutonnieres, etc.

Be sure you can enjoy your wedding and get the services you paid for by being savvy, don't simply open up your wallet to the first vendor you meet.

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## Avoid becoming 'Bridezilla'

By Shelly Kovach

We've all heard of the term *Bridezilla*. Maybe you've even known one. To make sure no one calls you *Bridezilla*, I have a few hot tips that will keep you and your day fondly remembered. (I hereby give you permission to offer this advice, as your own, to any of your friends who could easily wear the *Bridezilla* gown.)

The first piece of advice is "to take the moment in." This evening goes by so fast and before you know it you'll wake up the next morning with your feet swollen, your false eyelash stuck to your forehead and a bobby pin imprint in your new husband's cheek! The night was a complete blur! So enjoy it! Take it all in, don't sweat the small stuff.

So what if Aunt Ester drank too much and her skirt got tucked into her



Kovach

nylons and we all got to see what kind of panties she wears. Don't fret about the groomsmen that hit on your beautiful 19-year-old cousin. They'll be stories you can laugh about later. Part of the fun is the planning, so don't freak about that either, everything has a way of working out, trust your bridesmaids and moms to help you. Don't forget, *breath and be grateful* for your beautiful day and your amazing Husband to be!

My second bit of advice is about your hair. A salon wedding planner is a great idea, usually that comes complimentary with booking your bridal party in some salons/spas. This is a great way to keep that day running smooth. Have a consultation with the salon wedding planner and discuss all of your scheduling needs, your entire wedding party and your mom's if you want to include them in on the fun! After you do that then follow this list, you'll be sure to stay on track.

### 3-6 months prior

Consultation with Salon Wedding coordinator (these are the things she would do for you)

• set up your appointment with the right

Continued on Page 15

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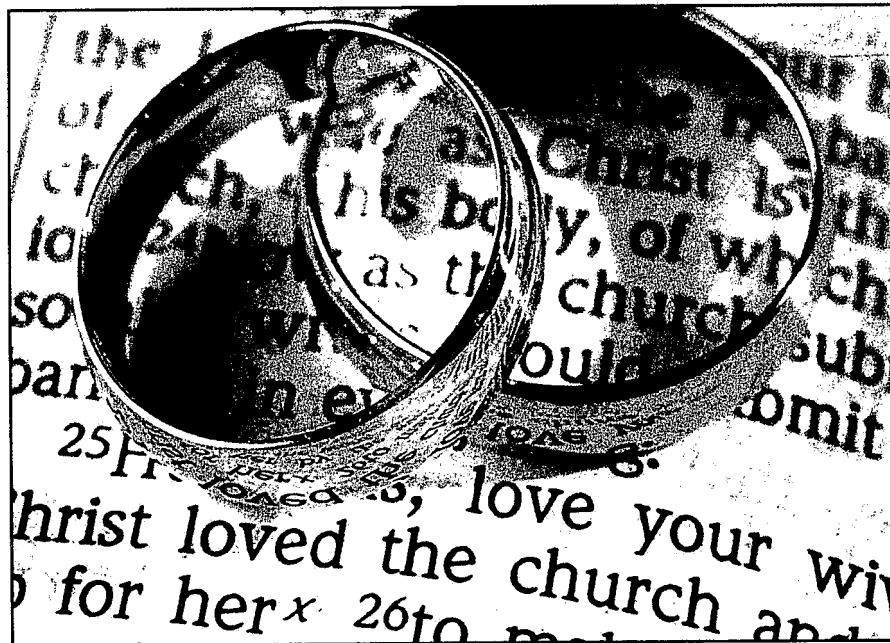
## Take two -- tips for a second trip down the aisle

A second wedding is a chance to focus more on what you want as a couple instead of the wedding your parents may have hoped for you. Today there are no rules in second weddings; the happy couple can customize it as they see fit.

Chances are someone you know will make another trip down the aisle at one point in his or her life. Individuals who have lost a spouse or have divorced may eventually choose to remarry.

Second weddings are a great way for couples to showcase their personalities and don't have to be constrained by tradition. Here are some top tips for taking that trip down the aisle the second time around.

**Put your first wedding out of your mind.** Now is not the time to make comparisons. This wedding should be all about you and your new spouse-to-be. Go for something completely different than your prior wedding so there will be



no side-by-side comparisons.

**Choose a wedding party you really want.** You can have a lavish wedding again, complete with a big bridal party. However, this time around you can choose the friends and family members you really desire to stand beside you, instead of individuals you may have felt obligated to include the first time around.

**Go ahead and wear white.** Tradition once stated that take-two brides were not

supposed to wear white. Toss tradition aside and go ahead and do what you want. Just be sure the gown compliments your age and body shape and doesn't seem too virginal. If your previous wedding was annulled, you also may be able to wear a wedding veil.

**Include your children in the festivities and planning.** If you or your future spouse has children from a previous marriage, make them feel a part of this new

blended family by including them in the second wedding. They may play a role in the ceremony, such as making a speech or reading a religious passage. Other brides and grooms choose to have their children walk them down the aisle this time around. Also, involve the kids in the planning. They may be excited to help you choose wedding vendors or address invitations.

**Personalize your event.** Take the time to write your own vows, make hand-made favors or single out the special people in your lives.

**Feel free to be extravagant.** You may be more established in life with a secure job and bigger paycheck. Therefore you can expand the wedding budget a little more. Go for all of the goodies you may have passed on with your previous marriage, such as exotic foods or that extra-long honeymoon.

**Involve the groom as well.** Today's modern men want a say in their wedding just as much as the bride. Make sure he is apprised of all the details and ensure that he is able to make it to vendor appointments and the like.

Just as a second wedding is a second chance for happiness, it is another opportunity to throw the wedding of your dreams.

