# In today's edition, Township news......3A,5A Op-ed.....6A-7A Cop log......9A Sports.....10A-12A

# Locals go for gold at games

### BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Staff Writer

When the torch is lit for Michigan Senior Winter Olympics, Monday, Clarkstonites Tom Decker, Debbie Elert and Margaret Whitcomb will be ready.

Decker is competing for his second winter in pickleball after winning a silver medal in the men's double tournament with partner, Dick Manasseri.

This year he is competing in three events, the singles, men's doubles with Shooter Woods and mixed doubles with Bonnie Otis.

"I hope to finish better than silver in each one," Decker admitted.

He added he and his partners have to practice to anticipate what each is going to do and where they are going to be so they can make adjustments. Both his partners are left handed so he is ready.

Both have also participated in the Michigan Senior Olympics and have done well.

"They have to carry me," he joked.

Decker began playing pickleball three years ago when he and his wife saw an advertisement for pickleball. He was intrigued since he had played racket sports competitively his whole life.

"We did fairly well and started playing three days a week minimum," he added.

Elert and Whitcomb are competing in the dancing competition.

"My husband and I have been ballroom dancing for several years," said Whitcomb. "We went to the event just as an event not to participate. Last year I was dancing with one of my old dance instructors and somebody came up to us and said 'you guys should enter.' I thought no, I don't like competition and I didn't think much about it."

Please see Olympics on page 15A



# Shaken, not stirred

Christina Calka shakes up a martini for guests during the Strolling Cocktail Party in downtown Clarkston, Jan. 21. Please see page 10B for more pictures of the event. Photo by Trevor Keiser

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# School bond a blank check?

Supt. Rock says 'no'

### BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

In a letter to the editor this week, Independence Township resident Michael Powell is concerned the proposed non-qualified school bond would provide a blank check to Clarkston schools.

Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock said it won't. "At the Feb. 13 meeting, administration will ask the board to adopt a resolution stating the 2012 bond will not exceed one mill for the duration of the bond," Rock said. "Any time a new person is elected to the board. administration will ask the board to re-adopt this resolution."

The bond allows Clarkston schools the flexibiliy of adjusting the amount of second and third bonds up or down, depending on property values, Rock said.

"A standard bond, wherein the district receives all of the money in a single payment, would not allow this flexibility," Rock said. "This is the reason that this bond is a safe, sound, and flexible option for taxpayers."

The proposal is based on district bond counsel's estimate of property values for the next several years, he said.

"In the unlikely event that property values trend downward from these conservative and informed estimates, the district will adjust the amount of money in the second and third series of the bond in order to maintain the one mill increase," he said. "The district resolves, pending the board's adoption of the resolution, to maintain a one mill increase through the entire duration of the bond, which is paid in full in 2029."

Powell remains unconvinced.

"Voters who passed Economics 101 know that the only way 'to maintain a one mill increase' when 'property values trend downward' is to raise taxes above one mill," Powell said. "When the public knows this can be done 'through the entire duration of the bond' I doubt they'll be happy."

Administration considered and rejected a standard-state bond and a sinking fund before deciding on the non-qualified loan, Rock

Please see Bond on page 16A

# "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!







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teacher Sarah Petkwitz laughs with Isabella Klos



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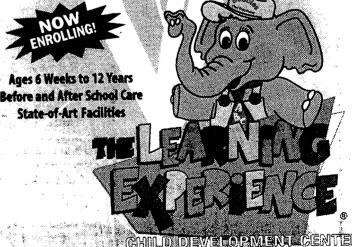




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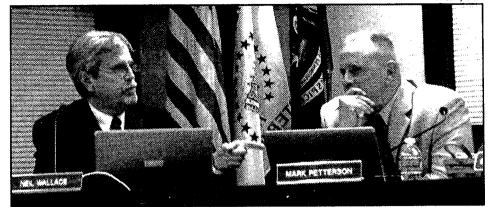
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Trustee Neil Wallace explains to Trustee Mark Petterson why a court order requires a lawsuit. Photo by Trevor Keiser

# Deputies will remove uninviteds

BYTREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Township officials worked out how to deal with future closed-session disruptions - deputies will intervene if called upon by the township attorney.

Neil Wallace, Independence Township trustee, accepts that for now.

"I guess we'll have to experiment with it, I hope it doesn't come up again," Wallace said at the Jan. 17 township meeting.

"It should be enough that we as a board take a vote (for the law to be enforced.) We shouldn't have to have our attorney here or on call."

The township board called deputies to remove Deputy Supervisor Mike Clark from closed session, Dec. 20. Deputies declined, citing a need for a court order.

Wallace previously said a lawsuit may be required to get a court order, but now says it's unnecessary.

If the situation recurs, the board could hire its own constable or township marshal, he said.

Trustee Larry Rosso thought it was important to clarify the issue.

That in itself is an excellent step. Our Lt. (Dale LaBair) should take notice," Rosso said. "It's sorry when we spend millions of dollars

on police budget and police contract that they in this instance didn't respond accordingly to what we thought they should have done."

Trustee David Lohmeier said the situation is unique.

"I think we're all in understanding that it isn't allowed and the title deputy supervisor doesn't give you the right to any special treatment," he said. "I'm hopeful we won't have this same occurrence again. I certainly believe the Sheriff's department doesn't want to have a reoccurrence."

Treasurer Curt Carson agreed they should have had a right to a closed meeting, but said he did not feel threatened by Mike Clark and thought "the whole incident was overblown."

"I think we were educated that night and since then we've all been educated some more," Carson said. "I am not interested in bashing the sheriff's department and certainly not interested in suing them."

Clerk Barbara Pallotta also did not feel threatened, but was "annoyed" they couldn't conduct their closed session.

, "I don't believe we need a sheriff here or a sergeant of arms," she said. "But we do need something in place so that we're not reactionary if we are threatened here."

The board will discuss employee action towards Mike Clark at Jan 31 meeting.

# Traffic-light upgrades in spring

### BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Improvements to intersections at Flemings Lakes and Clarkston roads and Walters and Waldon roads are expected by early spring.

Independence Township entered into a cooperative agreement with Clarkston schools in fall 2011 to install left-turn signals and no-turn-on-red signs.

'There was a need to provide protected left turns at the intersections," said Randy Ford, senior associate with Township engineering firm Hubbell Roth & Clark.

The project is being paid through tri-party funds. It was originally estimated to cost was

\$35,000, but bids came in much lower. Out of four bids, the township awarded the project to lowest bidder, Metropolitan Power and Lighting based in Imlay City.

The bid came in at \$12,816.

"We did review this with the county, they were quite surprised by the number," said Ford. "I am confident there is going to be a real cost savings to the school district."

Trustee David Lohmeier thanks Ford for his "diligence" along with Department of Public Works Director Linda Richardson and "everyone else involved" in the project.

Trustee Larry Rosso agreed.

"It's a good use of our tri-party money that we haven't been able to use," he said.

# **Briefly**

# **Public hearings**

Independence Township Planning Commission will hear public comments on several business expansion plans, Feb. 9.

Regency Indepedence Center on Sashabaw Road at Maybee Road seeks special land use approval to build a Kroger gas station.

Also, McDonalds on Dixie Highway at Maybee Road wants a special land use permit to expand its drivethrough to two lanes, Taco Bell seeks special land use approval for two additional wall signs at its new Sashabaw Road location, just north of I-75.

Also on the agenda is a special land use request by Timothy Milko to sell guns at 6796 Balmoral Terrace, Waterford Hill Manor.

The public hearings start at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9, at Independence Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Drive, Call 248-625-8111.

# Sadie Hawkins

Ladies, time to ask your guy out! It's the Sadie Hawkins dance at Clarkston High School.

Tickets are now on sale for the dance for high school students and freshmen from Clarkston Junior High School.

Tickets are \$10 and are available before and after school as well as all three

The Black and White themed dance is Saturday, Feb. 4, 7-10 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The dance is semi-formal, students can wear skirts, dresses, khakis, or dress pants with a nice collared shirt, sweater, or polo shirt. Please, no jeans.

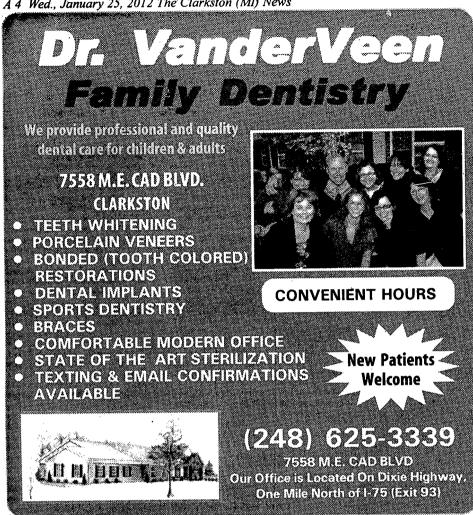
The dance will feature a dessert buffet full of wonderful black and white candies and treats.

# **Pre-School meeting**

Clarkston Area Chapter of Mothers & More bosts a Pre-School Meet and Greet, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 21, at Oakland Christian School, 6300 Clarkston

The "fair-style" event allows families to do one-stop comparisons of area preschools. Admission is free and it is open to the public.

For more information, email-ClarkstonClub@gmail.com, or visit the website chapter's www.clarkstonareamothersandmore.com



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# Good student, good citizen

### BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

Melissa Pavlik is Sashabaw Plains Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution's pick for this year's Good Citizen award.

"Wow, I couldn't be more honored or grateful," said Pavlik, Clarkston High School student. "DAR is such a wonderful organization, and I am ecstatic that they're recognizing me in this way."

Pavlik is interested in government and politics, participating in International Baccalaureate, Youth in Government, Mock Trial, and National Honor Society.

"Most of the rest of the things I do involve some sort of political activism," she said. "I guess that goes back to my core beliefs about the importance of at least trying to save the world - even if your piece of saving it happens to be spending Tuesdays walking around picking up recycling at the high school. Everything counts."

She has won awards in piano competitions, community art shows, and national design competitions.

She also volunteers weekly at Oakland University basketball camp for young autistic children, and she offers free tutoring through National Honor Society, helping children with reading. She has been involved with the SCAMP program for six years, and created a sibling support group for children who have siblings with autism.

"A lot of the volunteer activities I do are related to the autism community, which started, I guess, because my brother has autism," she said. "The autism community is so incredibly important to me.'



Melissa Pavlik

She also established an international pen pal program between fourth graders at Clarkston Elementary and a primary school in England.

"I guess the most important thing for me is focusing on things wrong in the world that could be right, and fixing them," she said. "I essentially want to have a long activist career that will probably leave me a grumpy cynic - but will hopefully also leave some Third World school with new school supplies. That'd be enough for me!"

The Daughters group will honor outstanding students throughout the area at a special luncheon at Red Knapp's, Feb. 14. All students representing their schools will be awarded Good Citizen pins, certificates, and monetary gifts.



# Metal worker crafts motorcycle art for eatery

Pete Will of Clarkston made a unique piece of artwork for the Union restaurant on Main Street. He spent about 13 hours crafting the metal sculpture. "I know they're motorcycle guys, so I thought I'd go with the oldest looking Harley I could find," said Will, a welder for the past 12 years and metal artist for eight. The sculpture includes springs, bearings, a bit of chain, and other motorcycle parts. "It's all handbuilt, using what .i.could find,". he said. Photo by Phil Custodio

# Resident wants apology for tractor case

BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

H. Wallace Parker has an ultimatum for Independence Township Board - apolo-

gize or get sued.

"I hereby demand that you publish a retraction in both the Oakland Press and the Clarkston News. I, further, demand you privately and publicly apologize for defamation, libel, and disparagement of my reputation," Parker wrote in a July 12 letter to the board. "You have 30 days to accomplish this."

In July 2011, township employees saw a tractor on his Pine Knob Road property similar to one missing from the township. The township sent a private investigator over to look at the property and take photos. Employees determined Parker's tractor was not the one missing from the township.

Though cleared, Parker still wants an apology from the board.

"We never saw the tractor on your place we know you had nothing to do with theft or displacement of our property and

Window clinic at historic church

Learn window-repair skills while helping to refurbish a historic church, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 4, at the former Sashabaw Plains Presbyterian Church, 5331 Maybee Road

The front two windows will be removed, refurbished, and reinstalled that day. Jim Turner, Turner Restoration, and Michigan Historic Preservation Network offers handson training in repairing and restoring wood

Registration for the free workshop is 8:30 a.m. breakfast and lunch available for \$20. Participation is limited and will be filled on a first-come basis. Visitors and observers are welcome at any time during the work-

Training includes weatherization and sustainability benefits, as well as proper care and maintenance of wood windows. The workshop will teach individuals how to keep their existing windows serving another 50-80 years.

Sponsors are Clarkston Community Historical Society, Clarkston Historic District Commission, Daughters of the American Revolution Sashabaw Plains Chapter, Michigan Historic Preservation Network, Oakland Count y Historical Commission, Oakland County Economic Development and Community Affairs, and the Sashabaw Presbyterian Church.

For info email, campbellr@oakgov.com or-call-248-858-5436-

we're sorry.' That's all I need to hear," he said. "I would be satisfied with that, but if they don't do it, we'll have to settle it another way and that's through court."

Parker, who is chief council for North Oakland Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, reprimanded the board for their actions.

"You were grossly negligent in accusing me, the only minority that lives in Independence Township who owns agriculture property," Parker said in his letter. "Obviously, it gives the impression that, 'if the law has been compromised or breached, it has to be by the only minority horse rancher.""

Trustee David Lohmeier acknowledged receipt of Parker's letter.

"I got a copy of the letter, but I think we need to talk about it as a board first," he said.

Clerk Barbara Pallotta agreed.

"I don't think I'm able to discuss it under our attorney's advice," she said. "He's reviewing everything right now and we'll going into closed session on it."

Treasurer Curt Carson said he didn't know enough about it until they have a meeting and he finds out "what's really going on."

In his letter, Parker also singled out Trustee Neil Wallace for "wasting a lot of tax dollars," when Wallace should have known Parker "would not take or conceal property.'

According to sheriff investigation, a Department of Public Works employee received a call before the July 4 weekend from Wallace, "who gave him an address on Pine Knob Road and asked him to have the park's guys go by the address to see if the tractor in the yard could be the one that belonged to the township."

Trustee Mark Petterson said he is "ashamed of Mr. Wallace," and feels the community "should not trust him anymore and he should resign immediately."

"There is no question from that report that Mr. Wallace exceeded his authority, he has no authority to send anybody anywhere," Petterson said. "Now, he's put the township in jeopardy of a lawsuit and we will not win."

The sheriff report also indicated Wallace refused to be interviewed by the police after several phone calls and two "failed to show." To date, Wallace has never been interviewed concerning the investigation.

Wallace did not reply to e-mail requesting comments.



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# Keiser's Role

A column by Trevor Keiser

# Tractorgate

The story started out as a supervisor in Independence Township (Dave Wagner) "exceeding his authority by giving away township property" AKA a broken down tractor to its original owner who donated it to the township some 25-

30 years earlier. This led to angry township board members wanting to spend tax dollars on Oakland Sheriff County



find the "missing tractor" and if the supervisor had committed a crime. Despite recieving letters from the orginal donor stating he recieved his tractor back and had it "properly disposed of."

