



Scouting the world

Troop 74446 scouts Megan McLain and Sierra Newton, at right, share badges and other items with fellow Girl Scouts at their 100-year celebration, Feb. 28, at Springfield Oaks. As part of their International Night event, they are wearing traditional outfits from Poland. Please see page 11 for more pictures. Photo by Phil Custodio

In today's edition...

Decades of collecting teapots
Clarkston skiers take state honors
Columns, Public Safety,
Classifieds and more!

Clarkston, Ga. (AP) — Girl Scouts of the Atlanta Area celebrated their 100th anniversary on Feb. 28 at Springfield Oaks. Troop 74446 members, including Megan McLain and Sierra Newton, participated in the event, which featured traditional Polish folk costumes and a night of international celebration. The girls shared their collected items and badges with other scouts.

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The Clarkston News

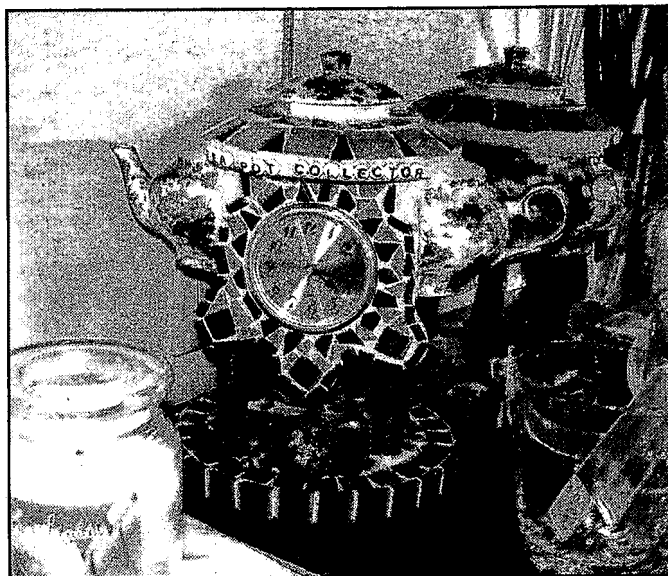
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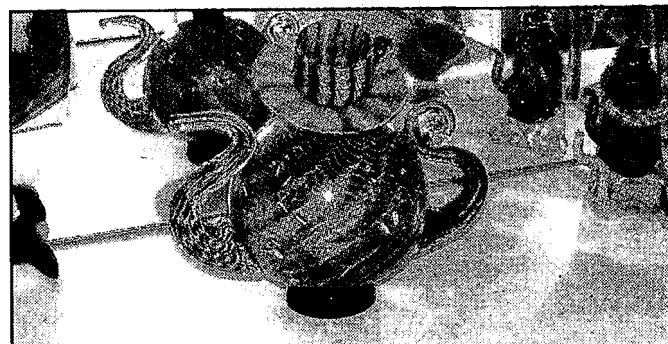
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A teapot made in Judy Ableser's honor.



A glass teapot, for her husband, Jeffrey Ableser.

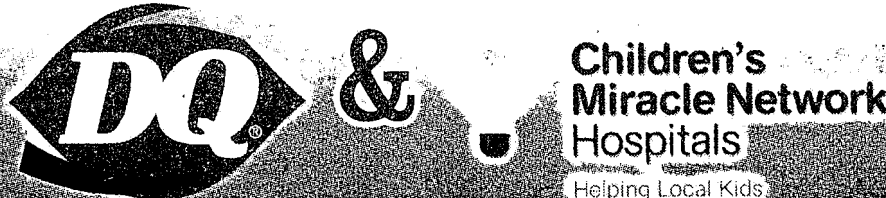


Ableser collected most of her teapots for the art.




She displays her collection throughout the house.

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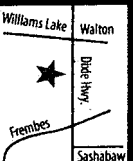



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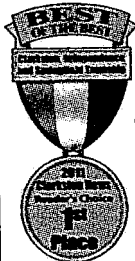
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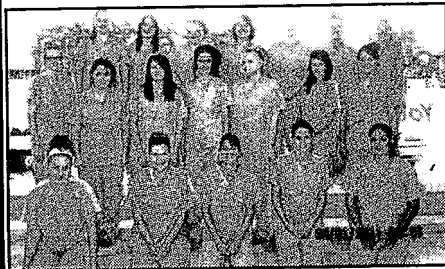
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Judy Ableser recently moved to Independence Township with her husband and her collection of about 500 teapots. Photos by Phil Custodio

New home for teapot collector

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

For teapot collector Judy Ableser, the fun is in the never-ending search.

"People ask me if I look on Ebay – absolutely not," said Ableser, who lives in Independence Township with her husband, Jeffrey. "I love the hunt."

She has about 500 teapots of all sizes, shapes, and materials displayed throughout the house. They recently moved to the Clarkston area from Ontario, and the collection played a part in their house search.

"We absolutely looked at houses with an eye for how they could accommodate my teapots," Judy said. "This house is perfect. It has a lot of built-in shelves, all sorts of nooks and crannies for teapots."

She became interested in teapots as a potter, when she made some herself.

"Throwing a teapot is one of the hardest

things to do – I appreciate a good one," she said.

The pots she made are among the few that are functional. Most of her collection is works of art.

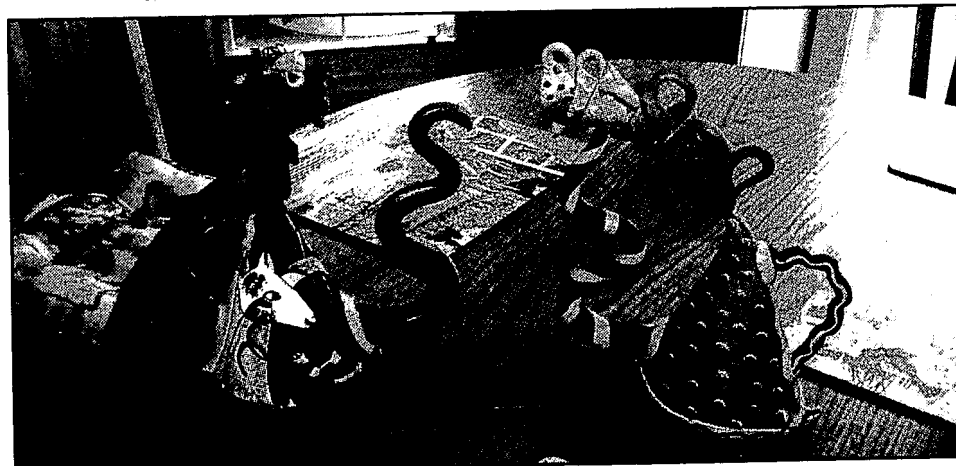
"I collect really funky teapots – the funkier, the better," she said. "It is quite the collection."

She collected several with her family in mind. Many are cartoon and animal characters, acquired when their three children were growing up, and some are glass art, which her husband enjoys.

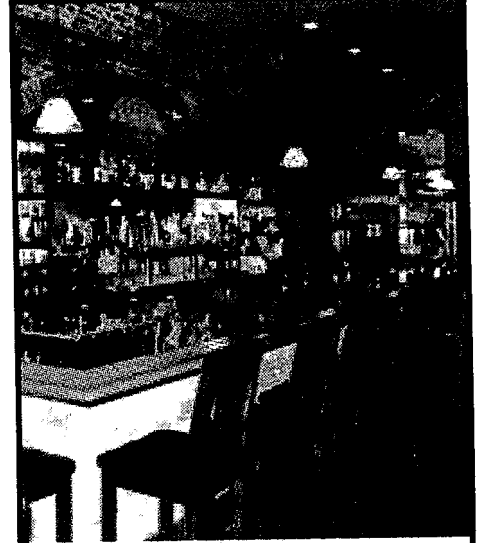
"He allows me to do my thing," Judy said. "He built all these shelves and puts up with the craziness – he's good that way."

She enjoys going to art fairs and shops to look for new items.

"There's no such thing as a complete collection," she said. "And I enjoy discussions with artists. This is my passion."



The more eccentric the teapot, the better.



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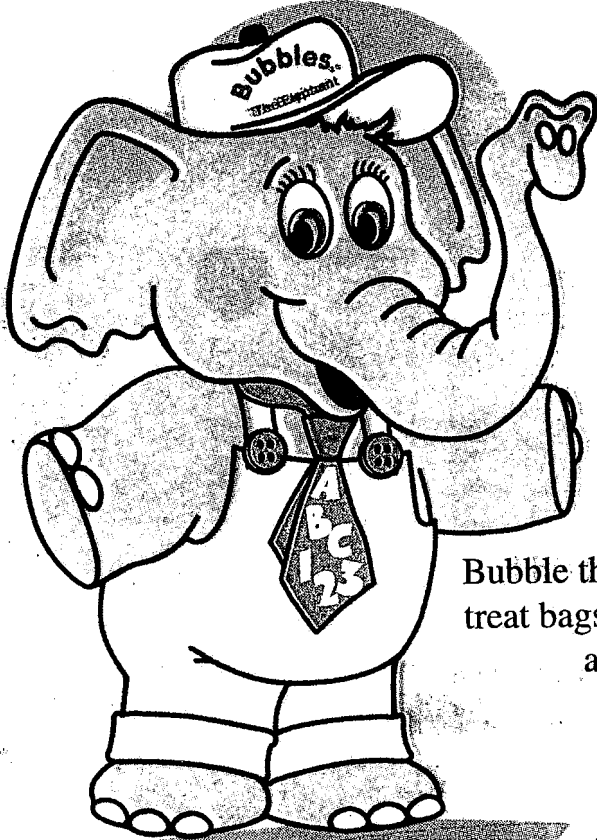
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The Learning Experience in Clarkston celebrated 3 wonderful years in the Clarkston community!

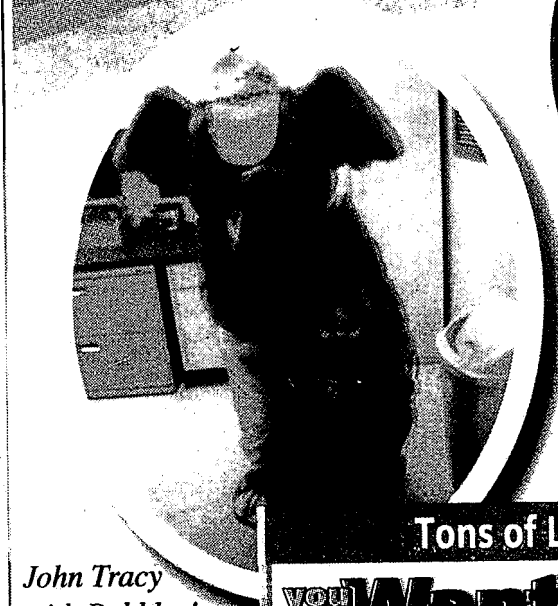
TLE celebrated with a center-wide birthday party for their friend and mascot, Bubble the Elephant! Bubbles was greeted with hugs from all classrooms. Cake, ice cream, and treat bags were given to all our children. The center was open until 8:00 p.m. for an open house and parents were invited to watch our awesome curriculum programs in action!



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At right, Lionel Reece, played by Cyrano Jones, questions Derek Tyndale, played by James Hoxsey, when Derek says he's been conversing with his mother "from the other side."



Isaac Clarke, played by Shawn Harbert at right, confronts Joan Reece, played by Lois Keel, as a possible murder suspect. Photos by Trevor Keiser

Murder mystery with Players

Clarkston Village Players offers a good old fashioned murder mystery with their latest play, "At the Sign of the Crippled Harlequin."

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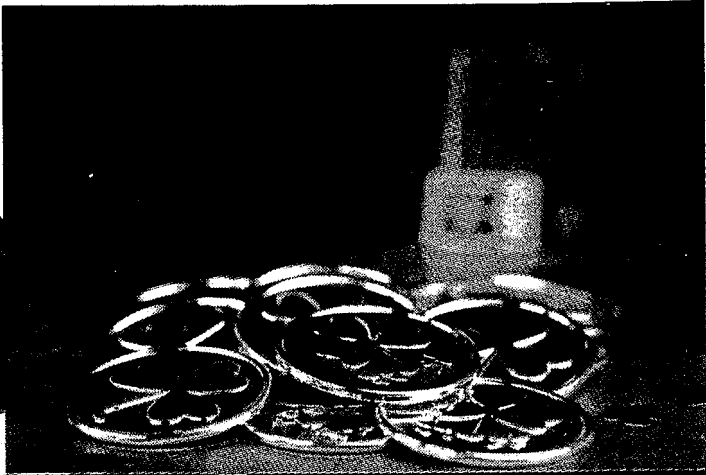
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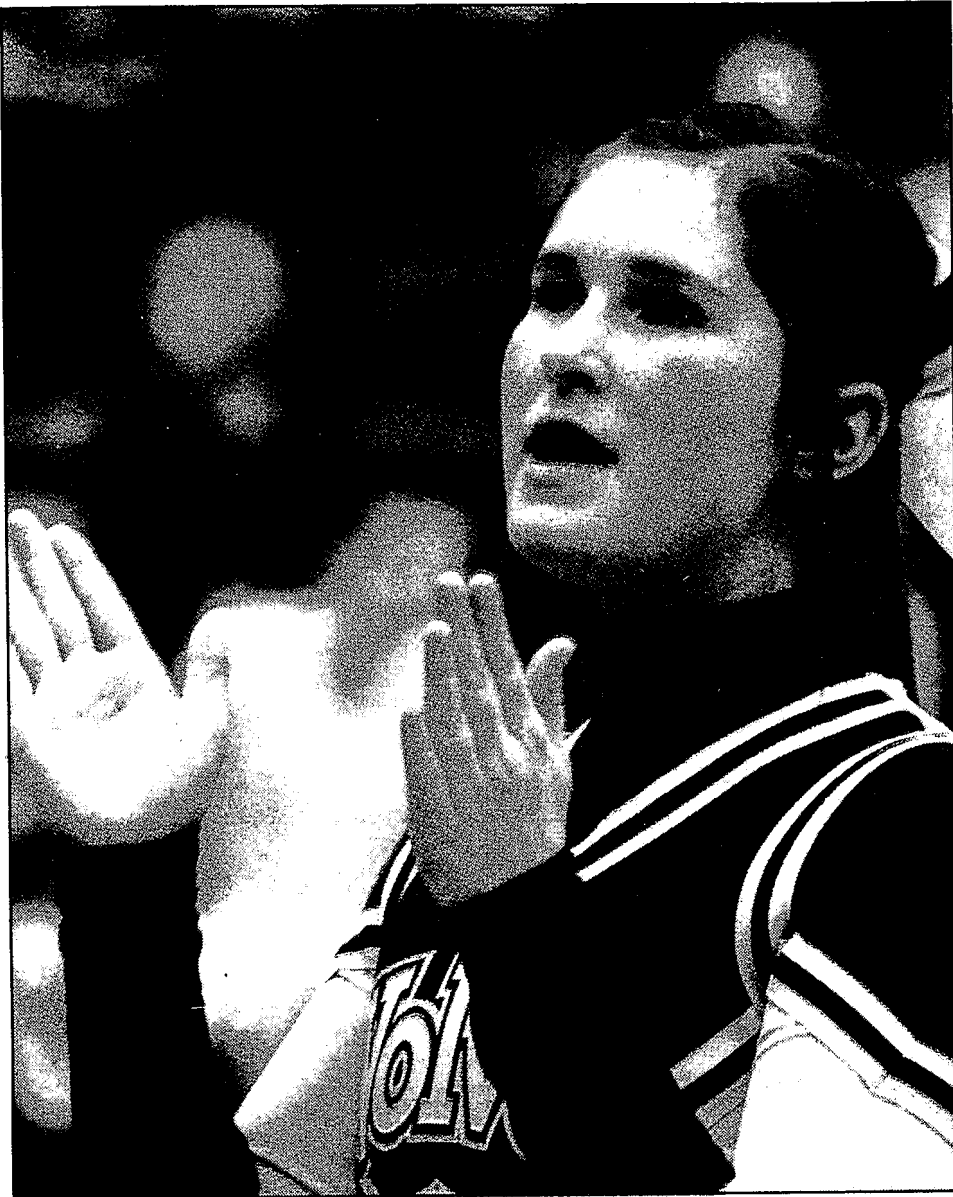
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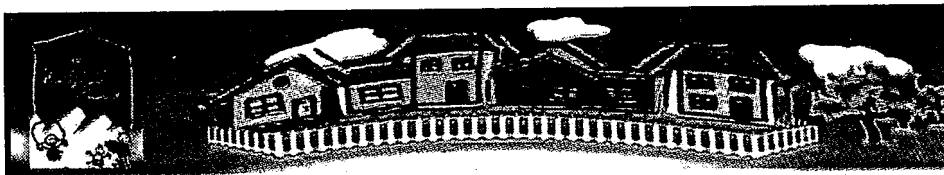
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GO TEAM!: Megan Sullivan cheers on Wolves basketball as they defeat West Bloomfield, March 1. *Photo by Wendi Reardon*



