

The

Clarkston News

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Vol. 85 No. 41 Wed., September 19, 2012

2 Sections, 52 pages 50¢

In today's edition...

Stay healthy this fall and winter with info found in our Healthy Living section!

McLaren hospital bid reaches state senate

Bill would revise CON to allow construction

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

McLaren's pre-hearing to appeal their Certificate of Need (CON) denial was postponed for 30 days, but advocates for a

hospital in Independence Township took to other forums.

On Sept. 12, state Sen. Mike Kowall, who represents District 15, introduced Bill 1269 to amend the Public Health Code governing CONs. Because the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) denied McLaren's CON, they won't be able to go through with their building plans unless the CON process is changed legislatively.

Kowall's bill would allow McLaren to relocate 200 beds from their hospital in Pontiac. It would also change the CON Commission from an 11-member board to a 13-member board.

The current CON Commission is made up of hospital representatives, physicians, nurses, individuals from companies both self-insured and not self-insured for health coverage, a Blue Cross Blue Shield official,

and a labor union representative. Sen. Kowall wants the CON commission to have two additional members who would represent the general public.

The proposed bill was referred to the Economic Development committee for analysis. On Sept. 13, the Economic Development committee determined, "There is little reason to expect a significant change

Please see Concerns on page 21A



Art break in the village

From left, Tracy March, Betti March, and Jodi Gabbard check out some artwork at Art in the Village last Saturday in Depot park. Please see page 20A for more pictures. *Photo by Phil Custodio*

City adopts county stormwater standards

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Developers in Clarkston will have to abide by storm water facility standards, since the City Council adopted Oakland County's design standards on Sept. 10.

Violators of the Oakland County Water Resources Commission's (OCWRC) standards could incur a \$500 fine.

Laura Gruzowski of Hubbell, Roth, and Clark Inc. points out, "The county standards have been administered for a while now." While the City was referring to the OCWRC standards, they weren't officially adopted at the time of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) audit.

Because there is little new development in Clarkston, Gruzowski feels adopting the OCWRC standards is in the city's best interest.

"This is all about development and redevelopment, which we're not going to see a bunch of anyway," said Councilman Mike Sabol.

The OCWRC standards only apply to development or redevelopment project, and they require developers to provide storm water retention basins and supply materials

Please see City on page 34A

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Loans refinanced

During the last Clarkston Board of Education meeting, the board looked at refinancing the School Bond Loan Fund and the School Loan Revolving Fund.

Robert J. Naughton, vice president of Stauder, Barch & Associates, Inc. explained the SBLF and the SLRF refunding would replace a variable rate loan of 3.523 percent with a fixed rate bond issue, currently less than 2.70 percent.

"However, the amount of the savings are contingent on future taxable value, future SBLF/SLRF borrowing and repayments and future interest rate on the SBLF/SLRF loans," he pointed out.

Refinancing would cut a year off the payment bringing it down to being repaid in 23 years. The present value savings would be \$4,118,691.

"There are no disadvantages," said Naughton.

If approved at the next board meeting this Monday the process would begin right away.

"We would plan to issue the refunding bonds in late October or in November," said Naughton.

The board of education meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Administration Building, 6389 Clarkston Road.

Country shopping fest in Davisburg

Over 150 vintage and antique dealers, artisans, craftspeople, specialty foods, fresh local produce, food vendors, live music and other vendors and exhibitors will be at the Weekend in the Country Shopping Festival and Vintage Market, Sept. 29-30 at the Springfield Oaks, 12451 Andersonville Road in Davisburg.

The Meadows and Barnhouse will feature arts and fine craft, Salvage Yard features vintage and repurposed goods, and the Ellis Barn Antique Market in the historic Ellis Barn will feature antique dealers and a photo booth.

The event also features hand selected specialty food vendors from across the state, offering artisan cheese, pies and breads from Crust Baking Company of Fenton.

Food Tuck Alley will house food trucks from across Oakland and Genesee counties, serving gourmet burgers, tacos, homemade fresh squeezed lemonade, and other items.

On Sunday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. is "What's It Worth" appraisals, conducted by certified appraiser Doug Dalton. Each item appraised is \$5.

Free live demos at the DIY Demo Stage include Victorian fashion through the ages, an Annie Sloan Chalk Paint how-to by Pigeon in the Parlor, and Bordines Nursery demonstrating to create ribbon wreaths.

Admission is \$6/day, \$8/weekend, free/children under 12. Parking is free.

Visit hcshows.com for more information.

Clarkston grad working Saturday Night

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

If you recognized Seth MacFarlane's "boyfriend" or a wooden spoon maker named Elijah Yoder in different skits when you tuned into *Saturday Night Live* this weekend, you were watching Clarkstonite Tim Robinson.

Robinson, who graduated from Clarkston High School in 2000, debuted on *SNL* over the weekend, and those who know him best couldn't be happier.

"We're all very excited and thrilled for him," said Tim's grandmother Ann Robinson Moller.

According to Moller, Robinson has been funny for a long time.

"We always thought he had that personality," she explained.

Clarkston Drama Teacher Jeff Tice agrees.

"He was one of the few students

I thought had a chance to make it famous," said Tice.

Tice noticed Robinson's skills early on.

"Tim had an uncanny brilliance and talent," he said.

In particular, Tice remembers Robinson's ability to do impersonations, physical comedy, and improvise.

"He didn't want or need scripted material," said Tice.

Because Robinson's personality was so dynamic, Tice admits he wasn't the kind of student to sit at a desk.

It was not easy to corral him, but at the same time, he was great fun to be around, said Tice.

Tice believes Robinson's comedic ability allowed him to successfully enroll The Second City, a comedy club and school of improvisation in Chicago, while still



Robinson

a senior at Clarkston High.

At Second City, Robinson skyrocketed to the top of his classes, said Tice.

"Within a year, he was doing

main stage productions . . . he just worked and worked, honing his craft," he added.

While making audiences laugh may seem like fun, it is also hard work, said Moller.

She said since joining *SNL*, Robinson has been very busy, writing into the morning.

Besides creating funny sketches, Moller points out that it takes confidence to perform in front of a live audience.

Although delivering laughs on live television isn't easy work, Moller says Tim is very pleased and feels it is a great honor to be on *SNL*.

Moller and Tice couldn't wait to watch Robinson's first show. Tice said he'd be bragging to family and friends and telling stories when *SNL*'s new season airs.

"Our whole family will be watching," said Moller.

City debates Conflict of Interest ordinance revision

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

A revision of the City's Conflict of Interest Ordinance saw its first reading on Sept. 10, but it wasn't popular with everyone attending the meeting.

The City's current ordinance doesn't allow council members to discuss topics or vote if they have a conflict of interest. If the ordinance is changed, a person with a conflict of interest still won't be able to vote, but could engage in the conversation only if they move from their seat at the council table and sit with those in attendance.

Councilman Mike Sabol, who is heading up the ordinance revision, feels council members should

have a right to speak and to their opinion even if they admit to having a conflict of interest, but not everyone on the council agrees.

"I don't feel that there is anything to be gained by changing this ordinance," said Councilman Stephen Hargis. "If someone on the council has a conflict of interest, they should not be involved in the deliberation."

Steve Arkwright, who was mayor when the Conflict of Interest Ordinance was established on May 24, 2010, agreed with Hargis.

"Somebody that has a conflict that's on the council shouldn't speak, shouldn't participate at all because they are supposed to be

representing the city, not any other entity," Arkwright said.

Unlike Arkwright, Councilman Tom Hunter, who helped to draft the original conflict of interest ordinance, was in favor of the proposed changes.

Hunter described a scenario in which a councilman might have a problem on his private property.

"If the council took up that problem, he'd have to exclude himself and would be precluded from arguing his case," Hunter explained. "Even though I wrote this language, when I thought about that particular set of facts that seemed to be a little unfair."

From Arkwright's perspective, the council loses credibility if a member with a conflict of interest

speaks.

"Don't we want the highest level of credibility we can have," Arkwright asked.

Sabol feels the city's integrity would not be negatively impacted by an ordinance change. He also thinks limiting speech may cause residents who are interested in running for council to opt out of the race.

In a city with approximately 800 residents, Sabol is worried the pool of council candidates may be slim if people think they won't be able to join the discussion.

The City hopes to hold a second reading of the Conflict of Interest ordinance revisions at their next meeting on Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Briefly

New copier lease

The Clarkston Community Schools Board of Education approved the master lease agreement with Ricoh USA, Inc for copiers around the district, 7-0.

It includes 69 machines for 15 buildings in the district.

The term of the lease is 60 months. It begins Oct. 1, 2012 with a total lease payment of \$101,884 for 2012-2013.

Football test

The Independence Township Parks, Recreation, and Seniors hosts the annual Punt, Pass and Kick competition this Saturday at 10 a.m.

The event is open to boys and girls ages 6 to 15, age as of December 31, 2012.

No football shoes or cleats of any kind are permitted. Only gym shoes are allowed.

It is a free event. Check in is at 9:30 a.m. at the Clintonwood Park softball fields.

Please pre-register by calling 248-625-8223 or visiting the Parks, Recreation, and Seniors office, 6483 Waldon Center Drive

Correction

In "Board Split on Belcher" we wrote the board voted 4:2 to hire a full-time Building Inspector with Wallace and David Lohmeier voting against the motion, but Curt Carson and David Lohmeier opposed the motion.



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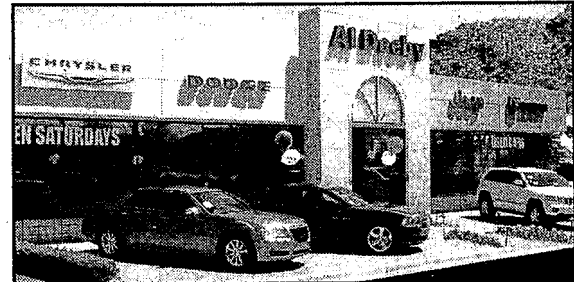
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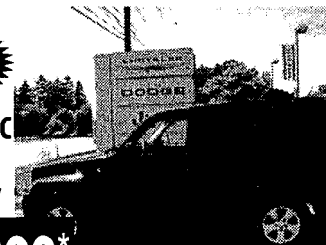
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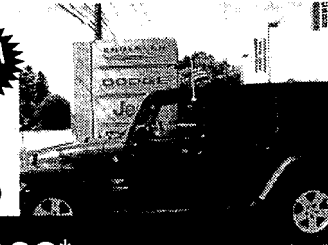
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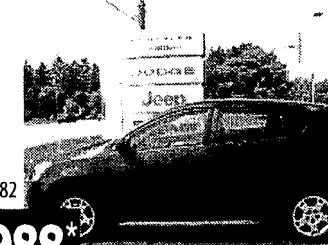
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Family tradition continues at Kruse's Deer Lake Inn

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Kruse's Deer Lake Inn is the culmination of years of work for the Kruse family.

"We've wanted to come to this area for the last 20 years," said Bill Kruse, who opened the first Kruse & Muer restaurant in Rochester with Chuck Muer in 1988.

Bill's sons Casey and Alex will run the Clarkston location, 7504 Dixie Highway.

"They have been doing this since they were old enough to have a job," Bill said. "They know the business inside and out, and have a great following among regular guests. They can do it. They already have."

When the former Deer Lake Inn became available last year, they brought the idea to their father, and worked with Independence Township to make it happen.

"A restaurant in this area, that's a slam dunk," said Casey, 37. "This is a great community. Everyone knows about the restaurants here in Clarkston."

"We're excited about it," said Alex, 34. "Dad's always around to offer guidance as needed. He's a visionary, which we'll need when it comes to the restaurant business. He's a good teacher and chef. I'm confident in our ability to run a solid operation."

Their goal is to make the restaurant a place where you take your friends when they come to town.

"Our goal is to first pay back our father as soon as possible, that's number one, then become a staple

restaurant in the community, like we are in Rochester," Casey said.

It was an easy choice to preserve the Deer Lake Inn name.

"Deer Lake Inn has such a history in the area," Bill said. "We couldn't bring a restaurant here without the name. We're very happy we did."

The restaurant is decorated with portrait photos of the original Deer Lake Inn from the 1920s, back in the days of the Model T automobile and train lines from Detroit.

"They added 4-5 railroad runs from Detroit to come up here," Bill said.

They offer a wide variety of dishes, from fancy cedar plank salmon to more casual fare, such as fish tacos.

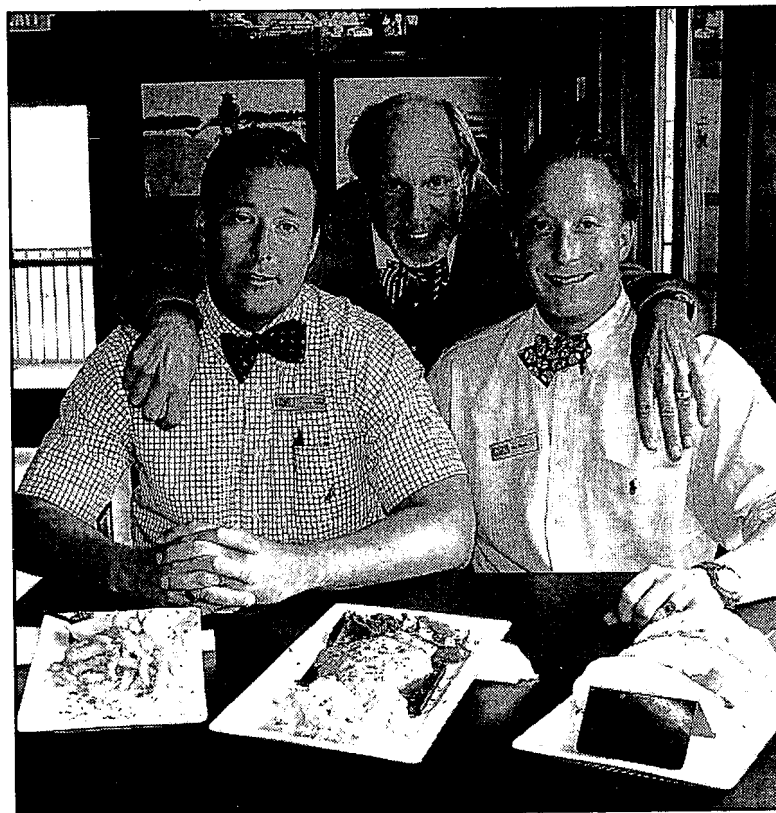
They're known for their homemade bread, as well as seafood, pizza, and pasta dishes.

"The menu, atmosphere, and pricing satisfy a lot of needs - from \$30 bone-in ribeye to \$2 tacos," Bill said.

They plan to open more restaurants, but only after the Clarkston restaurant is solid managerially.

"We never open another restaurant if we feel the quality in existing restaurants is in jeopardy," Bill said.

Hours are 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Friday; 12-11 p.m., Saturday; and 12-8 p.m., Sunday. For more information, call 248-795-2077. Check ClarkstonTV.com for a weblog interview with the Kruses at the new restaurant.



From left, Casey, Bill, and Alex Kruse of Kruse's Deer Lake Inn serve up some tasty dishes, calamari, cedar plank salmon, and fish tacos. Photo by Phil Custodio

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Wild Ideas

A column by Mary Keck

Pity the moon

NASA landed a six-wheeled rover named Curiosity on Mars last month. Touchdown tested the limits of human innovation, and required a supersonic parachute, radar mapping, rocket motors, and a crane that lowered the rover on a 20-foot long tether.

I wonder if our drive for space exploration is fueled by a desire for permanence.

We seem to think the universe won't forget us if we make a big enough bang.

Curiosity's tracks in the red sand may seem rare and wonderful to me but only because I can't grasp the great depths of space and time since the cosmos' birth.

Instead, I mark time based on our planet's revolutions around the sun and can't imagine tracking the 100,000 light-year diameter of a Milky Way full of stars in various stages of implosion.

Yet in spite of Earth's relatively insubstantial place, humans seem determined to leave a lasting impression.

But when I consider the history of soaring comets, exploding supernova, and solar flares, our interactions with the solar system remind me of just how brief and inconsequential are the cataclysms of human life.

Still, I find comfort in the fact that my role in the cosmos is tiny.

If I were able to comprehend all the time that's passed and all the events that have occurred in my galaxy alone, the corner I've experienced might not seem as exceptional.

Recognizing my own insignificance is a little bittersweet, however. It is nice to know heart-wrenching experiences don't have the same resounding impact of two stars colliding.

But sometimes it feels like a black hole has swallowed me, and I want to shake my fist at the universe for its callous indifference.

While moon phases and kittens may seem cosmically insignificant, I'm able to appreciate those little things.

My limited human perception offers me a sensitivity that's lost on the universe. So, I'll raise a glass to the autumnal equinox on Sept. 22 and pity the moon that's too big to notice the flag stuck in its backside.



Letters To The Editor . . .

Hospital CON law

Dear Editor,

I would have to respectfully disagree with Dr. James O'Neill's recent letter to the editor saying that this state's Certificate of Need law should be relegated to the "ash heap of history" ("O'Neill favors dismantling CON process for hospital," Sept. 12).

The Certificate of Need law has served the people of this state just as it was intended. If not for the Certificate of Need law, hospitals would outnumber CVS and Rite Aid stores.

The certificate of need process is not a relic of days past, it is still protecting taxpayers as it was designed. Dr. O'Neill knows that by law all hospitals with ER's have to accept patients whether the patient has the means to pay or not. In exchange for those losses, ER's and Urgent Care Centers are given tax exempt status. Relegating the CON to the "ash heap of history" would open the door to losses in property tax revenue in communities through out the state.

I suggest that if Dr. O'Neill wishes that the certificate of need requirement be relegated to the ash heap, that at that time all ER's and urgent care centers lose their tax exempt status. Sending our state representatives to Lansing to try to bypass the CON requirement for this proposed hospital is not in the best interests our community, it is self serving and in the best interests of the few.

If McLaren can't prove to the state that there is a need, then there isn't a need! Keep the CON, it's doing exactly what it was intended to do, protect the taxpayer!

Michael Powell
Independence Township

Mitchell for trustee

Dear Editor,

I had the pleasure of meeting Jeremy Mitchell one year ago, and I believe he would be a valuable asset to the Independence Township Board of Trustees. I am extremely impressed with his thoughtfulness and dedication to our community and its governance. Jeremy regularly attends all the Township Board meetings, and is an active member of the Clarkston Historical Society and the Clinton River watershed council.