The story ended with two sheriff investigations and an Oakland Prosecutor's office coming up with the same conclusion "insufficient evidence of a crime being committed." The prosecutor's office also pointed out the tractor was never even township property because they never voted on the acceptance of the proposed donation of the tractor, as required by law.

What happen in the middle you ask? The answer: A man by the name of H. Wallace Parker who owns a tractor that looks similar to that of the township's gets township employees driving back and forth and investigators at his property taking pictures trying to determine if that's "their tractor."

Who was the middle "hatchet man?" A trustee (Neil Wallace) who took matters into his own hands by picking up the phone giving out a house address and asking township employees to drive by to check the tractor on the property.

Since when does a trustee ever have the power to direct a township employee to do anything? Since when does an employee listen to someone who is not

Surprising since this is the same trustee who has scolded the supervisor in public meetings by saying "it's the board who makes the decisions."

Well if that's the case, then shouldn't "the board" have been immediately informed a similar looking tractor was seen and a special meeting called of how to handle it? I guess we won't know since Mr. Wallace refused to be interviewed by the police and doesn't return e-mails to the news seeking answers. It raises the question what does he have to hide?

# Councilman ready to sign petition

Letter to the editor

A few comments on your Jan. 11 article on Cory Johnston's initiative to dissolve the City of Clarkston ("New Year, New Effort to Dissolve Clarkston").

It is a legitimate question to ask what the city's taxpayers are getting for the extra tax burden. That is why I will sign

Cory's petition. This deserves a public airing and a vote by the city residents. My disposition now is to vote against dissolution in order to maintain the city's local control over its historic district and zoning, but I will listen to the dissolutionists' arguments.

I have an alternative proposal that would preserve local control over some things but eliminate the duplicative layer of city government that Clarkston residents now pay more for: A negotiated consolidation-approved by the voters-in which the former Clarkston (or perhaps a part of it) is a separate district in the consolidated municipality with a limited governmental structure that would have authority over zoning and the historic district.

A small board, perhaps five persons,

elected by district residents could exercise those powers. That district board could be funded by a small district millage. The remaining governmental functions would be handled in the larger, consolidated munici-

pality and the former Clarkston residents would have the same voting rights as the other residents of the

consolidated municipality.

This would eliminate most of the duplicative overhead that we now have in city government and consolidate most government functions into a larger municipality that has the staff and financial means to perform them more efficiently. It would be similar to the village structure that existed before Clarkston became a city, but without the more extensive governmental overhead that a village form of government would require. And it would preserve some measure of local control. Under present state law, this kind of a consolidation doesn't seem to be possible. I'm working on getting legislation that would

Richard Bisio Clarkston

# Thoughts on school bond issue

Thumbs up to Joan Patterson, Susan Boatman and Rosalie Lieblang for looking out for taxpayers by voting no on the May 8 special election.

Thumbs down to Barry Bomier, Elizabeth Egan, Steve Hyer, and Cheryl McGinnis, the four Clarkston school district board members who didn't blink an eve when they voted to waste \$35,000 on the May 8 special election that disenfranchises senior citizens and voters without kids in K-12. They've proven to us that they can't be trusted with any more of our money.

Here are the bond facts they don't want you to know:

- Clarkston School District is using your tax dollars to promote this tax increase proposal on its website and its email system.
- · A recent email blast claimed the bond will result in a 1 mill tax increase. When in fact the increase is estimated to be 1 mill and can be adjusted higher according to tax revenue. Without your vote!
- Defaulting on this nonqualifying bond is
- · To keep from defaulting, the board can raise the millage if tax revenue declines. Without your vote!
- · School district is already collecting the maximum 7mills allowed by the state for bonds who's repayment has been extended to 2033. 21 years!

- · The school district has for the past few years had to borrow from the School Bond Loan Fund to make its current bond payments.
- · Nonqualifying bonds have no state oversight.
- · Without state oversight, this bond could be used for anything that qualifies as a capital expenditure.
- This bond will be assessed from 2012-2029 - 17 years!
- · Just two years ago, the school district spent over \$400,000 to implement the computer-based Fast ForWord program. Even though we paid for it to be used by every child in the district, it is not being used differently than before they spent the \$400,000.
- Superintendent Rock and his family won't be affected by this \$100+ "Its for the kids" tax hike, he doesn't even live in our school dis-
- You won't ever know how much this bond will cost you or your family in the future because the mills on this bond can be adjusted. Without your vote!

Spending \$35,000 for a special election on a bond that will put the community further in debt is a fiscally irresponsible thing to do. It's time to set an example of what responsible people do when they're in debt. Say NO to more debt, May 8. It's the responsible thing to

Michael and Lori Powell Independence Township

# A Look Back

From The CNews archives

# 15 years ago - 1997

"More restaurants coming to Dixie" With all the growth and development in the township came the need and desire for more restaurants. Interested businesses included Outback Steakhouse, as well as a new, larger Pete's Coney II.

"City OK's Mill Mall addition" Clarkston City Council approved a 9,732square-foot expansion, adding office space to the Washington Street building. Bowen Broock, owner of Max Broock Inc. voiced concern there was already too much office space available in Clarkston.

"Downtown branch staying? Don't bank on says NBD" Independence Township trustees joined local business and civic groups asking NBD to not close the downtown Main Street bank. Bank officials were looking to move out of the historic building to avoid over saturation of the market.

# 25 years ago - 1987

"Celebrate" Bells Rang and lights shined as Independence Township and the Village of Clarkston participated in the State of Michigan's 150th birthday celebration.

"Sashabaw - hot spot" Independence Township Growth Committee recommended preserving the Village of Clarkston and M-15 as the residential core of the area. It also said Sashabaw Road was soon to be the primary commercial center of the community, and I-75 and Clintonville Road would best be suited for industrial zoning if ramps to I-75 were

"Residents air views on I-75" Safety paths, aesthetically pleasing noise barriers, overpass improvements, community traffic jams and equipment storage were the concerns of eight Independence Township residents who spoke at a public hearing regarding widening I-75. The state was considering improvements at Sashabaw and Clintonville roads.

# 50 years ago - 1962

"Davisburg man on 'Price Is Right" Airforce Captain Morgan Lily was chosen as a contestant on the Price is Right. Prizes won by the Captain were worth \$8,000. They include a \$2,200 diamond ring, a 1962 Ford Falcon station wagon, a \$500 pewter set, a bed room suite, a dining room suite, and a complete movie camera and projector outfit.

"Clarkston locals" Terrie Leaver of Clarkston just got over the hard measles. Her brother Stevie was home from school and was expected to come down with them anytime.

Write a letter to the editor at ClarkstonNews@gmail.com

# Historic headline: World ending this season

That was the prediction of Professor Pay Astrologer wasted trying to win that sum. and seer from France as reported in The Oxford Leader

"A tremendous noise will be heard, huge numbers will die all over the globe, North and South America will suffer most, the Pope will be assassinated, few people will survive and the survivors will create a new social system as man will become wiser and more tender."

See, it wasn't all bad news. Of course Professor Pay said it was all foretold in the Bible.

As I scrounged through that 1928 newspaper and saw that story the thought occurred: How many times have I seen and heard stories of our earth ending?

The Mayans have the most recent announcement, I think (though they made it thousands of years ago). My researcher C. J. says such predictions are common at the end of every century.

Eventually, of course, an excuse is offered, like, oh, I forgot leap year, I had only one strong beverage, it was a computer error or April Fool!

- - - 0 - -

Next time the media goes wild with the announcement from the Michigan Lottery Commission about someone winning a lot of money in a drawing, I want to see an accompanying story of how much money was

(And don't justify it by saying it goes for education. A gambling scheme should not be used to finance education.)

Jim's **Jottings** 



a column by Jim Sherman

Wow, Sunday night after football I was sure happy to have my clicker. Nothing in my tv guide caught my attention, so I just let the programs flit by. Then I clicked to Hee Haw!

- - - 0 - - -

Ah, good old country "corn." Roy Clark, Buck Owens, Ma and Pa Kettle and guitar and banjo pickin' made my

They just don't produce shows like that any more.

When I met John Patrell, he said the Dead Sea was only sick when he was born.

He was the first one I heard tell that joke. I had to call and tell him his joke finally made it big time. Stephen Tyler, a host of American Idol, said it recently, "When I was born the Dead Sea was only sick."

Smile, John.

- - - 0 - - -

Do you suppose our Founding Fathers voted for legislation without reading it first?

That seems to be the practice in Washington now, at least in Pelosi's seat. - - - 0 - - -

• On January 1, a movie was promoted as "One of the best films of the year." I suppose that was true, but the year was only a day old.

• If pushing gambling, a la Michigan Lottery, is such a great way to raise money for education, why not support police, fire, parks, etc the same way?

• When I had a few bucks to invest some years ago, I gave it to AARP. They keep bragging about their ways of helping seniors, so I ventured. Then I found I could buy stock from the same company they did for less. I turned against AARP immediately.

• With such a high percentage of people telling pollsters they are "undecided" on who to vote for right up to ballot deadlines, I'm wondering: if only one party was listed on the ballot, with only one name on it, would the undecideds still have high numbers? I think many people just want questioners to bug out.

• A baby porcupine said to the hair brush, "Is that

• Adam and Eve had the first rib joint.

# Anarchy on the streets in North Oakland?

Whether folks know it or not, whether they see it or turn away, whether they want to believe it or not, there's an undercurrent of unrest in North Oakland County.

Long known for its lily white, hardworking, apple pie eating, American car driving, church going, I love Mom, the U.S. and Ronald Reagan Republican types the area is starting to generate some thinkers instead of the Stepford-like, go-with-the-flowers. Some folks are openly questioning the status-quo and challenging authority figures.

I've been sitting back and watching and connecting the dots, if you will.

It started kinda of small. Remember a few years back, when a group of men and pistol-toting mamas started gathering -- right out in the open -- for picnic lunches at Oxford's Seymour Lake Park?

That ruffled some feathers of the Oxford establishment.

Then an Independence Township industrial type (who must have listened to the advice told to Dustin Hoffman in the movie, The Gradu-

ate: "plastics.") starts promoting Tea healthy dose of skepticism. Party activities and open promotes actual candidate debates during an election year.

People in Orion openly and bra-

zenly question the action of the township board in regards to accepting a landfill's bid to grow and a million or so dollars in return.



Don't

**Rush Me** 

A column by Don Rush

And the coup-degrace, in my mind, are school boards are no longer the straight-ticket-voting, groveling-to-superintendent-de-

People are looking around themselves, looking at the decisions of their locally elected (as well as regionally, and nationally) and asking questions. And, it is making some feel a little

mands bodies these days.

Anarchy in the streets? Hardly. Will policy and practice change? Probably not. But it's good to have a

Skepticism promotes involvement. Our constitutionally limited republic, needs.its citizenry to be involved. It also needs its citizenry to be educated. But we -- young and old -- don't need to be taught what to think, we need to be taught how to think.

It was the revolutionary thinking during the Enlightenment that led to the formation of this nation. Thinkers questioned. They debated. They challenged the establishment and themselves. They sought the ever-elusive, non-faith-based idea of truth (whatever that is).

It was a time when both men AND women refused to "just" believe that God had appointed their king; that God had proclaimed who will suffer and who will live in luxury.

These folks of yore exercised a little used practice called Freethought. And, guess what? Freethought may be making a comeback right here in North Oakland County.

Reader Ewa Tomarke has established, and I quote, "A community of FreeThinkers and FreeThinker Don@ShermanPubliations.org

friendly people who prefer to form opinions on the basis of reason, independent of authority or tradition."

The group is called the North Oakland County Free Thinkers, they have a website to start discussions and meetings to continue discussions.

"The purpose is to learn. To better function as a society. We want more tolerance. Today there is only a power struggle of who is right instead of looking for the truth," she said, adding people base their arguments on what they "feel" versus what they know.

The group meets for lunch on the first Saturday of the month in Oxford. For more info go to their website, www.meetup.com/ NOCFreeThinkers

Tomarke said the group welcomes any who want to enter the discussion, and they are actively seeking educators and science-types -- folks directly involved in research and study groups.

Will free-thinking be silenced and intimidated? Only time will tell, but it should be interesting, indeed. What do you think, e-mail For years, **McLaren Health Care Village at Clarkston** has been the name you and your family have trusted for leading-edge health care. Now, we're proud to announce our new name.

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# Driving with marijuana

A 26-year-old Carson City man and 25-year-old Owosso man were pulled over for expired tags, 5:48 p.m., Jan. 8, at Sashabaw and Maybee roads. Smelling of marijuana, the 25-year-old said he had some in the center console. He was cited with possession of marijuana. The Carson City man was cited for providing a false name to the deputy, and advised and released on a misdemeanor warrant out of Montcalm County.

# **Break-ins**

Whipple Lake Road residents returned home, 10:19 p.m., Jan. 11, to find the back sliding door open. It had been left unlocked. Video game system, DVDs, and jewelry had been taken.

A Dixie Highway resident couldn't close the deadbolt lock of her apartment, Jan. 12, and found it was because someone had pried it loose and damaged it.

Someone kicked in the front door of a home in the 2000 block of Mann Road, between 5:15-8 p.m., Jan. 13, and took video games, systems, and controllers. The back door had also been kicked but its deadbolt held.

A GPS unit and tools were taken from a business in the 5000 block of Waldon Road, Jan. 14.

A license plate was taken from a car in the 5000 block of Upland Drive, Jan. 13.



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

# Warrant arrest

A deputy on patrol thought a car at Sashabaw and Maybee roads looked like one listed in a larceny report and checked it out, 4:40 p.m., Jan. 14. It wasn't, but its license plate was expired. The driver, a 27-year-old Groveland Township man, was arrested and jailed on a warrant for failure to appear on a drunk driving charge.

# Alert deputy closes cases

A deputy on patrol spotted a vehicle backed into a driveway at an empty lot in the 1000 block of Blue Spruce, 3:58 p.m., Jan. 15, and checked it out. There had been a number of breaking-and-entering cases at the location. The driver, a 23-year-old Clarkston man, said they were there to visit a friend. The passenger, a 22-year-old Pontiac man, was found to have a felony warrant out of 50th District Court for theft, and arrested. In the backseat were several speakers, CDs, syringe wrappers, and a jacket. The jacket had syringes and heroin in its pockets. Both suspects said it belonged to the other. Investigation continues.

# Smoke alert

Independence Township firefighters and deputies responded to reports of smoke in the 4000 block of Rockcroft, 1:47 a.m., Jan. 15. They found a pot smoking on the stovetop, and a resident, a 54-year-old man, curled up under a blanket on the couch with an empty bottle of vodka and a bag of prescription medicine. He was taken to POH for treatment and detox. The firefighters cleared the apartment of smoke.

# **Burglary suspects caught**

On patrol in the 2000 block of Mann Road and Blue Spruce, a deputy spotted two men fitting the description from an earlier burglary sitting inside a vehicle, 4:01 p.m., Jan. 15. The deputy stopped the suspicious subjects, ages 22 and 23, and learned one of them was wanted for an outstanding felony warrant for breaking-andentering and larceny. He was arrested and also found to be in possession of suspected heroin. Narcotics Enforcement Team detectives are investigating. Both suspects were jailed.