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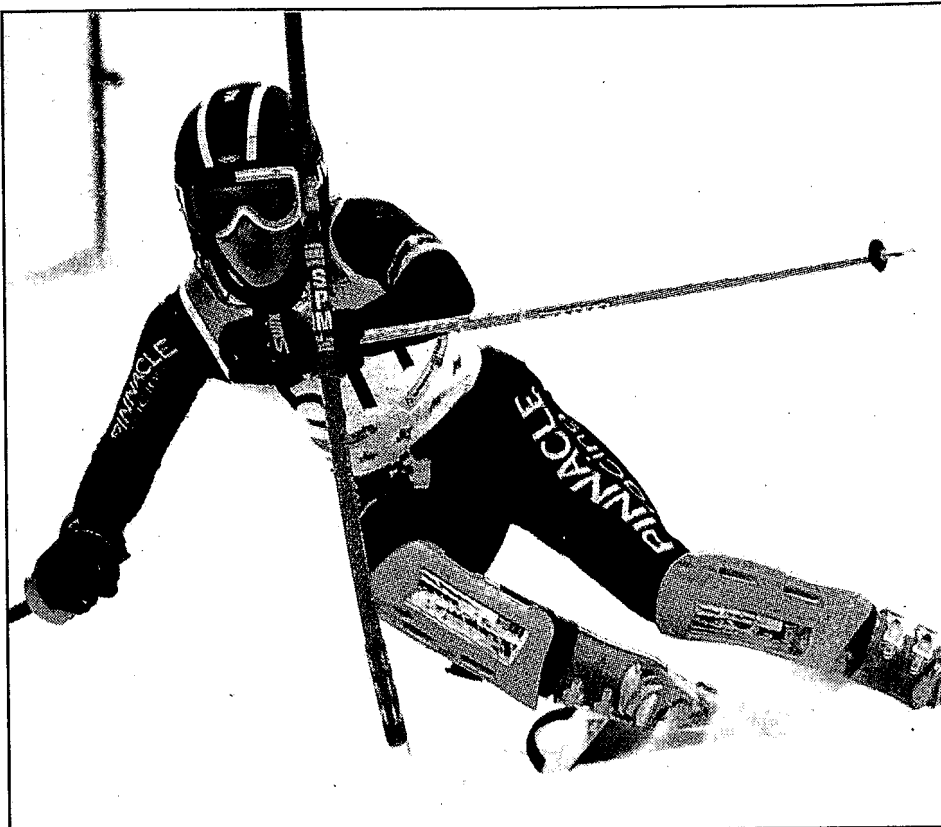
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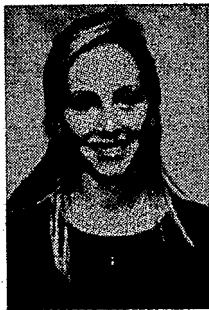
Clarkston's Derek VanTallie clears a gate during one of his races at the state championship at Nub's Nob in Harbor Springs.

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The Clarkston Boys and Girls Ski Teams celebrate the boys varsity team winning the state championship, Feb. 27. Photos by David McCloughry

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Fans cheer on the Clarkston wrestlers.



Scott DeVos battles Mike Fruehlich of Fraser in first round competition.



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Wrestlers clinch All-State honors

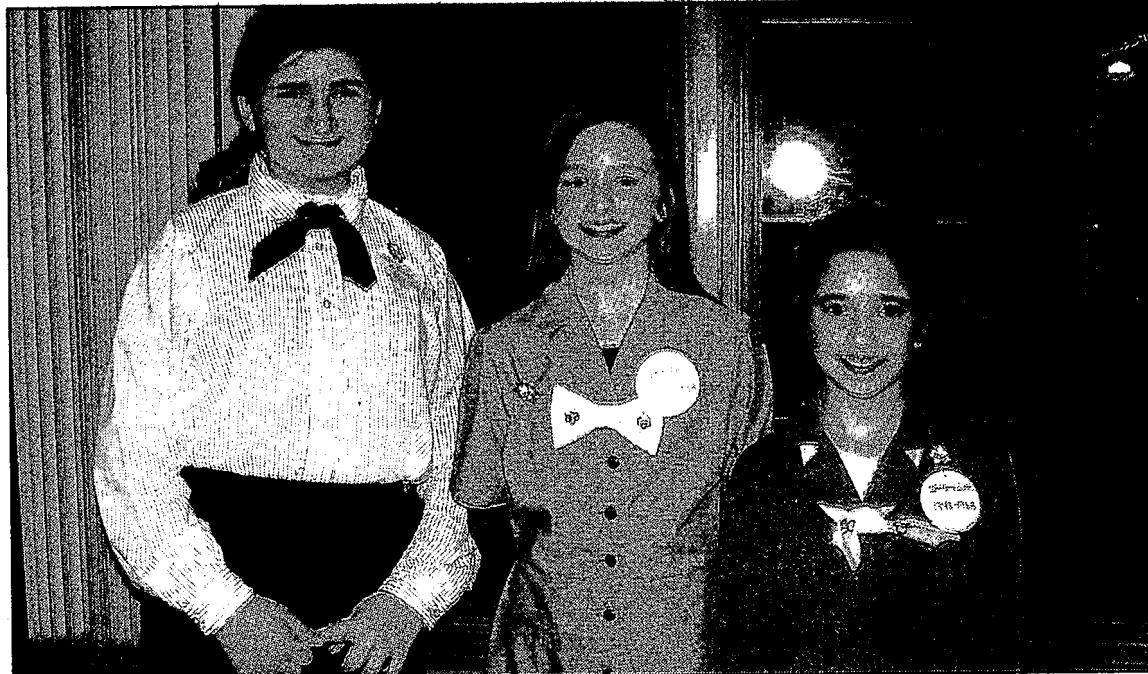
Clarkston grapplers wrestled their way to three All-State awards at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling State Championship in Auburn Hills, March 1-3. For story, please see inside on the sports pages.



Clarkston wrestlers march around the Palace of Auburn Hills in opening ceremonies, March 1. Photos by Wendi Reardon



Katie Haar, left, and Stacie Nickelson, Troop 74496, represent Ireland. Photos by Phil Custodio



The scouts celebrated 100 years of Girl Scouting by wearing vintage uniforms, including, from left, Troop 13350 scouts Amelia Tombrella, 1987-1995; Lauren Gawlik, 1968-1973; and Rebekah Nofar, 1948-1963.

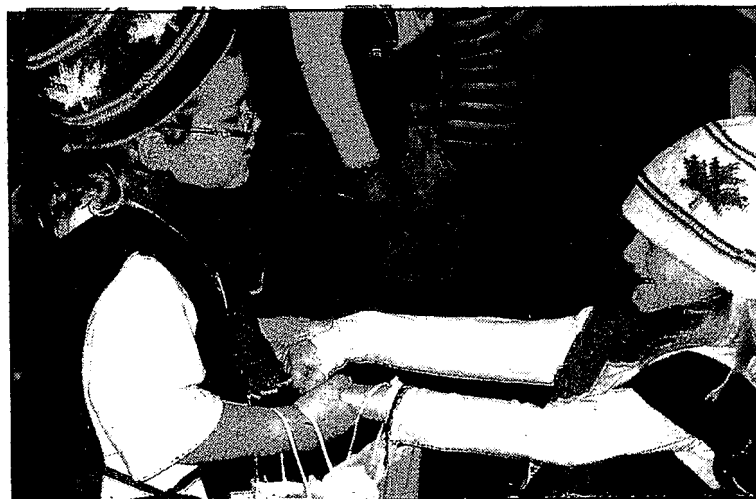
Century of scouts

Clarkston-area Girl Scouts celebrated the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting, Feb. 28, at Springfield Oaks Activity Center in Davisburg.

Around the World in 100 Years event combined Girl Scouts' annual International Night with the 100th Girl Scout Anniversary Celebration.

The scouts marched in a parade showcasing vintage Girl Scout uniforms, and girls dressed in traditional costumes from various countries.

Girl Scout Troop 13350, Independence Elementary, hosted the event to earn their Bronze Award.



Maddison Gallivan, left, and Bella Brykailo of Troop 74449, Clarkston Elementary, enjoy a little dance in their Canada attire.



Kindergarten scouts from Bailey Lake Elementary check out the 100-year anniversary cakes.



Troop 70160 Scouts Arabella Vitale, left, and Hannah Golab learned about China.

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CNews
People Poll
 March 7, 2012

March is Reading Month

What is your favorite book?



"The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. I have read it to all three of my kids."

- Rachel Stone



"The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck."

- Mike Espajo



"I like reading science fiction. I just started A Game of Thrones by George R. R. Martin."

- Sarah Crossman



"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire by J.K. Rowling."

- Kayle Parker

By Wendi Reardon

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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Murder mystery with Clarkston Village Players

BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Clarkston Village Players brings a "good old-fashioned murder mystery" to the stage with "At the Sign of the Crippled Harlequin."

The Peak Lodge Guest House has a long and mysterious history, which is rumored to be haunted by the ghost of the original Coashing Inn host. The Lockwoods are struggling to keep the inn open, and the guests have their own secrets.

Brian and Carol Taylor play Bryan and Sally Lockwood.

"I like Sally's kindness and wanting to serve and help everybody," Carol said.

Brian added he likes being "jovial and making sure people have a good time in my guest house more than anything else."

"There are a lot of unexpected things because you don't know who's good, who's bad, who's a murderer, everything is up in the air and you don't know what each person is actually hiding, said actor Shawn Harbert. "Everybody has their own secrets, even the Lockwoods to some degree."

Harbert plays Issac Clarke, a thoughtful, friendly, self assured late 20's years old with an independent streak.

"I like playing Issac. It's the chance to kind of be the bad boy, but I'm actually kind of a wuss," he said. "I'm tough, yet caring and sensitive underneath it all."

Fellow actor Cyrano Jones, who plays the disagreeable, expensive tastes, demanding, yet charming at times Lionel Reece agreed.

It's nice to play the unrepentant bad guy," he said. "Just get up there and be an ass and not care."

Lois Keel who plays the Lionel's over-painted, somewhat showy, sullen, and coarse wife Joan also enjoyed being a "bad gal."

Jacky Salter plays the frail, kind, and thoughtful Marjorie Pike.

"I enjoy the challenge of playing someone



Bryan and Sally Lockwood, played by Brian and Carol Taylor discuss how to keep their guest house. Photo by Trevor Keiser

who's older than I am," she said.

Last but, not least James Hoxey plays Derek Tyndale, apologetic, shy, helpful mamma's boy.

"How can you not have fun playing the crazy guy? It's not as easy as it looks though, I'll tell you that," Hoxey said. "Derek, just loves his mother and misses her. He just can't let go of her and it's been a blast doing that."

The play is performed March 9, 10, 16, 17, 18,

23, 24 at the Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road. Shows start at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

"The play has a lot of different characters and it gives the actors a chance to explore different personalities than they would probably normally have," said Director Verne Vackaro. "It's always fun to work with larger cast and mysteries are always kind of fun too."