Jeremy will work to boost our local economy through historical tourism, improve our lakes and groundwater by helping to develop rain gardens though out our township, and establish an internship program to prepare future leaders in our community. His website, jeremy4trustee.com, contains additional details regarding his plans to make Independence Township an even better place to live!

I hope you will join me on Nov. 6 in voting for Jeremy for Independence Trustee!

Shelley L. Hirth
Independence Township

CON perspectives

Dear Editor,

With all due respect, I have one question for Dr. James O'Neill ("O'Neill favors dismantling CON process for hospital," Sept. 12). It is my understanding that you will personally benefit from the addition of a McLaren Hospital here in Independence?

The regional hospital bed Certificate of Need is a process in place for a very well defined reason. I've lived in other cities where individuals have pushed for a new hospital to be developed against the will of the CON determination, only to see it shut its doors rather quickly in complete and utter failure. This takes a toll on many levels as you might imagine.

We have a fabulous emergency center at the POH facility at Water Tower Plaza. The staff there is highly knowledgeable and professional, the wait is minimal, they have all the necessary facilities. And they will treat you regardless of your insurance status.

Your McLaren facility on Sashabaw, on the other hand, turned me personally away, when I had an acute injury, a possible detachment of my hamstring. I literally could not walk and I was turned away because at the time I did not have insurance. Not only was I in excruciating pain, I was, shall we be polite, ticked, ever so slightly.

Considering the traffic congestion already present on Sashabaw and Waldon, the issues that would result from sharing an entry/egress onto I-75 from Sashabaw with DTE, the impact the hospital you want on our infrastructure, water, sewer, stormwater, the increase in biological, radiological and other wastes streams within our community, and the fact that we need other jobs than simply medical - remember, there is a dramatic nursing shortage.

Maybe your opinion is at least as biased as mine, and maybe, we should let the board that considers need determine who gets the certificate.

I don't consider it an intrusion into my privacy. But I do consider the fact that I would have to listen to all the extra sirens on an otherwise clear and present night an intrusion. Perspectives are such interesting things, aren't they?

Tammie Heazlit
Independence Township

Support for Mitchell

Dear Editor,

As a lifelong resident of Independence Township I have been witness to the good, the bad and the ugly of our local politics. I have often thought we need new voices and ideas to move our township forward successfully and that is why I am pleased to support Jeremy Mitchell for Independence Township trustee. His ideas and plans for our community are exciting and interesting - see Jeremy4trustee.com.

His commitment and enthusiasm are like a breath of fresh air - the fresh air our local government desperately needs. I urge everyone to join me in voting for Jeremy Mitchell for Independence Township trustee.

Diana English
Independence Township

A Look Back

From *The CNews* archives

15 years ago - 1997

"Girls off to good start on the tennis courts" For a team that has faced its fair share of adversity already this season, the Clarkston girls tennis team breezed through Wednesday's match with ease. Thanks in part to a dominating performance by the four double teams, Clarkston defeated Waterford Mott 6-2 at home in the team's dual meet season opener.

"Adler trumps the competition" Ed Adler, owner of the Food Town chain, planned to expand his business at Sashabaw and Waldon with a 10,000-square-foot addition, as well as add more space for his employees on the second floor and move his corporate office from the Mills Mall in downtown Clarkston, which he owns.

"Left turn lane in front of academey approved" The Springfield Township Board of Trustees approved a left turn lane on Dixie Highway in front of Cedar Crest Academy, 5-1. The project would cost \$264,000.

25 years ago - 1987

"Crash injures 4" Four people were injured in a rollover accident on Clarkston Road, Independence Township, Saturday. James Leslie Horton Jr., 19 of Grand Blanc, was driving southbound on Clarkston Road about 1 a.m., when he rounded a curve too fast near Flemings Lake Road. The car rolled over, landing on the passenger side.

"Deer Lake enforcement to rise" Deer Lake area residents found out by the next boating season. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources recommended more enforcement on Deer Lake during a public hearing.

"300 gallons of apple cider later..." Storm clouds held off for the 13th Annual Crafts and Cider Festival held by the Clarkston Community Historical Society. They had 25,000-30,000 attend the event and sold 350 dozen donuts and 300 gallons of apple cider.

50 years ago - 1962

"Methodists to honor Adele Thomas" The First Methodist Church of Clarkston was the scene of the consecration of Mrs. Adele Thomas as Minister of Music, by Dr. Harold Bremer, executive director of The Methodist, the Detroit conference.

"Clarkston locals" A surprise party was held at the Samson home celebrating Jack Samson's 13th birthday. The evening began with a scavenger hunt and continued with other games as well as having refreshments.

The weather, etc. via The Old Farmer's Almanac

For several years *The Oxford Leader* was on *The Old Farmer's Almanac* mailing list. We didn't ask for it, but we loved receiving it, and reporting its weather predictions, among other things.

All those years they claimed 80 percent accuracy in their weather predictions. However, 2011 got 'em. They refer to last year as "the year without a winter." Still their temperature and precipitation guesses were close, they say.

For we who live in *The Almanac's* Lower Lakes region (Milwaukee to Syracuse and Muskegon to Indianapolis) winter will be colder than normal in the east, with above temperatures in the west this year.

The Detroit area is in the middle of their Lower Lakes region.

Precipitation and snowfall will generally be below normal, with the snowiest periods early to mid-November, early January and early March.

Summer temperatures and rainfall will be near normal, despite a tropical rainstorm threat in mid-June.

July and August will be the hottest periods and September and October warmer and drier than normal.

Sounds fine to me.

--- 0 ---

Mixed in with October stuff are these words of wisdom:

- Good management is better than good income.
- You will never get ahead by trying to get even.
- He who is afraid of leaves must not go in the woods.
- We're not joking; Halloween is soaking.

--- 0 ---

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

improvements."

It wouldn't be an *Old Farmer's Almanac* without the editors poking fun at other publications' headlines.

- Hospitals sued by 7 foot doctors.
- Panda mating fails; Veterinarians take over.
- War dims hope for peace.

--- 0 ---

- Astronaut takes blame for gas in spacecraft.
- Juvenile court to try shooting defendant.
- Something went wrong in jet crash.
- New study of obesity looks for larger test group.
- Cold wave linked to temperatures.
- Typhoon rips through cemetery; Hundreds dead.

--- 0 ---

The Old Farmer's Almanac does a few pages on kissing. They write that this act dates from 125 million years ago. I think it was only 122 years ago.

The book gives us the science of smooching. Please take notes. Philematology is the study of kissing. Osculation is the act of kissing.

The act of kissing produces powerful hormones (No kidding?), extra saliva, antibodies to fight tooth decay and adrenaline. It leaves us feeling weak in the knees and encourages us to establish intimacy and bonding.

Birds do it by tapping beaks, turtles touch noses, elephants slip their tongues in each others mouth as do chimps.

To cure a toothache, kiss a donkey on his chops.

Some fish press their mouths together up to 20 minutes.

Deep kissing exercises underlying facial muscles, which can help you look younger.

What does a bear do in the woods?

While I am still gathering information on the good ol' boy network in Orion Township, real estate shenanigans and local residents getting thrown under the bus by the their elected officials, let's go back in time.

In 2004 I wrote this gem of a column. Enjoy. -- Don

* * *

Let me start out by saying, I feel its pain.

What do I have feelings for? It's something rather large, warm, fuzzy and cuddly (just like me). It is a bear -- a bear that was found passed out in a campsite after a night of binge drinking. Seems to me, I vaguely remember a night like that when I was in college, but things are kind of fuzzy so don't hold me totally accountable for precise reporting of said incident.

However, according to plenty of credible news reports, just last week this big, black and groggy bear was found in a campground 80 miles northwest of Seattle. All around the snoring bear were empty beer cans. Thirty-six beer cans to be exact.

Apparently the black bear got into campers' coolers and used his claws and teeth to puncture the cans. And, while this two-year-old bear was bingeing, it still had the presence of mind not to con-

tinue its bender by consuming lots of available Busch beer. (I wish I would have been as smart in college.) The bear tried at least one Busch, turned its nose up at the national brew for the mellow taste of local suds, namely Rainier beer.

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

I bet the marketing tycoons at Rainier are busy coming up with an ad campaign with black bears and Rainier beer. Maybe they'll call their mascot Randy the Rainier bear bear?

Some might say that a drunk bear is a sure sign of the apocalypse -- that the world as we know it is about to end. They would argue: Why else would one of God's innocent and natural critters try to numb itself by drinking itself into oblivion?

I don't buy that.

I tend to blame the beer companies, who mass market their beers to bears. (And, before I go any further I want to send a message to all those big, furry beasts out there who may be reading... simply, I want them to always remember WWSD.

Bears, before you put that brew up to

your snout, think: What Would Smokey Do?)

Okay, enough of the public service announcements, let's get back to beer brewers.

I think it is time we all come to grips with the inherent evils of a capitalistic society run by mean-spirited corporations (who have been given the keys to the country by those damn Republicans). A society that would allow large corporations to poison bears, is a society that is spinning out of control.

The devil-controlled beer corporations are at fault for this poor bear's drunken escapade. The beer-selling humans have long been courting brother bear with the temptation of alcohol.

Any of you old timers out there probably remember this little jingle of days gone by:

"Land of sky blue waters (then the echo), waters."

In their TV ads, Minnesota beer brewing Hamms used that jingle with a bear mascot for years.

Come to think of it, most of their broadcast and print advertising was centered around that dancing cartoon black bear. (Which, upon further contemplation, could be racially motivated to keep the black bear down. White polar bears drink the wholesome goodness that is

Coke-a-cola. Yogi Bear and Boo-boo were brown bears that were "smarter than the a-ver-age bear." I'll have to look into how many polar bears or brown bears have been used to advertise beer products.)

Regardless, for bears, the temptation never ends.

Today, even the good and gentle people of Canada are trying to peddle their poison to unsuspecting and innocent bears.

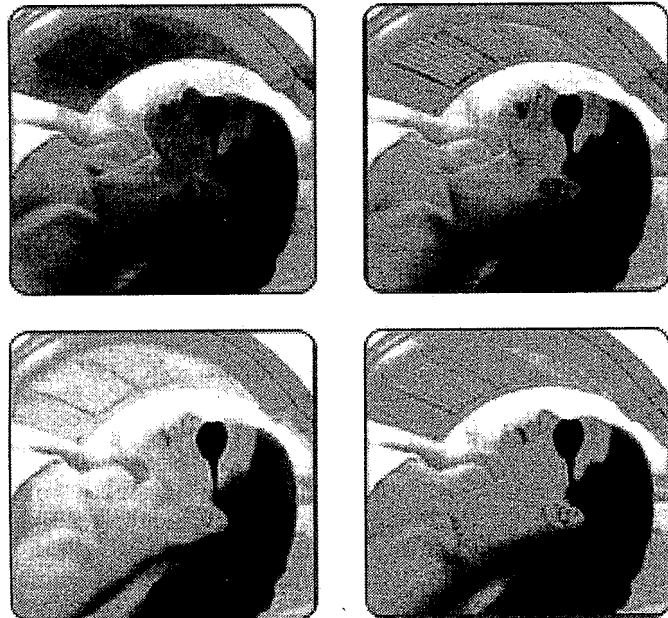
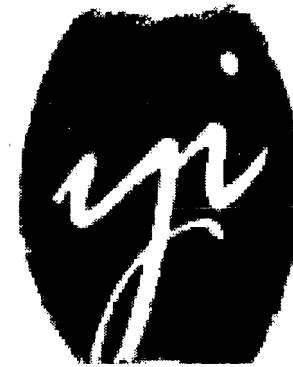
For the last two or three years, Labatt brewers have used a man in a U. arctus horribilis (grizzly bear) outfit in their television advertising.

In the ad campaign, the bear drinking Labatt's beer has all sorts of beautiful women hanging on him, while homo sapiens not drinking Labatts are ignored by all the chicks. The message is clear, drink Labatt beer, bear, and you can cross species lines and get all the pretty women you want.

Pure evil. I think it is time we pressure the beer companies to change their advertising, to stay clear of kids and bears and just stick to targeting journalists and other bad people.

Comments for the rather large, fuzzy and cuddly, beer gusslin' Don Rush can be e-mailed to: Don@ShermanPublications.org

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Tiny furniture theft

A store employee called deputies to report a customer taking doll furniture, 6:06 p.m., Sept. 5, in the 6000 block of Sashabaw Road. Deputies tracked down the customer, a 43-year-old Ortonville woman, and retrieved a nine-piece doll furniture set and other items. She said times are hard. She was cited for retail fraud.

Identity theft

An Independence Township woman forgot to get her credit card back after making a payment at a rental store in Pontiac, Sept. 5. She soon got a call from her credit card company regarding suspicious charges including more than \$300 in purchases in Bloomfield Hills and Auburn Hills, as well as purchases at three Pontiac gas stations.

Fire in Springfield

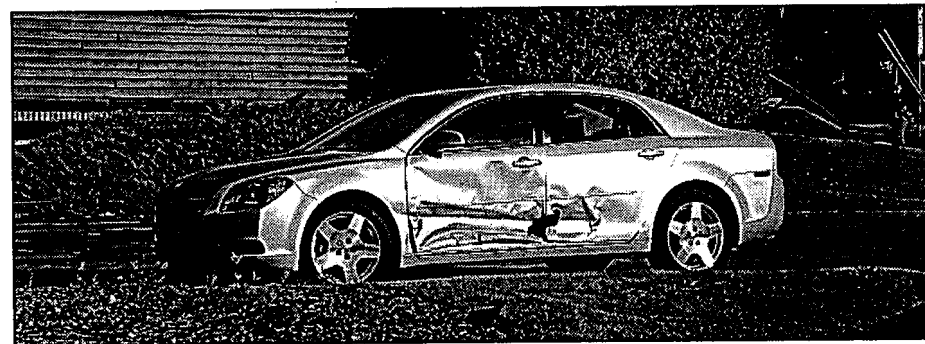
Springfield Township firefighters put out a house fire in the 6000 block of Hillsboro, 8:54 p.m., Sept. 9. The fire looked like it was stated by accident, but investigation continues.

Hit and run driver found

A deputy looking for a hit-and-run driver at Reese and Rattalee Lake roads, 1:01 a.m., Sept. 8, was passed on M-15 by a pickup truck, swerving from side to side with heavy front end damage. The 22-year-old driver was stopped at Main and Washington and arrested for drunk driving, second offense.

Public Safety

Reports from Oakland County Deputies and Independence Township Fire Department



CAR WRECK: No one was injured in a two-vehicle crash on Ortonville Road just south of I-75, Sept. 12. Authorities quickly cleaned up the damage and had the vehicles towed. *Photo by Mary Keck*

Fence tosser

A 34-year-old Inkster man was ticketed for disorderly conduct after a deputy watched him try to throw a 39-year-old Lansing man over a fence, 8:32 p.m., Sept. 7, at DTE Energy music theater. The Lansing man said he was standing on the walkway when the other man punched him in the face and tried to throw him over the fence. The Inkster man said he was punched first, and punched back in self defense.

Break-ins

Someone pried open a door to break into an unoccupied trailer on Joy Street, Sept. 9.

Someone kicked in a garage entry door to a home in the 9000 block of Pine Knob Road, Sept. 13, and took jewelry.

Plate taken

The license plate was found missing from a truck parked in the 7000 block of Deerhill Drive, Sept. 9.

Stop sign scofflaw

A deputy stopped a 24-year-old Independence Township woman for running a stop sign at Parview Drive and Balmoral Terrace, 6:23 p.m., Sept. 9. The driver didn't have a driver's license, but did have a warrant for her arrest out of Clay Township in connection with a drunk driving charge. She was advised and released on the warrant. She was cited for running the stop sign and driving with an expired license, and her vehicle was impounded.

Window hit by pellet

A home's entrance window was shot by a pellet gun, fired from the woods in the 4000 block of Whipple Lake Road, Sept. 10.

Teens arrested in break-in

Deputies arrested a 17-year-old Clarkston boy and a 17-year-old Waterford Township boy in connection with an attempted home invasion, 2:38 a.m., Sept. 15, in the 6700 block of Berwick Drive. Residents called deputies to report someone breaking in through the kitchen window. Deputies found two teenagers matching clothing descriptions hiding behind neighboring houses. The suspects were taken into custody and brought to the Independence Substation for further questioning, then jailed pending arraignment.

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

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Independence Township
senior adult
activity center

Clarkston Medical Group and Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center Partner in "Bucks for Buses" Fundraiser

The Friends of the Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center has again partnered with Clarkston Medical Group in an effort to make their annual "Bucks for Buses" fundraiser the biggest one yet.

In 2011, senior citizens and disabled adults from Independence Township, Springfield Township and the City of Clarkston relied on the handicap accessible buses from the Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center to transport them to doctor's offices, chemotherapy, dialysis treatments, physical therapy, grocery stores, jobs and much more. These individuals can no longer drive due to health problems and/or lack of reliable transportation. Increased costs for the transportation program necessitate raising funds to supplement the budget. The "Bucks for Buses" 2011 fundraiser raised \$10,000 for the Senior Center transportation program.

2011 Transportation Statistics Include:

Rides: 5,400
Gas and Oil: \$14,000
Ridership Miles: 63,000
Maintenance: \$7,000

The Friends of the Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center (FITSAAC) is hosting the "Bucks for Buses" fundraiser on September 27, 2012 at Palazzo de Bocce from 6-9pm. Our goal is to raise \$12,000. You can help by sponsoring the event, purchasing tickets, or providing a raffle or auction item. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated by the people who depend on this vital service. Bucks for Buses proceeds will go directly to the Senior Center Transportation Fund.

Clarkston Medical Group has partnered with the Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center in the planning, preparation, and fundraising of this event. We invite you to join us Thursday, September 27 at their biggest fundraiser of the year. The evening includes a buffet dinner, auction, 50/50 raffle, unlimited Bocce play, and musical entertainment provided by Clarkston Medical Groups own Dr Michael Baker. Tickets are \$40 and must be purchased in advance. Please contact the Senior Center at 248-625-8231 to purchase tickets, to become a sponsor or donate, and for any questions.

You can make a difference in the lives of our senior citizens and disabled adults by supporting the "Bucks for Buses" fundraiser.