# Shooting at squirrels

Independence Township residents called the sheriff's department to report shots fired, 6:28 a.m., Jan. 14. The shots were traced to an apartment in the 5000 block of Dixie Highway. The 21-year-old resident didn't give deputies permission to look in his apartment. but a pat down for weapons revealed a recently fired, spent shotgun shell in his shorts pocket. Asked why it was there, he said he carried it for luck. He said his identification was in the apartment, and gave permission to deputies to follow him. Asked about the .22-caliber rifle and 12-gauge shotgun inside, he said he was hunting squirrels on his deck. Preliminary breath test result was .202. He was cited for discharging a firearm at a dwelling, and deputies logged in the rifle, shotgun, and a compound bow.

# Found with marijuana

A 23-year-old Independence Township man was stopped at Maybee and Spring Lake Boulevard for driving with a suspended license, 3:44 p.m., Jan. 17. He said he was driving home from a job interview. An impound inventory revealed a baggie of marijuana in the glove box, and marijuana cigarette under the front passenger seat. He was cited for driving with a suspended license and possession of marijuana.

Call Oakland County Sheriff's Office CRIME TIPLINE, 888-TURN-1-IN OR 1-888-887-6146.

# High schoolers give back to community

### BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Students at Clarkston High School are gearing up for LEAD's annual Charity Week, beginning Monday.

"We host Charity Week every year as a way to involve the student body in giving back to the community," said Alyssa Setting, from CHS LEAD. "We like to give the students a better understanding of the world by informing them about people who benefit from their support."

It begins with a Penny War with the sophomores, juniors and seniors going

against each other in a class battle and ends with a Lunch Carnival on Friday.

The community can help by attending the first ever "C" Factor Talent Showcase at the Clarkston Junior High School on Tuesday, 5 p.m. Proceeds from the event and from during the week go to The Rainbow Connection. Also, Care House of Oakland County will benefit.

The other event to attend is the Jimmy V Volleyball Tournament, where teams of students and staff compete in volleyball games while raising money for the V Foundation for Cancer Research, formed by former basket-

ball coach Jim Valvano and ESPN.

Funds from admissions, concessions and donations will go towards the foundation.

The tournament is Thursday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m. at Clarkston High School.

Another way to help out is to donate items to the Care House of Oakland County – antiseptic wipes, gift cards arts and crafts, soap and detergent, batteries, diapers, and other baby supplies.

Drop off donations in Amy Quayle's room A235 at the high school, 6093 Flemings Lake Road. Contact aequayle@clarkston.k12.mi.us or call the high school, 248-623-3600.



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# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



# Excelling on court, in classroom

### BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior Megan Hastings boosted her Clarkston Lady Wolves Varsity Basketball team last Thursday, adding 16 points to the score in the win against North Farmington, 58-42.

'She is not the tallest, fastest or most athletic kid on the floor but she uses her strengths of mental toughness and knowledge of the game to excel," said mom, Kaye. "Her work ethic at the game, even as a senior, is what makes us the most proud of her accomplishments."

Her work ethic also transends to the classroom as she finished her first trimester with a 4.0 grade point average and continues to maintain in the current second trimester at Clarkston High School.

"It is kind of hard," Megan admitted about balancing school and both her sports - basketball and softball. "My parents are big on grades and school comes first. I am taking hard classes and I am in OSMTech. I just have to keep focused. It is doable but it is hard."

Megan is currently in AP Biology, AP Calculus, Civics, Economics and Pschology. Last semester she was in AP Biology, AP Calculus, Psychology as well with Accounting and Human Relations.

She plans to become a pharmacist and knows colleges look at the Advanced Placement courses plus it will help prepare her for college classes.

Megan, a four year starter, finishes every game by going home and analyzing the video her dad, Stu, shot during the

"After four years of doing this, Megan is the one ready for video analysis," said Kave. "She has come to love that time with her dad and his ability to be able to help her become the player she is today."

Megan is still deciding on where she would like to go to college. She has offers to continue playing either basketball or softball at the next level.

"I cannot pick," she said still debating between the two sports she excels and enjoys playing.

Megan does know the younger athletes looking up to her and her teammates need to work hard and stick with the game.

"I know there are a lot of girls that aren't coming out as much so basketball is dropping out," she said. "They just need to keep practicing and practicing.

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# Back on track with win

### BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Cagers were back on track after posting their first loss in the season to Detroit Community on Jan. 17.

They followed the 46-37 loss at home with a win on the road against Southfield last Friday, 64-48.

"We played much better," said Dan Fife, Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball head coach, about the difference between the two games. "Our effort was much better. Our body language was much better. I am happy with the way our kids responded."

The boys opened the game with a basket from senior Matt Dellinger and a 3-pointer from senior Mitch Baenziger. They continued to add onto the scoreboard, ending the first quarter with a 21-9 lead.

Mark Tynan opened the second quarter with a field goal to create more distance in the score. Bluejay Isaiah Green responded scoring two baskets.

As the Bluejays continued to climb out of their nest and give the Wolves competition, Clarkston fought back.

With less than two minutes Southfield had cut down their deficit to five points behind Clarkston, 29-24.

Junior Jordan Dasuqi responded with a 3point shot. He followed it scoring two shots from the free throw line.

"He had a five-point play. It doesn't happen too often," said Fife. "It was a big play and set the quarter."

Baenziger and junior Dylan Hancook

scored two points each, putting the score at the end of the half, 38-26.

Dasuqi led the team with 15 points, scoring two 3-pointers. Nick Tatu and Baenziger scored 11 points and Dellinger contributed ten points.

What was really good tonight was we distributed the ball," said Fife. "We got other people shots. We had four guys in the double figures. I liked the way they played - they distributed the ball and passed. We got good

The Wolves finished the first half against Detroit Community behind 25-11. They came back the second half to outscore them but not enough to take the lead.

"We were comfortable and nonchalant," said Fife. "I called a time out early because I knew how our boys were going to play. Your heart and your head have to be 100 percent committed all the time. If your heart and mind isn't in it then it is hard to change that in the game. It is like going into a test you aren't prepared for.

Baenziger led the team against Detroit Community with 15 points, scoring one 3point shot. Dellinger added eight points to the board as Tatu scored two 3-pointers and Tynan scored one.

Clarkston (9-1) hosts Southfield-Lathrup (10-2) on Thursday night and head to West Bloomfield next Tuesday.

"It is a lot better going in with a win then a loss," said Fife.

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



Mitch Baenziger goes against a Southfield defender. Photo by Wendi Reardon



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# No gutters here

The Clarkston Girls Bowling team took second place at the Oakland County Bowling Tournament on Saturday.

They lost a close game to Lake Orion, 379-373. On the road to the finals they beat Walled Lake Central, Oxford and Farmington Hills Mercy.

Stephanie Lavely finished in the top five for individuals with 641. Chelsea Turk finished in the top 30 with 548.

The boys varsity team qualified for their tournament on Sunday with a 3,441. They lost the first game against Walled Lake Central to finish the day.

Tyler Hancsak finished in the top 30 individuals with a 610.

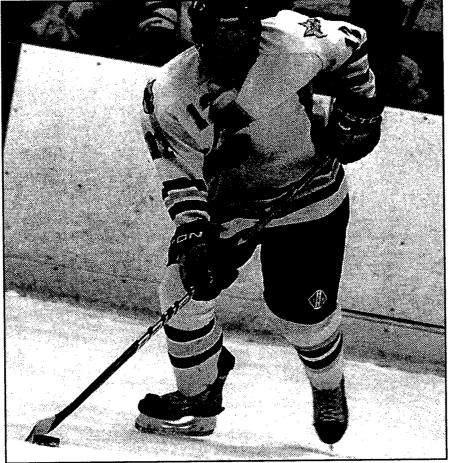
The boys beat Troy Athens on Jan. 17, 27-3, to improve their record to 5-0.

Hanscak had games of 225 and 214 for high series of 439. Max Wolfgang with close with games of 219 and 216 for a 435 set. Kyle Kirby had the high game with a 256.

The girls also beat Troy Athens, 29-1, putting them 3-1-1. Lavely had the high game for the girls with a 221.

The boys JV team won 30-0, remaining undefeated. Anthony Hernandez had the high game with a 220 game.

The teams compete against Lake Orion next Monday at Collier Lanes in Oxford, 3:30 p.m.



Carter Rea uses quick movements to keep opponents on their toes. Photo by Wendi Reardon

# Wins on ice

Icers took care of an OAA Red league foe last week, beating Oxford at their home turf, 10-4.

Senior Gabe Comos opened the game with the Clarkston Boys Varsity Hockey team's first goal. He scored 27 seconds into the game. Teammate senior Adam Bruderick added one more point to the scoreboard four minutes later.

Before the first period closed, the Wildcats added two to the board from Dean Couwlier and Nick Hocket to tie the game.

Not slowing down, juniors Zach Gootee and Adam Larkin added two goals during the next period to bring the boys into the lead.

Senior Josh Stowers opened the third period with the fifth goal, scored 41 seconds into the period. Junior Nate Lowell was the next to add more edge to the game scoring two goals, putting the score, 7-2.

Senior Jordan Henney, sophomore Jacob LaPorte, and Bruderick finished the night with the last three goals for the game.

The win boosted the boys to 5-0-1 league record. A loss to Utica Eisenhower on Saturday night, 4-3, put their overall record to 8-6-1.

The boys look to add two more wins this week as they take on Howell on Thursday, 7:45 p.m., and take on crosstown rivals Lake Orion on Saturday, 8 p.m.

Both games are at Detroit Skate Club, 888 Denison Court in Bloomfield Hills.







# Lady Wolves still undefeated with win

### BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Junior Delaney Kenny was ready to get back on the basketball court after sitting out a few games with a concussion.

Within the first few minutes in the 58-42 win over North Farmington last Thursday she scored four points. Another basket from teammate Megan Hastings caused the Lady Raiders to call a time out.

Coming out of it, the Lady Wolves continued and finished a 12-0 run before North Farmington was able to get on the scoreboard.

"Anytime you can get a 12-0 start it's great," said Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach Tim Wasilk. "We will take it any day of the week. We talk about starting at the tip and making it - we were. Plus, anytime you can get a team to call two time outs within the first quarter is definitely a plus on our end."

The Lady Wolves continued the momentum they started the game and finished the first half with a 32-18 lead.

"We have been working on a new press called jump," said Hastings. "The past few games we have just been trying it out. We came out really strong this game with it and we got an early lead."

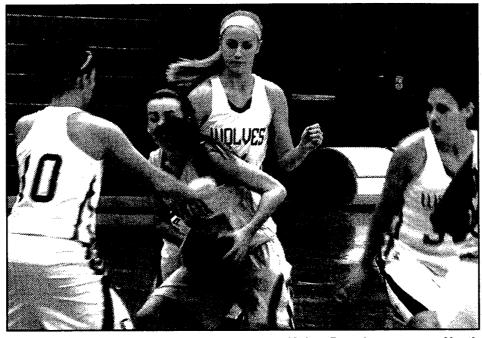
The lead continued through the third quarter and as they neared the last few minutes, talent from more of the underclassmen into the game.

Sophomore Haley Daugherty boosted the team with three points, with two points from a basket and one point from the free throw line, to put the girls 50-22 to end the quarter.

The Lady Raiders caught up during the final eight minutes of the game and made 12-13 of their free throw shots.

"Credit to them," said Wasilk. "They were knocking down some free throws to the basket. We were also playing some different lineups we usually don't play. We had four underclassmen on the floor. North Farmington did a good job taking advantage of that. The kids battled well in the fourth quarter."

The Lady Wolves did post eight points



From left, Carly Giroux, Tori Trimmer and Haley Daugherty press North Farmington. *Photo by Wendi Reardon* 

from Carly Giroux, Christina Jokisch, Erika Davenport and Breanca Cantrell as North Farmington score 20 points.

Hastings led with 16 points, scoring two 3-point shots. Kenny added nine points and Erika and Anna Manilla scored eight points each

"It was big to have Delaney back," said Wasilk. "She definitely made a big difference. When she is in the game the speed of the game is faster, how she gets the ball and distributes it to the rest of the girls. We have other kids doing that but it always helps when you have someone else in there that has three years of varsity experience doing it."

He added Manilla did a great job on defense especially against North Farmington's best player Jasmine Harris.

"Megan shot the ball extremely well from the outside," Wasilk said. "The kids ran their offense well, distributed the ball and got to the right spots - that's why we were successful tonight." The Lady Wolves remain undefeated 12-0 and 7-0 in the OAA Red and will see some opponents for the second time starting this week with Pontiac.

"I told our girls we have won four games under four points out of the seven we have won," said Wasilk. "We haven't done anything yet. We have just won some ball games. We have to stay grounded. If we If we can win some ball games in the next 4-5 weeks with what we are doing then it would be great. We aren't going to take anything for granted because we know how tough it is."

Hastings added the win over North Farmington gives the team more confidence with the press they are doing.

The Lady Wolves host Pontiac on Friday and Rochester next Tuesday at Clarkston High School.

They beat Pontiac, 41-32 on Dec. 13.

"It was a pretty competitive game," said Wasilk. "They have only lost three games all year."

# Staying strong

The Wolves continued to rule the snowy hill at Pine Knob as they remained undefeated after racing against Andover and Rochester last Thursday.

During the Giant Slalom, they beat Andover, 13-23, and Rochester, 10-38.

Grant Huber led the Clarkston Boys Varsity Ski team as he took first place during the race, 34. 74. Brent VanItallie finished third, 35.58; Ryan Callahan, fifth, 35.96; Lance Holsbeke, ninth, 36.27; Nathan Rogers, 16th, 36.85; Evan Trout, 22nd, 37.31; and Derek VanItallie, 23rd, 37.40.

They beat Andover, 11-25, and Rochester, 10-33, in the Slalom race.

Derek led during the Slalom taking first place at 44.70. Huber finished second, 45.00; Callahan, third, 45.06; and Trout, eighth, 47.38;

The girls beat Rochester, 14-28, and lost to Andover, 15-22, in the Giant Slaton

Karoline Holsbeke led the Lady Wolves with a sixth place finish at 38.94. Teammate Olivia Dunn was close behind with her 39.02 finish for seventh place. Lauren Martin took 15th place, 39.85; Caroline Spytman, 29th, 41.68; and Amy Wozniak, 30th, 42.32.

They beat Rochester, 13-27, during the Slalom, and lost to Andover, 17-19.

Holsbeke led during the race, finishing ninth, 57.22. Dunn, 13th, 58.90; Martin, 14th, 59.03; Spytman, 15th, 59.26, Riley Dixon, 27th, 1:03.84; and Arianna Cross, 29th, 1:04.81.

The Traverse City Central Invitational on Monday was cancelled due to weather.

The skiers began their week on Tuesday against Bloomfield Hills Lahser and Waterford.

They race in the Giant Slalom on Wednesday and next Tuesday against Lake Orion.

Both races are at Pine Knob Ski Resort at 4:30 p.m.