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Special Events

Clarkston Village Players, "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. ***

Responsible Lawn Care workshop, Wild Ones, North Oakland Chapter, 7:30 p.m., March 7, St. Daniel Church Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park Drive. With Lois Robbins, author of Lawn Wars, and Kathy Rollins, North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy. Free. Register at annebushroe@hotmail.com. ***

Cats and the Fiddler, 7 p.m., March 9, Community Presbyterian Church, Monroe and Sashabaw, Waterford. Bluegrass, folk, country music. 248-673-7805. ***

Camp Scrap Lock-in for Oakland County Fair, March 9-11, Springfield Oaks County Park. \$75, round the clock scrapping, dinner, snacks, beverages. 248-634-8830. ***

Brunch, Bake Sale, Brown Bag Auction, 11 a.m., March 10, Campbell-Richmond Auxiliary Unit 63, 8047 Ortonville Road. \$5 donation for lunch. 248-935-1529. **Elvis** entertainment, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., March 24. \$10, proceeds benefit Girls State program. 248-625-1919. ***

Ladies Night Out, 7-9 p.m., March 15, Fountains Golf and Banquet Center, 6060 Maybee Road. Specialty vendors, drink specials, Coach purse raffle, live music. Benefits Lend a Helping Hand. 248-620-4960. ***

Protecting Your Memory, Health, Wealth, and Life to the Fullest series, 4-5:30 p.m., March 18, Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. With Dr. Nathan Chase, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Internal Medicine. 248-625-3288. ***

Genealogy Workshop, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., March 17, Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Free, but register at 248-625-2212. ***

Around Town



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

Anyone Can Paint, 9-11 a.m., March 19, step by step instruction. \$23, \$25 for non-members. Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231. ***

Titanic, the Musical, April 29, ticket to musical at Royal Oak Theatre, lunch at Lilly's Seafood, transportation, \$79, \$84 for non-members. Register at Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231. ***

Weekly meetings

Monday

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

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 Presbyterian Church, 4301 Monroe Street at Sashabaw. 248-623-7232. ***

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

Creative Writing Workshop, Mondays, April 2 - May 7, 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m., \$15, \$20 for non-members. Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231. ***

50+ Line Dancing, Mondays, 1-4 p.m. Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road, Dance to country, salsa, cha-cha and rock and roll rhythms with Rosemary Hall to exercise your body and mind! Ongoing @ \$3.00 pp. drop in fee. ***

Tuesday

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

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

Clarkston Community Band rehearsals, 7 p.m., Tuesdays. \$30/semester. Band room, Sashabaw Middle School, 5565 Pine Knob Lane. Independence Township Parks & Recreation, 248-625-8223. ***

Breast Cancer Support Group, second Tues-

day, 7-9 p.m., 21st Century Oncology, 6770 Dixie Highway, Suite 106. 248-625-3841 ***

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

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

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

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

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. ***

Wednesday

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

Tell Us About Your Travels, third Wednesday through October, 6-7:30 p.m., Library Community Meeting Room, Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. 248-625-2212. ***

Thursday

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

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

Lunches for 50+, Thursdays, 12 p.m., made-from-scratch. \$6 donation. Independence

Please see Around Town on page 8B

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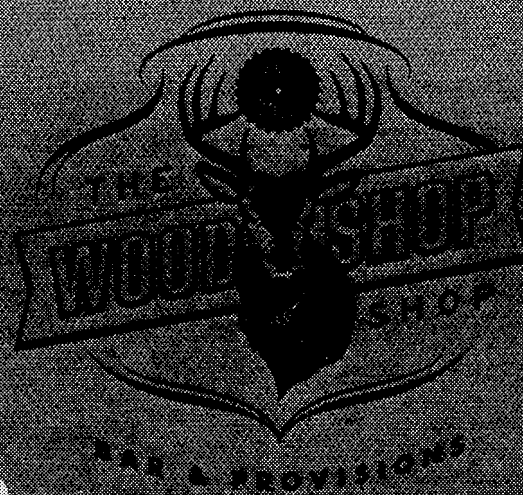
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More revenue found in budget amendment

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

In her first crack at Clarkston Schools' budget, new business director Mary Beth Rogers found the shortfall to be less than half what was expected.

"Now we know the full federal allocation," said Rogers, executive director of business services.

Federal funding, mostly for at-risk student programs, was \$335,474 more than expected. State funding was also more than expected, \$505,912.

The district also spent \$715,242 less than was budgeted, she said.

Spending for Central Services was \$450,307 less than originally budgeted, and Operations and Maintenance was \$250,000 less.

Clarkston School Board approved the second-quarter amended budget unanimously, Feb. 27. According to the budget, Clarkston Community Schools collected \$74.76 million in revenue, with spending at \$76.20 million. The shortfall will come from the district's \$9.83 million fund balance. That will leave a \$8.48 million fund balance, 11 percent of the budget.

"That's about where we want it for cash flow purposes," she said.

Savings let the district avoid borrowing between July and October, when state funding stops, makes the district look better to

bond rating agencies, and serves as a rainy-day fund, she said.

Also, the district's total bond debt is \$138 million, with payments spread over the next 18 years. Payments are twice a year, funded by 7 mills residential property tax. The November, interest payment was \$3.2 million. In May, an interest and principal will be \$13.8 million.



Rogers

At the end of the 18 years, interest paid on the \$138 million principal will be about \$50 million.

The School Board requires a balanced budget. To achieve that, the district must account for a 2.73 percent, \$1.1 million increase in retirement costs to the state, property tax revenue falling by \$1.7 million, reductions in state funding for half-day Kindergarten of about \$300 per student, and a student count loss of 97 students from 2010-2011.

"We're looking at a \$3 million loss in revenue and we haven't even done anything yet," Rogers said. "We have to look at everything, cost reductions, efficiencies in the district, hopefully alternative revenue enhancement."

Gov. Rick Snyder's proposed state budget keeps per-pupil funding flat - "2005

foundation allowance with 2012 expenses," Rogers said.

Administration and the School Board will consider cuts in the next couple months, she said.

Rogers joined the district after the retirement of Bruce Beamer in January.

As the new business director, her goals include new formats for budget reports.

"More transparency for people to see the ins and outs, increases and decreases between the first and second quarter," she said.

She also wants to tighten up the quarterly budget amendments, so they more closely match actual revenues and spending.

"I'll look at trends, actuals over the last few year, budget assumptions - a combination of different ways," she said. "If they don't match, then I'll ask why not, ask questions."

Rogers has 13 years of experience as finance director, and also worked as a budget analyst for Central Michigan University. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Central Michigan University and a Master's degree in Education Leadership.

The school board will receive the final budget amendment in June, then almost immediately receive the proposed original budget for 2012-2013.

Rules set on school board communications

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

In the wake of a legal presentation on board of education ethics, Feb. 13, Clarkston schools administration sent a memo to all school employees listing "specifics" on the role of school board members.

The rules, approved unanimously by the school board Feb. 13, include:

- Board members cannot advocate in a manner contrary to a resolution passed by the board;
- Board members must direct all complaints to the board president or the superintendent;
- Board members may not enter school buildings without an appointment; and
- Board members cannot request documents or information from staff without a resolution of the board.

"Our district's legal counsel addressed these issues with the board at our Feb. 13 meeting," said Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock. "This information came directly from our district's existing bylaws, operating procedures, and MASB bylaws. No part of this information is new and not one of these bylaws or operating procedures were changed in any way."

Trustee Rosalie Lieblang said board members should have the same communications

rights as other elected officials.

"Speaking as a private citizen, I don't see their role as any different than the roles or our other elected officials like our state and federal representatives and senators," Lieblang said. "School Board members are elected officials and have a responsibility to represent the views of the electorate they serve."

Trustee Joan Patterson said the memo reflects distrust of school board members.

"First, this is my personal opinion of the issues," Patterson said. "Single point communication access as suggested in the memo looks to limit the opportunity to see a whole picture. With a broader access, different points of view can still be ignored, but they can at least have an opportunity to be heard."

Board President Cheryl McGinnis, official spokesperson for the board, said state law requires school boards to act only as a board.

"Legally, only the vote of a majority of this board's members creates action by this board," McGinnis said. "Under Section 1201 of the Revised School Code, we as trustees are only to exercise our power and perform our duties as trustees when doing so collectively and only at a regular or a properly called special meeting."

Other rules include:

- Board members cannot talk about issues before those have come before the board or state that the board will do certain things in advance of the board passing a resolution.
- Board members may not publicly criticize a district employee.
- Board members cannot use their board positions to accomplish a political goal contrary to a board resolution.
- As always, individual school board members attend school events, concerts, games, and volunteer as mentors; and
- Board members may not speak publicly without disclaiming that they cannot speak for the Board of Education; however, a board member may, upon disclaiming that he/she is a board member, share the position of the board as long as that position is consistent with a resolution of the board.

This exception accounts for board Treasurer Steve Hyer's appearance on a radio station's podcast, Feb. 18, during which no disclaimer was issued.

"No disclaimer was necessary as I was not representing any views on anything that was contrary to a board resolution or previous board action and I was not representing anything about any future possible board action," Hyer said.

Briefly

Bond ballot language

The Board of Education unanimously approved bond proposal ballot language during, Feb. 27.

The ballot language says Clarkston Community Schools will borrow \$20 million for technology and capital improvements.

The board also approved a resolution not to "levy more than one mill against all property within the boundaries of the District to support debt service on the bonds," 4-3.

Trustees Susan Boatman, Rosalie Lieblang and Joan Patterson voted against the resolution because they wanted more time to consider changes made to it.

Genealogy workshop

Sashabaw Plains Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Independence Township Library and the Clarkston Historical Society offer a Genealogy Workshop, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., March 17, Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Free, but register at 248-625-2212.

Learn about the 1940 Census available in April 2 (finding your relatives in the 20th century), Documenting Marriages and Michigan records. One hour will be informational and the second hour, you will receive help researching your relatives. Check www.indelib.org for more information.

Maple demonstrations

Indian Springs Metropark celebrates maple sugaring season with pancake breakfasts, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., March 17-18.

Maple sugaring demonstrations will be at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Interpreters will show how maple syrup is made from the sap of sugar maples.

Maple sugaring programs will be offered Saturdays and Sundays throughout the month at the Environmental Discovery Center.

Pancake breakfast is \$5 per adult and \$3 for children; maple sugaring demos are \$3 per person. Preregistration required for maple sugaring demonstrations.

For those already familiar with tree tapping, the 11 a.m. program will feature advanced tips and techniques for those interested in tapping their own tree. Sap collection starter kits will be available for \$12.

City gets grant for two new dump trucks

Former councilman objects, calls for review

BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Clarkston's getting two new dump trucks, with the help of Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

"Our two trucks are 15-16 years old," said Dennis Ritter, city manager for the City of the Village of Clarkston. "We applied for the grant and we received word about 10 days or so ago the grant was approved for \$170,000."

The city gets \$170,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) grant funding to replace the Department of Public Works' two trucks.

"It takes a huge load off of everybody because you see, at \$170,000, what it's going to take to replace two vehicles," Ritter said. "That's a very large amount of money, which we simply don't have to buy one ourselves."

Former Councilman Cory Johnston said he is against the program, for many reasons.

"One is that the city has known for 3-4 years that these trucks would need replacing but made no plans and allocated no funds to do so," he said. "Second is that the trucks are used very little."

Johnston wrote to SEMCOG, Michigan



Clarkston's getting two dump trucks with grant money. Photo by Trevor Keiser

Federal Highway Administration, and state Rep. Eileen Kowall asking them to review the recommendation.

"This grant information does not appear to agree with publicly available records," he said. "It appears to never have been reviewed by the City Council or Planning Commission, and there was no opportunity for anyone other than part-time DPW director to comment on whether this was the

best use of these grant funds."

According to the Dec. 12, 2011, DPW report to City Council, the small truck has 66,000 odometer miles and was made in 1997.

"That makes it at least 14 years old and an average of 4,714 miles per year," Johnston said. "The grant application states the annual

mileage at 16,857 which for 14 years would be about 236,000 miles, not 66,000."

Johnston was also upset because the CMAQ grants can be used for "traffic flow improvements," which he believes would help everyone far more than a couple new trucks.

"They can be used for bike lanes on existing streets which I am very much in favor of and was recommended by the City Planning Commission only to be ignored by the City Council," he said.

Since major roads in the city are all cleared of snow and maintained by the county, these trucks provide service for only the few secondary roads and provide benefit to only a few local residents, he said.

CMAQ grant funding is to reduce emissions from transportation-related sources. Funding is distributed by the federal government to areas with higher concentrations of pollutants, according to SEMCOG

The city got the grant under the "diesel replacement" category to replace current trucks with newer, less polluting diesel trucks.

The plan is to sell the old trucks and get what they can for them - no estimate yet of how much that will be, he said.

Better rate on bonds for city

BY TREVOR KEISER

Clarkston News Staff Writer

When it came to refunding city bonds, Jessie Nelson of Umbaugh and Associates said City Manager Dennis Ritter was "wise to wait until early February."

"We had talked about doing this in early November, but he knew where interest rates were going," Nelson said at the Feb. 27 council meeting. "The city hit the market at about the exact right time, so that was nice."

Clarkston has three series of bonds, which were taken out in 2002 for water lines and road improvements. The three series add up to over \$1 million. Interest rates currently range between 3.90-4.40, but could mature up to as high as 5.30.

Ritter said, a year ago, the best they could have saved by refunding bonds would have been \$42,000 by refunding bonds. Today, they will save around \$245,800, or 3.4 percent on a fixed interest rate of 2.33 percent from Chase bank.

"That killed my estimate of 3.1 percent," Nelson said, which would have yielded a savings of \$132,400 or an 8 percent savings. "That's really fantastic."

We're pleased with those results," he said.

Ritter agreed.

"I'm really ecstatic about it for the residents of the community because they're just going to benefit from the savings," he said. "It will be by means of a lower debt retirement tax, which would otherwise have to be paid."

Nelson credited the city for having a good credit score and Chase Bank "for coming through."

Mayor Joe Luginski said it echoes the theme they've recently received from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) and the Michigan Municipal League (MML) a year ago.



"Financially this city is very sound, good credit, and we have a good fund balance. All those things and the way this city has been run, not only today, but for the last 20 years is why we can do this," Luginski said. "It's a credit to all those people that came before us and why we're here. Dennis is the manager of that and why we're in that position, without that we wouldn't be able to get this. I think it's a key thing."

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Viewpoints

Keiser's Role

A column by Trevor Keiser

Power of the press

"Even though we never like it, and even though we wish they didn't write it, and even though we disapprove, there isn't any doubt at all that we could not do the job at all in a free society without a very, very active press."

~
"Conversations with President Kennedy," Dec. 17, 1962.



In a world of cyber-media where any Joe, Dick and Harry can give "news" via YouTube or blogging. I still believe in the importance of actual reporters and journalists.

In a lunch discussion with a former local government official I was asked if it's hard to do the double duty of being a reporter (writing news stories objectively, honestly, and fairly) and being a columnist (giving personal thoughts, opinions, and insights on said news stories).

My answer was no. I look at news as giving the facts of an incident, with the thoughts and opinions of those who were involved. An example being a topic a township board or city council meeting. The facts are what topic they discussed, and what the vote was. The quotes and opinions within are those of the various members of the board or council.

I think this is important because the press is charged with making sure we not only get our facts straight, but we get both sides of a story. We let the with opposing viewpoints be heard or in our case read.