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Last Week's Score

Clarkston 42, Troy Athens, 6

This Week's Contest: Stoney Creek, Away

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Friday	08-24-12	Rochester Adams (win)	Home	7 p.m.
Friday	08-31-12	West Bloomfield	Home	7 p.m.
Friday	09-07-12	Rochester	Home	7 p.m.
Friday	09-14-12	Athens	Away	7 p.m.
Friday	09-21-12	Stoney Creek	Away	7 p.m.
Friday	09-28-12	Pontiac	Home	7 p.m.
Friday	10-05-12	Troy	Home	7 p.m.
Friday	10-12-12	Lake Orion	Away	7 p.m.

Clarkston's OAA Red Standings* #2

Team	Overall Wins	Losses	Team	Overall Wins	Losses
1. Lake Orion	4	0	5. Stoney Creek	2	2
2. Clarkston	4	0	6. Pontiac	1	3
3. Rochester	3	1	7. West Bloomfield	1	3
4. Troy	3	1	8. Troy Athens	0	4

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Red Hawks stopped in flight

BY WENDIREARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

The sun shined onto Clarkston High School's football field on Monday as the grid-iron heroes prepared for a new week of practice.

The Clarkston Boys Varsity Football team had two days off after the win over Troy Athens on Friday, 42-6, and are working for more.

"We are making strides," said Kurt Richardson, head coach. "Defensively we played pretty good. D.J. Zezula progressed quite a bit. The kids stepped up."

Zezula put the Wolves on the scoreboard on his quarterback keeper and ran 1-yard into the endzone after the game opened. A PAT from kicker Shane Hynes put the boys, 7-0.

The Red Hawks added to the board with two field goals - one in the first quarter and another in the next quarter to put the score.

Running back Ian Eriksen struck next with a 3-yard touchdown to put more distance in the score. Another 1-yard run by Zezula into the endzone marked the end of the first half with the Wolves up 21-6.

Eriksen scored two more times with a 5-yard touchdown in the third quarter and a 7-yard touchdown in the final quarter.

The final score was from Cyree Merritt off a 5-yard touchdown pass from Zezula, putting the Wolves 42-6.

Eriksen was the leading rusher. He rushed the ball 22 times for 164 yards. Caine Watlington rushed for 62 yards. Hynes was 6-for-6 for PATs.

"Zezula, Watlington and Eriksen were good again," Richardson said. "Defensively Alex Dicea was good again and Reid Kaminski had a very good game."

Dicea and Kaminski both had one interception each which led to touchdowns after the Wolves took over possession.

Chris Calvano was the leading tackler with seven tackles and Dicea had six tackles.

The Wolves improved to 4-0, 3-0 OAA Red, holding onto second place. Troy Athens went down to 0-4.

Richardson added the team has to work on their consistency when asked if the Wolves played at the traditional Clarkston level or down to the Red Hawks' level of play.

"They did a bit of both," he admitted.

Clarkston heads to Stoney Creek this Friday to play the new foe as they joined the OAA Red this fall.

"It will be a new experience," said Richardson. "They can't let down. We have to keep making strides every week."

The Cougars are 2-2, 1-2 OAA Red after their 42-7 loss to Lake Orion last Friday.

"We are expecting to see one of the best teams in the county," Stoney Creek Head Coach Brad Zube. He has seen the Wolves since he lives in Clarkston and coached Pontiac for two years.

"I have prepped the boys at how big Clarkston is and how well coached they are," he added. "Coach Richardson is a great guy and does a great job. We are just try to gear them up and ready for the challenge."

He added the loss to Orion prepped them in a positive way to see the level of play they need to be at as they take on Clarkston.

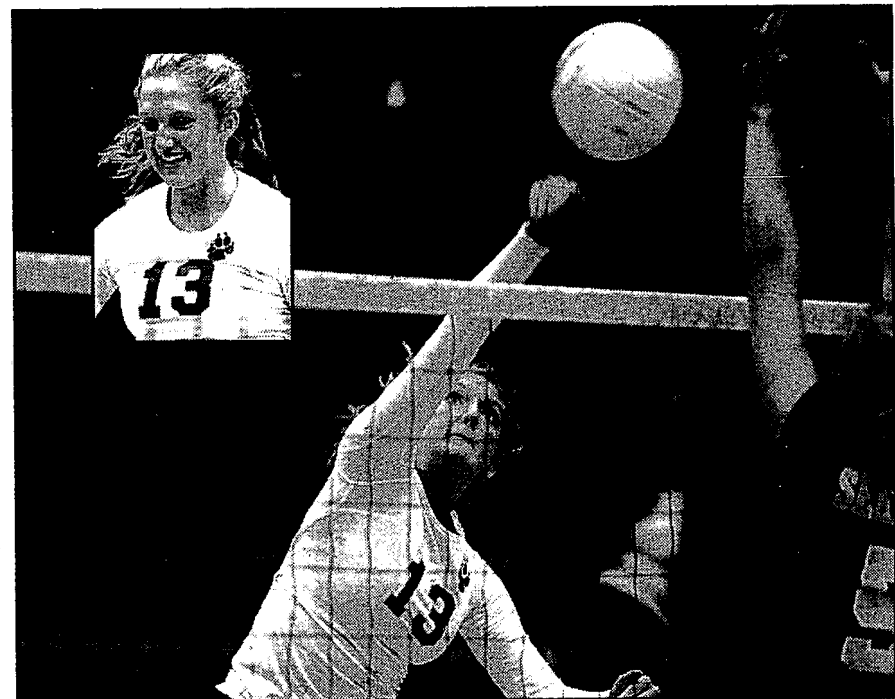
"It bruised our egos but in the long run it will help," said Zube. "Right now we our finding our identities."

The game starts at 7 p.m. at 575 E. Tienken Road in Rochester.



Reid Kaminski intercepts Troy Athens pass in the second half.
Photo by John Azzopardi

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Rachel Dickerson sends the ball over the net in the Lady Wolves home opener against Seaholm last Thursday. Photos by Larry Wright

Leading on the court

BY WENDIREARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior Rachel Dickerson dove to the gym floor and hit the volleyball towards the net.

She looked up just in time to see it go over to the net and into Birmingham Seaholm's side. The ball was unreturned to earn a point for Clarkston in their home opener and OAA Red league match.

The Lady Wolves finished the game, 3-1. Dickerson has become used to tough competition during her time playing volleyball especially after finishing in the Final Four at the state finals last year.

This year is no different as the team is now 25-3-1 and they still have six weeks to go until playoffs begin.

Dickerson's goal is to help keep the team going strong as they get deeper into the season.

"I want to bring the same intensity that we did last year and never get down," she said. "We can be just as successful as last year as long as we have the same team chemistry. I think we can get just as far."

Dickerson began playing volleyball in seventh grade after friends introduced her

to it through Clarkston Volleyball Camp.

"I tried it and I ended up quitting tennis to play volleyball," she said, explaining she liked the team aspect of the sport. "I loved being on a team and have everyone pick each other up. It's the one thing I didn't like about tennis. I didn't like feeling it was only on me. In volleyball, you have everyone around you to support you."

She plans on continuing playing volleyball after graduation and has already verbally committed to Grand Valley State University.

"I loved the campus and the area when I met the team," she smiled. "I just love the atmosphere in the gym."

Dickerson is undecided about her course of study but is leaning towards veterinary school.

"I have always love animals," she smiled.

For the young Lady Wolves aspiring to continue the volleyball tradition she said keep practicing and getting out there.

"Even if you think you can't - you can," Dickerson added. "You can do anything you want as long as you work hard at it."



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Cross Country top OAA foes in Jamboree

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Runners were busy last week running in three races.

They closed the week at the Spartan Invitational last Friday finishing in the top 20.

The boys finished in 17th place at the Spartan Invitational in the Green division. Daniel Billette led the team, finishing eighth in 16:40.

The girls finished 20th in the Elite Division. Nicole Hanson finished in 19th place at 18:44.

"We performed really well," said Clarkston Girls Cross Country Coach Kevin Breen. "Nicole is now ranked as one of the top 30 runners in the state."

Lynsie Gram set her personal best during the race with 19:47 and Erin Billette finished in 20:08.

"The elite race has the top runners from division one, two and three," said Breen. "They allow 40 teams and have 280 runners. It is a nice indicator of when we do get to the state level races. This is one of the few races you see such a large crowd. You really have to experience it to see how you race in that kind of environment. For the girls - get out there run smart and learn how to adapt to larger numbers."

The boys finished third at the Chesaning Invitational with 89 points in Division 1-2 on Thursday.

Nathan Heierman led the team. He fin-

ished in ninth place in 17:19.7. Finishing in the top 50 were Tyler Dunn, Scott Cousino, Chris Shook and Patrick O'Connor.

The girls finished in third with 46 points.

Two freshman led the team Kaitlyn Cavallo finished in seventh at 21:09.2 and Amanda Casetti in 12th at 21:47.1. Finishing in the top 50 runners were Monica Wanat, Kelsey Hunt, Haleigh Orr and Helen Jeffers.

The runners opened the week at the OAA Red Jamboree at Bloomer Park, Sept. 11.

The Lady Wolves took second place with 86, behind Seaholm's 41 points.

"It was a very respectable finish," said Breen. "Seaholm is one of the top teams in the state right now. Rochester Adams (finished third) is up there as one of the better teams so beating them was a step in the right direction for us."

Finishing in the top ten were: Hanson at 19:13 in fifth and Gram at 19:50 in tenth.

The boys also finished second with 67 points. Lake Orion took first with 56. Finishing in the top were Daniel Billette at 16:43 in fifth and Sam Tanielian at 16:52 in seventh.

The teams run in the OAA Jamboree #2 on Monday at Stony Creek Metropark giving them a week to prepare.

"We are getting in a little extra mileage in this week," said Breen. "When they go up in mileage the pressure goes down in workout."



The Lady Wolves after a race. Photo submitted

Kickers fuel field with talent and experience

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

The Wolves are nine games into their season and holding onto winning record as they continue into this week.

"We can build on what we have accomplished so far," said Clarkston Boys Varsity Soccer Coach Chuck Lawhorn. "We can definitely get better in our ball movement. We have yet to play a full 80 minutes of good soccer."

The team has 13 returners and ten new players for this season.

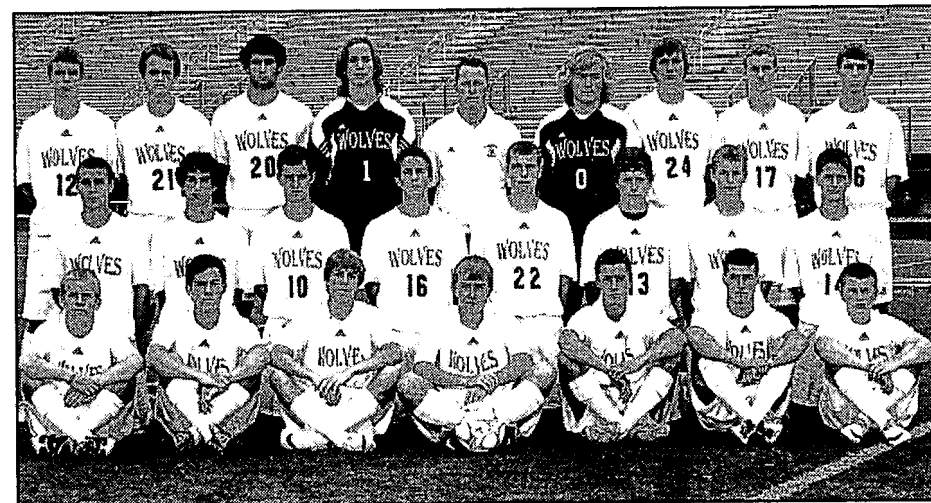
Lawhorn added the new players are learning to play at a faster pace than they were playing at their previous level.

"They are blending really well with the returning varsity players," he said. "The returning players really help them pick up the pace and learn the system and style I want them to play. They help to get them, integrated on what we need them to do to win games."

A goal for the season to bring home a OAA Red and district championship.

"It has been awhile since Clarkston has won anything," Lawhorn said. "Those are a couple of good goals the guys have this year. They are goals that if we can keep working hard we can definitely accomplish."

Strengths of the team lay in midfield and returning senior goalkeeper Harry Smith.



Clarkston Boys Varsity Soccer team. Photo by Visual Sports Network

"We have guys with a great touch and they are good at distribution," Lawhorn added. "We are real solid up top and on the outside. Going straight up the middle of the field we have a lot of talent and a lot of good players that are going to create a lot of scoring opportunities."

Another strength is the bench with the amount of depth and talent. They will help boost the starters during the season.

The boys were 5-4, 1-2 OAA Red before their rematch against Stony Creek on Tuesday.

"You just have to take it one game at a time," said Lawhorn. "It is an old cliché but every team is going to bring their best when they come after you. You have to play hard and for 80 minutes. Once the guys start doing that they will be a tough team to beat."

The Wolves play Thursday at Holly High School, 6:45 p.m.

They are back home next week as they host Lake Orion on Monday and Waterford Kettering on Tuesday during Youth Night. Both games start with JV at 5:30 p.m. and varsity following.

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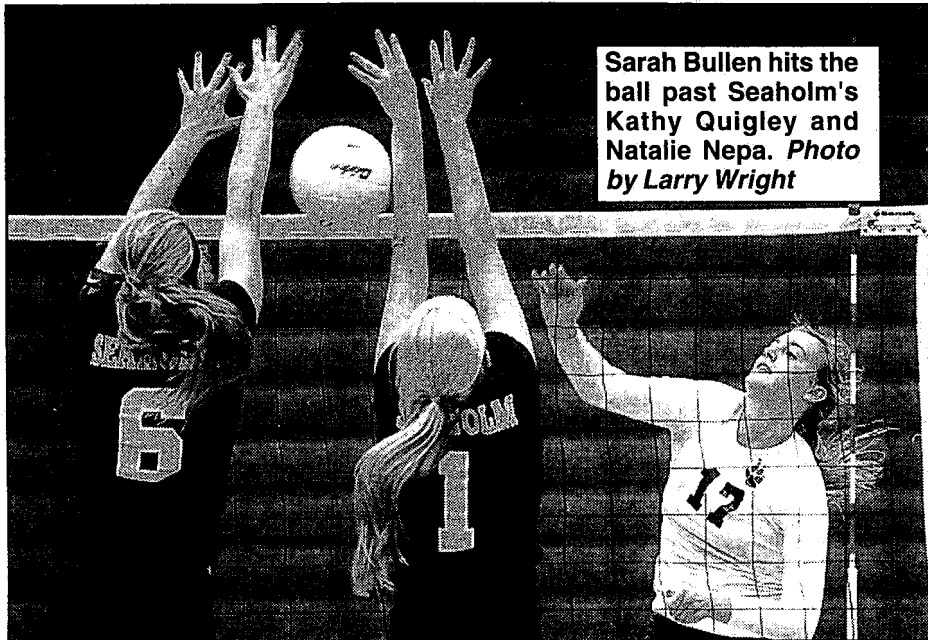
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Sarah Bullen hits the ball past Seaholm's Kathy Quigley and Natalie Nepa. Photo by Larry Wright

Blocking Seaholm from win

BY WENDIREARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Spikers fought on their side of the net to beat their OAA Red foe in the Lady Wolves' home opener last Thursday.

They won the first game after taking the lead after two points and kept adding to the board until they were at 25-14.

"It was probably one of the best starts we have had so far over the last few years," said senior Rachel Dickerson.

They carried the momentum into the second game as they opened with 3-0. It didn't take long for Seaholm to catch up to take the lead and give Clarkston a challenge.

Both teams were neck and neck once Sarah Bullen tied the score 25-25 with her hit over the net. Seaholm finished after taking the lead 28-26.

"I think maybe we just got lackadaisical," said Coach Kelly Avenall. "It is hard to beat a team 25-14 and stay focused. It woke us up a bit."

The third game started with Seaholm taking the lead but it wasn't long before both teams were close in points again.

Seaholm pulled into the lead at 22-19 and it was the last time they would lead again. Katie Chadwell and Dickerson brought Clarkston up to the lead. Chadwell sealed the their fate minutes later when her block went unreturned and the girls won, 25-22.

The Lady Wolves won the game 3-1 after winning the deciding and fourth match, 25-13.

"We struggled a little bit in the middle but we came back and fought," said Dickerson. "The biggest thing was getting our middles in transition. Once we got our middles in transition everything was just flowing and we were able to get into a rhythm."

Avenall pointed out it was a good game.

"Typically first matches at home don't play well," she explained. "I have been preaching

that. I don't know if it's nerves. Their friends are in the stands. We have a louder atmosphere because we have a bigger gym. They are high school girls - they have distractions. As much as I preach against those distractions - they get distracted.

Dickerson had 20 kills. Emily Malinowski had 21 digs and two aces. Bullen had 12 kills and Chadwell had 10 kills.

"We have been struggling getting Chadwell on the offense," said Avenall. "We used her better tonight and it helped."

Dickerson added playing their first league game helped prepare the team for the rest of the season.

"We can't take anyone for granted," she added. "Even if we don't think they are the same level as us we need to take every as though they are the best team. We have to try our best every time."

The Lady Wolves won the Flushing Invitationl on Saturday going 6-0 for the day. They defeated North Branch in the finals, 25-16 and 25-15, bringing their record to 25-3-1.

Dickerson had 42 kills and 38 digs, Brianna Frakes had 28 aces, and Emily Popp had 52 digs and 10 aces.

"It is a good tournament," Avenall said going into Saturday. "They have good teams - North Branch, Flushing and more. There are a few teams we have to watch out for."

Clarkston hosted a quad with Marian, Stoney Creek and Troy Athens on Tuesday. They head to Farmington on Thursday for a league game.

"I think they are going to surprise people in the league," Avenall added. "They are going to be a lot better than people think. We shouldn't be surprised. Like I tell them no league match we play is going to be easy. They are going to battle and people will play their hearts out against us because they hate us right now."

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

Wolfpack Update

The Clarkston Boys Varsity tennis team was back on the court last week.

They won two matches against Avondale, 8-1, and Lake Orion, 6-3.

Matt Dahl, Brendan Greenlee and Alexis Haselwanter had wins against both teams on the Singles Court and Ian Stuart defeated Avondale.

For doubles, Mitch Rogowski and Scott Schultz; Dan Agnew and Jeff Zittel defeated both teams. Ray Coyle and Tyler Socin posted a win over Lake Orion. Socin with Sean McNeil defeated Avondale whil

Joey and Johnny Whall also had a win over Avondale. The boys are now 5-3 and 3-1 in the OAA White. They host Rochester on Thursday, 4 p.m.