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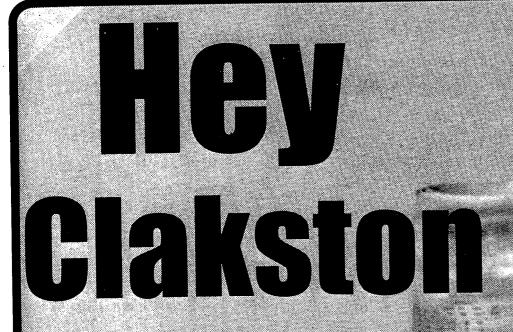
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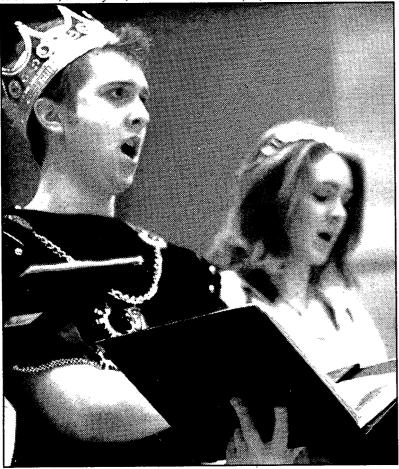
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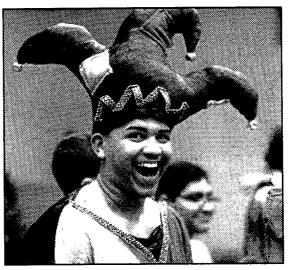
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Clarkston High School seniors Conor Foley and Rebecca Turner, king and gueen at the dinner.



Junior Manny Estrada, as the Jester.

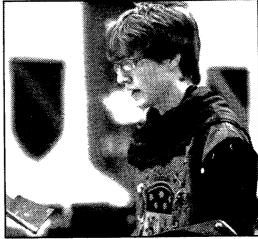
# Madrigal dinner successful

Brian Haverkate, CHS choral director, thanks everyone who helped organize the second annual Ye Olde Madrigal Dinner, "Night, Night; Knights."

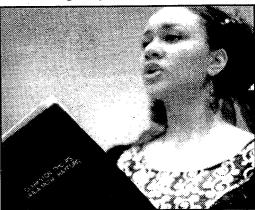
"Thank you to our gracious hosts, Harvestland Church and everyone who came out to support our event. We look forward to entertaining everyone again this coming December," Haverkate said.

The money raised from the Dec. 2 dinner supports the Clarkston High School Choral Program.

The performance included the talents of the vocal students not only as singers, but as actors and servers in a dinner theater style performance.



Markus Rogers, junior, is the knight.



One of the Royal Court, senior Saaja Rayford. Photos by Kate Peterson

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## **MEET DR. ERICA HARDING**



Dr. Erica Harding is board certified in Internal Medicine and pediatrics and believes in providing care for the whole person, from Infancy through adulthood. Her special medical

interests include working with special needs patients.

Dr. Harding graduated from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and completed her residency at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. She grew up in Grosse Point and moved to Clarkston six years ago with her husband. She has one son and likes to golf, cook, and go camping.

### Healthy Tips for Working Parents - by Dr. Erica Harding

Sometimes working parents feel like they are starring in a juggling act. Keeping your family healthy can help keep all of those balls sailing through the air with the greatest of ease.

Increasing numbers of working mothers are breastfeeding; it is a great way to help keep your baby healthy. The benefits are many and include less infections and saving money on formula. Working moms should invest in a high quality electric breast pump. Medela and Avent have good models. Plan on 3 20 minute breaks throughout the day for pumping. Be up front with your employer; usually breastfeeding does not interfere with employee productivity. You can freeze breast milk for up to 6 months (12 for deep freezers), and keep it in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.

Choosing a daycare can be overwhelming. Great options are available from in home options to centers. Spend some time visiting possible options. Pay attention to hygiene practices (hand washing, cleaning of diaper changing areas) and safe sleeping/ play areas. Toys should be developmentally appropriate and safe; there should be activities for a range of ages. Staff ratio should be no more than 1:4 for young children. For children with allergies, make sure staff is aware and understands their allergy and any cross reacting foods/substances.

We all know about vaccinations for children, but don't forget about mom, dad and grandparents! Make sure your tetanus/pertussis (whooping cough) booster is up to date as there have been several cases in Michigan. A flu shot for everyone is important too, especially in homes with young children.

Eating healthy can be a challenge as well for working parents. Plan out meals in advance each week, and don't forget about frozen and precut fruits and vegetables which are great time-savers.

From all of us at Clarkston Medical, we wish you good health.

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Debbie Elert, right, with partner Robert Budzynski.



Tom Decker, left, with Dick Manasseri.

# Competitors have years of experience

Continued from page 1A

But when friends opened a new dance studio in Rochester and said she had to do it, she said yes.

Between traveling for work on various trips, she has to fit in time to practice.

"They give you the music, which is nice," she said. "I have danced with Tim Miles, my partner, for many years so we are comfortable with each other. If it doesn't work out then that's okay. I am doing it for fun – not to win anything."

Her and her husband, Rob, have been dancing for about seven years off and on for fun.

Elert has danced all her life, beginning with ballet when she was a child and then for fun here and there throughout her life

She had watched the dance competitions before. She was dancing up at The Jewel of Grand Blanc, a golf course when Robert Budzynski said he wanted her to dance with him.

"We have been practicing," she said. "It will be fun. I

Wed., January 25, 2012 The Clarkston (MI) News 15 A



Margaret Whitcomb, right, with partner Tim Miles. Photos provided

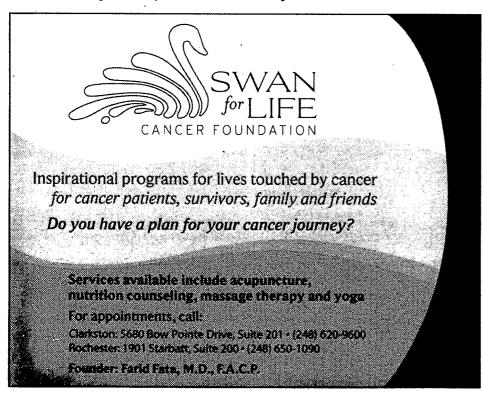
have loved to dance since I was a kid. This is natural. Plus, Bob has an energy and just won't quit.

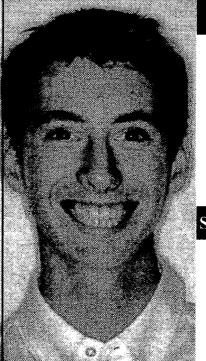
Elert and Budzynski are competing in nine events. They are in American Smooth in Intermediate Waltz and Intermediate Foxtrot; Hustle Swing & Salsa in Intermediate Hustle, Intermediate West Coast Swing, Intermediate Night Club, Intermediate Salsa and Intermediate East Coast Swing; American Rhythm in Intermediate Cha Cha and Intermediate Rumba.

Whitcomb and Miles are competing in five events. They are in American Smooth in Advanced Tango and Advanced Foxtrot and American Rhythm in Advanced Rumba, Advanced Cha Cha and Advanced Samba.

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# **Smile of the Month**

### **Hunter McDonald**

Hunter is in 8th grade at Everest Academy. He loves to jet ski, go tubing and swim. He is in flight training to become a commercial pilot for Delta Airlines.

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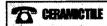
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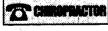
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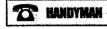
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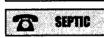
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Bond resolution sought, Feb. 13 Continued from page 1A

said. A standard state bond would require the district to use a five-year average of property values, multiplied out for the life of the bond. The district would then raise millage rates accordingly on current debt, he said.

"Thus, through a standard state bond, CCS would have to increase our current seven mills to 11 or 12 and then add one additional mill to cover the 2012 issue," Rock said. "The district would never consider such a hardship on our community; therefore, a standard-state bond is absolutely implausible."

Sinking funds can only be used for capital improvements, not technology, he said.

"Since technology is a very high priority for our district and each of the students we serve, and because of the aforementioned increase in millage requirements, a sinking fund is implausible." Rock said.

One advantage of a qualified bond is use of the state credit rating of AA-, High Grade, one step above Upper Medium Grade. Clarkston has a Standard and Poor's rating of A with a negative outlook, Rock said.

"This is two levels below the state's rating of AA-," he said. "The next lower credit rating for the district is A-, which remains in the safe range for buyers of bonds.'

Addition of the \$20 million bond would maintain the district's Moderate status, he

"The district's bond counsel and legal counsel are carefully, thoroughly, and critically scrutinizing our capital needs list to ensure that all items on the list fit within the legal limits of bonds," Rock said. "These entities will accordingly craft bond language, which the board will discuss and decide upon in February. These processes ensure that the district will utilize each bond dollar according to all laws, regulations and the promises made to the community."

Also:

 About 32 districts in Michigan are using this currently utilize this type of bond, and the district is still using Fast Forward in all

• The bond will be subject to laws guiding use of all bond dollars. The ballot language will specify use of these dollars. "Ones" and "twos" on the needs list specify exactly how the district will use the bond money.

"Our bond counsel and legal counsel are carefully scrutinizing the needs list to ensure that all items on the list meet within bonding laws and guidelines," Rock said.

"The focus of this bond is on kids and learning," he said. "It is about preparing every single Clarkston Community Schools' student for whatever future he/she chooses and encounters."

What do you think? Let us know at ... Clarkstonnews@gmail.com or 248-625-3370.

# 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 Town ship of Independence, County of Oakland, State of Michi-

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 **Mon**day, January 30, 2012 by the close of business

To vote at this election, all persons must be regis-

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 Charte of Independence on or before the 30th 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 for-warding it to the election official designated on the application by the close of registration deadline.
The Tuesday, February 28, 2012 Presidential Pri-

mary 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 Democratic Candidates: Ballot for Republican Candidates: Vote for One Vote for One

Michele Bachmann Ron Paul Herman Cain Rick Perry Rick Perry Newt Gingrich Buddy Roemer Mitt Romney Jon Huntsman

**Bick Santonim** Gary Johnson Uncommitted Fred Karger

Barbara A. Pallotta, CMC

Barack Obama

Uncommitted

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

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at its regular meeting on January 17, 2012, the Charter Township of Independence Board of Trustees approved a Second Reading and Adoption of an Ordinance to amend certain provisions of the Independence Charter Township Code, as

### STATE OF MICHIGAN **COUNTY OF OAKLAND** CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE **ORDINANCE NO. 2012-01**

An Ordinance to amend certain provisions of the Independence Charter Township Code in order to provide that certain functions and duties of the Township Supervisor shall be performed by the Township Superintendent, if one is appointed by

the Township Board.
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE OR-

Section 1 of Ordinance

Chapter 1, Section 1-2 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to add a definition of the term "supervisor/superintendent" in alphabetical order to the existing list of definitions and rules of construction contained in that section, which new defined term is to

Supervisor/superintendent. The term "supervisor/superintendent" means the township superintendent if a superintendent has been appointed by the township board, and if a superintendent has not been appointed by the township board said term shall mean the township supervisor.

Section 2 of Ordinance
Chapter 6, Article II, Division 2, Section 6-54 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) [Unchanged].

Fee for monitoring. In the event the township receives a written and signed complaint from any person alleg-ing that a licensee is violating the requirements of this article, and the township board, or the township supervisor/superintendent determines to monitor such licensee in response to such complaint, the licensee shall upon demand pay a monitoring fee in an amount not to exceed the actual costs and expenses incurred for the monitoring. The test result data obtained by such monitoring shall be made available to the licensee upon request.

Section 3 of Ordinance

Chapter 12, Article VIII, Section 12-194 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to read

Sec. 12-194. Design Principles.

(a) [Unchanged]

[Unchanged].

- Safety path master plan. For any development in the township, involving any use, with the exception of a development which, considering present and potential future activity, involves the construction of not more than one single-family residence, and subject to subsection (c)(7) of this section, the following regulations shall apply if the development is located on or adjacent to a proposed safety path, as designated on the township safety path master plan:
- (1) [Unchanged].
- [Unchanged]
- (3) [Unchanged]. [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged].
- Where unique and peculiar circumstances are present, such as extreme topography, dense mature trees and/or wetlands, the planning commission shall be authorized to vary the location and/or specifications of safety path construction so as to minimize or avoid a safety hazard and/or adverse impact upon natural features. Moreover, during the course of construction, the township supervisor/superintendent may authorize the town ship engineer to work with the developer in the field and permit minor deviations in the interest of safety and natural feature preservation, and provide for orderly development of a coordinated network of safety paths. Any and all required approvals from other governmental entities shall obtained by the developer with respect to all variances permitted by the township.

(7) [Unchanged].

Section 4 of Ordinance Chapter 14, Article II, Section 14-23 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to read as

Sec. 14-23. General standards.

All developments of land, including all modifications of existing developments, shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to prevent flooding, protect water quality, and reduce where feasible both the runoff peak flow rate and the volume of stormwater discharged from the prop erty. The particular facilities and measures required shall take into consideration the natural features, wetlands, and watercourses on or near the site; the potential for onsite and off-site adverse stormwater impacts, water pollution, and erosion; and the size of the site. The nature and extent of measures required by the township may take into consideration any previously existing natural resources and features, such as wetlands and water courses on the site that have been filled or altered. Engineered site grading plans shall be required for all developments requiring site plan review under section 5.12 of the township zoning ordinance.

(1) [Unchanged].

(2) Soil erosion control.

- (Unchanged).
- [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged] [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged]
- lUnchanged [Unchanged]
- The township shall have the authority to issue stop work orders for failure to comply with the requirements of this section; provided a propri-etor shall be entitled to a hearing before the supervisor/superintendent, or his or her designee, within three business days to determine whether the stop work order shall continue.
- [Unchanged].
- (3) [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged]. [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged].
- (7) [Unchanged].

Section 5 of Ordinance Chapter 16, Article II, Section 16-21 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to read as

Sec. 16-21. Process of licensure; RFP.

- (a) In the month of April of odd-numbered years, or more frequently if determined appropriate by the township board, the township supervisor/superintendent shall prepare and distribute a request for proposal for licensure to provide ambulance service in the township.
- (b) The RFP shall be distributed to all persons and entities believed by the township supervisor/superintendent to be willing and able to provide ambulance convices in the township.
- The form and content of the RFP shall be determined by the supervisor/superintendent and shall solicit information calculated to be relevant in making a selection of a primary and backup ambulance service in the best interest and advantage of the township and its residents, including, without limitation, information relating to the quality of service, schedule of costs and response time to be provided by prospective licensees
- [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged]
- (f) [Unchanged]

Section 6 of Ordinance
Chapter 18, Article II, Section 18-19 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to read as

Sec. 18-19. Unlawful acts occurring out-of-doors. It shall be unlawful to cause or permit any of the

lowing acts to occur out-of-doors: (1) [Unchanged].

- Construction noises. The creation of noise which is clearly audible beyond the property from which it is emanating, resulting from the erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration or repair of any building, and the excavation of streets and highways, at any time prior to 7:00 a.m. and after sunset, Monday through Saturday, and at any time prior to 10:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. A deviation from such limitation shall be authorized if a permit is obtained in advance from the township supervisor/superintendent or the supervisor's/superintendent's designee, upon a showing that the noise will not result in an unreasonable disturbance of one or more residen-
- tial occupants. (3) [Unchanged].
- [Unchanged].
- (5) [Unchanged] (6) [Unchanged]
- (Linchanged)
- (8) [Unchanged]

Section 7 of Ordinance

Chapter 18, Article IV, Division 2, Sections 18-119 and 18-120 of the Independence Charter Township Code are hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 18-119. Mitigation bank.