Thoughts and opinions need to be challenged, including my own. This is why I am glad readers write Letters to the Editor to share their thoughts on what they've read either on the front page or in *Keiser's Roll*.

"The only security of all is in a free press. The force of public opinion cannot be resisted, when permitted freely to be expressed. The agitation it produces must be submitted to. It is necessary to keep the waters pure." ~Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to Marquis de Lafayette, November 4, 1823.

As a newspaper reporter/columnist I take the power of the press to inform objectively, honestly, and fairly to the public on local issues. Also, to keep in check those who have been elected by the people with great responsibility. I will continue to do so to the best of my ability.

Keep communications open

As the saying goes, "the solution to bad speech is more speech." As your local community newspaper, we believe that—that's why we're here.

That's not what we see in the communications guidelines for members of the Clarkston Board of Education.

School administration issued a nine-point memo to all staff, eight of which say what school board members can't say or do in our schools.

We think school board members should be encouraged to communicate with as many employees, voters, and residents as possible.

Lack of communication leads to miscommunication, such as the idea that the

school board is united behind the proposed \$20 million bond.

It's not. The school board voted 4-3, Jan. 9, to approve the May 8 special election. It voted 4-3 on the Feb. 27 one-million vote.

Majority rules, so the measures passed. But that doesn't mean each board member must agree, just as it is for any other

elected official.

The rules emphasize collective decision making, setting aside the individual in favor of collective interests.

That's not the way this country was set up. Everyone wants informed voters. If administration doesn't like a board member's speech, provide more speech.

Editorial

City minutes wanted sooner

Dear Editor,

I will admit that I do not read the Clarkston Village meeting minutes in the *Clarkston News* as there is even less content in this "summary" version than there is in the official full version.

However, I noticed that the date of the meeting minutes is Feb. 13 and published in the paper on Feb. 29, 16 days later and after the next meeting of the council has taken place.

If someone had an issue with what the Council did, they would not be able to publicly comment to the Council until two meetings or four weeks later. Ordinances generally have a 20 day period until they go into effect after being approved by the Council.

If one only went by the minutes published in the newspaper, it would be too late to address the council on the matter as it would be at least two meetings, four weeks or 28 days

later.

The open meetings act require meeting minutes to be available eight business days after the meeting takes place.

By my count, that would be Thursday of the following week for the regular Monday meetings and in time for reading before the next

meeting.

Of course the city does not generally follow this rule and I have found it impossible to get any information, including meeting agenda and minutes, no matter how many times I ask.

Perhaps they only want the public to read the approved minutes even though it provides little opportunity to publicly discuss an issue. Perhaps they just don't want anyone to know what they are doing.

Cory Johnston
Clarkston

Letters to the editor

Thanks for dedicated service

Dear Editor,

I wish to comment Mr Larry Rosso for his long and valued service on the Independence Township Board.

Larry was always a moderate and thoughtful voice on a board that could get very contentious and he also acted as chair during the long absence of Supervisor

Wagner.

I feel the township residents owe Larry a big thank-you for 16 years of dedicated service on the board and hope we do not lose his thoughts and ideas as he leaves the board. Best Wishes Larry!

Jim Reed
Independence Township

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

A Look Back

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1997

"Not enough seats" Plans for the new \$5 million high school came in short more than a thousand seats in the gym. Builders said building codes had changed and they needed \$80,000 more. The school board approved the extra payment.

"Warren to be honored; chair alumni sought" Grayce Warren, an icon of music education in Clarkston, announced her retirement, and her students were planning a tribute to her. They planned a concert featuring over 300 singers, all returning students.

"March of the 'droids'" Clarkston Middle School Odyssey of the Mind competitors made a variety of androids for competition. Katy Manojilovich, Melanie Lauer, Lauren Trager, Lizzie Hunter, Beth Trapp, Jessi Jennings, and Alexis Roberts competed in the Omerdroid problem.

25 years ago - 1987

"Might as well jump" Clarkston High's volleyball team celebrated after winning the district championship at Rochester Adams. They beat league foe Lake Orion, and were set to advance to regionals.

"Growth brings positive challenges" Road maintenance and growth were one of the most important issues facing Independence Township, said Supervisor Frank Ronk.

"Richardson named grid coach" The Kurt Richardson football era began at Clarkston High School. The 34-year-old Richardson was chosen head varsity coach after seven years as an assistance coach. He said he planned to open things up a bit in offense, but the backbone of any great team was always defense.

50 years ago - 1962

"Clarkston Business Men's Association urges Yes vote" Voters in the Village of Clarkston were set to decide a "liquor by the class" issue. The business group endorsed the measure, saying it would support community development.

"Deer spotted near town" Mr. Frank Russell, Main Street resident, reported a deer crossing the Millpond that weekend. The animal kept moving east across U.S. 10 just north of the stoplight in Clarkston, then on to Parke Lake. They had no further reports on the deer's location.

"Local news" Mr. Gordon Bray of Evec Road was honored at a birthday dinner at the home of the C.E. Huffmans of Sashabaw Road.

Cranium collection of noncollectibles

• Boys with 3 or 4 older sisters learn to dance way before boys with no siblings. The talent comes easily when waiting outside the bathroom door. I have to give Bob Hope credit for that one.

• In one of his too-many talks to the nation, President Obama said four million new jobs have been created under his watch. How can that be when we have nearly 9% unemployment? Maybe he's counting jobs his policies have created in Asia.

• The words were just beginning to echo that car makers were announcing new dashboard gadgets, when "safety experts" were warning the world of the potential of rising auto mishaps. These experts fail to give credit to this generation's greater aptitude of hand-eye coordination increasing. Or, maybe they do.

• In 1943, hundreds of pilots were getting their licenses from Gulf Coast Training Center in Frederick, Oklahoma. There was also a similar facility in Altus, Okla. Where were ten such fields in Texas? Those getting wings were sometimes referred to as "aerial destruction experts." Politically correct? One of those 1943 pilots at Frederick was George Prince of Oxford. He was shot down over Yugoslavia the next year.

• Beyond this layman's thoughts. Presidents approve

earmarks (money) to districts where senators need help getting votes. They have been known to paraphrase the Bible on such occasions. Please, don't paraphrase our Bible. The original wording is fine.

Jim's Jottings



a column by
Jim Sherman

• During one of former Detroit mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's announcements that he had seen the light while in solitaire, an interviewee asked us to not be quick to judge him. What is the accepted length of time we should wait to judge?

• I'm a semi-frequent shopper at big box stores like Meijer and Kmart. Seems like whatever I'm there for -- shoes, muskmelon or Shayna food -- I find myself in the bra and pantie-section. I'm not kinky, so either that department is really big or I've got to start shopping Home Depot.

• When a pill or treatment company spends more time with disclaimers than it does convincing us to buy, it's time to forget the message.

- - - 0 - - -

Very interesting. In 1887 Alexander Tyler, a Scottish history professor at the University of Edinburgh, had

this to say about the fall of the Athenian Republic some 2,000 years prior.

"A democracy is always temporary in nature: it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will; continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidate who promises the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse over loose fiscal policy, (which is) always followed by a dictatorship.

"The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

From bondage to spiritual faith;
From spiritual faith to great courage;
From courage to liberty;
From liberty to abundance;
From abundance to complacency;
From complacency to apathy;
From apathy to dependence;
From dependence back into bondage."

Spring forward this weekend, really.

It may seem abrupt or too good to be true, but the start of "summertime" will be here this weekend.

I know it's been a winter wonderland of about two-point-three accumulative inches of snow this season, but, just like last year, taking that leap forward in time in March don't seem right. So, I will leap back in time to tell you about moving your clock.

For those older folks like me, springing forward in March seems early. It was always an April thing.

One of the President Bushs signed into law making it earlier. It's moot to me as we all only get 24 hours a day to do good, no matter what the law says.

One reason I love the internet is I can ask questions and get quick answers. And, just like when folks ask me a question and I give a quick answer, it is understood said quick answer may or may not be correct.

So, I did a little internet "research" (I think the key word there was, little) and here are some things I found about Standard Time and Daylight Savings Time.

Blame Ben

According to legend, the idea of day-

light savings time was conceived by America's first and foremost brainiac, Benjamin Franklin. This legend was verified for me at the website, www.webexhibits.com. The idea came to Ben (and I quote), "during his sojourn as an American delegate in Paris in 1784, in an essay, *An Economical Project* . . ."



Don't Rush Me

A column by
Don Rush

I have checked, and yes, this is after he flew his kite during a lightning storm, by about 30 years.

Big 'oops' in Indiana

Up until 2005, only about 16 percent of the counties in Indiana observed Daylight Savings Time. A state comprised of stubborn, rebellious spirits, Indianians are nonetheless, frugal. The state made the switch to Daylight Savings Time after being convinced by doing so, they would save (collectively) \$7 million in electricity costs each year.

And, here is what's interesting to me (again I will quote the Exhibit website), "Now that Indiana has made the switch,

however, researchers have found the opposite to be the case.

Scientists from the University of California, Santa Barbara, compared energy usage over the course of three years in Indiana counties that switched from year-round Standard Time to DST. They found that Indianians actually spent \$8.6 million more each year because of Daylight Saving Time."

The reason, when the first study saying folks would save money on electricity was conducted (40 years earlier), most folks didn't have air conditioning in their homes. Not, to mention population increases. Oops.

And, in Michigan . . .

Prior to November 18, 1883, the time of day was a local matter -- based on the sun, a big central clock maintained by the town jeweler, or the predominant local church. There were no time zones. Time zones came with the advent of the railroading industry.

Here is Detroit's take on the whole thing (again, according to the quick answer I got on the internet).

"Detroit kept local time until 1900, when the City Council decreed that

clocks should be put back 28 minutes to Central Standard Time. Half the city obeyed, while half refused. After considerable debate, the decision was rescinded and the city reverted to sun time.

"A derisive offer to erect a sundial in front of the city hall was referred to the Committee on Sewers. Then, in 1905, Central Standard Time was adopted by city vote."

I was heartened to see, historically, Detroit City Council was ahead of the curve on all matters local 100 years ago, as they are today.

Run, don't walk

And, one last thing about Daylight Savings Time, "A 2001 study by researchers at the University of Michigan, found that 65 pedestrians were killed by car crashes in the week before DST ended, and 227 pedestrians were killed in the week following the end of DST."

In other words, if you are walking, stay off the roads for the next two weeks until drivers can adjust to the time change.

Send comments to
Don@shermanpublications.org



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Firefighter retires after 37 years

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Capt. Mike Fahrner saw major changes in firefighting in his 37 years of service on the Independence Township Fire Department, but one thing that never changed was strong community support.

"When we'd go to the people for something, they always supported us," said Fahrner, who retired last month. "I'm entirely grateful they're behind us."

He joined the department as a junior firefighter on his 16th birthday, and became a volunteer firefighter after he graduated from Clarkston High School in 1975.

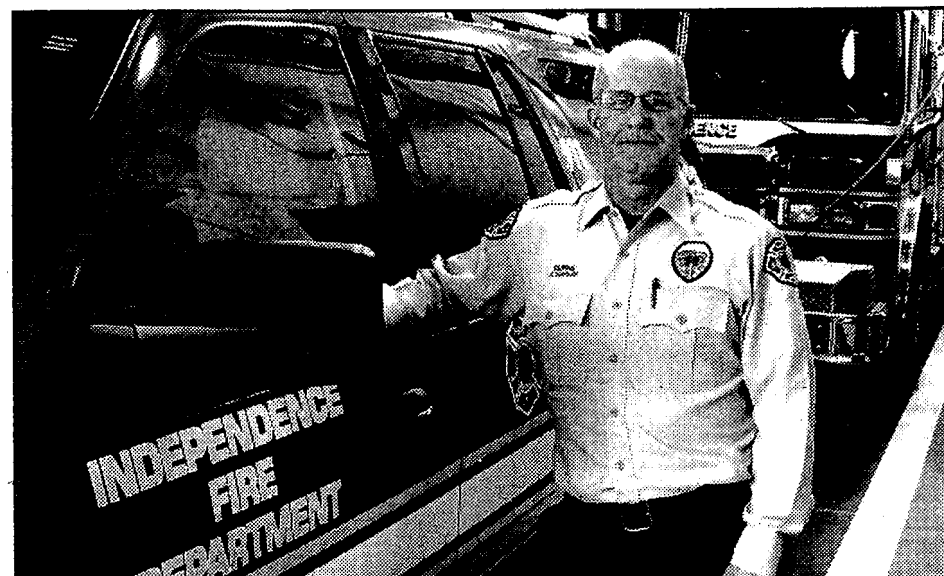
"My dad was in this department," he said. "I joined right out of high school – they were hiring. It's been good. I enjoyed it, helping people, camaraderie with people I work with. It's been my second family."

He joined the department as an emergency medical technician in 1977.

"We were just starting the emergency medical service," he said. "We provided oxygen, bandages, basic life support. We only had one advanced paramedic."

He joined with Steve Ronk – the Dec. 29, 1977 edition of *The Clarkston News* features the two men.

Steve's father, Frank Ronk was chief when



Mike Fahrner recently retired after 37 years with the Independence Township Fire Department. Photo by Phil Custodio

they joined. Now, Steve Ronk is the fire department's chief.

"They're different, but both good leaders for the department," Fahrner said.

As he retires, he sees fewer fires due to more fire prevention education, and fewer serious accidents on I-75, though they are

still frequent.

"The biggest change on the highway was the guardrail – there aren't as many cross over head-ons now," he said. "We used to have them multiple times each year."

He lives in Independence Township with his wife, Rene, and their two daughters.

Around Town

Continued from page 2B

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. March 15: Bar-

bara Rollin and Mary Melega from Independence Township Senior Center. Refreshments served. 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 Drive. 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.

DivorceCare facilitated discussion, Thurs-

days, 6:45-8:30 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road, room 122. 248-625-1611.

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

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

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Public Safety

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

Armed and driving

A deputy stopped a 27-year-old Oxford man for loud exhaust, 10:01 p.m., Feb. 23. His muffler had fallen off. Asked if he had any weapons, the driver said he didn't, even though a collapsible metal baton sat next to his seat. He said he had forgotten about it. Asked if he had any other weapons, he said he had a hunting knife in the center console. With prior arrests for assault, on probation, and a concealed pistol license revoked, the driver offered to let the deputy keep the weapons if he would "forget it." The officer kept the weapons, but said he would also check on his probation conditions and get back to him. The driver was cited for loud exhaust.