The Clarkston Girls Swim team won their match against Harrison, 98-88. They took first place in eight events. Kathryn Culver in 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle; Sami Stelpflug in 200-yard IM, 100-yard breaststroke; Taylor Tekiele in 50-yard freestyle; Amber Hallman in 100-yard backstroke and two relay teams.

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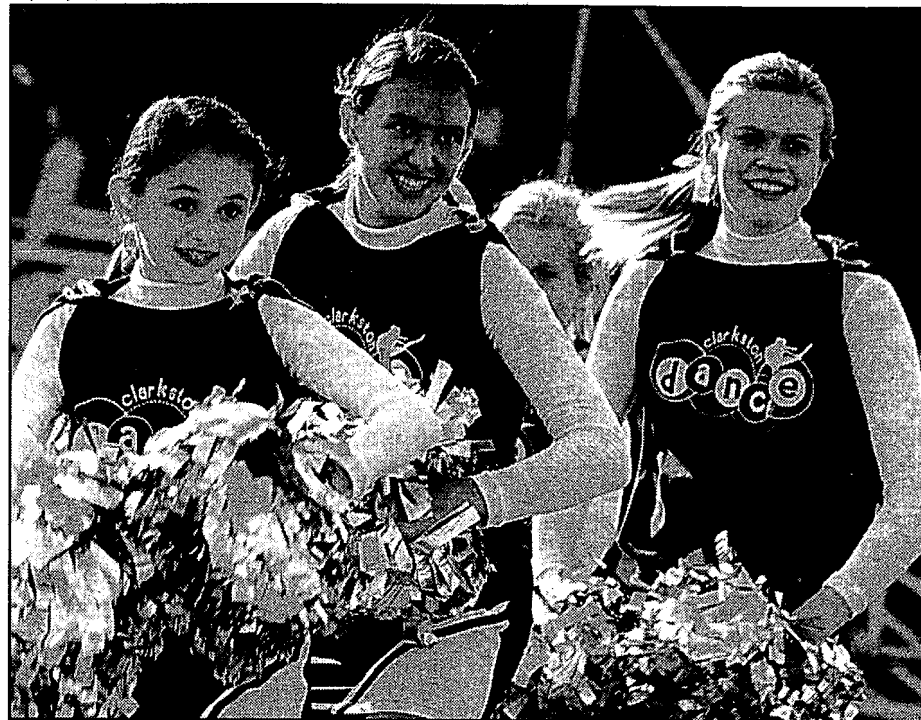
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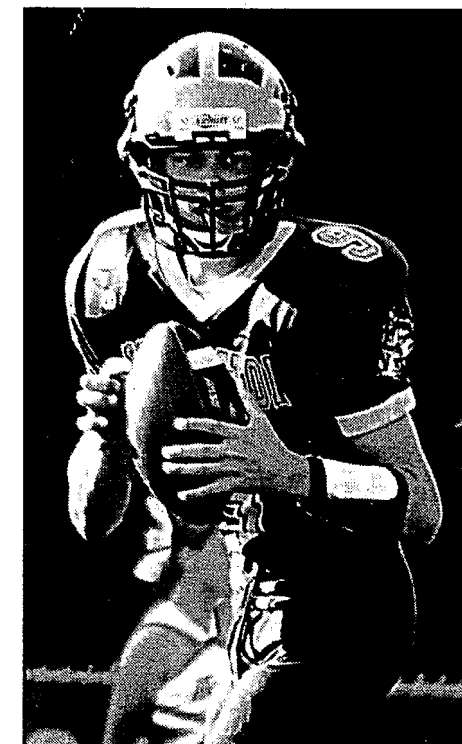
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From left, Lauren Gonzales, Christina Charbonneau and Sara Loucks perform with the Clarkston Junior High Dance team during half time at the freshman game.



Alexander Kessman seeks out Hayden Schoenherr to throw him the ball.

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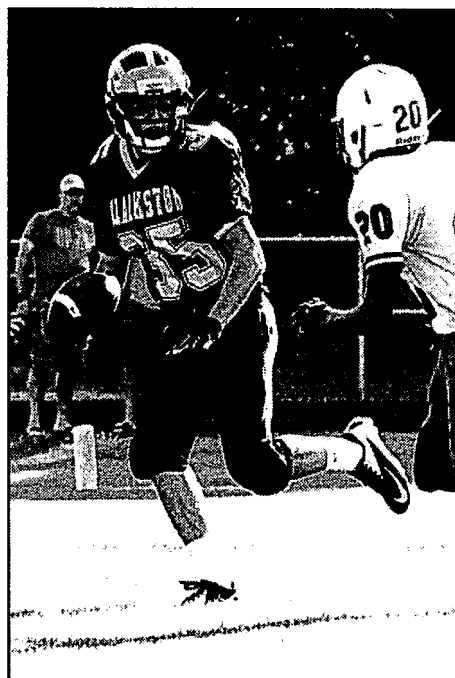


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Hayden Schoenherr runs to avoid a Troy Athens blocker.

Win at home

The Freshman and JV teams hosted their home openers last Thursday against Troy Athens and both posted victories.

JV won 26-6 and Freshman won 45-35, both are now 4-0.

The Clarkston Junior High School Dance Team made their debut during the freshman game and performed during half time.

Both teams are home against as they take on Stoney Creek. Freshman is at 4:30 p.m. at the junior high and JV at 7 p.m. at the high school.



Christopher Cartier and James Stottlemeyer put a stop to Troy Athens offense.

Photos by
Wendi Reardon

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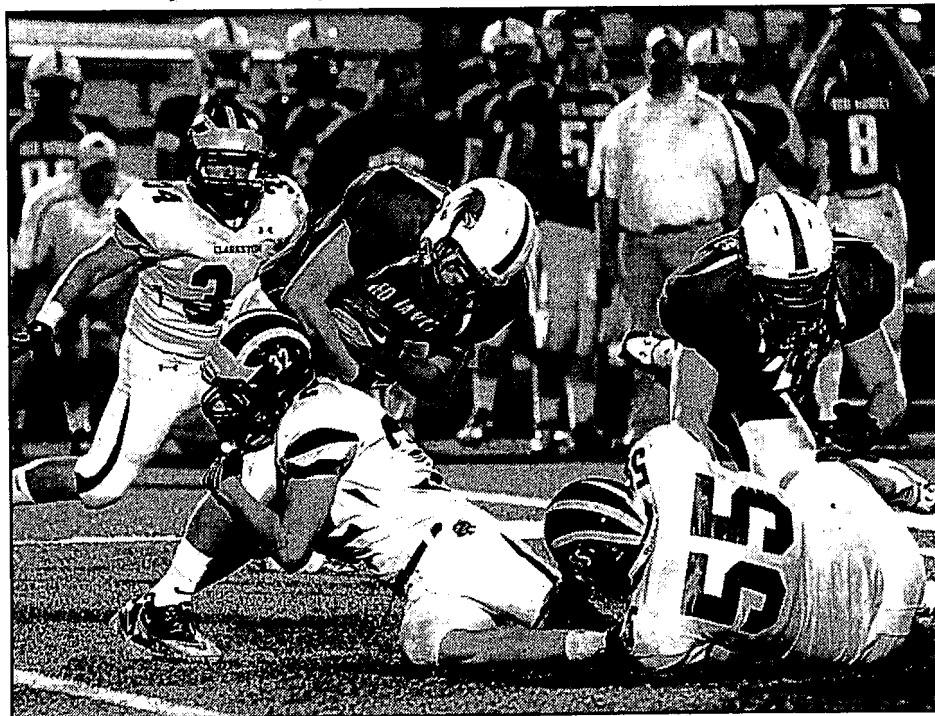
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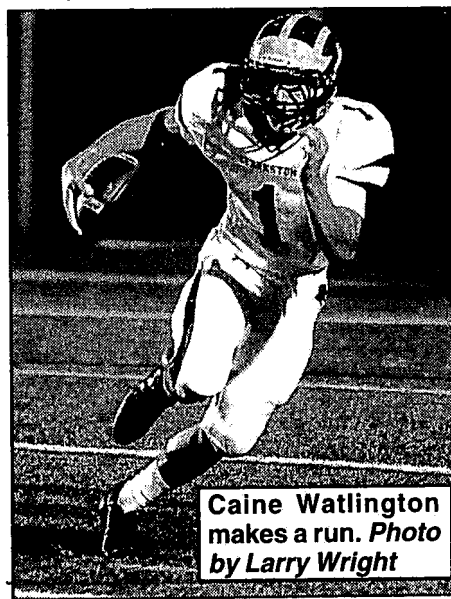
Ben Kaminsky blocks Troy Athens from gaining yards. Photo by John Azzopardi



Dylan Hancock takes down the ball carrier with Nick Matich (#55) in on the play. Photo by Larry Wright

Wolves improve to 4-0

The Clarkston Boys Varsity Football team held Troy Athens down to six points as they went for 42 points. Next game is Friday at Stoney Creek.



Caine Watlington makes a run. Photo by Larry Wright

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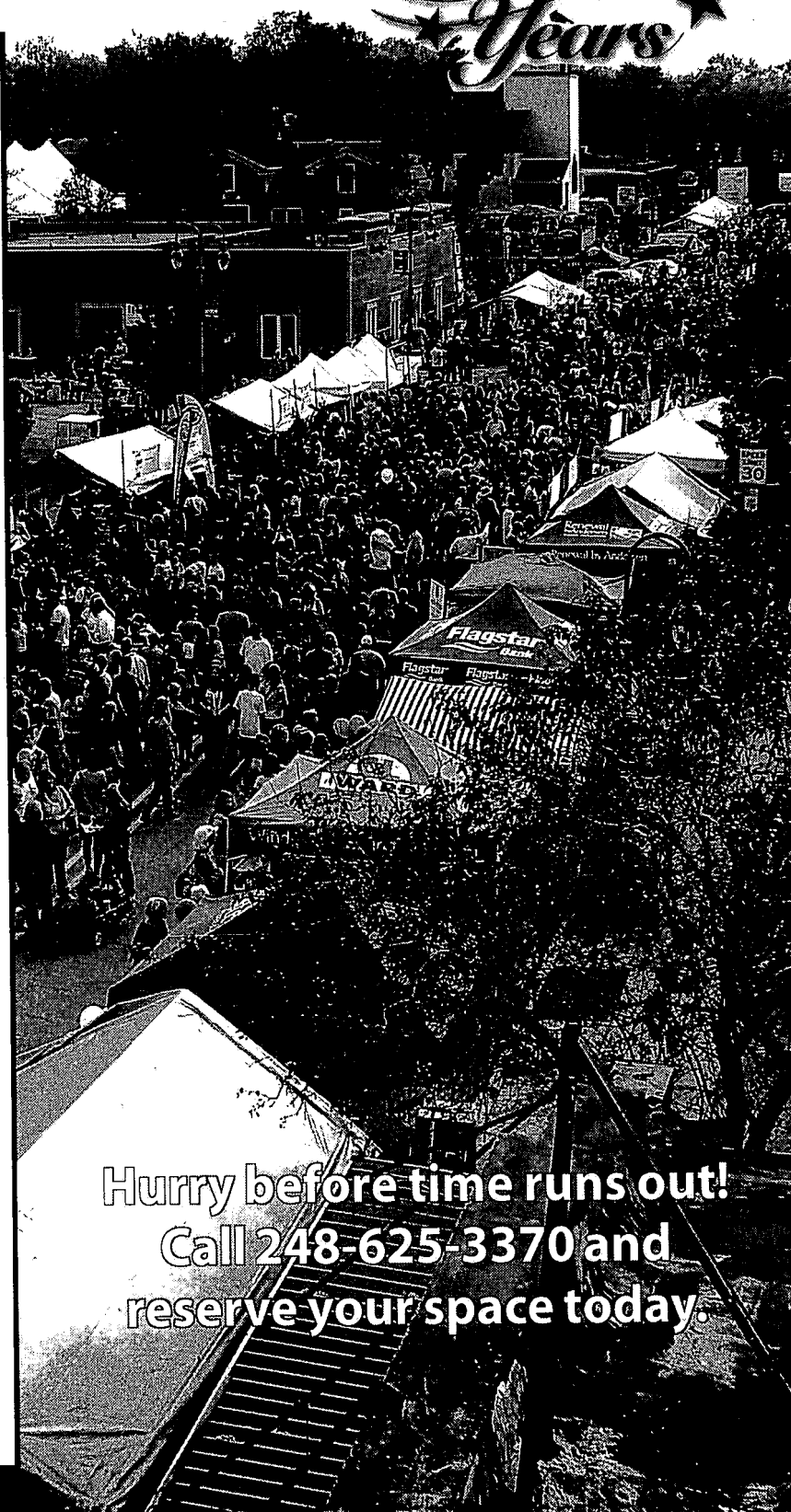
—Penny Shanks
Chamber Executive Director

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Harriman joins downtown bank

Kayla Harriman recently joined the retail staff of Clarkston State Bank as assistant branch manager at the branch in downtown Clarkston, 15 S. Main Street.

She came to the bank with solid retail banking experience including her most recent position as assistant branch manager at TCF National Bank.



Harriman

Harriman joins Theresa Rigato as the management team at the office, both whose passion and focus revolves around the community and exceptional customer service. Kayla currently lives in Clarkston and grew up in its surrounding community, Lake Orion where she attended high school.

"Clarkston State Bank is committed to continuing its history of hiring local talent like Kayla who are passionate about banking and helping others. She is a valued part of the management team at the bank," said Dawn Horner, executive vice president of Retail Banking.

Clarkston State Bank opened in January 1999 and operates four branches in Clarkston, Waterford, and Independence Township.



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September 19, 2012

Proposal 3 calls for 25% renewable energy by 2025

Support Prop 3?

"It takes advantage of the engineering and manufacturing expertise we have in Michigan, it is better for the environment, and it doesn't send billions of Michigan dollars to Ohio or anywhere else. I can't see how this is bad for anyone in Michigan."



- Cory Johnston

"We need to adopt a Sustainable Alternative Energy Plan for our nation, state, and this township. Fossil fuels are destroying our Earth, and fossil fuels are an exhaustible resource. The sun and wind are inexhaustible resources and it is time that we embrace this and move forward."



- Tim Heming

"It's crazy. You don't mandate an unproven energy source in an arbitrary time frame - it's like Solyndra, or the Volt, losing \$54,000 per car."



- Jim Evans

"I have a lot of questions about it - what specific dollars, what energy sources? You can't put all the details in a ballot proposal, an amendment to the state Constitution."



- Larry Rosso

By Phil Custodio

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Fruit losses hit close to home

BY MARY KECK
Clarkston News Staff Writer

With fall around the corner, residents are looking forward to enjoying a cup of cider from their favorite local orchard, but the apples may not have the usual homegrown flavor.

That's because the early March warmth and the late April frost caused crop losses for many Michigan fruit farmers.

As Raymond Porter, owner of Porter's Orchard in Goodrich put it: the weather "wiped us out in this region."

Porter's Orchard, established in 1921, lost 100 percent of their apple crop, and the owner said the whole state only produced 10 percent of its usual crop.

"It's the worst I've seen it statewide," Porter said.

To recover losses and meet the needs of his customers, Porter has purchased apples from Grand Rapids, a tactic nearby Ashton Orchards has also had to implement.

Owner Dennis Ashton said people shouldn't expect to see many local pears, peaches, apples, plums or cherries this year. Ashton says he'll never forget checking the temperature on the morning of April 29 and seeing 20.8 degrees. His trees were in bloom, but said "everything was just brown."

From one row of Gala apple trees, Ashton would get ten bins full of fruit in a typical year. This season, he's only able to fill half a bin from one row. While some of his fruit trees bloomed after the frost, the fruit was small in comparison to its usual size.

Ashton said he's lost 95 percent of the apple crop, and 100 percent of peaches, pears, and plums.

Although he said the price is "astronomically high," Ashton has been purchasing apples from Grand Rapids to make cider, doughnuts, and pies to sell. He drives



Sharon Ashton, of Ashton Orchards, gets ready for fall with apples, cider and apple donuts. Photo by Mary Keck

154 miles, sometimes twice a week, to pick up large bins of apples and transport them to his store in Ortonville.

"It's terrible. I hate to do it," Ashton said.

Although fruit crops fared better in Washington and Pennsylvania, he won't buy apples from out of state.

Ashton can't remember a worse year in his experience, but Raymond Porter says he's

noticed this premature blossoming on the increase.

"This is the third year in the last six years this has happened, whereas early buds damaged due to frost only occurred every 10 years or so," Porter explained.

Even though "it's hard to deal with," Porter said, "we're doing fine. We know next year it'll be different. We just keep moving forward."

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Special Events

Caring for the Caregiver, 1 p.m., Sept. 19, Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Stress management techniques, methods to promote their own health. 248-625-8231.

DSO in your Community concert presented by DTE Energy Foundation, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 20, Clarkston High School, 6595 Waldon Road. Reserve free tickets at dso.org/dtemusic. 313-576-5111.

Punt, Pass and Kick competition, Independence Township Parks and Rec, 10 a.m., Sept. 22, Clintonwood Park softball fields. Boys and girls ages 6-15. Free. Gym shoes only. 248-625-8223.

Cinema Under the Stars, showing "Despicable Me," 8 p.m., Sept. 22, Clarkston High School football field, 6093 Flemings Lake Road. Gates open, 7:30 p.m. \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. 248-623-3600.

Taste of Clarkston, 12-6 p.m., Sept. 23, downtown Main Street. Over 30 restaurants featured, music, kids games. 248-625-8055.

Free Child ID Program, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sept. 23, Cedar Masonic Lodge #60, 1 East Washington Street. Dental impression kit, CD with photo, video, digital fingerprints, vital information. Parents or guardians must fill out permis-

sion slip. 989-466-3087.

Habitat for Humanity Benefit Concert, 6 p.m., Sept. 23, Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. Features Alexander Zonjic and Friends.

Medicare 101, 7 p.m., Sept. 24, Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Lunch & Learn, Becoming an Informed Consumer of Hearing Health Care, 11 a.m., Sept. 26, Independence Township Senior Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Bucks for Buses fundraiser for Independence Township Senior Transportation, 6 p.m., Sept. 27, Palazzo di Bocce, 4291 Lapeer Road in Orion. \$40. 248-625-8231.