- (a) [Unchanged]. (b) The purchase The purchase and use of mitigation credits from the mitigation bank may be permitted in accordance with this section. Copies of all permit applications under this division that involve the purchase and use of mitigation credits shall be forwarded to the township supervisor/superintendent.
- (Unchanged).
- [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged] [Unchanged]
- (a) [Unchanged]

Sec. 18-120. Administration of mitigation bank.

The mitigation bank shall be managed, monitored and maintained by the township supervisor/superintendent through the department and in consultation with the township engineer and wetlands consultant. The township supervisor/superintendent shall maintain a record of the total number of mitigation credits generated, available and sold within the mitigation bank, and the names and addresses of those who have purchased credits. The supervisor/superintendent shall inform the director and/ or board of the amount of available mitigation credits upon receiving an application pursuant to section 18-119(b)

Section 8 of Ordinance
Chapter 20, Article II, Section 20-24 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to read as

Sec. 20-24. Bureau of Fire Prevention.

- [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged] (d) [Unchanged]
- No less than one report of the bureau of fire preven-(f) tion shall be made and transmitted to the supervisor/ superintendent of the township on or before February

- Wed., January 25, 2012 The Clarkston (MI) News 17 A
  - 1 each year, Such report shall be signed by the fire chief and shall include:

  - (1) [Unchanged].

(2) [Unchanged]. Section 9 of Ordinance

Chapter 24, Article II, Sections 24-20, 24-22, 24-23, 24-24, 24-25, 24-26 and 24-27 of the Independence Charter Township Code are hereby amended to read as follows: Sec. 24-20. Creation of department.

(a) Generally. The township board may, in its discretion, establish in and for the township a police department which shall be responsible for maintaining the public peace and order and enforcing all ordinances of the township, all laws of the state, and all rules and regulations of the township board of health, and such other township rules and regulations, as the township supervisor/superintendent may deem necessary.

- Composition, [Unchanged].
- Powers. [Unchanged]
- Director. [Unchanged].
  Director responsible to supervisor/superintendent. The designated head of the police department shall be responsible to the township supervisor/superintendent for the efficient operation of the police department in accordance with the rules and regulations as promulgated hereunder.

Sec. 24-22. Supervision.

- Generally. The township supervisor/superintendent, shall exercise general supervision and control over the police department in accordance with the follow ing powers and responsibilities:
  (1) [Unchanged].
- (Unchanged).
- [Unchanged]. (3)
- (4) [Unchanged] (5) [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged]
- (7) He shall have such other powers and authority as are reasonably necessary for the proper dis-charge of the duties of township supervisor/ superintendent and as are reasonably necessary for the exercise of the authority created by this
- (b) Report of operations to township board. The township supervisor/superintendent shall, at such times as the township board may require, and at least annually, render to the board a complete report of the operations of the police department. Such report shall include the number of arrests made, numbers and types of complaints and similar data which will enable the township board to judge the level of performance of the police operations performed by the police department.
- (c) Annual estimate of funds needed. The township supervisor/superintendent shall, in March of each year, present to the township board his estimate of the funds necessary for the proper operation of the police department for the coming fiscal year.

Sec. 24-23. Employment qualifications.

- Criteria. Any person employed as a police officer by the township shall meet the criteria established under Public Act No. 203 of 1965 (MCL 28.601 et seq.).
- Interviews. All applicants seeking positions on the police department shall be interviewed by the township supervisor/superintendent, the township board at the discretion of the township supervisor/superintendent, and such other persons as the supervisor/
- superintendent or the township board may direct. (c) Information. All applicants shall provide the supervisor/superintendent, with such resume information, background information, and other information as the supervisor/superintendent may reasonably require

Sec. 24-24. Personnel actions.

- Vacancies. The township supervisor/superintendent shall fill all vacant positions in the police department, subject to the approval of the township board.
- (b) Promotions. Promotions within the police department shall be made by the township supervisor/superintendent on the basis of merit, subject to approval by the township board. Sec. 24-25. Police appeal board.

- (a) Establishment. There shall be a police appeal board established to consist of three members of the township board, not including the supervisor, the members to be appointed by the township board. The appeal board shall hear all proper appeals by a member of the police department from action of the township supervisor/superintendent or chief of police, including any disciplinary action. The time and manner in taking such appeals shall be determined by the appeal board.
- (b) Procedures. No member of the police department shall be removed except upon written charges preferred against him and after opportunity to be heard in his own defense. The township supervisor/superintendent may suspend a member of the police department against whom charges have been made, the suspension to pend a hearing before the appeal board.

- A 18 Wed., January 25, 2012 The Clarkston (MI) News The appeal board may take such disciplinary action as it deems necessary, including removal or dis-missal of the police officer.
- . 24-26. Swearing in.
- (a) Oath. The township supervisor/superintendent shall require each member of the police department to take a constitutional oath of office before the township clerk and shall provide for the registry of a certificate thereof in a book to be kept for that pur-
- (b) Identification card and badge. Each police officer so sworn in shall be provided with an identification card and badge, both of which shall indicate his name, rank and status.
- Sec. 24-27. Auxiliary police officers.
- (a) Appointment. The township supervisor/superintendent may appoint special police officers to be known as auxiliary police officers in such numbers as he may deem necessary to perform such regular police du ties and extraordinary police services as provided for by the township supervisor/superintendent with all of such appointments to be subject to approval by the township board.
- (b) Swearing in; equipment. Auxiliary police officers shall be swom in as in the case of regular police officers and shall wear such badges, uniform and insignia as the township supervisor/superintendent may direct and shall be equipped in the manner he deems neces-sary for the proper discharge of their duties, all subject to approval by the township board.
- Suspension or removal. The township supervisor/superintendent may at any time suspend or remove any auxiliary police officer forthwith, with the suspension to be subject to review and approval by the township board.
- (d) Duties. The auxiliary police officers may act as safety patrol officers on the grounds of the various schools in the township, and may perform such other duties as the township supervisor/superintendent may di-
- (e) Equipment. The auxiliary police officers shall be equipped by or at the direction of the township super-visor/superintendent with such equipment to be approved by the township board, except that no auxiliary police officer shall be armed other than when on
- (f) Compensation. No auxiliary police officer shall be compensated for his services except on authorization of the township board.
- (g) Exercise of authority. It shall be unlawful for any auxillary police officer to exercise his authority or to wear his uniform or insignia or display his badge in an attempt to exercise his authority except during the performance of actual authorized police duty or extraordinary police services as directed by the township supervisor/superintendent or during authorized drill and training sessions.
- (h) Refusal to respond to duty. It shall be unlawful for any auxiliary police officer to knowingly and willfully and without proper excuse neglect and refuse to respond to assignment or duty when called by the township supervisor/superintendent or by the head of the police department.
- Enforcement responsibilities. Auxiliary police officers shall be used for the enforcement of township ordinances only, and shall not be used for enforcement of state law unless such officers have been trained in accordance with the minimum standards set forth in Act. No. 17 of the Public Acts of 1969
- Considered employees while on duty. While on actual police duty all auxiliary police officers shall be considered to be employees of the township and shall be entitled to the same rights and immunitie members of the police department, including rights to benefits under the state workmen's compensation

### Section 10 of Ordinance

Chapter 24, Article III, Section 24-60 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to read

Sec. 24-60. Police officers, public servants authorized to issue, serve.

- (a) Appearance tickets. In addition to police officers, the following persons, being public servants of the township, are hereby authorized to issue and service upon persons, appearance tickets and other citations with respect to alleged violation of ordinances and codes of the township in such cases as the designated public servant has reasonable cause to believe that persons have committed violations of an ordinance or code of the township:
  - (1) The township supervisor and township superintendent;
  - [Unchanged].
  - (3) [Unchanged]
  - [Unchanged].
  - (5) [Unchanged].

### Section 11 of Ordinance

Chapter 26, Sections 26-12, 26-13, 26-14 and 26-22 of the Independence Charter Township Code are hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-12. Application to obtain license; investigation fee.

- (a) Any person desiring to obtain a license to operate a massage facility, massage school, or similar business or to perform massage services shall make application to the township clerk. The township clerk shall refer all such applications to the township supervisor/superintendent for an investigation. An application to obtain a license to operate a massage facility, massage school, or similar business shall be accompanied by an investigation fee in an amount established by resolution of the township board of trustees. No part of such fee will be refundable.
- [Unchanged].
- (c) [Unchanged].
- Sec. 26-13. Application; contents.

  (a) Any applicant for a license required in this chapter shall submit the following information:
  - (1) [Unchanged].
  - [Unchanged].
  - [Unchanged].
  - [Unchanged]. [Unchanged].
  - [Unchanged]
  - [Inchanged]
  - [Unchanged]
  - One portrait photograph of at least two inches by two inches and a complete set of the applicant's fingerprints, which shall be taken by the township supervisor/superintendent or his agent:
  - (10)[Unchanged].
  - (11) [Unchanged]
  - (12)[Unchanged] (13)[Unchanged]
  - (14) [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged] [Unchanged].
- Sec. 26-14. Review; investigation; inspection of premises; issuance of denial; appeals.
- Any applicant for a license under this chapter shall present to the township clerk the application containing the required information. The application shall be referred to the township supervisor/superintendent who shall have a reasonable time in which to investigate the application and the background of the applicant. Based on such investigation, the township supervisor/superintendent shall render a recommendation to the township clerk as to the approval or denial
- The township supervisor/superintendent shall recommend denial of an application for a license if the character reputation moral integrity, or physical or mental condition of the applicant or his employees is found to be detrimental to the public health, safety, morals, or general welfare. The supervisor's superintendent's recommendation shall be based on appropriate and competent evidence available to the supervisor/superintendent. In making such a determination, the supervisor/superintendent shall con-
- (1) [Unchanged].
- (2) [Unchanged].
- (Unchanged).
- [Unchanged].
- [Linchanged]
- 26-22. Revocation and suspension procedure.
- (a) No license under this chapter shall be revoked until after a hearing before the township board to determine just cause for such revocation. The township supervisor/superintendent or his designee may order any license suspended pending such hearing if it appears that a threat to the public health, safety and/ or welfare will result (or continue) if the suspension is not imposed. It shall be unlawful for any person to carry on the business of a massacist or to operate as a massage facility, massage school, or similar business, depending upon the particular type of license which has been suspended, until the suspended license has been reinstated by the township board. Notice of such hearing shall be given in writing and served at least five days prior to the date of the hearing. The notice shall state the grounds of the complaint against the holder of the license or against the business carried on by the licensee at the establishment and shall state the time of the hearing and the place where the hearing will be held.
- (b) [Unchanged].

Section 12 of Ordinance
Chapter 36, Article II, Section 36-22 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to read as

Sec. 36-22. License.

(a) [Unchanged]

- Exception; advanced notice. The supervisor/superintendent may permit an application to be presented less than 14 days in advance upon good cause shown for the inability to comply with such advance notice requirement, and if there is time to scrutinize the application materials.
- [Unchanged]
- (d) [Unchanged]

Section 13 of Ordinance

Chapter 36, Article III, Division 1, Section 36-56 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended

Sec. 36-56. Solicitation in public streets and roads prohibited; exceptions.

It shall be unlawful, and shall constitute a nuisance for any person, whether registered under this article or not, to engage in soliciting activities in public streets and/ or roads, except recognized nonprofit charitable or religious organizations that have provided prior written noti-fication to the clerk at least 30 days prior to the date of commencing soliciting activities including verifiable proof that the sponsoring organization is a legitimate nonprofit charitable or religious organization, shall be permitted to engage in soliciting within designated intersections in the township, subject to all of the following specific requirements and regulations:

- (1) [Unchanged].
- [Unchanged]. [Unchanged].
- [Unchanged].
- [Unchanged].
- (6) [Unchanged].
- [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged]
- [Unchanged].
- (10) [Unchanged]
- (11) The proposed soliciting at intersections under this section shall be reviewed and reported upon by the township law enforcement agency in terms of safety issues, traffic congestion and conflicts with other events or previously approved soliciting affecting traffic in the township, and soliciting shall only occur at such intersections, at such times and upon such conditions as have been approved and identified in writing by the township supervisor/superintendent based upon the information contained in applications submitted pursuant to this section and section 36-87, the recommendations contained in the report of the township law enforcement agency, and information otherwise known to the supervisor/superintendent concerning safety issues, traffic congestion and conflicts with other events or previously approved soliciting affecting traffic;
- (12)[Unchanged].
- (13)*[Unchanged].*
- (14)[Unchanged].

Section 14of Ordinance
Chapter 42, Article III, Division 2, Section 42-80 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 42-80. Disruption permit required.

- (a) [Unchanged].
  (b) Exceptions. This section shall not prohibit those temporary obstructions which are incidental to the expeditious movement of articles and things to and from abutting premises, the lawful operation and parking of vehicles within the part of the township's right-of way, nor the lawful and customary use of property by adjoining homeowners for such things as landscaping. In the event of a disruption emergency, including, but not limited to, a natural disaster, war and/or severe weather condition, a person and/or a permittee may disrupt the township's right-of-way without first receiving a disruption permit from the township; provided, that the township supervisor/superintendent and/or his designee has approved the mergency disruption before the emergency disruption takes place.
- (c) [Unchanged].

Section 15 of Ordinance

Chapter 46, Article III, Division 2, Section 46-134 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended

Sec. 46-134. Failure to pay; issuance of citation

- (a) [Unchanged].
- Following the due date, the payment of a fine for a parking violation notice where such fine has not been paid in a timely manner, the township treasurer shall transmit to the township supervisor/superintendent or directly to the police officers serving the township if so directed by the supervisor/superintendent a copy of the violation notice accompanied by a statement that a citation may be filed with the 52nd Dis-trict Court, Second Division, with a copy served by first class mail upon the registered owner of the vehicle at the owner's last known address, in accor

dance with MCL 257,742.

(c) [Unchanged].

Section 16 of Ordinance

Chapter 48, Article I, Section 48-31 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to read as follows

Sec. 48-31. Water usage regulations; water supply emergencies; alternate day lawn watering.

- A water supply emergency shall be deemed to exist whenever the township supervisor/superintendent finds on the basis of drought conditions, depletion of water supply, reduction in water pressure or other reasons, that there is a threat of loss of water supply to the community or any portion of the community, and the township supervisor/superintendent causes a declaration of such water supply emergency to be publicly posted and announced, published or mailed in the manner set forth in subsection (c) of this section. A water supply emergency may be declared when the supervisor/superintendent receives notifi-cation from the township's department of public works director or the offices of the county drain commis-sioner or the state department of environmental quality that the supply or pressure demand for water cannot be satisfactorily accommodated and general welfare is likely to be endangered in the community or in any portion of the community.
- [Unchanged].
- The township supervisor/superintendent shall cause such declaration to be posted at the township hall. Additionally, the township supervisor/superintendent shall, to the extent feasible, cause such declaration to be publicly announced by broadcast from a radio or television station with a normal operating range covering the township, published in a newspaper of general circulation throughout the township or mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to all prop-erty owners within the area identified in the declaration as being affected by the water supply emergency at the address listed on the township tax rolls for such properties.
- The township supervisor/superintendent shall make or cause to be made a record of each time and date when any declaration is announced to the public in accordance with this section.
- [Unchanged]. It shall be unlawful for any person to utilize water from the township water supply system for any type of outdoor use, in contravention of a declared water supply emergency, other than responding to a fire emergency. The prohibition shall remain in effect 24 hours per day, seven days per week until the water supply emergency is declared ended by the township supervisor/superintendent. The township supervisor superintendent may, if requested in advance, provide exceptions to the restrictions of this section in cases of new lawn or landscaping installations, or where necessary to prevent imminent financial loss
- (g) [Unchanged].
- (h) [Unchanged].