Drunk driver

A 39-year-old Brandon Township man was stopped for an unsecured load in his pickup truck, 12:44 a.m., Feb. 24, at Sashabaw and Oakwood Road. He smelled of alcohol and said he had consumed five beers before hitting the road. Preliminary breath test was .17. He was arrested and jailed for drunk driving.

Hubcaps taken

Someone took hubcaps from three vehicles parked in driveways in the 4000 block of Ava Lane, Feb. 25. Hubcaps were taken from two vehicles parked in driveways in the 1000 block of Blackberry Lane, Feb. 28.

Identity theft

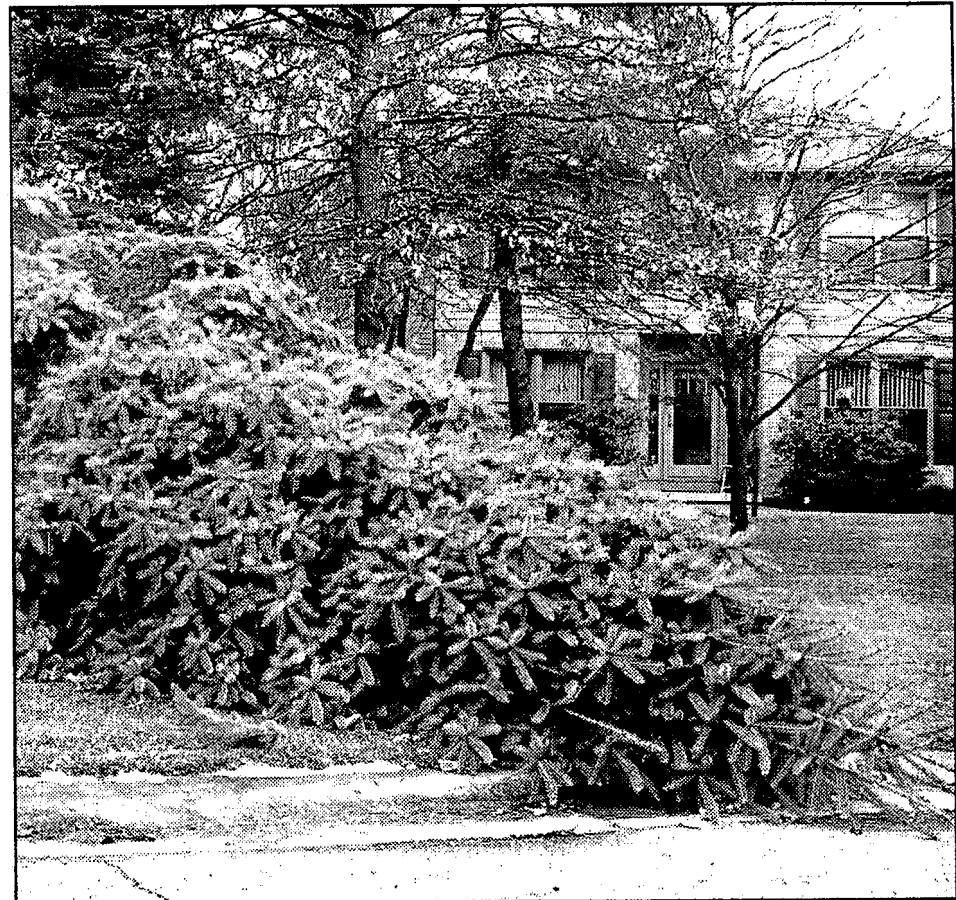
An Independence Township resident filed his tax return online, Feb. 26, and found someone had already used his Social Security number to file. He then filed a fraud report with deputies.

Warrant arrest

A deputy stopped a 19-year-old Pontiac man at I-75 and Sashabaw Road, 10:12 p.m., Feb 28, for no taillights. The driver was found with a warrant for dangerous drugs, and was arrested.

Business break-in

Deputies were dispatched to a break-in alarm at a business in the 10000 block of Enterprise in Springfield Township, 1:15 a.m., March 2. A K-9 unit tracked suspects, who had fled on foot, but lost the scent. Investigation continues.



TREE DOWN: High winds knocked out power and brought down trees throughout the area, March 3, including this spruce on Pine Valley Road. Photo provided by John Meyland

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Undefeated in league play

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Cagers added one more win to their record as they worked on continuing deep into the post season.

They opened the first round of the MHSAA District playoffs with a 72-61 against Grand Blanc on Monday night.

Before they finished the regular season last week they beat West Bloomfield, 70-33, to remain undefeated in the OAA Red league.

"It is a great effort," said Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball Head Coach Dan Fife. "It's not easy to go undefeated in our league. I was really proud of the kids. We thanked them and congratulated them - now we have a rough road to go."

The last time Fife remembered going undefeated in the league was in 1991 when his son Dugan was on the team.

The boys opened the game with two points from junior Jordan Dasuqi after he scored off senior Nick Tatu's rebound.

West Bloomfield tied the score but it would be the last time as seniors Zach Collins and Mitch Baenziger scored a combination of four points to put Clarkston back into the lead.

The Wolves went on a 10-0 run before closing the first quarter. They continued to build from there, finishing the first half 42-17.

"Over the years that has been a difficult game," Fife admitted about the boys' last home game. "Our seniors are wound up and want to have a good game. There are distractions. Our kids played good mentally."

With the lead continuing, Fife put the boys from the bench into the game - including senior Travis Smith, who has missed the entire season because he was injured.

"It was good to have him back," Fife added. "He creates a lot of things. It was his first game back and he is ready for districts even though he missed the season."

Baenziger led the team with 13 points. Dasuqi scored 12 points, making two 3-pointers; Tatu had 11 points with one 3-pointer. Senior Alan Kamieniecki and sophomore Nick Owens scored two 3-pointers.

The boys also beat Southfield-Lathrup on Feb. 28 before they wrapped the regular season, 67-57.

"It was a great game," Fife smiled. "We had to play well."

The Wolves were behind, 27-34, going into the second half of the game. The Chargers took the lead after outscoring them 20-12 in second quarter.

The boys held on tight and made 15 points while holding Southfield-Lathrup down to ten points. With a two point deficit the Wolves went into the fourth quarter with a mission.

"We finally caught up to them and got a little lead," Fife said about the final quarter. "Then we just went ahead in the last three minutes. It was a tough place to play and it was an early game. We arrived a little late because of exams."

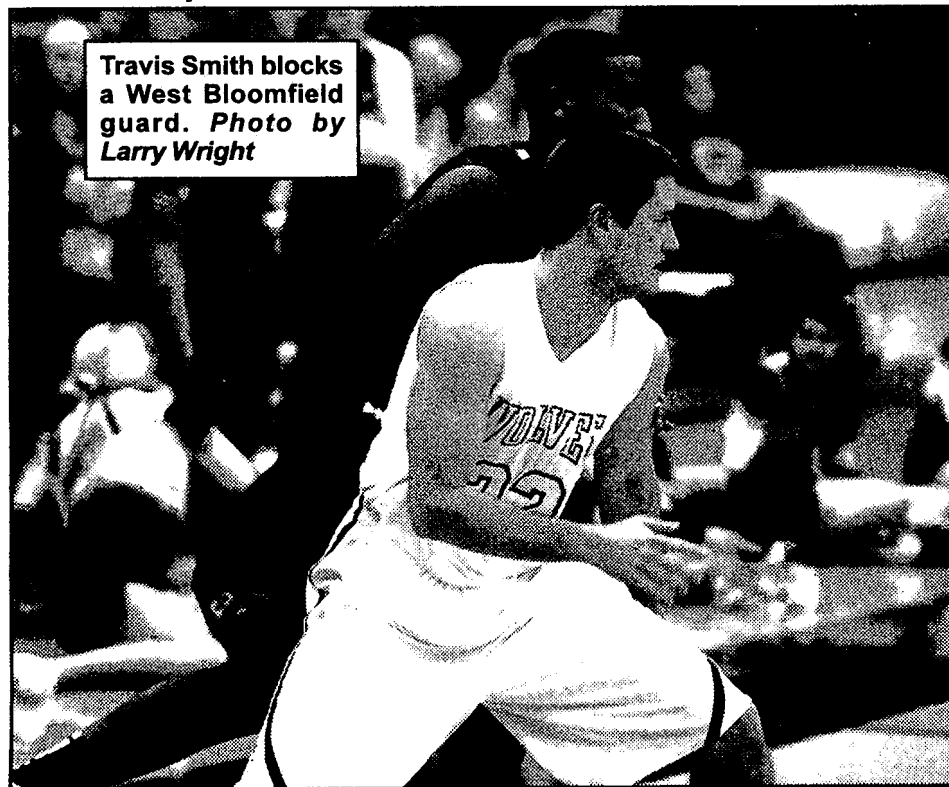
Baenziger led the team with 29 points, scoring three 3-pointers. Dasuqi scored 16 points and Chance Huth added ten points and shot two 3-pointers.

The boys head into the second round on Wednesday and will take on Holly, 7 p.m.

"It is a tough district," said Fife. "People want to beat Clarkston."

The winner moves on to the district championship set for Friday at 7 p.m. Both games are at Swartz Creek High School, 1 Dragon Drive in Swartz Creek.

Travis Smith blocks a West Bloomfield guard. Photo by Larry Wright



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Lance Holsbeke during the MHSAA Boys Ski State Finals in Harbor Springs. Photo by David McClaughry

Hitting the slopes

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

After celebrating the win for the MHSAA Division 1 Boys Ski State Championship, Lance Holsbeke took to the snow again.

He skied at the Dave C Memorial Race at Mount Holly over the weekend. He finished with five Platinum medals and three Gold medals after four rounds and eight races.

Holsbeke, a junior at Clarkston High School, can still remember when he started his first ski lessons when he was two-years-old.

"My dad taught me how to ski," he said. "It was on little plastic skis in our backyard when we lived in Troy."

Having years of experience helped, especially this year as Holsbeke and his teammates hit the slopes during an odd, unpredictable winter.

"We had to do a lot of things differently," he said. "You changed the way you skied or change your wax a lot. Pine Knob is my home hill. It is fun to go out there and have a different race every week and not know what to expect."

He said this season was incredible after returning from last year's finish as runner up for the state.

"It has been exciting and very scary," Holsbeke added as the boys worked during the season for the championship.

Holsbeke is currently look at a few colleges to study business and is considering continuing skiing with a club team.

"Skiing is an incredible sport," he added. "The people you meet are the best people you will ever meet. It is a lot of fun."

Holsbeke does have outside interests including fishing and playing baseball but said nothing compares to skiing.

"Every race I get an adrenaline rush," he added. "Every race is different and you don't know what is going to happen."

The excitement starts as the trip on the lift up the slope begins and as he prepares at the top for his trip back down.

For younger athletes looking to continue bringing more state titles to Clarkston, he said to keep practicing.

"They say practice makes perfect and it is true," Holsbeke added. "They say practice makes perfect and it is true. It takes a lot to do it especially dry land training."

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Skiing into first

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Skiers rewrote the Wolves' history book by claiming the MHSAA Division 1 Boys Ski State Championship, Feb. 27.

Freshman Derek VanItallie led the team taking fourth place in the Giant Slalom and Slalom races, as the boys scored a total of 81 points. Marquette finished in second with 119 points.

"We thought it was a lot closer than it really was," said junior Lance Holsbeke. "We were nervous. We thought we lost."

He admitted their first race for the giant slalom didn't go as planned.

"It was not a clean day," added Mike Foyteck, head coach. "But everyone else had problems, too. It was a rough day that turned into a great day."

Finishing in the top twenty for the morning giant slalom were VanItallie, fourth place; Grant Huber, fifth; Alex McIntosh, 12th; and Holsbeke, 17th.

Four finished in the top twenty in the slalom, VanItallie in fourth place; Ryan Callahan, sixth; and Huber, 13th.

"For a freshman, Derek did outstanding," Foyteck added. "I can't wait to see how he progresses over the next few years. It should be fun to watch and coach."

The girls finished in fifth place with 193 points, as Traverse City West, Traverse City

Central, Marian and Walled Lake Central took the top four spots.

"They finished strong," Foyteck added. "They had a great year. I couldn't be happier with how they finished. John Sych, the girls coach, did a great job."

For the giant slalom four of the Lady Wolves finished in the top 50: Madeline DeClercq finished in 27th place; Karoline Holsbeke, 30th; Caroline Spytman, 32nd; Lauren Martin, 45th and Amy Wozniak, 49th.

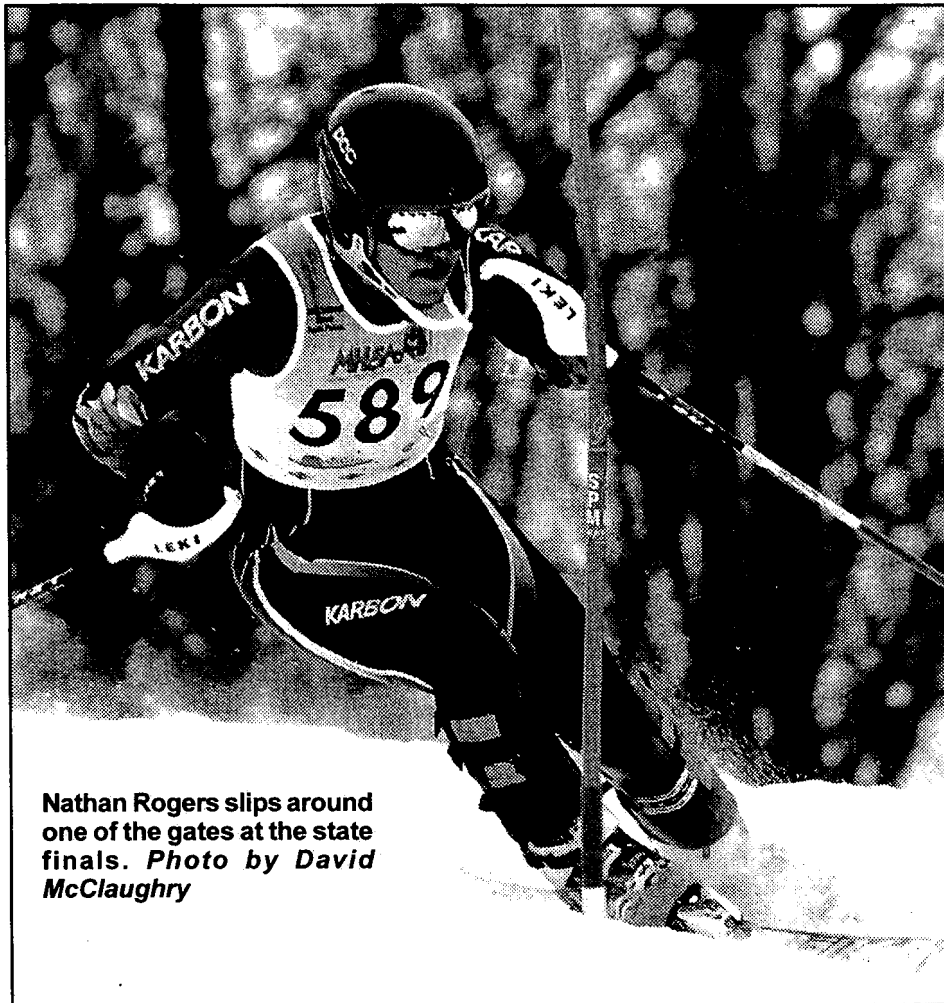
Four also finished in the top 50 for the slalom. Spytman led the team, finishing in 25th place; Holsbeke, 27th; Olivia Dunn, 32; and DeClercq, 39th.