Treasures and Treats fall runnimage and bake sale for Neighbor for Neighbor, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sept. 28-29, Hart Community Center, Mill Pond Park, Davisburg. 248-634-0900.

Flip Flop Drive for recycling, 10 a.m., Sept. 29,

Around Town



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

Sashabaw Middle School, 5565 Pine Knob Road. Green Apple Day of Service with the United States Green Building Council.

Ortonville Health and Safety Expo, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Sept. 29, Oakwood Plaza, 250 N. Ortonville Road, Ortonville. McLaren Oakland offers free health checks including blood pressure, total cholesterol and glucose, osteoporosis; displays and activities on water safety, cancer services, nutritional counseling. Giveaways include bike helmets for the first 100 children and smoke alarms. Car seat inspections, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 248-338-5389 to schedule. Food, prizes, face painting, bounce house. 248-705-3074.

Reunion, Clarkston High School Class of 1965, 6 p.m., Sept. 29, Elk's Club, Waterford. Call Nyla, 248-969-7721.

Wild Night Out, North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy 40th Birthday Bash, 6 p.m., Sept. 29, Springfield Oaks Activity Center. Dinner, dancing, raffles, auctions. \$60. 248-846-6547.

20-year reunion, Clarkston High School Class of 1992, 7 p.m., Sept. 29, The Fountains, 6050 Maybee Road. Live performance by The Locals. Golf starts, 7 a.m., \$44.

One Hundred Mile dinner, 6 p.m., Sept. 29, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. All food grown within 100 miles of Clarkston. \$15/adult, \$8/ages 6-12, free/under 5. Free childcare. Program on Farmer's Markets

and eating locally grown food follows dinner. 248-625-1611.

Weekend in the Country Shopping Festival & Vintage Market, Sept. 29-30, Springfield Oaks Fair Grounds. Vintage and antique dealers, artisans, craftspeople, specialty foods, fresh local produce, food vendors. 734-459-0050.

Sunday

Springfield Farmers Market, Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 12000 Davisburg Road. Fresh produce, baked goods, crafts, items for garden. 248-846-6558.

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.

Line Dancing, Mondays, 1-4 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Country, salsa, cha-cha, rock and roll with Rosemary Hall. All welcome. \$3/drop in.

Clarkston Rotary Club, Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Buck Shots Bar and Grill, 7048 Gateway Park Drive. \$10. 248-880-0027.

Slow Flow Yoga with Noreen Daly, Mondays, Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m. Peace Unity Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-310-7878.

Bingo games, Community Singles, Mondays, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Big Boy, 6440 Dixie Highway. Dinner, dessert prizes. 248-812-0604.

Vegetable collection for Forgotten Harvest, Mondays, 4-6 p.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6490 Clarkston Road. 248-625-3038.

Tuesday

50+ Pickleball, indoor, Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., \$4, First Congregational Church of Clarkston, 5449

Please see Around Town on page 19A

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Around Town

Continued from page 2B

Clarkston Road; outdoor, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:30-10:30 a.m., \$2. Clintonwood Park Tennis Courts, 6000 Clarkston Road.

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

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

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.

Bereavement/Grief support, Tuesdays, eight weeks starting Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., McLaren Cancer Institute Conference Room, facilitated by Chaplain Priscilla Craig, RSVP 248-922-6606.

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.

CrossTowne Kids' Club, Wednesdays starting Sept 12, 7 p.m., North Oaks Community Church, 9600 Ortonville Road. Learn about God and Bible through lessons, application, activities, for grades 1-5.

Thursday

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 Township Adult Activities Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Make reservation by Monday before, 248-625-8231.

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.

Clarkston Community Women's Club, 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 20 at the Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Meet & Greet Bunco. Refreshments served. All welcome. 248-625-1326.

Saturday

Clarkston Farmers' Market, Saturdays through Oct. 13, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Education Center, 6300 Church Street.

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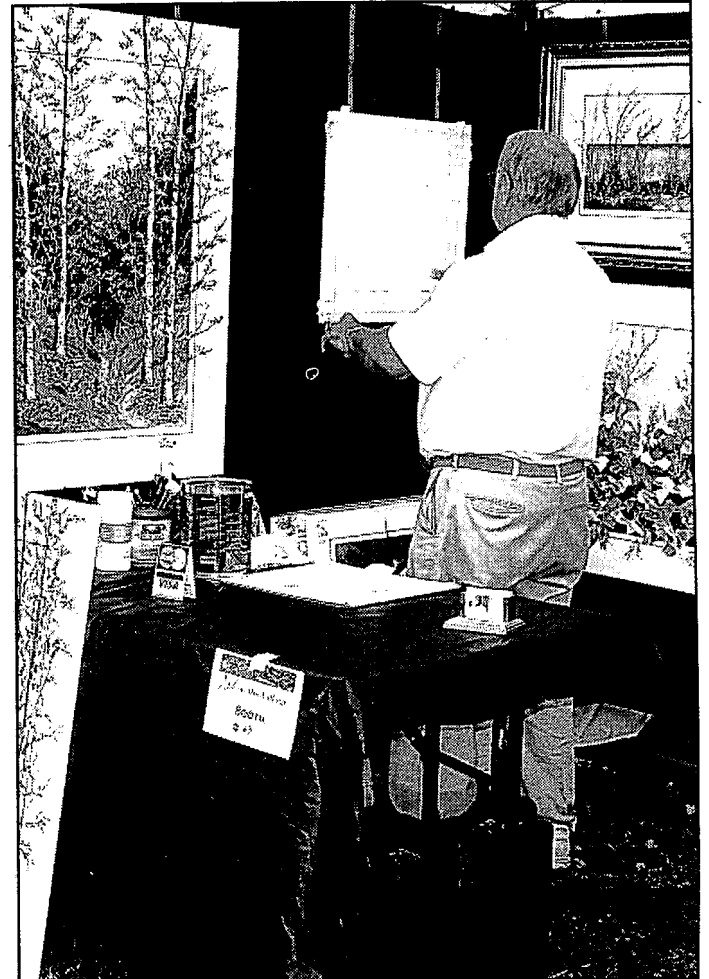
¹1.15% is accurate as of 07/20/2012. Funds currently deposited in accounts at Flagstar Bank are not eligible for promotional interest rate. This promotional interest rate is also available on other personal savings or money market accounts. This is a variable rate account and the interest rate offered after the promotional interest rate may change after opening. Personal accounts only. Limit one account per customer. A minimum balance may be required to avoid a monthly service fee of \$25. Fees could reduce earnings. Offer subject to change or cancellation at any time without notice. No minimum to open at a branch; \$1 to open online.

²Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of 07/20/2012. See branch for details.

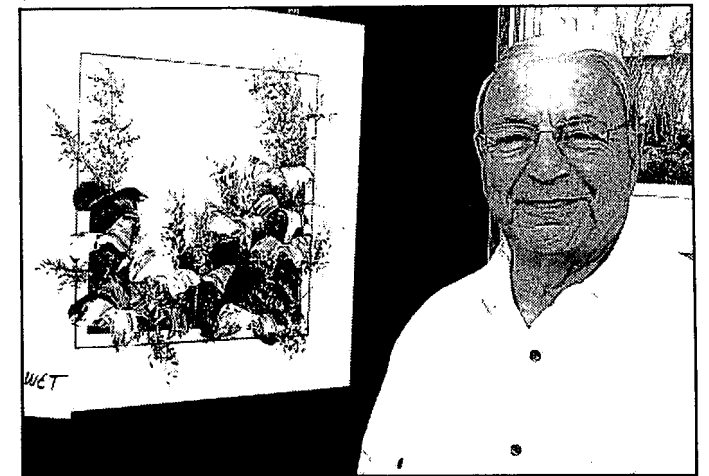
Member FDIC



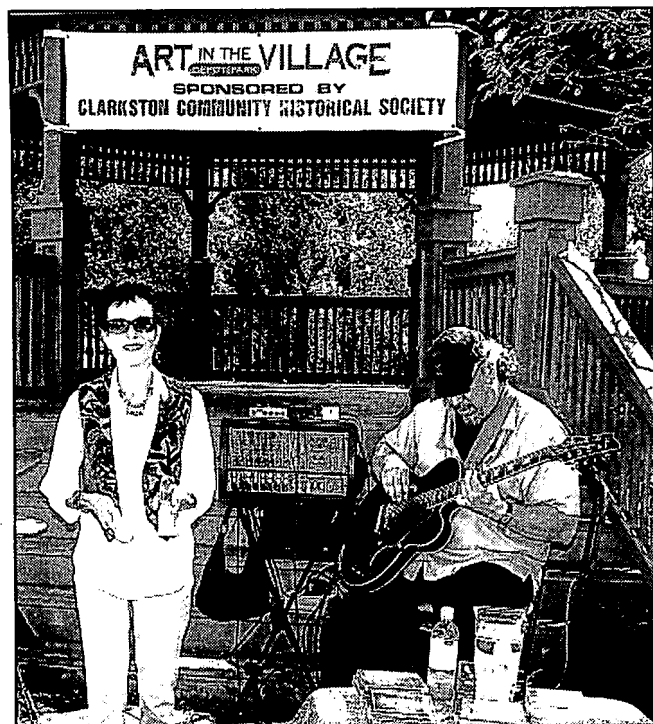
Maddie Sellars, visiting from Chicago, tries on an artistic hat.



Artist Jack Grenier starts a brand new painting in his booth at the art fair.



Grenier, with his almost completed work, has been painting for the last 30 years, mostly as a hobby.

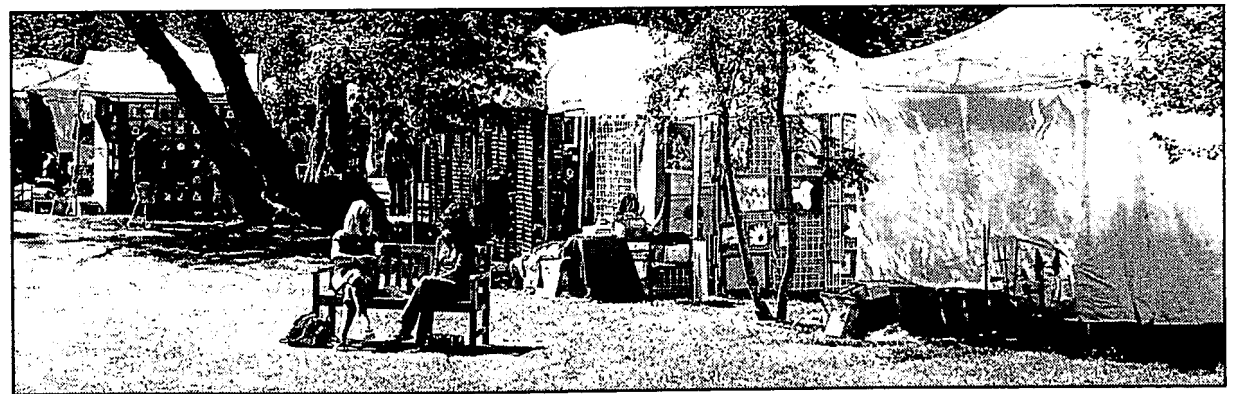


Sheila Landis and Rick Matle provide some jazz entertainment at the gazebo.

Art in the park

The sun smiled on this year's Art in the Village last weekend in Depot Park. The park was filled with people perusing the work of 75 artists, enjoying cider, donuts, and other treats, and shopping in the antiques tent and silent auction.

The annual September event supports Clarkston Community Historical Society.



Marcia Belik of Waterford Township and Donna Shatter of Farmington Hills enjoy the sunny weather in Depot Park. Photos by Phil Custodio

Concerns arise over hospital

Continued from page 1A
in tax revenue upon the opening of the hospital."

Rather than create jobs, the Economic Development committee believes relocating the beds to Clarkston would only result in a shift in jobs.

Trustee candidate Jose Aliaga, who was in attendance when Kowall introduced the bill, doesn't agree with the Economic Development committee's findings.

Aliaga believed a new hospital "will be a tax base for us" and "increase property value."

He also pointed to the time it takes to get from Independence Township to the nearest hospital as a reason to build a hospital here.

According to Independence Township Fire Department Staff Captain and Paramedic Mitch Petterson, it takes about 20 minutes for an ambulance to transport a patient to a nearby hospital.

"The faster we can get you to a hospital, the better," Petterson said.

"Access as an issue in healthcare is one of the most fundamental," said McLaren's Vice President of Marketing Kevin Tompkins.

On the other hand, some believe the hospital will only offer basic health care services and in cases of emergency, patients will still have a 20 minute ambulance ride.

Dennis McCafferty, who is the Vice President of Health Policy for the Economic Alliance for Michigan (EAM) said the proposed project in Clarkston is for a small community hospital.

"It is not going to have open heart surgery ... it is not equipped to handle heart attacks," said McCafferty. "If there is a major snow mobile accident, the EMS is not going to transport you to that hospital."

Gregory Lane, McLaren Healthcare senior vice president, told the Planning Commission in June the proposed hospital will be a Level II trauma center.

"There is nothing in their proposal that says they're going to have a cardiac care team there," said McCafferty. "They would have to get yet another certificate of need for that."

While McCafferty concedes a hospital will bring jobs to Clarkston, he says it will do so at the expense of Pontiac, Royal Oak, Commerce Township, and other places.

McCafferty said doctors will simply move their patients to the new facility for their routine care, and when "other hospitals lose patient volume, they will reduce their staff appropriately."

According to Tompkins, a new hospital will create 2,000 jobs, and for Pontiac Oakland, nothing will change.

From Tompkins' point of view, moving 200 beds from Pontiac Oakland, which currently has 335 beds, is about efficiency.

"We're not looking for new hospital beds," Tompkins pointed out. "We're looking to move 200 that are currently down at our McLaren Oakland location. There are 200 beds that sit empty everyday."

McCafferty sees developing a new hospital as building redundant capacity. The \$300 million spent to build it will be repaid by everyone who buys insurance.

Tulika Bhattacharya of the MDCH agrees with McCafferty.

"If there is no unmet need, we are approving more than required services," she said. "If you have more than required, then that adds to the healthcare costs."

Bhattacharya said Macomb and Oakland counties are overbedded by 1,097 beds, when only 2,946 beds are needed.

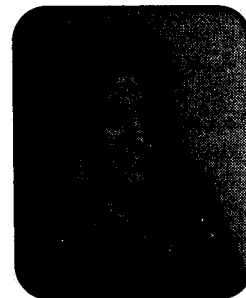
Right now Macomb and Oakland have 4,043 hospital beds.

"The MDCH determines the number of beds based on population and utilization rates that is supported by the hospitals," said Bhattacharya.

She said when McLaren applied for a CON, they were not able to demonstrate that there is an unmet need in the community."



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Marco Tauil, DDS • Yuksel Erpardo, DDS
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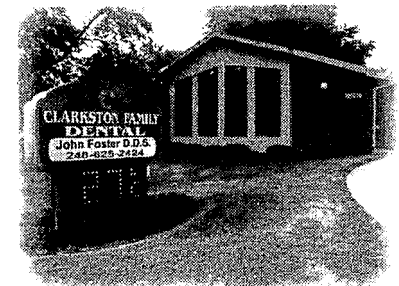
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Obituaries

Gena Beauchamp, 94

Gena Beauchamp, "Clarice," of Waterford passed away Sept. 13, 2012, at age 94.

She was preceded in death by her husband Eli. She was the mother of Gerald (Kathy) Beauchamp, Tom (Meg) Beauchamp, Patricia (Carl) Bardel and Carol (Mike) Garrett; also survived by eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.



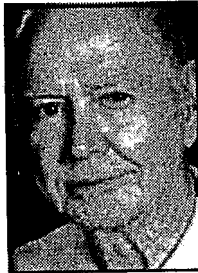
Visitation was Sept. 17 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Funeral service was Sept. 18 at Lutheran Church of Ascension, Waterford. Inurnment Otsego Lake Township Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Gleaners Food Bank or American Cancer Society.

Online www.wintfuneralhome.com guestbook

Howard N. Steele, 85

Howard N. Steele of Waterford passed away Sept. 15, 2012, at age 85.

He was the husband of Reberta; father of Bonnie Victor, Debbie (Rick) Thomson and Don (Louise) Steele; grandpa of Ed Steele, Shauna (Brian) Stampfer, Tamra Victor, Carrie (Larry) Eggleston, Stacy (Adam) Victor, Ray



(Courtney) Black, Chris Black, Nick (Chelsea) Norton, Lindsay Stone, Todd (Sarah) Allen, Lesley (Kyle) Erikson; survived by many great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews; brother of Nancy Sue Smith and Pauline Lehn; stepfather of Rod (Linda) Allen and Jodi (Eddie) Stone; preceded in death by his first wife Betty, son Bob (Dianne) Steele, son Joe (Dave Reinhart) Steele, son in law Bob Victor and siblings Lee Steele and Joyce Davison.

Howard was a World War II army veteran. He owned and operated Steele's Dental Lab, having become a dental technician at age 16.

Visitation was Sept. 18 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Funeral Service, Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 11 a.m. at the Clarkston Free Methodist Church, with visiting directly at the church after 10 a.m. Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Disabled American Veterans or Michigan Humane Society.

Online www.wintfuneralhome.com guestbook

Ellen L. Twaddle, 84

Ellen L. Twaddle (Hamel) of Grand Blanc, previously of Pontiac, went to be with her Lord and Savior Sept. 10, 2012, at age 84.

She was welcomed by her beloved husband Han, parents Lucile and Clarence, sister Mary (Lyle) and extended family members. Ellen was the loving sister of Carolyn (Frank) Tehovnik, Nancy (John) Sheffield, and Susan Hamel-Brooks. Aunt Ellen was a favorite of her nieces and nephews and became a special "great"



auntie to their children as well. Her "special ingredient" for life was the unconditional love she had in her heart.

Funeral service was Sept. 13 at Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi. Memorials may be made to the family. Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Paul Arthur Yackell

Paul Arthur Yackell passed away on Sept. 10, 2012 in Tucson, Ariz. Paul will be remembered by his family as a loving, kind, intelligent, and giving man.

He retired in 1997, and he and his wife volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, traveled, and moved to Vail, Ariz., 2007.

Paul is survived by his wife of 47 years, Karen (Postoway); daughters Laura (Don) Elofson of California, and Nikki (Noah) Larsen of Colorado; son David (Jessica) Yackell of Clarkston Michigan, and granddaughters Briana Elofson & Harper Yackell.

Services for Paul were held at St. Michael Church in Roscommon, Mich., on Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2012.