Section 17 of Ordinance
Chapter 48, Article III, Division 1, Section 48-53 of the Independence Charter Township Code is hereby amended to delete the following definition of the term "Supervisor" as follows:

Section 48-53. Definitions.

Section 18 of Ordinance

Any prior ordinances or terms of ordinances in direct conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby renealed.

Section 19 of Ordinance

If one or more sections, provisions, phrases or words of this ordinance are declared to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, provisions, phrases and words of this ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect, and to this end, this ordinance is declared to be seve

Section 20 of Ordinance

All proceedings pending and all rights and the liabilities existing, acquired or incurred at the time this ordinance takes effect are saved and may be consummated according to the law in force when they are commenced. Section 21 of Ordinance

This ordinance shall be effective upon publication in the manner prescribed by law. CERTIFICATION

It is certified that the ordinance set forth above was duly adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Independence at a meeting duly called and held on the 17th day of January, 2012.

Barbara A. Pallotta, Clerk

Introduced: December 6, 2012

Adopted: January 17, 2012 Published: December 28, 2011 and January 25, 2012

Effective: January 25, 2012

# PUBLIC NOTICE Because the People Want to Know

# INDEPENDENCE TWP.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE NOTICE OF RE-PROGRAMMING OF **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS** FOR INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) requirements a Public Hearing will be held by the Charter Township of Independence on Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Independence Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Drive Clarkston to receive written and verbal comment regarding the reprogramming of federal CDBG funds as follows:

Program Year 2006

From: 730535 Disabled Services

To: 730898 O.C. HIP \$3,548.94 From: 731696 Senior Center

To: 730898 O.C. HIP \$33,433.00

Program Year 2007

730535 Disabled Services To: 730898 O.C. HIP \$6,824.00

Program Year 2008

730789 General Program Admin.

To: 730898 O.C. HIP \$7,048.66

731712 Senior Services

To: 730898 O.C. HIP \$13,340.00

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

## **SYNOPSIS** TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE **JANUARY 17, 2012**

A Regular Meeting of the Charter Township of Independence Board was called to order at 6:32 PM at the Independence Township Hall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given. ROLL CALL: Present Carson, Pallotta, Rosso, Wallace Absent: Lohmeier, Rosso, Wagner There was a quorum present.

Also Present: Bart Clark, Superintendent; Steve Ronk, Fire Chief; Carol Gabris, HR Director; Susan Hendricks, Finance Director, Linda Richardson, DPW Director: Ken Elwert, Parks & Recreation Director; Kristen Sieloff, Assessor; Dave Belcher, Building Director

Approval to appoint Acting Chair

D. Approval of Agenda as amended The meeting recessed at 6:36 PM

E. CLOSED SESSION: Union Negotiations (Fire), as permitted by MCL 15.268(c)
 Trustee Lohmeier arrived at 6:55 PM

The meeting reconvened at 7:42 PM

- BOARD / PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS
- PUBLIC HEARING: None Scheduled PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:
- Superintendent's Report Presented: Bart Clark, Superintendent
- Review of 2011 Budget Process and Role of Budget Analyst: Postponed to Regular Meeting of February 7, 2012

  CARRYOVER / POSTPONED AGENDA ITEMS:
- CONSENT AGENDA:
  - 2012 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Schedule
  - 2012 Planning Commission Meeting Schedule
    Postage and Handling for Winter Tax Statements
- K. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:
- MTA Annual Conference: Approved
- REGULAR BUSINESS:
- Second Reading Ordinance Amendment for Code Provisions Relating to the Office of the Supervisor: Approved

Trustee Petterson arrived at 8:56 PM

- Award of Bid to Metropolitan Power and Lighting, Inc. for CHS Traffic Signal / Tri-Party Project: Approved
- Corrective Actions for Building Department: Approved
- Appointment of DPW Director and P&R Director to Safety Path Committee:
- Adoption of Board of Review Resolution for the Granting of Hardship Exemptions and Establishment of Beginning Date for Proceedings: Approved
- **Budget Amendment for Health Insurance Claims** Tax: Approved

7. Request to Approve 2012 Electrical and Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector
Contracts for the Building Department: Approved

- Amendment to the CDBG 2012 Application: Ap-
- Approval of Parks and Recreation, Chief of Parks Position: Failed
- 10. Parks and Recreation Service Assessment Report: Accepted
- 11. 2012 Cell Phone Plan for Parks and Recreation: Approved
- 12. Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Approved
- 13. "Court Order" for Enforcement of Township Meeting Rules: No Action
- 14. Appointment of Constable or Township Marshall: No Action
- 15. Proposed Boundary Changes Associated with the Consolidation of Precincts 12 and 15: Ac-
- 16. Request to Erect a Banner for Two Weeks at the Sashabaw Church: Approved
- Scheduling of a Special Meeting for Interviews for the Position of Township Superintendent: Failed
- 18. Accounts Payable Check Run in the Amended Amount of \$168,056.31: Approved
- PUBLIC COMMENT: None
- BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None
- COMMUNICATIONS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS /
- REPORT: 2011 Budget Adjustment from December 20, 2011 Regular Meeting Payments to Clinton-Oakland Sewage Disposal (Linda Richardson, DPW Director)
- ADJOURNMENT: The Regular Meeting adjourned at 11:35 PM

Published: January 25, 2012

# INDEPENDENCE TWP.

# **SYNOPSIS**

# TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE **JANUARY 12, 2012**

A Special Meeting of the Charter Township of Independence Board was called to order at 6:00 PM at the Independence Township Hall.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given

ROLL CALL: Present: Carson, Lohmeier, Petterson, Wallace

Absent: Wagner, Pallotta, Rosso

There was a quorum present Also Present: Beth Lawrence, Deputy Clerk; Carol Gabris, HR Director

Approval to appoint Acting Chair

- APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Amended

  AGENDA ITEMS AS STATED IN THE CALL OF THE MEETING AND AMENDED:
  - Approval of the Check Run in the Amount of \$535,856,56.
  - Interviews for Cable Access Manager were conducted.
- Approval to present recommendation for Cable Access Manager Appointment at the Regular General Meeting January 31, 2012.
  PUBLIC COMMENT: Joette Kunse spoke
- BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None
- ADJOURNMENT: The Special Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Published: 1/25/2012

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

FILE NO: 2012-341, 090-DE

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate** 

Estate of DONALD O. HABRECHT a/k/a DONALD OTTO HABRECHT. Date of birth 01/09/1933 TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, DONALD O. HABRECHT a/k/a DONALD OTTO HABRECHT died 08/24/2011

arXia DONALD OTTO HABRECHT, died 08/24/2011.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to RUTH E. HABRECHT, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegrish Rd., Portiac, Michigan 48341-0449 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4-months after the date of publication of this notice.

PAUL A RAIL EY P27176 236 S. BROADWAY LAKE ORION, MI 48362

1/13/12 RUTH F HARRECHT 2077 CEDAR KEY COURT LAKE ORION, MI 48360 (248) 891-3249

# Fund raiser for young cancer patient

Buckshots hosts a fund raiser for Ryan Kennedy, Saturday, Jan. 28.

Kennedy, a fourth grade student at North Sashabaw Elementary, is battling brain can-

He was diagnosed with a tumor in 2007. An emergency surgery in March 2007 removed a golf ball size tumor from his brain

Since that time, he has had many surger-

ies and treatments. His family is seeking treatment in Chicago that began Dec. 14,

To help the family with medical costs and for travel to and from Chicago, Buckshots, 7048 Gateway Park Drive, is hosting the band "The Locals," 9:30 p.m. There will also be prizes and items auctioned off.

Donations can be made at Chase Bank to the Ryan Kennedy Fund.

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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** The Independence Township Planning Commission, Oakland County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on:

Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. At Independence Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Dr., Clarkston, Michigan, 48346 to consider the fol-

FILE PC #2012-003 Timothy Milko, Petitioner
REQUESTS SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL For Home Occupation Sec. 50-172. Special land use

in accordance with section 50-848. Special Land Use Request: Home Occupation, Sale of

Parcel Identification Number: 08-32-401-003 Common Description: 6796 Balmoral Terrace Waterford Hill Manor No 4, Lot 262 R-1A Zone

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE RE-QUEST MAY BE EXAMINED at the Township Building Department during regular business hours. Written comments may be sent to the Planning Commission c/o the Independence Township Building Department, 6483 Waldon Center Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346 prior to the Public Hearing/Meeting. For further information call (248) 625-8111

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

# INDEPENDENCE TWP.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** Independence Township Planning Commission, Oakland County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on:

Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.
At Independence Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Dr., Clarkston, Michigan, 48346 to consider the fol-

FILE PC #2012-004 Landplan Engineering, P.A., Petitioner
REQUESTS SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL Kroger – Motor Vehicle Fueling Station Sec. 50-539. Special land use in accordance with section 50-848.

Special Land Use Request: Motor Vehicle Fueling Station Parcel Identification Number: 08-27-400-032 Common Description: North of Maybee

East of Sashabaw Regency Independence Center 5.89 Acres, C-2 Zone

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE RE-QUEST MAY BE EXAMINED at the Township Building Department during regular business hours. Written com ments may be sent to the Planning Commission c/o the Independence Township Building Department, 6483 Waldon Center Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346 prior to the Public Hearing/Meeting. For further information call (248) 625-8111. Barbara A Pallotta, Clerk

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

ASSESSED FOR

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

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Independence Township Planning Commission, Oakland County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on: Thursday, <u>February 9, 2012</u> at <u>6:30 p.m.</u>
At Independence Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Dr., Clarkston, Michigan, 48346 to consider the fol-

### FILE PC #2012-002

WT Development Corporation for SISBRO Mangement, LLC, Petitionel REQUESTS SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL Taco Bell -- Two (2) Additional Wall Signs

Sec. 50-838. Signs
Special Land Use Request: Additional Wall Signs Parcel Identification Number: 08-22-402-001 6946 Sashabaw Road Common Description:

C-1 Zoning
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE RE-QUEST MAY BE EXAMINED at the Township Building Department during regular business hours. Written com-ments may be sent to the Planning Commission c/o the Independence Township Building Department, 6483 Waldon Center Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346 prior to the Public Hearing/Meeting. For further information call (248) 625-8111. Barbara A Pallotta, Clerk

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

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The Independence Township Planning Commission, Oak

land County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on: Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. At Independence Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Dr., Clarkston, Michigan, 48346 to consider the following:

FILE PC #2011-010

Frank Martin applicant from Dorchen/Martin Associates Inc. representing McDonalds Corporation, Michael Kazarian, Petitioner REQUESTS SPECIAL LAND USE APPROVAL To Modify Existing McDonalds Single Drive-Through Lane to a Double Drive-Through Lane

Sec. 50.848 (1) Special Land Use Request: Add an additional Drive Through lane

Parcel Identification Number: 08-29-452-003 Common Description: West side of Dixie Hwy north of Maybee Rd

0.837 acres C3 Zoning
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT THE ABOVE RE-QUEST MAY BE EXAMINED at the Township Building Department during regular business hours. Written comments may be sent to the Planning Commission c/o the Independence Township Building Department, 6483 Waldon Center Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346 prior to the Public Hear-Ing/Meeting. For further information call (248) 625-8111. Barbare A Pallotta, Clerk

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

# BOWASI CHEVROLET

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SHOW BONUS
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\$1,000



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# **CNews** People Poll January 25, 2012

What did you like at the Strolling Cocktail party?

etmosphere. great local businesses to check out."



- Phillip Fotherby

"Love to see old friends and meet new people.



– Lorrie Fiteny



- Rob Sims

"It satisfies my curiousity about the nooks and crannies of Clarkston like the Mills. It is a refreshing surprise. Plus, take a walk

with friends.



and see what is going on." - David Truman

By Wendi Reardon

# The Clarkston News' STE2M

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

ptimist Creed

Pine Knob Elementary Principal Jodi Yeloushan, right, and teacher Stacey Albani honor Camryn Dahlerup with a Clarkston Optimist Student of the Month award.

# Students honored for Optimism

Clarkston Area Optimists honored two students with their Optimist Student of the Month awards - Isabela Holloway, fifth grader at Andersonville Elementary, and Camryn Dahlerup, fifth grader at Pine Knob Elementary.

"It was a pretty easy selection - she's the student I immediately thought of," said Holloway's principal, Bruce Martin.

She is active in athletics, academics, shows humility and kindness, helps kindergartners get on the right buses, and helps children with special needs during lunch and recess in the school's Kids Connection program. She also skates competitively.

"But she always completes all her work, and goes above and beyond what she needs to do," Martin said. "She reaches out to her peers she's the perfect candidate to receive the award."

"I just enjoy doing it," Holloway said. "I really enjoy Kids Connection and helping the kindergartners."

Pine Knob Elementary Principal Jodi Yeloushan and Stacey Albani, fifth grade teacher, presented Dahlerup with her award.

"She walks into class everyday with a smile her classmates describe her as everyone's friend." Albani said. "She's a role model."

Dahlerup is student council vice president,





**Andersonville Elementary Principal** Bruce Martin picked Isabela Holloway, fifth grader, for the Optimist award.

organizes Go Green and stop-bullying efforts, and with the Girl Scouts helps organize donations for the homeless.

"I want to help make the school better, so that after we leave, people will look at it and say it's a better school," Dahlerup said.

- Phil Custodio



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Your Home Town Disposal Service

# What are Your New Year Resolutions, Dreams, Hopes for 2012?

Our resolutions many times are reflective of what we truly feel we want for our lives. They are what we believe will make us happier, more fulfilled and bring harmony to our lives. Many reflect a desire to transform ourselves or grow. The difficulty comes when we don't know how to reach those goals, which is why many of those resolutions never are accomplished and people don't feel successful.

At Heron Ridge Associates, PLC we can help. We are experts at setting goals and teaching you how to achieve them, working with you every step of the way on your journey. Take the first step in transforming this year into the best year ever for you - call TODAY to set up an appointment and begin your road to a healthier, happier, more fulfilled life. We offer individual, couples, family and group sessions in a private, warm, confidential environment. Most insurance plans accepted. Are you ready to improve your life?



Debra Scheck, LMSW, ACSW

I am the owner of Heron Ridge Associates. We are licensed, experienced experts in psychotherapy coaching & life transitions, providing

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treatment for all ages with individual, family, couples & group counselling in a professional, private, confidential and supportive environment. Let us help you improve your life.

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Schedule an appointment or register for one of our groups now forming at:

# **HERON RIDGE ASSOCIATES**

3694 Clarkston Rd. Ste D Clarkston, MI 48348

Groups forming include: Managing Stress & Deptession; ACOA; COA; Anger Management; Recovery from Addiction; Divorce Survival/Recovery; Mindful Parenting.