Foyteck added both teams finished the season great especially since it was an odd winter especially for skiing.

"The snow conditions from the warm temperatures weren't the best," he added. "Overall Pine Knob Ski Resort did a great job keeping up the hill. The difference was the snow wasn't as hard as you like to race on. You want the hard snow to race on. It was good for the weather we had."

"You had to do a lot differently than you usually did," Lance added. "Like change the way you ski or change your wax a lot."

The teams are hoping for a better winter next season as the aim is on state championships again.



Nathan Rogers slips around one of the gates at the state finals. Photo by David McClaughry



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Lady Wolves conquer Tigers, Bobcats for title

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Excitement filled the air as the buzzer sounded the end of the MHSAA District finals game between the Lady Wolves and Grand Blanc.

Clarkston finished the game with a 48-25 win - claiming their second consecutive district title.

"I was happy for them," said Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Tim Wasilk. "They put in a lot of work in the off season and really stuck together this year. They battled through injuries. Hopefully we can pull together for more."

Before the Lady Wolves took on Grand Blanc for the title, they battled Fenton to get past the second round.

The girls led during for the first quarter but Fenton caught up in the next quarter. Clarkston held onto the lead with one point going into the second half, 15-14.

A foul opening the third quarter sent Lady Tiger Sarah Collier to the line for two. She scored on one of her attempts to tie the score.

Each side battled for control and each attempt fell unsuccessful as the other team claimed possession of the ball.

With 2:52 left in the third quarter, fresh-

man Erika Davenport's attempt was successful and Clarkston claimed the lead again. It was short lived as Collier scored only seconds later.

A boost came from senior Tori Trimmer. She scored two free throw shots from the line with 2:23 left in the quarter. It gave the girls a 2-point cushion going into the last final quarter.

"I told them it was going to be a close game," Wasilk said, "and just to stay in their comfort zone and do what we have been doing all year."

Senior Christina Jokisch put a 3-pointer through the rim to put the Lady Wolves more ahead. Fenton kept up with them scoring two points on the line.

Senior Breanca Cantrell faced off with defense and faked a pass before she ran under the net. She threw the ball out to senior Anna Manilla, who passed it onto Jokisch. She lined up with the basket and scored two more points.

"I thought if I pass or move, I could get one of my teammates open for a shot or a layup," Cantrell said. "We needed it because it was a tense game. They moved the ball really fast so we stepped it up."

Cantrell scored the next two baskets and

the Lady Wolves continued to build from there to hold onto the lead, winning 41-27.

"My mind set was for me it could be my last game," Cantrell added. "It could be my last game with the team."

Cantrell and Jokisch both scored 11 points. Cantrell had one 3-pointer and Jokisch had two for the game. Trimmer scored eight points and Davenport added six points.

"The big thing tonight was the girls stuck with our game plan," said Wasilk. "They didn't give up on what we were trying to do offensively or defensively."

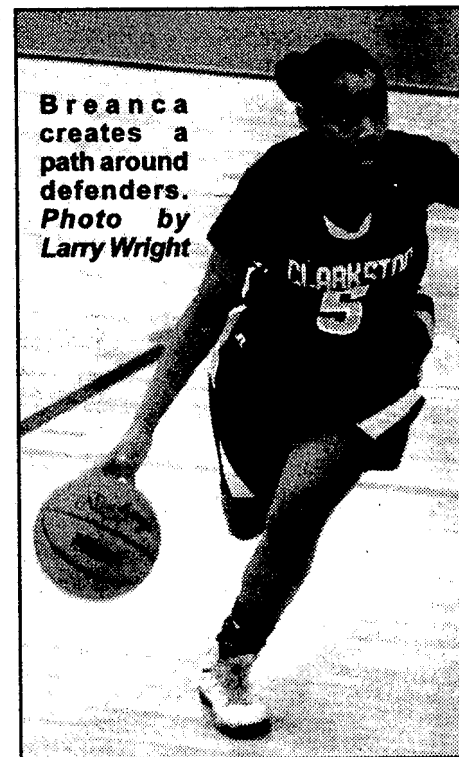
Junior Delaney Kenny led the Lady Wolves against Grand Blanc, posting 15 points to the board. Davenport had nine points, Jokisch scored nine points and one 3-pointer as Trimmer added six points and Erin Davenport added five points.

The Lady Wolves played Saginaw Arthur Hill on Tuesday.

"Saginaw Arthur Hill will be our toughest test yet this year," said Wasilk. "They are very competitive. They have a good mix of guard plays and post. They are going to be fast and play good defense."

"We need to work and push harder," Cantrell added.

The winner advances to Thursday night



Breanca creates a path around defenders.
Photo by Larry Wright

to take on the Midland/Davison winner at 7 p.m. at Bay City Central High School.

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Ice breaker

BY JORDAN STOKES

Special to The Clarkston News

Third time was not the charm as the Icers were defeated for the third time this season by rivals, Lake Orion, last Thursday.

The 2-1 loss eliminated the Clarkston Varsity Hockey team from the state play-offs.

"I thought this was it," said junior defenseman Adam Johns. "I thought this was going to be the game we'd shock everyone and move on to win the region for the second year in a row."

The Wolves went into their last rival game of the season with high hopes and expectations after the success of finishing last year at the state quarterfinals.

Two previous losses to Lake Orion were by one goal, including a recent 3-2 loss five days earlier for the OAA Red playoff championship.

Both teams began the game slowly start with only a couple scoring chances in the first period.

This changed immensely when the second period started. Lake Orion came out strong and defenseman Brad Bogus scored the first goal just 57 seconds into the second period.

The Wolves trailed 1-0 nearly the entire second period until senior Adam Bruderick pounced on a loose puck in front of the net with 3:29 remaining to tie the game 1-1.

"It was great to help the team out in a big game," said Bruderick.

The teams exchanged scoring chances in the third period when Dragon Nick Balavich managed to slide another puck past sophomore goalie Jack Viazanko after a battle in front of the Wolves' net with 5:18 left in regulation play.

The Wolves continued to fight back and were fortunate when a Lake Orion goal was disallowed due to goaltender interference. As a result, the Wolves, still trailing, were granted a power play with 2:12 remaining.

"I thought the ref made the right call. Before the shot came I was knocked down by a Lake Orion player and taken out of the play. It was an important call to make for us," said Viazanko.

The Wolves pulled their goalie with one minute left, giving them a six man advantage in a desperate effort to tie the game. The Wolves frantically took shot after shot, but couldn't get the puck in the back of the Dragon's net.

"It's always a dogfight against Lake Orion," said senior forward Gabe Comos. "The breaks just didn't go our way this season. I'm proud of everyone on the team. Nobody gave up and we fought to the very end."

The Wolves ended their season with a record of 11-10-3, and a division record of 7-1-2.



Murder Crashes the Wedding bridal couple Binky Armbruster Jones O'Brien Hasselfof Mancini Sanchez, played by Optimist member Robin Brose, is proposed to by groom Butch Cassidy Rockefeller, played by Todd Richard. Photos provided by Joette Kunse



Uncle Jim Thorpe, an uninvited guest played by Jim Evans, encounters Optimist member Myrna Hirn.

Plot thickens

Guests were intrigued as they participated in the Clarkston Area Optimist Club's annual dinner theatre, March 3.

The event raises money for community youth programs throughout the year.

This year's play was "Murder Crashes the Wedding," written by Independence Township resident Patience Beer. She has written five plays for the Optimists.



Clarkston resident Linda Walker won the wedding hat contest in the Mad Hatter parade contest.

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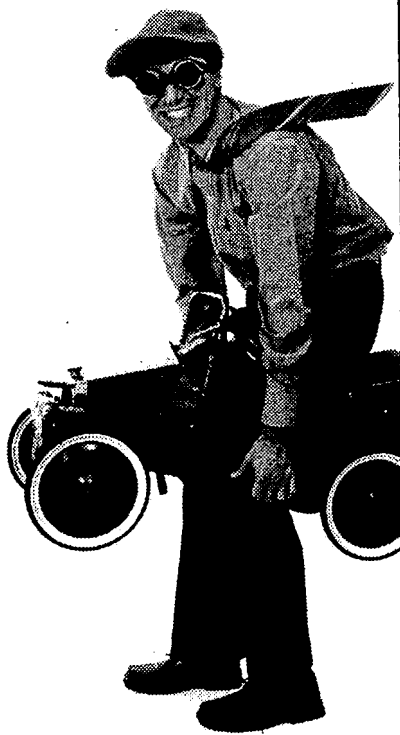
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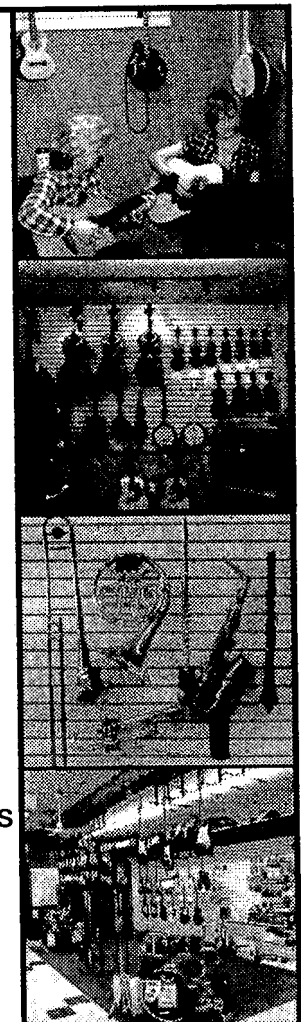
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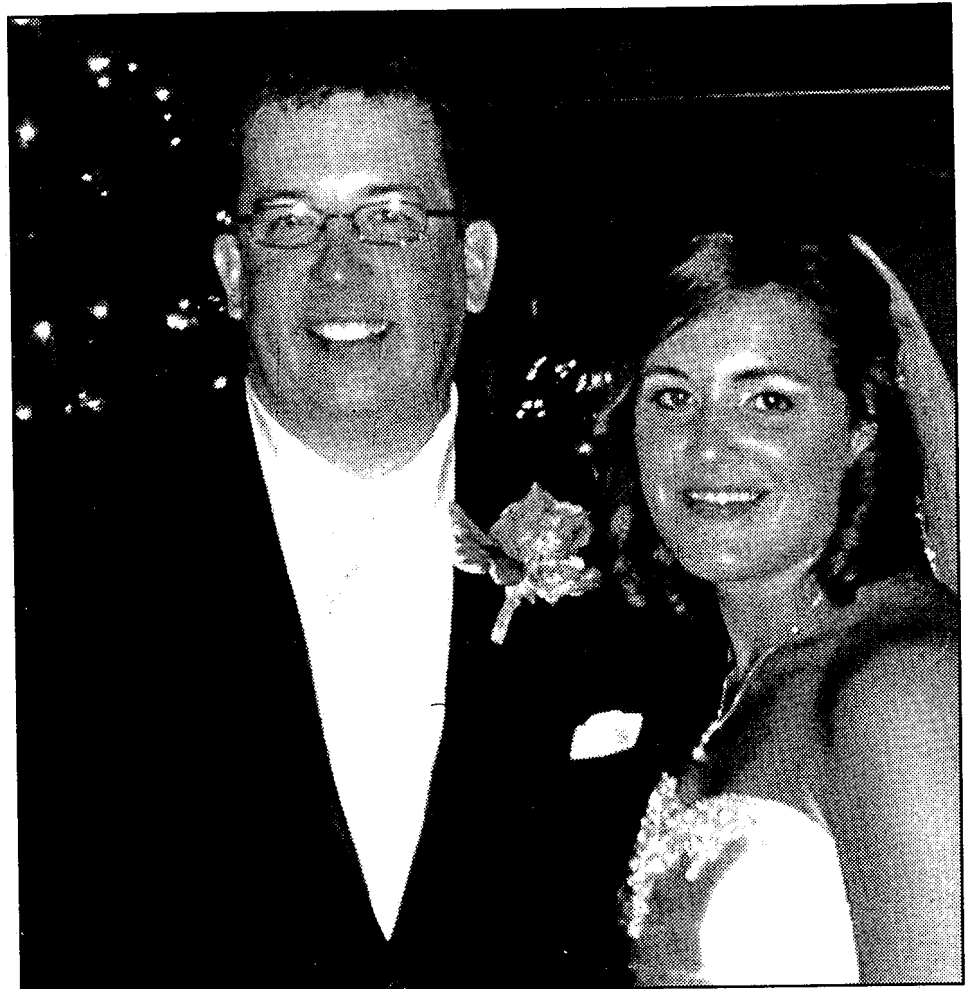
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James and Kelly

Hanna and Nadolny wed

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Hanna of Clarkston announce the marriage of their daughter, Kelly J., to James A. Nadolny, son of Deb and Charlie Evans, Shields, Mich., and James and Donna Nadolny, Bay City.

The couple was married on Sept. 3, 2011, at First Presbyterian Church in Flint and hosted a reception at the Holiday Inn Gateway. They honeymooned in the Virgin Islands.

Kelly, a 1998 CHS graduate, received her Bachelor's Degree from Western Michigan

University.

Nadolny, a graduate of Swan Valley High School, received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Saginaw Valley State University.

The couple met while they were working in New Jersey. She currently works for Keihin Industries, a supplier to Honda, where she is a New Model Supply Quality Engineer and he is the Chief Engineer for Knoph Automotive.