Donations in honor of Paul may be made to American Society of Hematology, Development Department, PO Box 791115, Baltimore, MD 21279-1115, 866-828-1231, www.hematology.org; National Kidney Foundation of Arizona, 4203 E Indian School Road Suite 140, Phoenix, AZ 85018, 602-840-6444, www.azkidney.org; and Habitat for Humanity of Tucson, 621 W. Lester Street, Tucson, AZ 85705, 520-326-1217, www.habitattucson.org.



Andrew Damon, 18

Andrew Sheldon Damon died Sept. 11, 2012, age 18, from the degenerative effects of Dejerine-Sottas syndrome, a congenital peripheral neuropathy.

Andrew was born Aug. 14, 1994, in Royal Oak, Mich., to Ty and Kristen Damon II and was the cherished brother of Samantha and Jack. His grandparents, Ty and Marsha Damon, Dee Boyd Ruen and the late Jack Ruen were very involved in Andrew's life and will miss him greatly.

Andrew was an eager learner and loved school. He had attended Michigan School for the Deaf and was currently a student in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Lahser High School in Bloomfield Hills. Andrew, his teachers and interpreter/interveners pioneered new forms of instructing Deaf-Blind students that have been shared around the world.

Andrew touched many hearts with his charming personality and positive attitude. In his early years, Andrew's family was helped immensely by the loving persons involved with Early-On, St. John's Deaf Church, Camp DeSalles and Deaf C.A.N.

Andrew was brave and resilient in the face of multiple medical challenges. Due to the incredible care he received from his family, nurses, the staff of William Beaumont Hospital Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, and U of M Mott Hospital—Andrew led a life that was fuller and longer than could have been expected.

Andrew had a zest for life and rose above his disabilities. With the assistance of Michigan Adaptive Sports, Andrew was able to join his family in the sport of skiing since the age of 5 years old. Andrew was member of the United Street Machines car club and loved all things automotive. He attended countless car shows and loved to feel the rumble of the engines and smell the fumes at local dragstrips.

On Saturday, Sept. 22, there will be a celebration of Andrew's life and reception by the family at Pine Knob Ski and Snowboard Resort, 7778 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston, MI 48348 from 4-8 p.m. The family wishes to invite all who were touched by Andrew to attend, food will be served.

Contributions in memory of Andrew may be made to the D-B Central Andrew Damon Memorial Fund, Central Michigan University, Sloan 105, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859. Funds will be used to provide educational resources, training and support to the families and teachers of Deaf-Blind persons in Michigan.

Expressions of sympathy for the family and memories of Andrew may be shared at WesselsandWilk.com.

Obituaries posted daily at Clarkstonnews.com



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Free Child ID during Taste of Clarkston

Cedar Masonic Lodge #60 will be providing a free child identification program during Taste of Clarkston, Sunday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Cedar Masonic Lodge, at One East Washington Street in downtown Clarkston.

Each child that goes through the process will receive a dental impression kit as well as a CD containing a photo, video, digital fingerprints and their vital information.

Parents or guardians of children who participate must be present and fill out a permission slip for the child to receive the service.

Children who have already received it are encouraged to repeat the process every two years to keep the information in the completed packets current.

The Michigan Child Identification Program provides the family with everything needed for the Amber Alert System.



Clarkston Masons hosts a identification drive for kids, like Aaron Buckley of Oxford, at Taste of Clarkston. Photo by Wendi Reardon

For questions or more information about the event, call 989-466-3087 or consult the Michigan Child ID Web Site at www.michiganchildid.org.

Charles Weichel, 81,

Charles H. Weichel, 81, of Bradenton, passed away Aug. 30, 2012.

Born in Pontiac, Mich., he moved to Bradenton, Fla., from Clarkston in 1993. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Lois Weichel of Bradenton; sons Jeffrey C. Weichel of Clarkston, and Craig H. Weichel of St. Helen, Mich., and Bradenton, Fla.; daughters Karen Weichel of Southfield, Mich., and Kristin Springs and her husband Tom Springs of Palmetto, Fla.; sister Mary Butz of Sarasota, Fla.; and one grandchild Courtney Weichel.

He was a veteran of the Army Air Force and was employed by General Motors for 38 years. A service was Sept. 2 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bradenton.

In our churches...

Job Ministry, third Monday, 7:30 p.m., St. Daniel's Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park Drive. 248-625-4580.

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

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

Wednesday Evening FEAST, 6 p.m., Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. 248-625-3288.

Celebrate Recovery, Thursday, 7-8:30 pm., Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Road. 248-625-1323.

Habitat Clarkston kickoffs Sunday at Taste

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

My Habitat Clarkston is all set to start helping a local family build their own house, but first they need some property.

"We thought it would be easy to find property, maybe for rehabilitation, with all the foreclosures in the area," said Pastor Gregory Henneman of Clarkston Community Church. "But nothing yet."

The community project hopes to have a location in time for its kickoff at Taste of Clarkston, Sept. 23, where they will have a booth offering information.

"If anyone knows of anyone willing to donate, realtors willing to sell at a discount, we need a site really soon," Henneman said.

Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive just north of downtown, hosts a Free Benefit Kickoff Concert featuring Alexander Zonjic and Friends, at 6 p.m. after Taste of Clarkston. All concert proceeds will benefit Clarkston's Habitat for Humanity efforts.

"Zonjic is a world renowned flutist who has a heart for helping causes like this one," said Pastor Jonathan Heierman, Calvary Lutheran. "There will also be an opportunity that evening to meet the family who will be housed through these efforts and to hear from Habitat leaders about their exciting vision for this project that we hope will go far beyond housing alone."

A team of volunteers, churches, and community organizations are working with Habitat for Humanity on the project, he said.

"This is an opportunity for us to pull together as a



Alexander Zonjic will perform at a Free Benefit Kickoff Concert on Sunday at 6 p.m., following the Taste of Clarkston. Photo provided

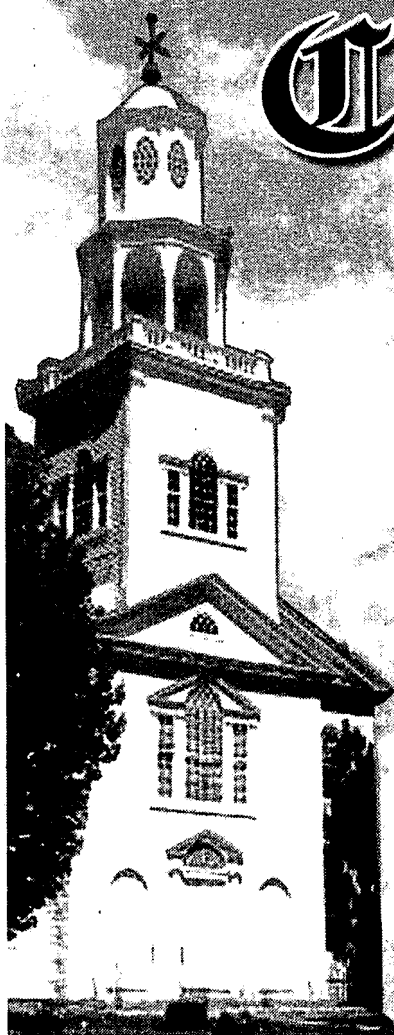
community, and especially as a faith community, to help provide adequate housing for a family and a better habitat for all of us here," Heierman said. "I hope and pray it will bring our community, and especially our churches, closer together in building an even better habitat for humanity."

The North Oakland Chapter of Habitat for Humanity was launched at Calvary about 27 years ago, he said.

"Over the years, Habitat has built houses in many other areas - but now returns with a project and community wide emphasis right here in Clarkston," he said. "I am very excited about this new habitat initiative in our community."

For more information, check "MyHabitatClarkston" on Facebook.

Church Directory



ST. TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod"
Pastor: Rev. Kendall Schaeffer
7925 Sashabaw Road
(1/4 mile N. of DTE Music Theater)
Clarkston, MI 48348
(248) 625-4644
www.sainttrinitylutheran.com
e-mail: sttrinity@comcast.net
Broadcast Worship - Clarkston
CIV-10/20 Sun. 2:00 pm, Thurs. 9:00 pm
Broadcast Worship - Waterford
CATV-10 Tues. 2:30 pm
Worship:
Sunday 8:15 am & 11:00 am
Sat. 6:00 pm
Sunday School 9:45 am
Preschool: 3-4 years old
Preschool: 620-6154
6th and 8th Grade Confirmation
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1361 Giddings Rd., Pontiac MI 48340
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Pastor: Russell Reemtsma
Sun: 9:30 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship
10:30 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Evening Service
Wed: 7:00 pm Awana Club
6:30 pm Teen Ministry
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

ANDERSONVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH

10310 Andersonville Road, Davisburg, MI
Phone (248) 625-5831
Pastor Bruce Darling
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship Service 11:00 am
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Prayer & Bible Study 6:00 pm
A church where Christ is the center. Hymns and Hymnals are still used. Older congregation with traditional values that honor Christ not programs and activities. A place where the people are real and the spirit is sweet. Come and visit, see, and feel the love of Christ.

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

DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH

8585 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI (248) 625-2311
website: www.dixiebaptist.org
Home of Springfield Christian Academy & Children's Ark Preschool
Pastor: J. Todd Vanaman
Sun: 9:45 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
6:00 pm Worship Service
Wed: 7:00 pm Children and Teen Clubs & Adult Bible Study
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248-625-1611
Website: clarkstonumc.org
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am & 10:00 am
6:00 pm Evening Service
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Clarkston, 48348
(248) 625-1344
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Wed. 6:45 pm Fit For Life - Adult Life Ministry
c.r.a.v.e. - Student Life Ministry
Ozone - Children's Life Ministry
Nurture Center/Wonderland available for all services
A Church For Life
www.bridgewoodchurch.com

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625-4580
Rev. Christopher Maus
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Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am
Religious Education: 625-1750
Mother's Group, RCIA,
Scripture Study, Youth Group

CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

CLARKSTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

5482 Winell-Clarkston
(corner of Maybee & Winell)
248-623-1224
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www.ClarkstonFMC.org
Wednesday 7 pm Youth & Adult Ministry

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www.oxfordwomensexpo.com



Dr. Donald Zelazny treats a patient. Photo submitted

Local dentist helps out in Honduras

Clarkston area dentist Dr. Donald Zelazny spent a week this summer volunteering in Honduras, providing free medical and dental care through the non-profit group, Cape Cares.

The 13 volunteers who traveled to Los Encinitos, about 40 miles south of the Honduran Capital, Tegucigalpa, to treat more than 500 patients, many traveling on foot for hours to be there.

"Everyone who participates on a trip like this comes home personally fulfilled and with a greater appreciation of how lucky we are here in the U.S. The smiles, even if numb and lopsided, on the patients' faces were heartwarming," Dr. Zelazny said.

Dr. Zelazny has been practicing dentistry for more than 25 years with his partner, Dr. David Wright. Call 248-673-0505 for more information.

Students achieve academic success

Recent graduates of Lawrence Technological University include Clarkston students **Suzanne Archer**, awarded a Master of Global Leadership and Management; **Niklaus Heiden**, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science; **Philip Macy**, Master of Construction Engineering; and **Michael Kaslly**, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Jamin Hoover, MBA; and **Steven Miracle**, Bachelor of Accountancy.

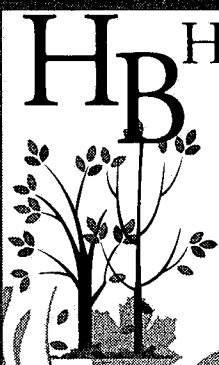

Elizabeth Koehler of Clarkston recently attended Explore Your Future, a six-day career exploration camp at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf on the Rochester Institute of Technology campus in Rochester, N.Y.

Koehler, a 12th grade student at Lahser High School, explored careers in computer art design, lab science technology, business, computing and engineering.

Clarkston students graduating from Walsh College last June include **Kimberly Bow**, earning a Master of Management; **Ben-**

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Jason Ryan, the chamber's new president, praised the local chamber in comparison to other chambers of commerce that he's been involved with.

Chamber names new officers at annual meeting

About 50 members of the Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce gathered for the group's annual meeting, last Thursday at Oakhurst Golf & Country Club.

After dinner, individual chamber members were recognized for their efforts, outgoing president Donna Bullard of the Clarkston Brandon Credit Union thanked everybody for making her term at the helm a good one. Members were also introduced to new members of the board of directors and their board's new officers.

New officers are Jason Ryan (Vision Fuel Media, Rochester) president; Jacqueline Kopp (ATD Solutions, Clarkston), treasurer; and Kelly Hinsperger (LaFontaine Automotive Group Highland), president-elect.

By night's end, even chamber executive director Penny Shanks was recognized -- everybody gave her a big "happy birthday" salutation.

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND FILE NO: 2012-345, 589-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

Estate of Lois M. Boksa, Date of birth: 4/1/1933
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Lois M. Boksa, died 6/10/2012.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Rhonda A. Boksa, named personal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, Michigan 48341-0449 and the named/proposed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Kathryn M. Caruso (P44723)
6480 Citation Drive
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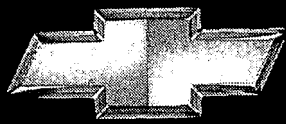
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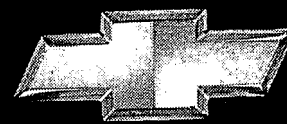
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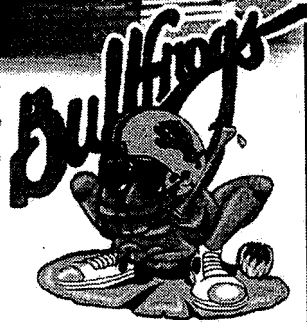
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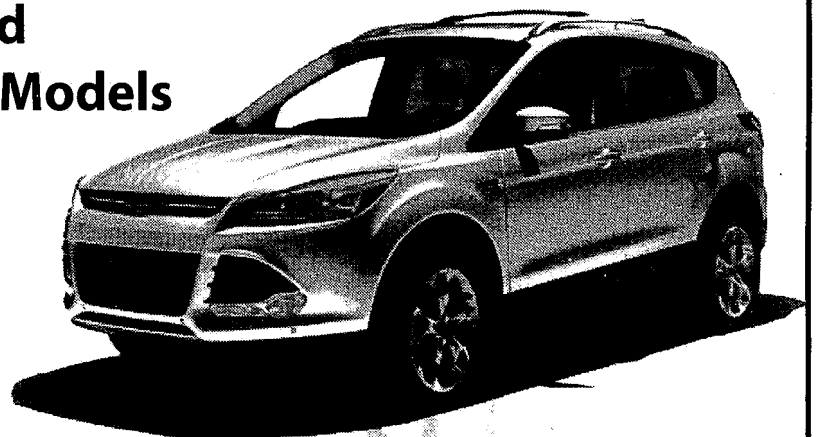
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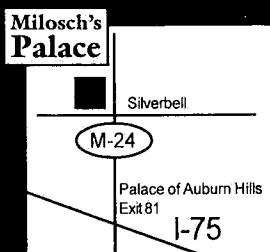
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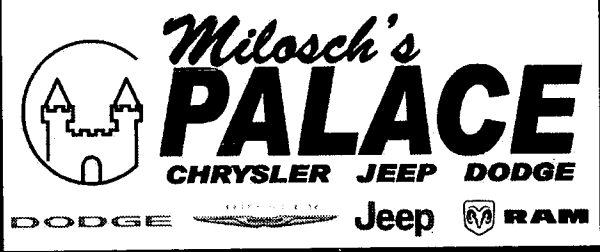
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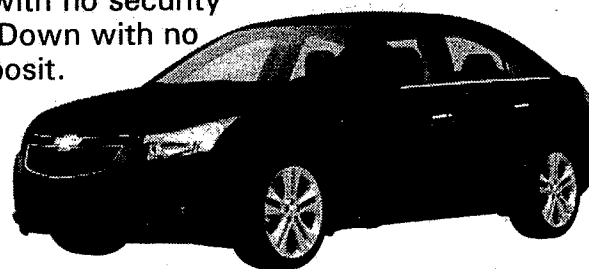