Visit us at www.heronridgeassocs.com
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# Around Town

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

# **Special Events**

Clarkston Village Players, "Drinking Alone," comedy, Jan. 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.

**Open House**, Everest Academy catholic school campus, 5935 Clarkston Road, 1-4 p.m., Jan. 29. RSVP, 248-241-9012.

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 Dance, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., Feb. 4, St. Dan's Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park. DJ Al Pickett. \$15.248-891-8938.

Republican candidate forum, hosted by Independence Township Conservatives, 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9. With U.S. Senate candidates Clark Durant, Randy Hekman, and Peter Konetchy. Knights of Columbus Hall, 5660 Maybee Road. 248-625-3829.

Wild game dinner, 6-9 p.m., Feb. 18, American Legion Post 63, 8047 Ortonville Road. Menu includes elk, venison, pheasant, walleye, lake trout. All you wish to eat. \$20. 248-625-9912.

Murder Crashes the Wedding, interactive theatre presentation of Clarkston Area Optimist Club, 6 p.m., March 3, Paint Creek Country Club, 2375 Stanton Road, Lake Orion. With dinner, open bar, silent auction. \$60. www.clarkstonoptimists.org.

# **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.

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Exercise program for all ages, joint mobil-

ity, coordination, strength, Mondays, 12 p.m., lower level, 7590 Dixie Highway. \$7/ session, \$25/four sessions. 248-627-7445.

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

Mothers & More, non-profit dedicated to improving lives of mothers through support, education, advocacy, 7:15 p.m., third Monday, Red Knapp's Restaurant, 6722 Dixie Highway. 248-507-4839.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Tuesday

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Town Hall Quilt Guild**, third Tuesday, 7 p.m., First Congregational Church, 5449 Clarkston Road. Guest fee, \$5. 248-705-7310.

**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.

Gentle Yoga with Rev. Matthew, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 10 a.m. Bring practice mat or towel.

Peace Unity Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-891-4365.

### Wednesday

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

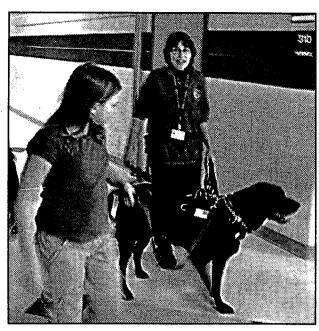
### **Thursday**

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 Please see Around Town on page 11B



Claire Durkin, with Tanq the therapy dog.



From left, Natalie Martindale, Suzanne Hock and

# Dogs visit Alpha

Springfield Plains Elementary's Alpha Club welcomed U.S. Therapy Dogs of Davison, Jan. 10.

They work patients in hospitals, as well as with children

Alpha Club, Junior Optimist groups, are sponsored by Clarkston Area Optimists Club in local elementary schools.



From left, MaryJo Datema, Claire Durkin, Lexi Giesey, and Danielle Stolzenfeld with Shiva. Photos provided



When you need imaging, tell your doctor your choice is AROC, Clarkston's most advanced, safest low-dosed imaging. With a convenient location right off I-75, short wait times and flexible scheduling, AROC is Clarkston's choice for low-dose imaging.

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# Why All the Household Dust?

of American Power Vac, Inc. For years,

I've been improvour 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



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

"One of the best

companies I have ever had

working in my home. They

were very professional and

I was very satisfied with

their workmanship and

clean up. I would hire your

company again in a

heartbeat, and would

gladly spread the word to

family, friends and

neighbors. Great company

you have going.'

C. Miller,

Lake Orion

"American Power Vac is

amazing. You are

outstanding in

professional manner and

in how courteous you are."

L. Bermudez,

Clarkston

for more testimonials visit us at

www.americanpowervac.com

are from desperate 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 for an actual photo of the debris that is pulled from a typical home.

Cold air returns are also reason new the homeowners are experiencing dust. While your drywall 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 prob-

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

I'm Keith Meadows, owner and operator 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

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. Truckmounted 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 truckmounted 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. Type in business name &

click on "Mechanical License". American Power Vac is family owned and we're here to help by offering a

# 100 OFF **Final Week**

888-61-power or 248-656-0600 www.americanpowervac.com

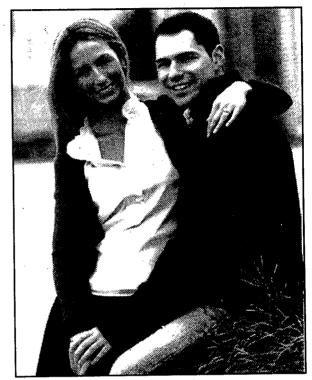
# Milestones Booker-Shook

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Booker of Holland, Mich., announce the engagement of their daughter, Ingrid Elizabeth, to Zachary Gordon Shook, son of Thomas Shook of Clawson and Pamela Shook of Oxford, Mich.

Ingrid received bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting from the Eli Broad School of Business at Michigan State University. She is currently employed as an accountant with Sportvision, Inc. of Chicago.

Zachary graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree from the James Madison College of Public Affairs. He also received a Juris Doctor degree from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago. He is currently practicing with the law firm of Cray Huber Horstmas Heil and VanAusdal LLC in Chicago.

An August wedding is planned in Muskegon.



**Ingrid and Zachary** 



# Welcome Charles!

Charles Tucker Elert was born Sept. 13, 2011, at 7:14 p.m. He weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces and measured 20 1/2 inches long.

Proud parents are Captain Dave Elert and his wife Kim, and big sister Bree. Proud Michigan grandparents are Debbie Elert of Clarkston, and LouAnn and Bob Elert, Waterford.

Kim and Dave live in New Bern, N.C., where Dave is stationed at Cherry Point Marine Air Base.

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

# Students' success

Clarkston students Katherine Huttenlocher, John Vanderveen, Karley Wayne, and Rachael Whitmore were named to the Hope College Dean's List for the first semester of the 2011-12 academic year.

Mary Misichko of Clarston was named to the Davenport University Dean's List for the fall 2011 semester.

Minjoo Lee, daughter of Jong Cheon and Hyunsuk Lee of Clarkston and a 2008 graduate of Clarkston High School, received dean's list recognition at Bucknell University.

Shelby Schulte, daughter of Sheri and Ken Schulte of Clarkston, finished her first semester of her senior year at Michigan State University with another consecutive 4.0.

# Jesus came to bring great change to the world

When Jesus Christ came to the earth, He came to bring great change. The prophets of the Old Testament foretold of His coming and the dramatic changes it would bring. When He came to His people, the majority of the establishment rejected Him and His message.

They had heard of His coming, and it was actually the catalyst for most of what they did; but when He came, they were not willing to allow the changes to facilitate the new era Jesus Christ had announced. In times of change, it is very difficult for the established system and leadership to adjust to change.



**Spiritual** 

**Matters** 

One day, as Jesus was coming into the capitol city of Jerusalem, He literally wept over the city.

He said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!" Jesus Christ knew that their rejection would ultimately lead to their destruction. At the time of His crucifixion, their fear and dread of Jesus came to a head. The ultimate rejection was Jesus Christ being crucified on the cross. He had not done anything wrong; it was just the threat of upsetting the applecart, so to speak, that aroused their anger and brought them to the point of the crucifixion. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, the scriptures tell us that the veil of the temple was torn in half.

The veil represented the old order and how it operated. This tear meant things would never be the same. Unfortunately, the scripture does not give the details; someone must have simply sewn up the tear, because the turmoil subsided and everything went back to the way it was.

Everything stayed the way it was until the total destruction of the city. As Jesus had prophesied, the generation would not pass until everything was impacted by the rejection of Jesus Christ.

To me, this is similar to the times that we are now living in. Everyone knows that the times have changed the world we live in. The Old World Order that prevailed for many years is no longer viable with the advancing of China, India, and much of the former undeveloped world.

The economic order of the last 70 years has been shaken and will never be the same. In 2008, the fissure in our economy took many by surprise.

The impact of the shaking of our system is still obvious, with the turmoil in Europe and the uncertainty of the future of our nation. It seems like the "veil has been torn," but we are simply trying to sew it back up. The debt of the nations, and individuals, has had a terrible effect on our nation and provides an uncertain future for all; yet we are using the old methods to hold it together. Individual debts began to fall when people saw that precarious times had come upon us. Practical thinking started to prevail as people saw the dangers of spending money we didn't have.

Yet, with the encouragement of the established order, we were admonished to spend ourselves back into prosperity. This past Christmas, they tell us that individual debt has returned to pre-2008 levels-and naturally, government spending hasn't changed course either. The prophet Jeremiah spoke of a time like this—the people had become hardhearted because they would not deal with the issues at hand. This is what the scripture tells us will bring change, a change that will transform and secure our future. A change that says, "Woe is me for my hurt! My wound is severe. But I say, "Truly this is an infirmity, And I must bear it." (Jeremiah 10:19 NKJV)

This year, I hope that we have someone who is willing to tell us the truth and a people who will respond to the need of the time!

The Rev. Loren Covarrubias is pastor of Mt. Zion Church

# In our churches.

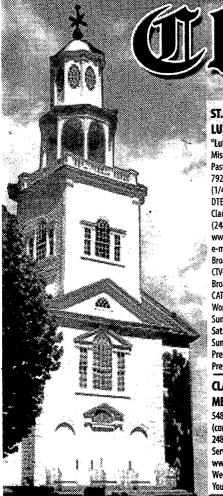
Bethany North, peer support to all faiths dealing with divorce or separation, 7:30 p.m., fourth Monday, Cushing Center, St. Daniel Catholic Church, 7010 Valley Park, 248-628-6825.

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

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

Celebrate Recovery ministry for hurting people, Thursday, 7-8:30 pm., 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.



### ST. TRINITY EVANGELICAL CHURCH **LUTHERAN CHURCH**

"Lutheran Church Missouri Synod' Pastor: Rev. Kendall Schaeffe 7925 Sashabaw Road (1/4 mile N. of DTE Music Theater Clarkston, MI 48348 (248) 625-4644 www.sainttrinitylutheran.com e-mail: sttrinity@comcast.net Broadrast Worshin - Clarkston CTV-10/20Sun. 2:00pm, Thurs. 9:00pm Broadcast Worship - Waterford CATV-10 Tues. 2:30 pm

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

# **CLARKSTON FREE** METHODIST CHURCH

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

# **CALVARY MISSIONARY**

"A Place to Worship & Grow 1361 Giddings Rd., Pontlac 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 Fit For Life Adult Life Ministry c.r.a.v.e.-Student Life Ministry Ozone - Children's Life Ministry Nurture Center/Wonderland available for all services A Church For Life www.bridgewoodchurch.com

## **CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

248-625-1611 Website:<u>clarkstonumc.org</u> Sunday Worship: 9:00am & 11:00 am 6:00pm Evening Service Nursery available for all services

### THE FIRST **CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH** 5449 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston

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

## THE EPISCOPAL **CHURCH OF THE** RESURRECTION

6490 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston Sunday 10 am Holy Eucharist Sunday School 9:55 am Nursery Provided 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 Highwy, 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 Worshin 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 Wavne Uppendal 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 CATHOLICCHURCH

7010 Valley Park Dr., Clarkston 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 **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 He **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 www.calvaryinfo.org

### CLARKSTON **COMMUNITY CHURCH**

6300 Clarkston Road • Clarksto (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 a Nursery Care at all services Wednesday: Children's Ministrie 6:00-8:00 pm Sunday: Youth Ministries 5:00-7:00 nm www.clarkstoncommunity.com

# ESTOR CHARKSTON JEWELRY OUTLE 7012 Dixie Hwy., Clarkston • 248-922-0800

# Enter for your Chance to Win

We invite you to enter **The Big Deal & Clarkston Jewelry Outlet** - Heart Pendant- \$600 value. Fill out the coupon for your chance to win. Deadline to enter is February 16th. Winners will be announced in the March **Big Deal** arriving in your mailbox the week of February 29th. \*Only readers who live in **The Big Deal** circulation area are eligible to win.

GOOD LUCK

# **Obituaries**

# Viola M. Bouffard, 93 Paul J.

Viola M. Bouffard, formerly of Harper Woods, recently of Waterford, born June 14, 1918, in Detroit, died Jan. 16, 2012, at age 93.

She was preceded in death by her husband Joseph and her son John. She was the mother of Linda (Rich Carlson) Sheill and Carol (Kerry Lundquist) Lantz; also survived by eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren; sister of Clovis Nadeau, Edna Wolowiec, Lillian (John) Terzano, the late Pearl Stanchus and the late Joseph Nadeau.

Mrs. Bouffard was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles 1978-2006. She loved to dance, which she did until 2005. Viola enjoyed playing Euchre with friends monthly for years. A feisty woman, all her family and friends would agree.

Memorial Service was Jan. 21 at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Private
Inurnment Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Online
guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com

# Tamara Cottrell, 43

Tamara M. Cottrell, "Tami," of Holly, formerly of White Lake, passed away Jan. 22, 2012, at age 43.

She was the wife of Jeff; mother of Deidre Cloke and Trey Cottrell; daughter of Joanne (Jim) Hitsman; preceded in death by her father Martin Schnettler; stepmother of Alonzo Cottrell, Kim Petite, Jeff Cottrell, Nicole Cottrell,



Christa Fredericks, Matt Dillinger, Dale Nelson and Terry Nelson; sister of Mike Schnettler.

Friends may visit at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston, Wednesday, 2-3 p.m. Any donations to the family would be appreciated. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

# Bruce Doolittle, 75

Bruce Doolittle, age 75, of Waterford, formerly of Farmington Hills, died peacefully Jan. 15, 2012.

He was the dear husband of Margie; father of Bob (Cathy), Mike (Lisa) and Janet (Bob Thomas) Revol; 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.



Memorial service was Jan. 21 at Oak Pointe Church, Novi. Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society. Arrangements entrusted to Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

# Paul J. Harworth, 85

Paul J. Harworth of Clarkston passed away Jan. 18, 2012, at 85 years of age.

He was the loving husband of Joyce for 63 years; beloved father of Thomas J. (Linda) Harworth, KathyA. (Terry) Harmon, Patricia J. Tony) Leone, Paul E. (Debbie) Harworth and Carol Marie (Todd) Juracek; dear brother



of Jeanne McManus; special grandfather of Natalie, Marlon, Michelle, Kristi, P.J., and Nicholas; also survived by his feline friend Loretta.

Mr. Harworth was preceded in death by siblings: Mary Kinney, Jack Harworth and Ruth Meyers.

He retired from Pontiac Motors where he worked in the administration building in the car distribution department.

Paul was a member of Our Lady of the Lakes. He enjoyed sports and his time spent up north at his cabin.

Visitation was held at Coats Funeral Home-Clarkston. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church – Educational Fund, envelopes are available at the Funeral Home.

Private condolences to the family may be sent through www.CoatsFuneralHome.com/Obituaries.

# Ernest Reyes Jr., 67

Ernest Reyes Jr. of Pontiac passed away Jan. 21, 2012, at age 67.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ernest and Susie and

daughter Katie Dowdy. He was the father of Angie (Keith) Salisbury, Lisa (Carl) Holloway and Andrea Benitez; papa of Justin, Jared, Jordan, Jeffrey, Jenna, Brandon and Maya; great grandpa of Jaxon; brother of Elma



MacLean, Sylvia Reyes, Erma Gonzales, Eddie Reyes, Norma Reyes and Elva Reyes.