The couple lives in Fishers, Ind.

Business achievements

Clarkston Tree Service Inc. has been awarded the prestigious 2011 Angie's List Super Service Award, an honor bestowed annually on about five percent of all the businesses rated on the nation's leading provider of consumer reviews on local service companies.

Pamela "Pam" Savage-Marr of Clarkston, a science teacher at Cranbrook Kingswood Boys' Middle School in Bloomfield, was chosen from hundreds of applications from across the country to participate as a Dow-

NSTA Fellow in the New Science Teacher Academy.

One of 15 science teachers selected from Michigan and 215 nationwide, she will receive a comprehensive NSTA membership package, online mentoring with trained mentors who teach in the same discipline, and the opportunity to participate in a variety of web-based professional development activities, including web seminars. In addition, she will receive financial support to attend and participate in NSTA's 2012 National Conference on Science Education in Indianapolis.

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Sin is very real and death was result

The book of Genesis begins like this: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Spiritual Matters



Father Kelly Todd

Many people in our world today would say that death came first, even in some cases to say that there is no such thing as sin. But those who know their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, know that sin is very real, and that as a result of sin, death came into the world. Unfortunately, there are many people in our world who ignore these facts and thereby call God a liar.

They tell us that the earth is millions if not billions of years old, and that dinosaurs had died off even before man came into being. This is in total conflict with what is written in the bible. Either you believe in what the bible

says, or you don't, and the bible says that God created the heavens and the earth in six literal days.

Here is the point. In our public schools, colleges, and even our society, people tell us that the earth is millions and even billions of years old, that life evolved from one cell into the creatures that we have today including man. If this is the case, then it is impossible to believe that what God said in Genesis 1-3 is true. You see, in evolution, the six days of creation would be but a mere second in time, and since creatures evolved over the millions of years, there was death all along the way. Yet, if God says that death did not occur before the fall into sin, then we cannot have evolution with death all along the way.

As I write this, I am sitting in hotel room having returned with our Confirmation Class, from a day at the Creation Science Museum near Cincinnati, Ohio. In our evening devotions, we went around the tables asking what they learned. I heard a reoccurring theme. These young people told how our schools teach a theory, one that we believe is false, but they teach it as fact.... and they fail to mention that there is any other belief out there.

In fact, creative design, as creation is often referred to, is usually ignored, but when it is mentioned, it is usually stated in such a

way that only those who ignore the "facts" would even consider believing in Christianity. Yet, evolution has many holes in its theory, and actually takes more faith to believe than Christianity and intelligent design does.

I often wonder who the real learned people are who would say this, let alone think it. But they really are out there, ignoring what God has said. From the beginning of time, man has believed in God, but only the past 200 or so years has more than a few supposed learned people said that there is no God. Oh, there were lots of people who did not believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but they were not united. And they just didn't believe in God.

For those who will take the time to visit, and read the information available at the museum, it would be nearly impossible for them walk away and not believe that God is the one who made the heavens and earth, and all that is in it. And that when man sinned, God promised a Savior whom he sent to live among us, His name is none other than Jesus Christ, and that by faith in Jesus and His death and resurrection, we are saved eternally from our sins, and will live forever with Him in heaven when we die.

The Rev. Kelly Todd is pastor of Christ Lutheran 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. 248-625-3288.

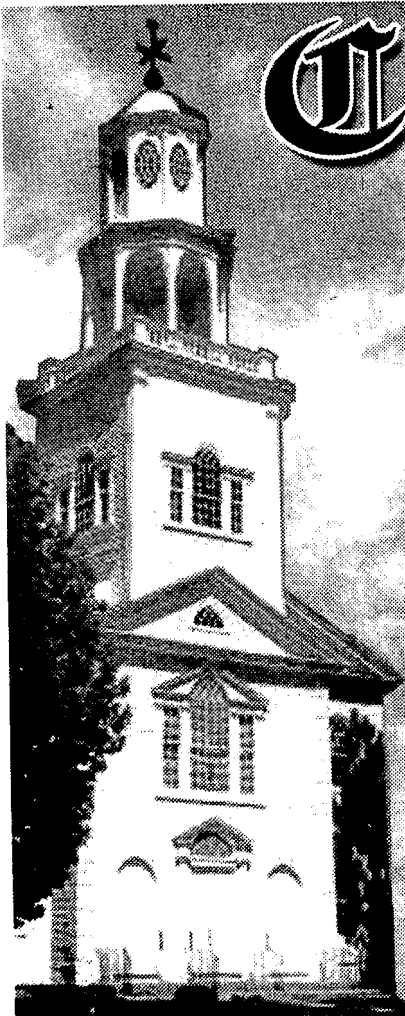
Wednesday Evening FEAST, 6 p.m., classes for all ages, 7:15- 8:30 p.m. Free nursery. Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. 248-625-3288.

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.

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Superintendent's case for bond approval

On Feb. 1, 2012, a majority of states, including Michigan, hundreds of school districts, thousands of teachers, and nearly 2 million students participated in "Digital Learning Day"; a nationwide celebration of innovative teaching and learning through digital media and technology that engages students and provides them with a rich, personalized educational experience.

The Alliance for Excellence in Education, which sponsored the event, defined digital learning as "any instructional practice that is effectively using technology to strengthen the student learning experience."

Digital learning encompasses a wide spectrum of tools and practices, including the use of online and formative assessments, increasing the focus and quality of teaching resources and time, online content and courses, applications of technology in the classroom and school building, adaptive software for students with special needs, learning platforms, e.g., Moodle, Blackboard, teachers and students participating in professional communities of practice, providing access to high-level and challenging content and instruction, and many other advancements.

In particular, blended learning is "any time a student learns, at least in part, at a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home and, at least in part, through online delivery with some element of student control over time, place, path, and/or pace."

Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Federal Communications Commission chairman Julius Genachowski on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012 challenged schools and companies to get digital textbooks in students' hands within five years.

The Obama administration's push comes two weeks after Apple Inc. announced it would start to sell electronic versions of a few standard high-school books for use on its iPad tablet.

Digital books, both those created by publishing companies and teacher-made books—which is happening here in Clarkston, are viewed as a way to provide interactive learning, potentially save money, and get updated material faster to students.

"At a time when technology has transformed how people interact and even led to social uprisings in the Middle East, education has too often lagged," Duncan said.

"Do we want kids walking around with 50-pound backpacks and every book in those backpacks costing 50, 60, 70 dollars and many of them being out of date? Or, do we want students walking around with a mobile device that has much more con-

tent than was even imaginable a couple years ago and can be constantly updated? I think it's a very simple choice."

In his Feb. 9 budget message, Governor Snyder suggested online instructional programs (blended learning and online instructional programs) as one of the specific criteria schools districts must offer in order to receive future, additional funding from the State of Michigan's revenue surplus.

This is part of the Governor's Any Time, Any Place, Any Way, Any Pace educational reform initiative.

On Friday, Feb. 3, 2012, 20 CCS teachers from all grade levels gathered to share their classroom uses of digital technology.

The excitement in the room was palpable as teachers described the ways that pilot technology and teacher guidance is enhancing students' learning experiences.

Many students in Novi, Holly, Hazel Park, Troy, Brandon, Avondale, Oxford, Farmington, Walled Lake, Rochester, Birmingham, and Bloomfield Hills attend completely wireless schools.

Students in Clarkston do not.

Teachers in Finland focus their students on the development of big understandings and deep thinking.

Beyond standardized tests, upon which Finland's students perform very well, Finland's students spend more time learning less content and demonstrating their depth of understanding.

In another high achieving country, Singapore, the government declared:

We want to nurture young Singaporeans who ask questions and look for answers, and who are willing to think in new ways, solve new problems and create new opportunities for the future.

And, equally important, we want to help our young to build up a set of sound values so that they have the strength of character and resilience to deal with life's inevitable setbacks without being unduly discouraged, and so that they have the willingness to work hard to achieve their dreams.

When your child goes off to the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Princeton, Western Michigan, Oakland University, Wayne State, or Duke, it is likely that sitting in the seats directly next to him/her will be a student from Finland and a student from Singapore.

Four years later when your child applies for a job with a global company, it is very likely that also included in the on-line stack of resumes will be submissions from

students from Finland.

The Clarkston Community Schools recently completed a comprehensive strategic planning process that included input from various stakeholders.

Those involved in the process developed a needs list that is available on the district's website.

The process also elicited a revised vision, mission, and learner profile that focuses on individual students, the development of their minds, and their preparedness for and contributions to a global marketplace.

With the needs list in mind, the Clarkston Community Schools' Board of Education resolved to give the community the opportunity to vote on May 8 for a bond election that allows the district to move forward with its vision, mission, and learner profile for every single student, now and in the future.

Included in the needs list is the establishment of 1-to-Global Learning environments in each of our schools and classrooms.

Here, the district will supply each student with a digital learning device that will open up the world of learning and better prepare our students to compete with those in Rochester, Birmingham, Novi, Espoo, and Kallang.

Toward this end, five overarching principles will guide our decisions regarding technology, the curriculum, and instruction, including:

- to foster in each student the dispositions embodied in our Mission, vision and Learner Profile (in what types of thinking do we want our students to engage?)
- to focus on the deep exploration of big ideas (what's worth learning and thinking about?)
- to make learning both individual and collaborative (how do we attend to and celebrate individual students and simultaneously collectively engage our learners?)
- to make learning interdisciplinary (how do we make K-12 learning a coherent experience?)
- to provide students with the tools to demonstrate and perform their learning (how do we know that each of our students has learned and can think? what evidence will we accept?)

In next week's paper, I will share more information related to how your child's educational experience will change, through a focus on these principles. Please stay tuned (or read the entire article now at the district's Website).

Dr. Rod Rock is Clarkston Superintendent of Schools. Let us know what you think by writing us at Clarkstonnews@gmail.com. 5 S. Main Street, Clarkston, MI, 48346, or call us at 248-625-3370.

Words from the Sup't



Dr. Rod Rock

Parents as advocates for kids

For 115 years, PTA has served as a powerful voice for children and families. It has transformed the world's perception of how society should treat children.

PTA founder Alice Birney envisioned this role for her fledgling organization, which attracted 2,000 people to its first national convention.

"May the whisper turn into a mighty shout throughout the land ... 'Let mothers, fathers, nurses, educators, ministers, legislators and the press make the child the watchword and ward of the day and hour. Let all else be secondary and coming generations will behold a new world and a new people,'" she said.

This unwavering focus on children has led to pioneering programs and legislation, such as universal kindergarten, federal school lunch legislation, child labor laws and juvenile courts.

There are thousands of parents in Clarkston Community Schools who work very hard every day to make PTA's goal of a quality education and nurturing environment for every child a reality.

Our PTAs take on a variety of critical roles in our schools – mobilizing volunteers, raising funds, organizing school events, purchasing much-needed supplies and technology, and participating in district governance.

This year, the most important role we can play is as Parent Teacher Advocates. We are at a critical moment in time when our voices are needed more than ever to keep social and educational programs for children and families from being de-prioritized.

The state continues to cut education funding and has yet to repay the \$200 million it borrowed last year from the K-12 School Aid budget. The current per-pupil foundation allowance (CCS receives \$7,082) is \$470

less per student than last year and the first official decline in the foundation allowance since Proposal A was enacted in 1995 (other than one-time pro-rations or reductions).

Here in Clarkston, citizens will vote May 8 on a \$20 million bond proposal for Clarkston Community Schools for building capital improvements and technology upgrades. The best way to advocate locally for children and families is to get the facts and make an informed vote.

Local PTAs are hosting representatives from the school district at upcoming meetings to provide information on the bond proposal to the public. The Clarkston PTA Council encourages all citizens to attend one of these upcoming meetings to hear directly from a school district administrator, ask questions and form their own opinion on the bond election:

- Tuesday, March 13, 7 p.m. – Pine Knob Elementary, 6020 Sashabaw Road
- Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m. – Sashabaw Middle School, 5565 Pine Knob Lane
- Tuesday, April 10, 7 p.m. – Bailey Lake Elementary, 8051 Pine Knob Road

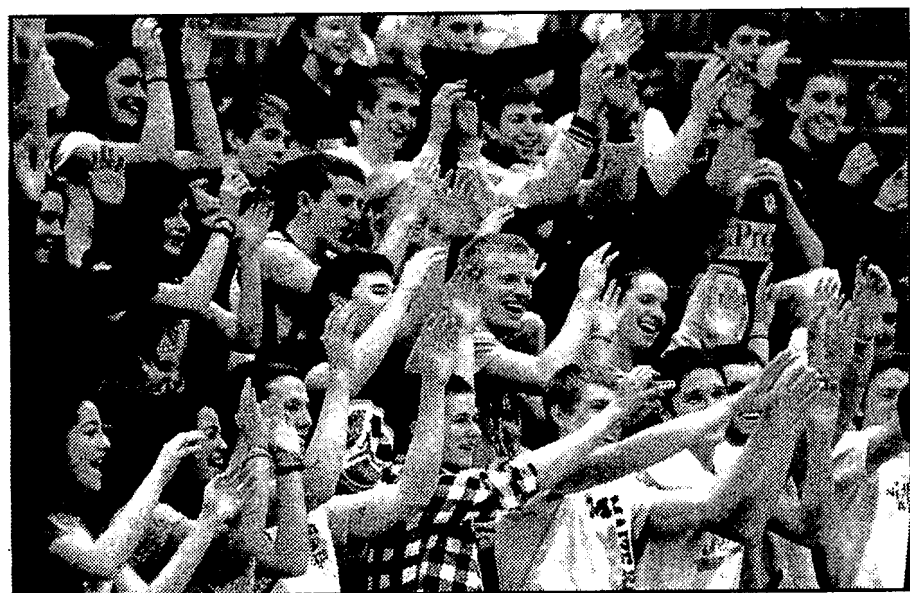
Thank you, parents and citizens of Clarkston, for your activism in our schools and community. Your voices are the mighty shout Alice Birney foresaw over one hundred years ago; the voices that continue to speak today with one voice on behalf of every child.

Kelli Horst is president of the Clarkston PTA Council and has two sons in Clarkston Community Schools.

A Parent's Perspective



Kelli Horst

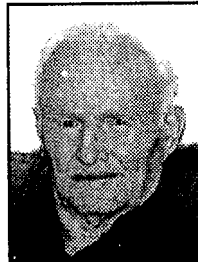


SPIRIT IN FLIGHT: Fans in The Jungle show their spirit with a quick rollercoaster cheer at Clarkston Wolves' last home game, March 1. Photo by Wendi Reardon

James J. Phillips, 82

James J. Phillips of Pontiac, formerly of Melvindale, passed away March 4, 2012, at age 82.