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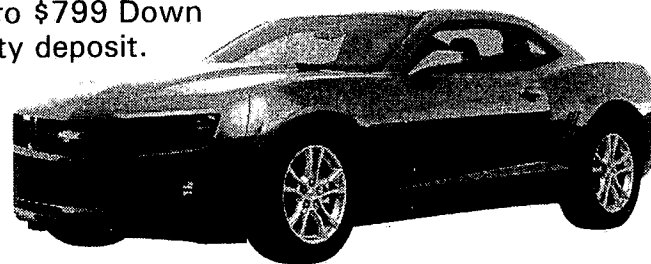
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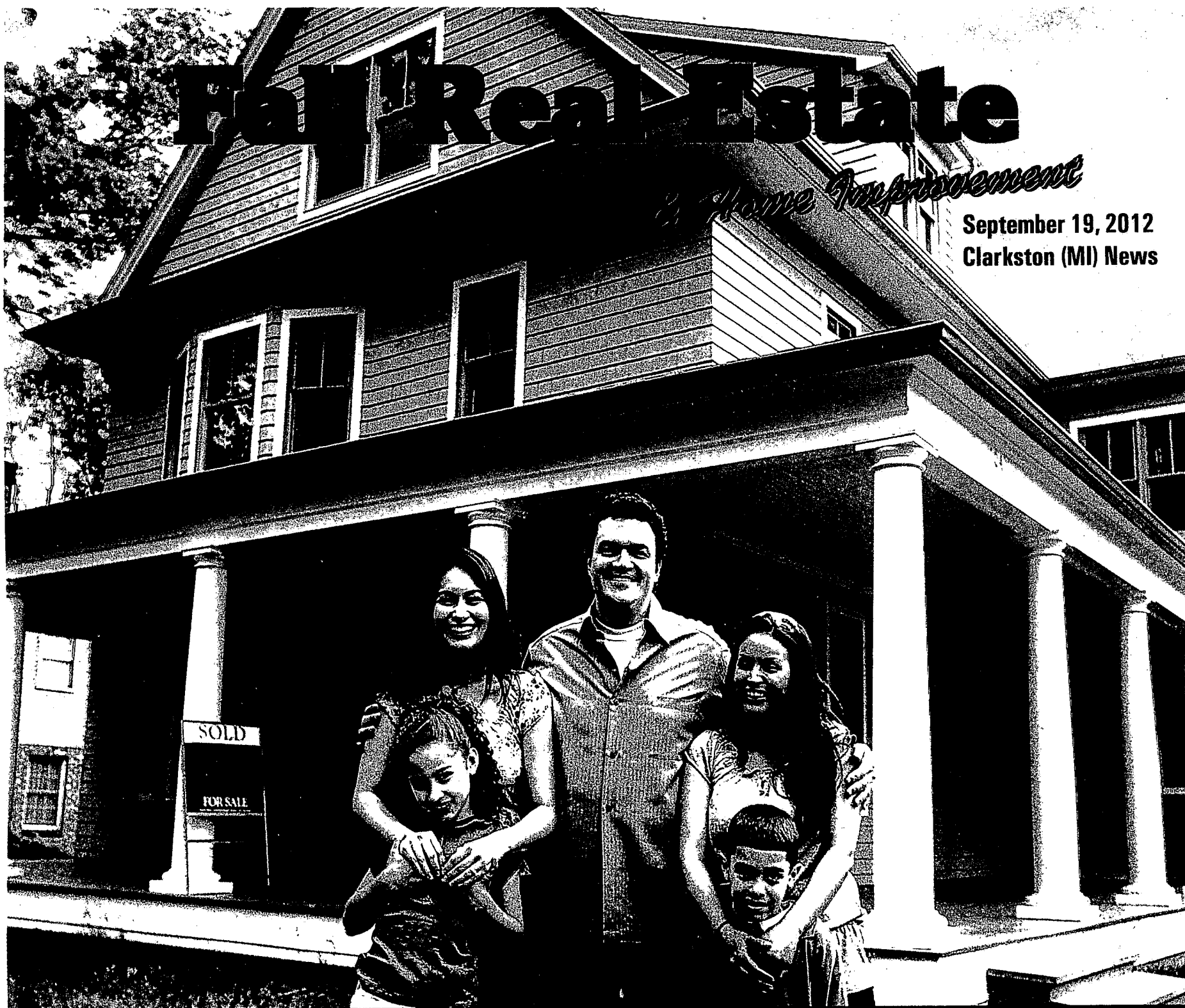
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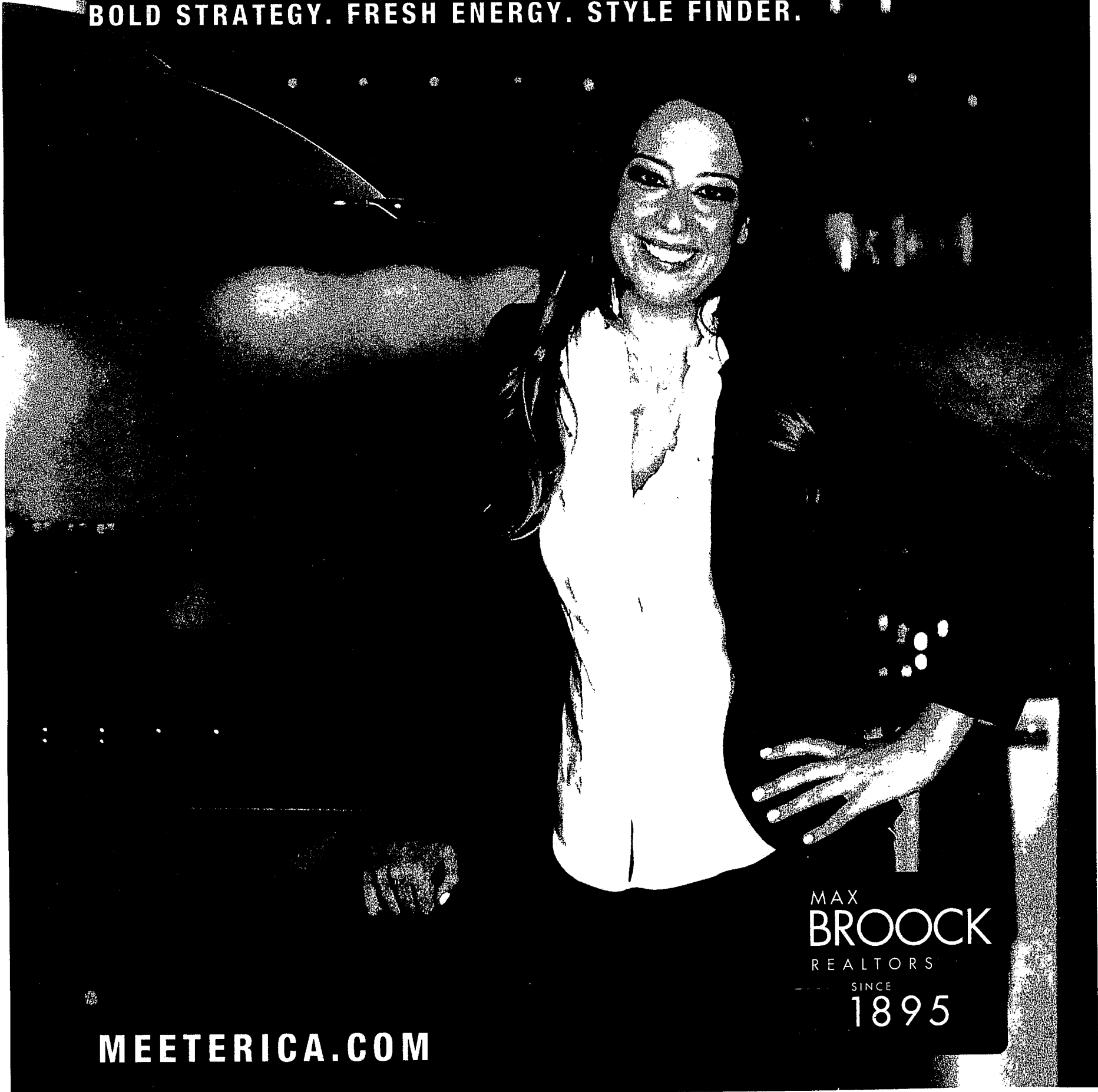
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Buying a home? Avoid these mistakes

The dream of home ownership is one that lives on in spite of the global economic struggles. The process of buying a home can be an emotional roller coaster ride, with feelings of excitement mixed in with exhaustion, fear and uncertainty.

Over the last several years, the real estate market has been turned upside down, and many prospective buyers have begun to question some of the conventional wisdom associated with buying a home. While such skepticism might be a healthy attitude in the current market, prospective buyers — particularly those who have never purchased a home before — should avoid the following mistakes that buyers make regardless of whether the market is up or down.

*** Failure to get qualified beforehand.** Mortgage qualification is essential when buying a home, as it gives buyers preapproval for a loan before they make any offers. Making an offer on a home before you know what the bank is willing to lend you is a waste of time for everyone involved, including you, the seller and the real estate agents involved. Some agents will not show a home if you don't have a preapproval. Once preapproved for a loan, don't take any steps that might put that approval in jeopardy. This includes anything that might drastically alter your credit score.

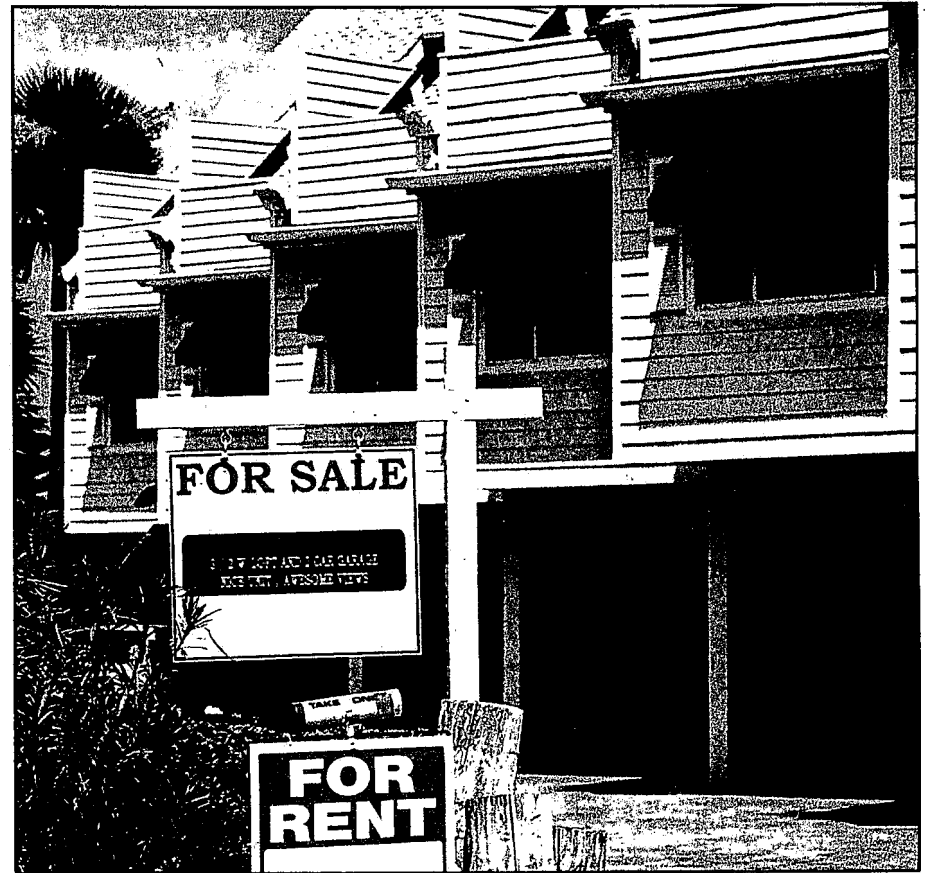
*** Being blindsided by additional costs.** First-time homebuyers, once they have moved into their home, often experience some sticker shock when the additional expenses associated with home ownership arise. These additional expenses include property tax and insurance costs and can be substantial. Even those buying a condominium or co-op should expect monthly maintenance fees even if their new place is brand new and needs no maintenance.

*** Shooting for the moon.** The ongoing recession is in part the result of predatory lending that saw banks grant

excessive loans to applicants who, in hindsight, could not actually afford all that they were approved to borrow. The result was many people buying homes they could not afford, and then suffering some steep consequences, including foreclosure, when the first mortgage payment came due or the interest rate rose. First-time and even veteran buyers must avoid shooting for the moon when it comes to buying a home, and instead only buy one they know they can afford. What the banks says you can afford isn't always the same as what you know you can afford. Only buy a home you know you can afford, regardless of whether the bank has approved you for a larger loan.

*** Pigeonholing yourself into an inadequate living situation.** Just like buyers shouldn't go overboard, they also must avoid compromising on the things that are most important to them. For example, many of today's buyers, fully aware of the rash of foreclosures and all the housing horror stories of the last several years, are reticent to commit to a home, and might compromise with a condo or co-op. But if a home is what you really want, and another living situation that mirrors apartment life is going to make you miserable, don't settle for that situation for the sake of security. Doing so could cost you financially, especially when you realize the situation isn't what you'd hoped for and look to sell earlier than is ideal.

*** Skimping on the cost of an inspector.** An inspector is your last chance to find out if a home is your dream home or a money pit. Even if a house appears to be everything you want, don't close on the sale until the house has been thoroughly inspected. The old adage that advises against judging a book by its cover certainly applies to buying a home, and prospective buyers should enlist the services of a qualified inspector before closing on the sale of a home.



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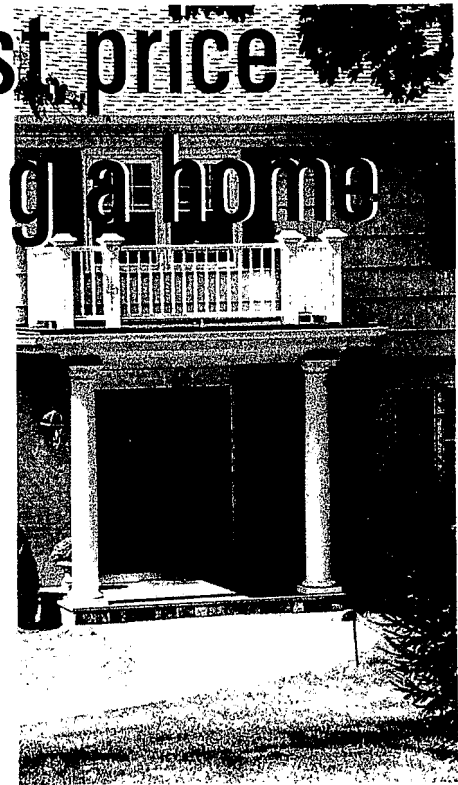
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Get the best price when selling a home



Curb appeal is one factor that can help a home sell faster and for more money.

The housing market has not yet rebounded to pre-recession prices, when buyers seemed to be stepping over one another to bid up the price of homes. Today's sellers may be lucky to get asking price, with the reality being a certain percentage below. However, that doesn't mean sellers should accept bottom-of-the-barrel offers. There are still ways to get the best price possible on an offered home.

With sellers hoping to get the most possible for a home and buyers interested in spending the least, it's sometimes a battle of wills when it comes to hashing out a confirmed price in the world of real estate. Sellers who wonder whether they'll struggle to get a good offer can hedge their bets in the right direction by employing a few strategies.

*** What you see is what you get:** It's difficult to change first impressions. If a potential buyer pulls up to a home that doesn't give them "warm and fuzzy" feelings immediately, it may be hard to eventually sway opinion of the home — even if it's pristine on the inside. Individuals do judge a book by its cover, which means that effort should be put into making a home's exterior as appealing as possible. Landscaping should be neat and lush. There shouldn't be any obstacles leading to the front of the home. Items that look in disrepair should be mended. Curb appeal does matter.

*** Use a real estate agent:** Many people forgo this step, thinking they can sell their home just as well without an agent and not have to pay commission in the process. A real estate agent is schooled in the process of negotiating the price of an offered home. In fact, the more a home's selling price, the higher the agent's profit. That's incentive right there. Furthermore, agents know the average prices of similar homes and can help a seller price and market a property correctly. That may add up to a faster sale (and a better offer).

*** Price it competitively:** Some sellers think the higher they price their home the more money they'll get for it. The fact is, the longer an overpriced home sits on the market, the less

appealing it will appear to buyers. Individuals looking for a home may repeatedly see the listing and wonder what's wrong with the home. Even if it's the best home in the neighborhood, it may be seen as a red flag that's best avoided.

*** Give people what they want:** Buyers often prefer updated kitchens and bathrooms. Most buyers out there are not looking for "handyman specials." They want a relatively turn-key property. A kitchen or bathroom that is an eyesore can repel potential buyers. Home shoppers may be more inclined to go closer to asking price if some of the bigger-ticket items are already completed.

*** Don't be an open book:** If a buyer knows that time is of the essence or the home is "priced to sell," he or she may sense that desperation, almost guaranteeing a low-ball offer. Sellers shouldn't let on too much about their reasons for selling or make it seem like they'll be in dire straights if the home doesn't sell quickly. Selling a home under duress is not likely to cause prospective buyers to pony up.

*** Don't be afraid to counter-offer:** A buyer who is excited to get an offer on a home in a slow market, but feels the offer is below value, should definitely counter-offer. While the buyer may not accept the counter, he or she may make another offer that is more to the seller's liking.

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Learn the basics of home warranties

Buying a home is arguably one of the largest purchases a person will make. It can also be one of the most stressful. Individuals take quite a financial leap when buying a home. Even after careful consideration of funds and budgeting, it's easy to become overextended. A home warranty can take some of the bite out of unexpected expenses.

Although home buyers are urged to hire an inspector and check a property and structure from top to bottom before signing on the dotted line, a home inspector cannot foresee everything that may crop up after a person moves into a home.

"When my home inspector reviewed the property he found only minor things that needed attention," says Jeannine in New Jersey. "After I moved in, we shortly learned that the crawl space had flooding issues that would require a lot of money to fix properly."

Home warranties can be a smart investment that take some of the financial pressure off of new homeowners. They can also be negotiated into the sale terms of the home so that the seller is responsible for providing the warranty to the new buyer.

Home warranties do not negate the need for homeowner's insurance, but they can add protection against large monetary pay-outs to repair many items around the house. Policies may differ as to specific coverage, but most home warranties will cover major systems of the home, such as heating/cooling, plumbing, electrical, as well as certain appliances.

To decide if a warranty is the right investment, home buyers should consider the following:

- * Home warranties are only as good as the company backing them. Careful investigation into the trustworthiness of the warranty company and its track record should be completed.

- * Read the fine print of the warranty. Learn what exclusions exist, which may not make the warranty practical.

- * Keep in mind that the warranty company reserves the right to deter-



mine if a repair or replacement is adequate in a claim situation.

- * In general, warranty companies work with their own set of contractors. This means a homeowner may not be able to hire his or her own preferred contractors to do work.

- * There may be a deductible or a fee charged prior to having a technician assess a repair situation.

- * The warranty company may require inspection of the house to be sure items are in good working order before offering a plan.

- * If a warranty is offered through a home seller, there may be no negotiation on the coverage or company used.

Home buyers should keep in mind that there are many unforeseen expenses that can arise when purchasing a new home. Having some additional protection, such as a home warranty, could mean saving money on out-of-pocket repairs.

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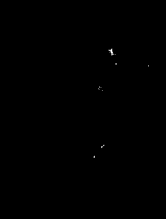
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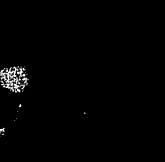
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Cut energy costs at home

Homeowners spend thousands of dollars per year on energy. Whether a home is big or small, energy costs are a concern for homeowners.

Though some of the costs of home ownership are beyond a person's control, there are some steps homeowners can take to reduce energy costs and save substantial amounts of money as a result.