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## Finding the perfect wedding gown,

continued from Page 3

true when it comes to bridal attire. It is hard to determine what a gown really looks like and feels like by just seeing a picture on a website. Kim, at A'doraBelle Bridal in Waterford says, "There are many horror stories from brides who were taken advantage of when they were not aware of how to protect themselves (and their money). These brides are often scrambling to find a gown they can afford last minute." When placing a special order, the bridal salon usually requires ½ of the purchase price as a non-refundable deposit. Once a wedding gown is in production, the store owner is required to take that dress so before ordering, make sure your decision is firm and final. Some stores offer rack samples at wonderful discounts. If your budget is tight, ask about these gowns first. You may just find the dress of your dreams and save as much as 80% off the retail price.

**Alterations:** Whether you are shopping at a full service bridal salon, warehouse, etc., the salesperson should make you aware of the various types of size choices. You should be measured by an experienced bridal consultant or alteration specialist. While most gowns need some alterations, the cost is usually not included in the price of the gown. Be sure to allow for alteration

prices when making your choice.

**Wedding Gown Etiquette for the Second-Time Bride:** Before Queen Victoria set the trend with a white wedding gown in 1840, most brides wore their best dress. In the years following the queen's wedding, white became the symbol of purity—a tradition that prompted much debate over whether second-time brides should wear white. In today's modern world, the answer is a resounding, "yes"! Regarded as a symbol of joy instead of virginity, white is an acceptable color for a second wedding gown.

Second wedding dress selection guidelines apply to all brides: Your gown's color and style should be determined by the size, time and season of your wedding ceremony and reception. With so many available design and fabric choices these days, finding a gown that matches your personal style and taste should not be very hard.

A blusher veil that covers the face should be reserved for first-time brides and one of the few real fashion "no-no's" for second-time brides. Trains on a second wedding gown are fine, but keep it simple, again matching the formality and style of the wedding.

## Smaller, more intimate weddings,

continued from Page 5

the bride walks down the cobblestone pathway to meet her groom in our garden, she seems to be more relaxed when surrounded by her closest family members and friends, those in which her nuptials are truly meaningful. In years past, our couples would go on to have much larger receptions. That trend seems to be shifting to more intimate parties where the couple can lavish their cherished guests."

Smaller weddings can allow the couple the advantage to splurge on things they may not have considered otherwise. Brides are walking down the aisle to string quartets instead of taped music, or having a lovely intimate reception in a private room of a four star restaurant. Occasionally,

couples will choose to forgo a large wedding and leave the day after their festivities for the honeymoon of their dreams.

Even if your only reason for a small wedding is that a large service just doesn't reflect your personal style, your wedding day will be one of the most important and memorable days of your life. Looking back at your photos in years to come will be filled with memories of how glamorous and elaborate your intimate small wedding was.

"As for me," Mary adds, "I've personally never heard anyone say that they wish they had spent more money on a larger affair."

## Avoid becoming the 'Bridezilla,'

continued from Page 12

stylist for you

- set up your entire wedding party
- inform you of packages that fit just right for you and your budget
- bring in any requested food/ beverage that day
- have your "Bridal Salon Registry cards" ready to insert into your shower invites!

### 1-2 months prior

- Consultation with your stylist, nail tech, spa staff
- Bring in a picture of your dress-preferably if you are in it- just not the magazine picture
- Bring in a picture of your veil
- Bring in magazine pictures of hairstyles that you like. This will give your stylist an idea of what your taste is, and be able to make suggestions from there.

- Discuss your makeup options.

### 1-2 weeks prior

- Practice run on your hair with veil.
- Get your nails and toes looking amazing for your bachelorette party and your wedding day!
- Get a relaxing massage & a facial to

exfoliate your skin so you are really glowing!

- Try a spray tan a few days before to ensure a nice color up against that beautiful white gown!

### Your wedding day!

- Bring these things with you to the salon
- A button down shirt
- Your veil
- A small purse to put these things in (some salons/spas will give you goodies to take with you!)
- Safety pins, Bobby pins, Lip gloss, Powder/bronzer, Mini hairspray, Camera
- Let's not forget the breath mints! You will be kissing a lot!

Last but not least bring your beautiful smile and a great attitude! This is YOUR SPECIAL DAY. Breathe every second in and enjoy the special people you chose to share this day with you. You will all have fun and remember you are "Creating Memories."

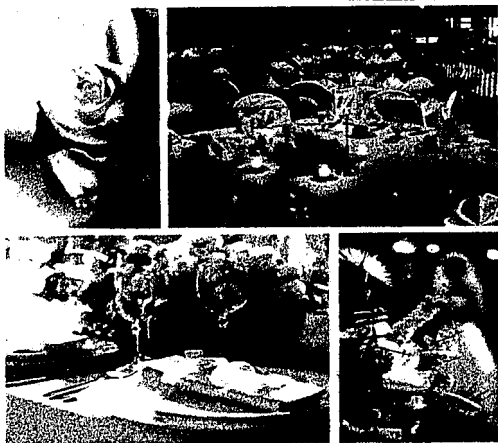
*Shelly Kovach is a long-time Clarkston area resident who writes the column Shelly Says about style, fashion, advice and solutions for everyday situations with women in mind*

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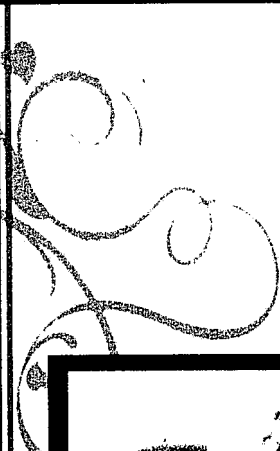
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