He was the father of Rocky (Ellie) Phillips who lovingly cared for him in their home; preceded in death by his wife Mildred, son James III and granddaughter Elizabeth Sue; brother of Donald (Mary),



Holland (Hazel), Marlene Tarwater, Tommy (Jayne), Alta Hutson, Fayne (Vickie), Wayne (Johnnie).

Friends may visit at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, Wednesday, 4-8 p.m., and Thursday, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m. and 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Funeral Service, Friday, 10 a.m., at the funeral home. Military honors at Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorials may be made to Rainbow Connection.

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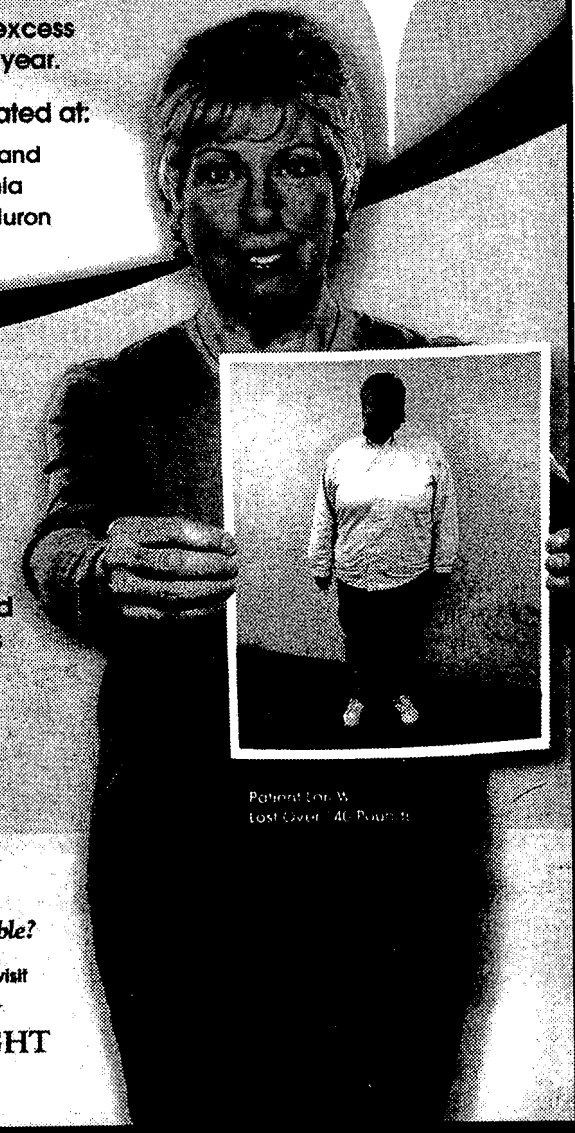
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Cameron Wilkie heads into his first match at the finals. Photo by WR

Going for gold

Grapplers brought home three All-State finishers after their run at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling State Finals last week.

Senior Scott DeVos (289) and junior Chris Calvano (171) finished the highest for the Wolves with a spot at third place. Junior Nick Vandermeer (152) finished in seventh place.

DeVos went 5-1 for the three day meet, beating Fraser's Mike Fruehlich, Livonia Churchill's Manny Haddad, Detroit Catholic Central's Bob Coe, Holland West Ottawa's Miguel Correa and Harrison Township L'anse Creuse's Jeff Tautolo.

His only loss was to Cory Arnouts from Grand Ledge after a 6-5 decision, putting his record at 34-4 for his last season.

Calvano finished 35-11 for the season after going 5-1 at the state finals. He opened his first two matches with wins over Oxford's Liam Logan and Westland-John Glenn's Danny Croft.

He lost in overtime to Charlie Myers from Utica Eisenhower, 3-1. He faced another overtime period in his next match. But this time he took the upper hand and beat Hartland's Justin Charneski, 3-1. Calvano beat Connor Moynihan from Grand Ledger, 5-3, to take third place.

Vandermeer went 3-2 for the final, opening with a Alec Mooradian from Detroit Catholic Central. He went on to beat New Baltimore Anchor Bay's John Yank, 5-1, and Brownstown Woodhaven's Derek Hillman, 5-0.

He lost to Westland-John Glenn's Travis Mann, 7-2, but beat Mann's teammate to take seventh place, 9-2. He finished the season with a 40-12 record.

Senior Ethan Frick ended his trip to place in the top eight spots after a close loss to Rochester's Schwan Shadai, 5-4, in the 189-pound weight class. He opened the meet with a loss to Kevin Beazley from Detroit Catholic Central, who went on to become state champion.

Frick followed the loss with a win against Romeo's Larry Rekar after pinning him 3:09 into the match. He finished his final year with a 40-12 record.

Sophomore Cameron Wilkie (119) lost his first two matches during his first visit to the state finals. He lost to Livonia Franklin's Gabe Martinez, 12-0, and Sterling Heights Stevenson's Dominic Patrus, 7-6. He finished the season with a 36-16 record.

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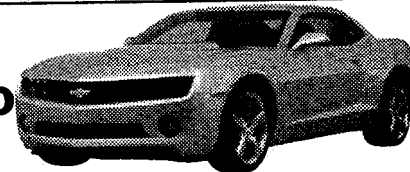


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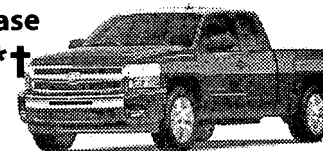
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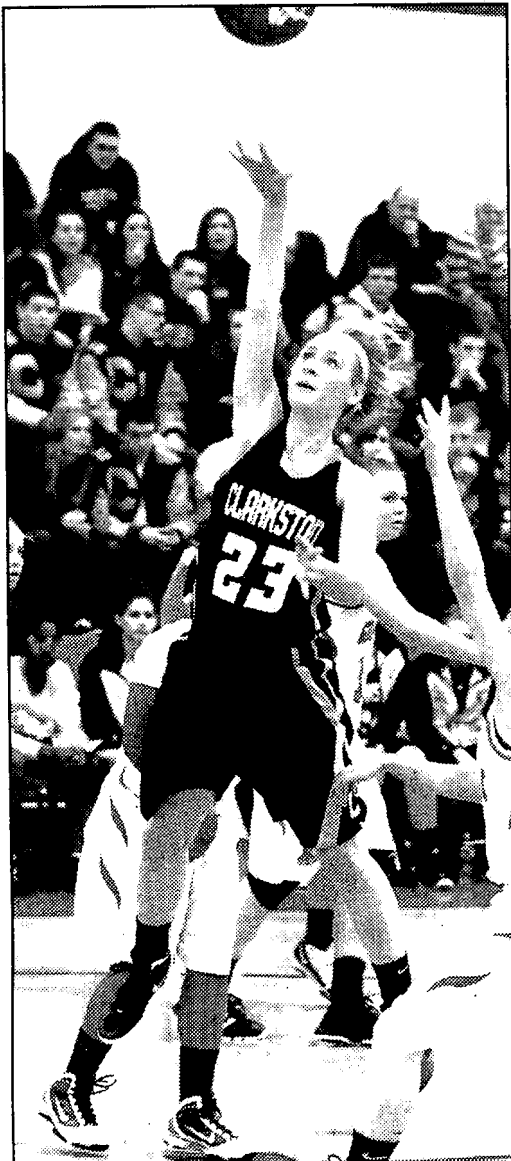


The Lady Cagers follow their success in the OAA Red league with winning a district title.

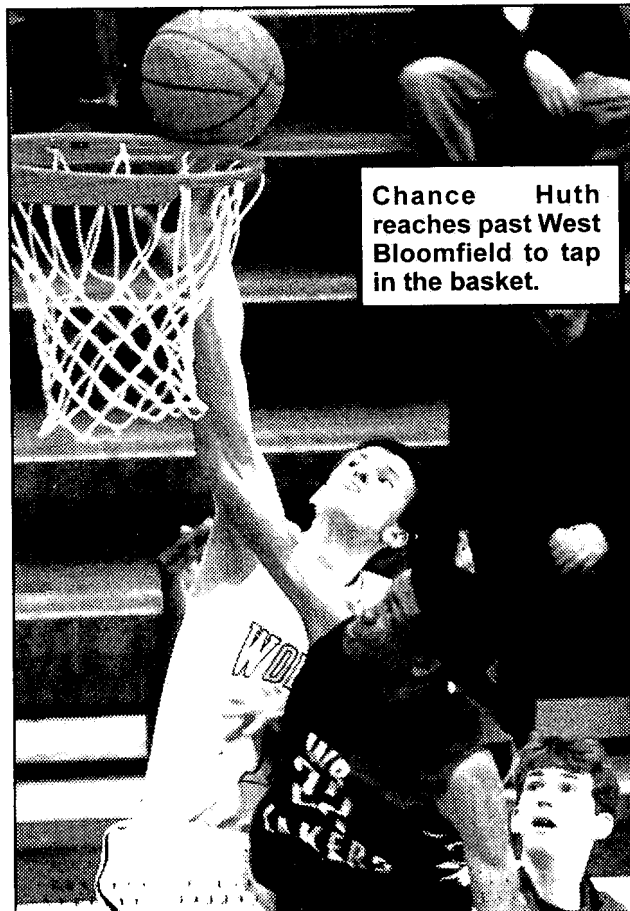
Ruling the league

The Clarkston Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams finished their regular seasons as champs. They both took over the OAA Red and claimed the league titles. Cagers went undefeated in the league, 12-0, and the Lady Cagers, 12-2.

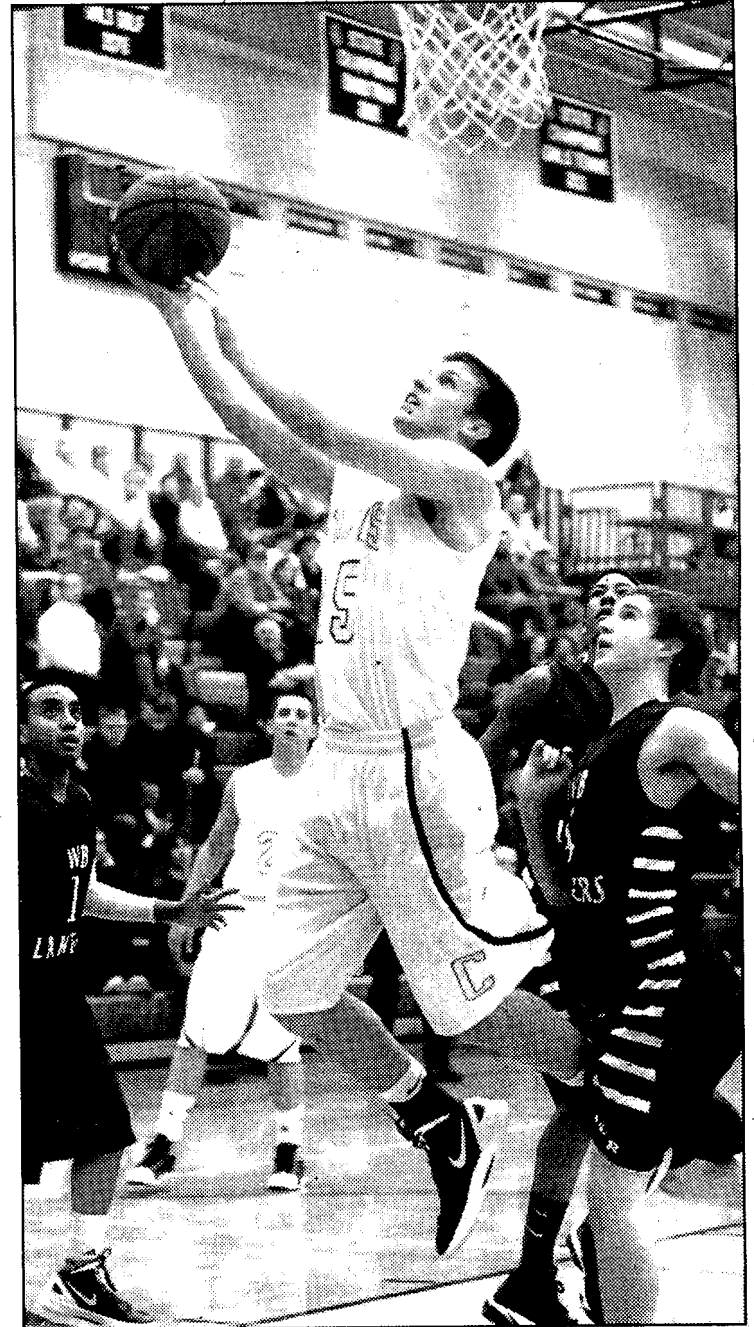
Photos by Larry Wright



Delaney Kenny uses the backboard to score in the district finals.



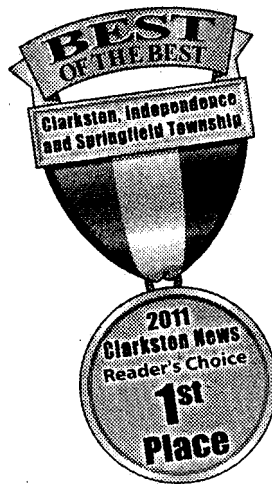
Chance Huth reaches past West Bloomfield to tap in the basket.



Matt Dellinger jumps above defenders during the first half to aid the Wolves with their lead.

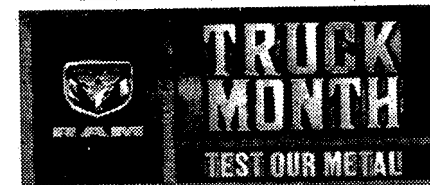
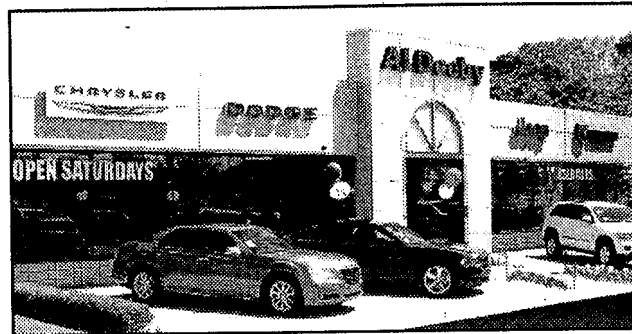


Tim Cason pushes the ball past West Bloomfield.



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