Mr. Reyes served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and retired from General Motors Truck and Bus. He loved to hunt and spend time Up North.

Funeral service was Jan. 24 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorials may be made to Disabled American Veterans or Vietnam Veterans of America. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

# Donna Turk, 65

Donna Turk (Nelson), "Terry," of Clarkston passed away unexpectedly Jan. 21, 2012, at age 65.

She was the mother of Tim (Becky) Taylor

and Linda (Steve Pugh)
Josephson; preceded in
death by her son Jim
(April) Taylor; daughter
of Neil and Lois Nelson;
grandma "Nominee" of
Lauren (Frank) Galinis,
Shayne Taylor, Adam
Blair, Christian Taylor,
Alexis Kent, Lillian
Pugh, Cameron Josephson, J.T. Taylor, Dustin



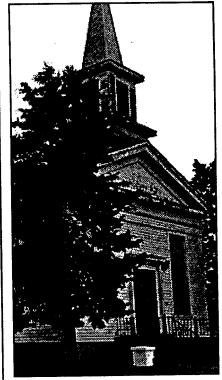
Taylor, and Tiffany Clifton; great grandma of Makenna and Kayden; sister of Sandy (the late Larry) Jenkins; loving aunt of Rob Church, Ryan and Pat McAleer.

Terry was formerly employed at C.U. Processing, Southfield and loved playing bingo. Funeral service Wednesday, 10 a.m., at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery.

Online guestbook

Online www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries posted daily at Clarkstonnews.com



# **New church windows**

The former Sashabaw Plains Presbyterian Church on Maybee Road is set to receive new windows during a window-repair clinic, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Feb. 4. *Photo provided* 

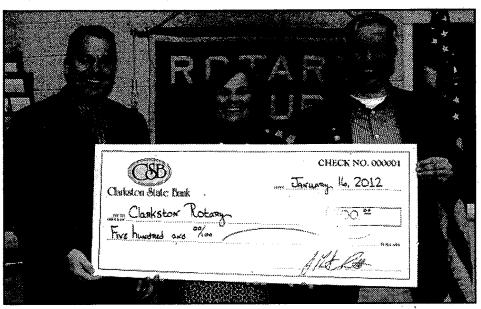




# Coffee Club

News about and for local business folk

Networking meetings Thursdays 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Clarkston United Methodist Church



J. Grant Smith and Dawn Horner of Clarkston State Bank present a check to Rotary Club President Al Avery. Photo by Phil Custodio

# donates to Rotary

Clarkston State Bank employees donated \$500 from their casual-Friday fund to Clarkston Rotary Club, Jan. 16.

"We read in the Clarkston News about the Rotary Club's downtown holiday light upgrade project, so we decided to help them out," said Dawn Horner, executive vice president, retail banking.

Bank employees donate \$2 for dress-down Fridays. Every quarter, proceeds are donated to local charities and community organizations. The third quarter of 2011 went to Rotary. Fourth quarter went to Lighthouse North.

The donations are all from employees at the banks four branches.

"As the hometown bank, we feel we have a community responsibility," said J. Grant Smith, president and CEO of Clarkston State

The bank also donates \$25,000 to local programs and groups, and employees volunteer at Concert in the Park, local elections, and other events.

"We appreciate what you have done for us," said Al Avery, Rotary president.

The club has a three-year plan for new holiday lights in downtown Clarkston. This year will be the second.

"Our plan is to get whole downtown done," Avery said.

Smith also presented a report to the Rotary on the bank's recapitalization efforts over the past year, as well as plans to expand.

"I see confidence coming back - people are definitely doing things to grow their company," he said.

- Phil Custodio

# New name for McLaren

McLaren Health Care Village at Clarkston tute. has a new name, McLaren-Clarkston.

"The name is different but patients will get the same great care they've come to expect," said Kevin Tompkins, vice president of marketing for McLaren Health Care.

The Great Lakes Cancer Institute also has a new handle, McLaren Cancer Insti- collateral and more to reflect the new name.

The rebranding initiative is part of McLaren's strategic plan to have a single identity across the state.

A new marketing campaign is set to launch in late January. Officials have begun changing signs, name badges, uniforms,

# Planning for retirement: using traditional and Roth IRAs

This advertisement provided courtesy of Prudential. There are many vehicles used for retirement planning. One of the most common is the traditional IRA (individual retirement account).

Since the federal government does not yet recognize same sex couples, the following discussion centers on lifetime rules of IRAs. At the death of the individual, continuation rules are different for survivors who are spouses, rather than non-recognized same sex couples. With those parameters set, let's continue.

Contributions to IRAs are often tax deductible and distributions are often taxable as income. Another type of IRA is the Roth IRA in which contributions are made after tax and distributions

Tax-free withdrawals can be attractive which often prompts the question: Can a traditional IRA be converted to a Roth IRA?

The answer is yes. As of 2010there are no longer income limitations for single taxpayers and married taxpayers filing jointly. The restrictions based on the filing status of married filing separately have also been repealed.

Conversions are not considered distributions but are fully taxable. Any deductible contributions and gains will be taxable to the owner and included in income in the year of the conversion. A special deferral is available for 2010 conver-

For Roth owners under age 59 1/2, a special rule applies to conversion amounts. The conversion is not subject to the 10% federal income tax penalty. Any distribution of the conversion amounts, made in the five-year period following the conversion, will subject the conversion portion to the 10% penalty, unless an exception applies.

This includes distributions to pay the income taxes due on the conversion. This prevents a Traditional IRA owner from avoiding the 10% penalty by first converting to a Roth IRA. Earning on

# viewpoint



any conversions are subject to the rules related to qualified distributions (must be after Roth is open for 5 years and after 59 1/2, death, disabled or first time home buyer).

Generally, it is best to pay any all income taxes for the conversion from other assets.

Since 2008, employersponsored retirement plans can be rolled directly to a Roth IRA.

IRA transfers and rollovers are powerful financial tools. If properly handled, these transactions allow funds to be shifted between IRAs or withdrawn without paying income

The end result is often greater convenience and/or greater control of funds for the IRA owner. If you think a transfer or rollover might make sense for you or your partner, contact a qualified financial professional.

Provided courtesy of Prudential. For more information, contact Darwin Moore, a Financial Professional Associate with The Prudential Insurance Company of America's Great Lakes. He can be reached at darwin.moore@prudential.com and (248) 688-3671.

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# Can you afford to have one spouse at home?

For many families, this is an important question. Unfortunately, most dual income couples feel that both of them have to work in order to meet their expenses and maintain their lifestyle. However, after careful evaluation, you may find you have a choice. Consider the points below to help you make a more informed decision:

Impact of the loss of second income: Frequently, the real impact of the second income is not as much as the income itself.

Calculating the taxes, extra cost of working, and other expenses to see the real impact (may

Cost of earning the second income: Here is a list of some typical expenses that you need to consider before making that decision. Identify how many expenses are related to both of you

- · Child care: Include related expenses (i.e. transportation, nanny payroll taxes).
- Commuting: Include all related expenses (i.e. gasoline, oil changes, wear and tear, insur-
- · Lunches out: What do you spend on office lunches?
- · Clothing: What do you spend to buy work clothes?
- Dry cleaning: Could you save money if dry cleaning became unnecessary for one of you?
- Take-out dinners: Prepare more meals and do buy less take-out. Save on groceries by care-

fully planned shopping.

 Housecleaning services: Are you paying to have your house cleaned?

Hidden benefits: When it comes to taxes,

# Guest Viewpoint



A column by **James Kruzan** 

higher tax bracket. If filing jointly, calculate the impact of the second income on your Long-term cost of not

joint income puts you in a

working: Consider the longterm effect on your 401(k) plan. If you or your spouse remains in the workforce, 401(k) plans not only give you immediate tax breaks, but also grow to make a larger retirement nest egg.

Since you'll now be dependent on one income, you are more vulnerable to economic downturns and company downsizing.

Keep in mind that as your children grow, your child-care expenses will decrease consid-

Lifestyle changes: Making some changes in your present lifestyle might allow one of you to stay home. Here is how you can do it.

• Make two lists: Needs (all "must pay" bills - whether you stay home or work). Wants (entertainment, travel, gifts, etc).

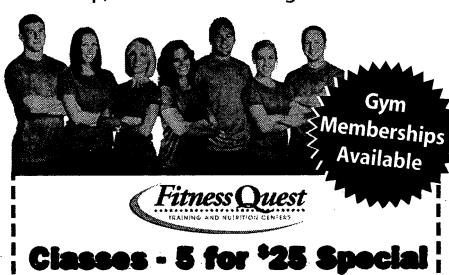
- · Little things add up: Small changes save money (i.e. turn off unused lights, dry clothes outside instead of in dryer).
- · Be creative: Save a considerable amount of money by making small things (i.e. birthday... planning. If you plan ahead, you can pay off a cards, holiday gifts).
- Alternatives: Switch to a nearby YMCA or less expensive health club. Instead of renting a hotel room at a fancy resort, rent a cabin in a national park.
- Make money from home? Find alternative employment such as a part-time, evening, temporary, or a work-at-home job.
- · Can your hobby make money? What do you like to do? Can you get paid? (i.e. write for your local newspaper)
- Plan ahead Do not quit your job without loan to save monthly installments, secure a parttime or at-home job, or start implementing other lifestyle changes to reduce the impact when your second income stops.

This material was prepared by Raymond James for use by James B. Kruzan, CFP®, CRPC® of Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC.



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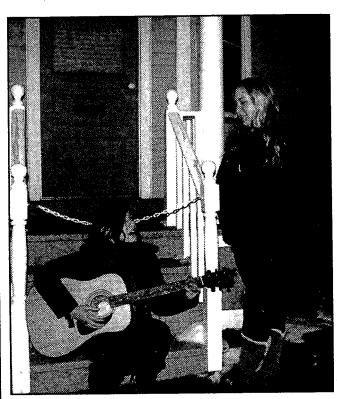
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B 10 Wed., January 25, 2012 The Clarkston (MI) News





Jordan Roth enjoys a meatball at the Union General. outside as walkers strolled down the sidewalk.



Whitney Balkany and Jenna Lee were seen singing Bailey Smith serves some rum punch at Union



Marilyn and Brace Case enjoy some snacks at Sandra & Fitney in Clarkston

# Stroll, eat, and drink party

Downtown Clarkston was a happening place Saturday night as folks strolled in and out of businesses enjoying food, drinks and discounts at the Second Annual Retro Cocktail Party.

The event was hosted by Clarkston

Retailer's Group as a fund raiser for the OATS program.

"It was a great time," said Peg Roth of the Clarkston Retailers Group. "Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves and enjoy the downtown atmosphere."

Photo story by Trevor Keiser



OATS workers gather for a photo.



Todd Benoit oversees the game of roulette between Wendy Durem and Azja Stroud, while Kathleen Lowry watches.

# Parks elections

Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission re-elected Gerald A. Fisher of

Clarkston as chairman and J. David VanderVeen of Clarkston as secretary.

They will serve in their roles until Dec. 31, 2012. Fisher has been a commission member since 2009, and VanderVeen since 1998.

Robert Kostin of Clarkston is also a member of the parks commission.

Established in 1966, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission is the policy-making board that oversees the system's 6,700 acres. Commissioners are tasked with allocating and maintaining resources for 13 parks while making decisions about acquisition of park land, preserving green spaces, constructing and maintaining facilities and implementing innovative programs and services.



**Fisher** 



VanderVeen



**Kostin** 

For more information, visit DestinationOakland.com or find Oakland County Parks and Recreation on Facebook.

# **Around Town**

Continued from page 2B

House, Clintonwood Park. 248-802-8603.

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

Young At Heart Active Adults, Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., lunches, guest speakers, musical performances, field trips, holiday parties, movies, bingo, games. Hart Community Center in Davisburg. \$5 yearly membership, \$5 lunch.248-846-6558.

Clarkston Community Women's Club, third Thursday, 7 p.m., Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Jan. 19: all member birthday party, White Elephant gift exchange. All welcome. 248-625-1326.

Free General Support Group for any type of cancer and caregivers, fourth Thursdays, 2-3 p.m., Great Lakes Cancer Institute, 5680 Bow Pointe Drrive. Walk-ins welcome. 248-922-6610.

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

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at Leader office, !!L43tf

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L28

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By Steven Cole, Auctionee Stormax Self Storage 55 Mill St., Oxford, Mi 248-690-7705

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Sat Feb. 11th, 2012, 4:00pm

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AUCTION

Household. Unit #288 Anthony "CASH SALE" \$100 Deposit. Refundable

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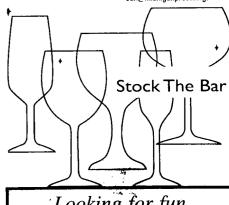
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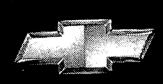
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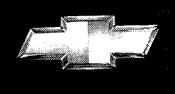
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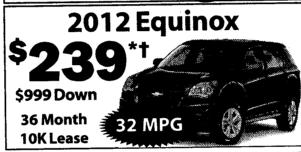














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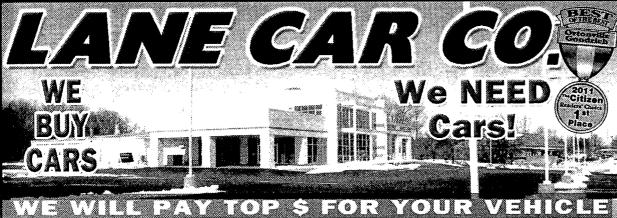
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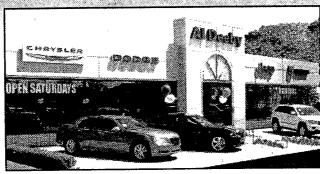
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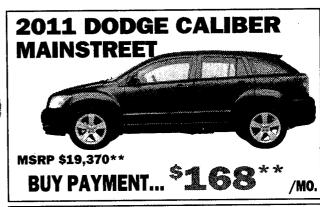
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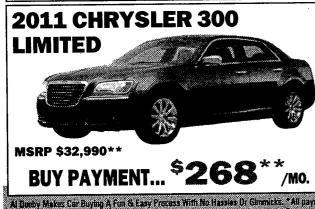
















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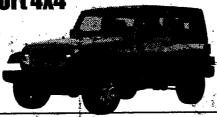
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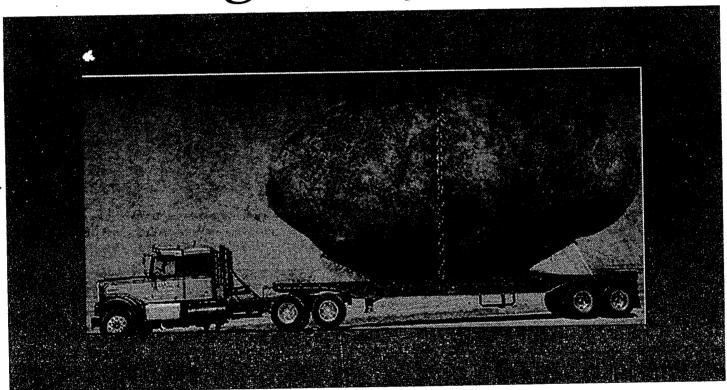




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