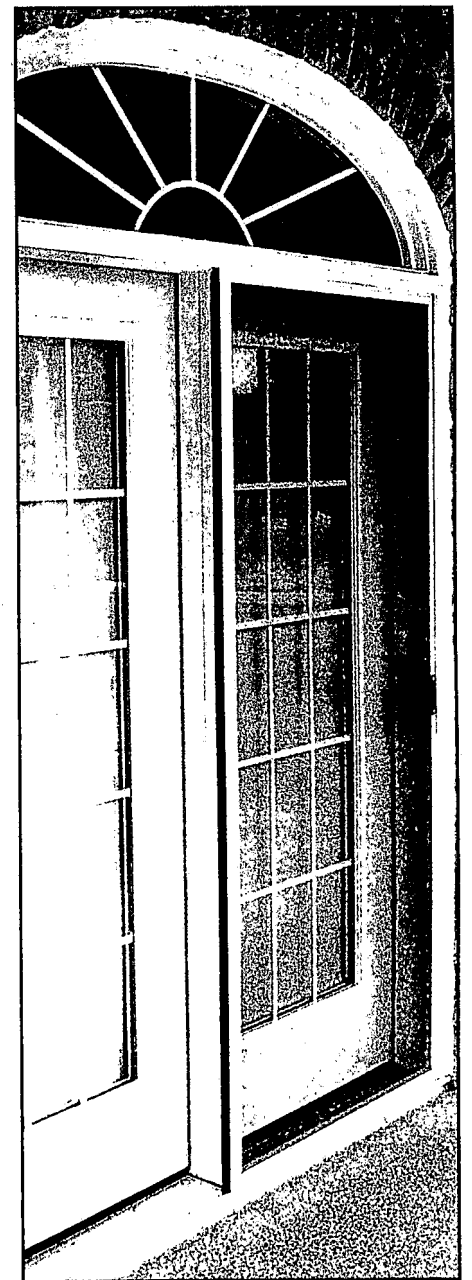
* Address any leaks. One of the most effective ways to cut energy costs is to weather strip doors and windows throughout the house. Doing so will keep warm air in the house when it's cold and prevent drafts that occur when cold air enters the home through cracks and leaks. If a home has an attic, be sure to seal pipes, chimneys or ductwork. Addressing leaks can save homeowners as much as 10 percent on their annual home energy costs.

* Use compact fluorescent lightbulbs instead of incandescent lightbulbs. CFLs use one-quarter to one-third less energy than traditional incandescent lightbulbs. In addition, the Alliance to Save Energy notes that CFLs can last up to 10 times longer than traditional lightbulbs.

* Be mindful of the thermostat. Most homeowners and their families spend a good portion of their day out of the house. Home heating costs can be reduced by as much as 20 percent if homeowners simply lower the thermostat during the day by 10 F. For homeowners who feel they won't remember to do so on a regular basis, a programmable thermostat will do the job on its own.

* Lower water temperature. Lowering water temperature can also lead to substantial savings. Homeowners can save as much as five percent on their water bill by lowering the temperature on their water heater by as little as 10 F. When doing so, touch the outside of the water heater. If the outside is cold, the water heater has sufficient insulation. If the water heater is hot to the touch, wrap a water heater jacket around it to increase efficiency.

* Replace older appliances. Older appliances, be it an older central air conditioning unit or an older water heater, often need to expend more energy than they did when they were new. What's more, especially older appliances might not meet Energy Star standards, which can cost homeowners substantial amounts of money over the course of a year. Homeowners who replace such appliances might be eligible for tax credits when buying more energy efficient products.



Addressing leaky doors and windows is an effective way that homeowners can cut energy costs around the house.

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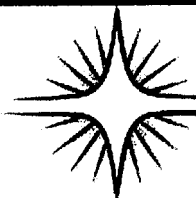
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Shop off-season for major improvements

An often overlooked side-effect of the recession is many people cannot afford to move and have decided to stick with the home they have and make desired improvements. Thanks to off-season discounts, some months of the year may be better than others for renovations.

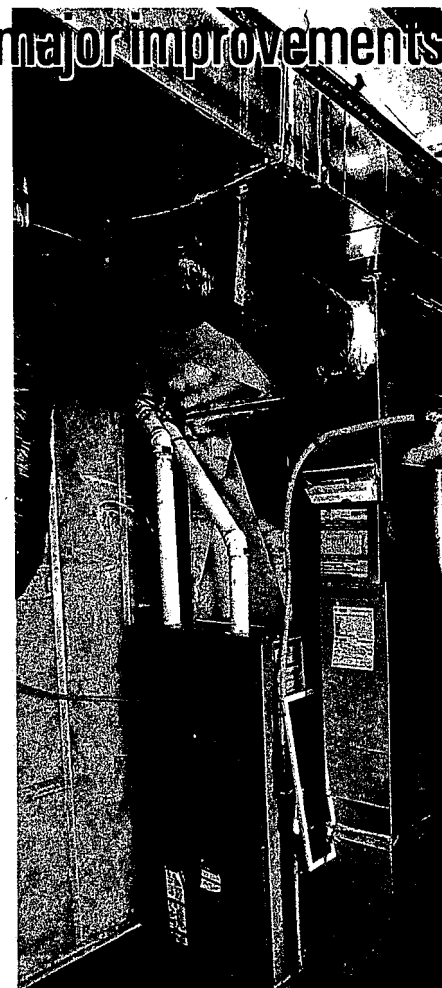
The home improvement industry is not much different than any other. When demand is high, prices are generally at their peak. When demand is low, prices are lowered to entice shoppers to buy.

Right now, many homeowners may be thinking of certain improvements, such as the installation of a pool or deck, or even replacing an air conditioning system in advance of the warm weather. But it could be financially savvy to wait until the warm weather is gone to do so.

Many pool companies and stores discount their inventory considerably after September. That's because this time of year in most of the country is when the weather starts to change and people are less likely to think about a dip in the pool. With the arrival of the new school year, many others are focusing less on pool fun and more on carpools and sporting events. Furthermore, in an effort to capitalize on both the summer and winter seasons, many pool stores double as Christmas tree and accessory outlets come the colder months. That means they'll need to clear out their showrooms and stock areas of pools prior to delivery of Christmas merchandise. You may land a considerable discount on the pool package. Furthermore, if you have room in a garage or shed to store the pool equipment and assembled materials, you can wait until the next season to hire an installer to set up the pool when you desire.

As you are thinking about turning down the thermostat and enjoying a blast of cool air-conditioning, it might be wise to think about the performance of your furnace, too. While HVAC professionals and home improvement chains could be charging top dollar for a new air conditioning system, they may offer discounts on furnaces because they're simply not in demand this time of year. If you find an affordable furnace, store the furnace until the time is right to have it installed.

The holiday season tends to be a slow time for home-improvement contractors simply because most homeowners are thinking more about



When the weather is ripe for a dip in the pool or turning on the A/C, it might behoove savings-minded homeowners to think about a furnace replacement.

shopping and entertaining than knock-down, tear-out jobs. Waiting until the end of the year for some major renovations could be advantageous.

The spring and summer are prime times for outdoor entertaining, so the addition of decks or elaborate landscaping may come at an elevated price. However, once autumn arrives, the same services may be much cheaper, depending on the job and if the contractor can secure materials at a discounted price. If you can hold off on that new deck or patio until after September, it may be in your best interest. However, if a winter installation is in your design, you may find yourself actually paying more in labor costs if inclement weather delays the installation.

Here are some other ways to save off-season.

* Explore wintertime reductions on air conditioning systems.

* New appliance models released could mean year-end reductions on that model year.

* Fireplace installation or chimney masonry work could be discounted during the summer months.

Top home-repair blunders to avoid

Home improvement projects seem to drum up images of shyster contractors or bumbling do-it-yourselfers. However, home repairs don't have to turn into an unorganized mess. By avoiding some common mistakes and taking common-sense precautions, you can end up with renovations that wow.

1. Accepting the lowest bid. Smart homeowners shop around for everything—including work done on their home. But accepting the lowest bid right off the bat to save money may cost you more in the long run. A low bid certainly may be a great deal. But generally it could be a sign of an inexperienced contractor, or one who plans to use subpar materials or skimp on the job. Contractors will have similar prices. Shop based on experience and recommendations, not price alone.

2. Choosing friends and family. There certainly are skilled professionals that also may be a close friend or family member. But mixing business and pleasure could be a recipe for trouble, especially when workmanship and an exchange of money are involved.

"We had a friend replace our home's furnace," says Beth in Pennsylvania. "While we got a great price, we found out later on when there was a glitch in the system that certain things weren't done up to code. We had to spend more money to have it repaired, and the friendship has since suffered."

Some relatives are adamant about doing repairs—but they may not be skilled or know the correct laws governing remodeling. Stick with a third party contractor with whom you'll feel comfortable talking if you feel repairs need to be done a certain way.

3. Thinking you can handle it.



Many do-it-yourselfers (generally in an attempt to save money) believe they can learn every DIY task from a book or magazine. There are some jobs, however, that should be left to the professionals, including major plumbing work

or electrical repairs. There's no need to risk a fire, injury or death by doing inexperienced electrical modifications.

4. Letting maintenance slide.

Many homeowners think once the repair is made that they're all set—failing to

keep up with routine maintenance. But complications can arise by not maintaining a new appliance or keeping up with an improvement.

"Our homeowner's association required proof that the dryer venting for our clothes dryer was replaced on an annual basis," offers Bill in Clarkston. "I'd simply go out and buy a new box of the venting material and submit the receipt as 'proof' so I could save the money on a professional installation. But one day the lint trapped in the venting, which I hadn't bothered to change, caught on fire. It not only damaged the venting, it damaged the entire dryer—resulting in the purchase of a new dryer. Luckily no one was hurt. I've since learned my lesson."

5. Following every trend. Anyone who has a harvest gold or avocado green appliance collecting dust in the garage or basement knows how interior style choices come and go. Instead of jumping on every trend (granite countertops and stainless steel refrigerator, for example), think about what will work for your home and be timeless.

6. Asking questions later. Make a list of every question you can think of and ask it before the work gets started. This way you're left with few surprises and can do changes without costing yourself time and money. Don't wait for the finished product before you start to question the hows and whys.

7. Expecting things to be perfect. If you go into a project with the idea that there will be no mishaps, even minor ones, you may end up stressed out when one arises. Everyone makes mistakes—even professionals. If you think something is not being done correctly, speak up or get a second opinion.

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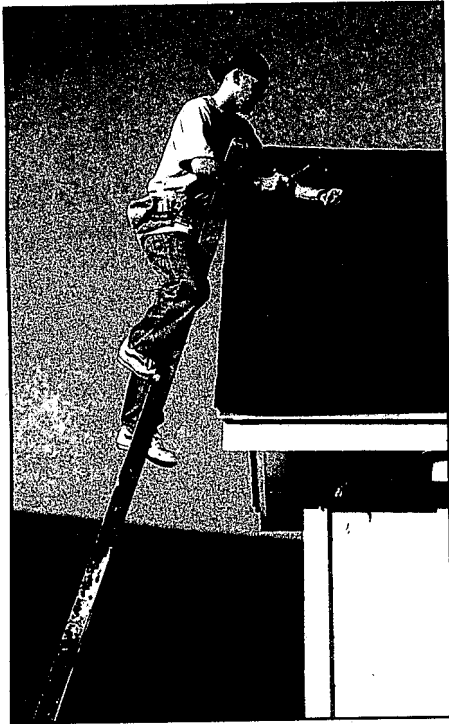
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Does time of year affect roofing jobs?

There comes a time in many homeowners' lives when they're faced with the reality that a roof replacement is necessary. A roof can last between 15 and 30 years, and a person who owns



an older home may find the lease has expired on the current roof. Is there a particular time of year that is better for having a roof installed? It depends on different factors, including the availability of a roofing contractor.

According to the site *The Average Cost of Things*, courtesy of the Home Buying Institute, across the country one can expect to spend \$18,000 on average to replace a roof with asphalt shingles. Use of other materials, like tile or metal will cost more than this. In general, those living in big cities tend to pay more than those in rural areas. Because a roof replacement is expensive, it is something that some homeowners prefer to put off until it is absolutely necessary. Others are interested in finding the best rate around and hiring reliable roofers for the job.

It's important to note that there really is no season where roof replacements are off-limits. Most roofers can do the job effectively unless the temperature is below freezing or if there is significant rain in the forecast. In fact, planning a roofing job for the middle of the winter

actually may work to a homeowner's advantage. This is typically a slow time of year for some roofers, and they may be anxious to get work this time of year and be willing to negotiate on price. There's also a good chance that the roofer will not be bogged down with other jobs, enabling the company to start on a home right away. Some roofers prefer working in the colder weather to sizzling up on a roof under the hot sun at another time of year.

Naturally the spring is a prime time of year for roofing projects. After the rainy season, the weather is generally comfortable and homeowners are thinking about the projects they will commence. A busy time of year for home improvement all around, homeowners may find that they have to compete with others for a good date to have a roof installed. They also may be paying top dollar for the work and materials that are in high demand. Another thing to consider during the busy season is that a project may be rushed along in order to move on to the next job or one being worked on concurrently. This may lead to

corners being cut or less attention to detail.

A person may be limited in their choices of roof installation during the summer. Extreme temperatures can make working on the roof hazardous and uncomfortable for workers.

Many homeowners opt to have a roof replacement in the autumn. The crisp weather and the decline in home-renovation projects overall can make this a prime time to contract with a quality roofer. If the roof is very much damaged, replacing it before the harsh, winter weather sets in can be advantageous.

Some homeowners find they can get a discount on a roof installation if they bundle different renovations together. A contractor may offer a special on siding and roofing together. For those who have the funds, this may be the opportunity to get two jobs done at once.

A roofing project is no small undertaking, and homeowners are wise to get several referrals and investigate a variety of companies before settling on one.

How to improve your landscape before selling

Selling a house is seldom easy, and homeowners are often willing to do whatever it takes to make their home more attractive to prospective buyers. One of the areas sellers typically focus on is the home's landscaping. A well-maintained lawn and garden increases a property's curb appeal considerably, increasing the chances a buyer will have a strong first impression of the home.

But homeowners don't need to have a green thumb to ensure their lawn improves curb appeal. The following are a few tricks of the trade savvy sellers can employ to make their home an instant hit when buyers pull up to the curb.

* Color the landscape. The plants outside a home shouldn't stick out like a sore thumb, but a few splashes of color can make a home more appealing. For the cost of some annuals, which are typically inexpensive, homeowners can turn a drab flower bed into a colorful spot bound to catch a buyer's eye.

* Lay down new layers of mulch. Mulch is not only good for plants, helping them to retain moisture while

inhibiting weed germination and growth, but a fresh layer of mulch also adds to a yard's aesthetic appeal. Mulch made of wood or bark chips is also slow to decay, so apply a new batch right before the "For Sale" sign is erected.

* Prune trees and shrubs. Pruning trees and shrubs is one of the easiest and most effective ways to improve a landscape. Dead branches in shrubs and trees might suggest to buyers that the homeowners weren't terribly preoccupied with maintenance, and this might cause them to think twice about making an offer. Stay on top of pruning regardless of what season it is, and be sure to remove any fallen branches from the yard on a regular basis.

* Clean bird baths and other water features. Water features create a peaceful atmosphere around a property if they're well maintained. If not, buyers won't see the yard as a sanctuary but rather a place where mosquitoes congregate and odors emanate from algae-filled water. Remove any debris from water features, including leaves and algae, and clean the filters so water

is always clear.

* If planting trees, don't go too big. Especially large trees are not always attractive to prospective buyers, who likely won't want sight lines obstructed or won't want to worry about a tree falling and destroying their home during a storm.

* Address issues with weeds. A prevalent problem with weeds around the property is another situation that some buyers might feel is indicative of neglect. Weeds are a pretty simple problem to remedy, so buyers might be correct to assume weeds around the property are there because the homeowner was not concerned with maintenance. Lay mulch around flower beds and gardens to reduce weed growth, and pull any weeds from sidewalks and the driveway. Once weeds are pulled, spray areas that were infested with a weed-treatment product to ensure weeds don't grow back.

A well-maintained landscape is a great way for men and women hoping to sell their homes to make a strong first impression



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Real estate agents can help save buyers and sellers money

Record-low interest rates and record-low housing prices are renewing interest in the floundering housing market for many people. Now could be the time to sell and buy a new home and earn an even bigger slice of the real estate pie. Whether an individual is a buyer or a seller, or doing both, his or her goal is to get the best financial deal on the home — and often that means having a qualified real estate agent working in his or her corner.

Those entering the real estate realm may have misconceptions about what's involved. Oftentimes, individuals think they can go it alone and save money on real estate commissions in the process. However, not having a knowledgeable agent to navigate the process can end up costing more money in the long run. An agent is not there just to open up houses for viewing or to simply put a for-sale sign on the front lawn. Agents guide the seller or buyer through a complicated process of legalities and emotional hurdles. The agent also negotiates for the buyer and seller to help them make important financial decisions.

"When sellers are interviewing real estate agents to market their homes, their primary focus is usually on the advertising that the agent will offer them," says local real estate agent Darlene Goodwin, of Morgan & Milzow in downtown Clarkston. "Advertising is important, but, once sellers have an offer, they need a strong negotiator to help them get the best price and terms. Buyers should also look for agents who have strong negotiating skills and neighborhood knowledge which will help them make the most of their purchasing power."

Individuals can expect a real estate



agent to help them navigate a process that, to first-time buyers or sellers, can prove intimidating.

Buying a Home

1. Schedule a consultation to discuss what features and amenities buyer is looking for in a home.
2. The agent may suggest buyers speak with a mortgage consultant to figure out their buying power and obtain a mortgage pre-approval letter.
3. The agent will then look up home listings in a particular price range and help the buyers to view the homes.
4. When buyers find a home they want to purchase, the real estate agent will help them come up with a fair market price and write up the contract to present to the seller.
5. The agent will help the buyer negotiate on the final price with the seller.
6. In some states, the agent will

accept a down payment to place in trust or work with a real estate attorney on behalf of the buyer.

7. The agent may be present during a home inspection, which is recommended.

8. The agent will then schedule the home appraisal.

9. He or she will then confirm the closing and be present at closing with the buyer and the attorney, if necessary.

Selling a Home

1. The real estate agent will meet with the sellers and evaluate the home and property.

2. He or she will do a market analysis to figure out the best price to list the house based on the neighborhood and comparable sales.

3. The agent may make suggestions for repairs or improvements that can help make the home more attractive to

buyers.

4. The real estate agent may present a marketing plan that indicates where the home will be advertised.

5. He or she will write up a listing agreement and begin the process of marketing the home.

6. An open house for real estate brokers may be scheduled, also a caravan of brokers from the agents' own real estate office and surrounding affiliates.

7. An open house for buyers will be scheduled.

8. The agent will field calls from other agents and notify the seller when a viewing request has been made.

9. Follow-up feedback can be offered, which may include information the agent receives by making calls to people who viewed the home or by tracking how many potential buyers viewed the home listing.

10. When an offer comes in, the agent will notify the sellers and advise him or her of the negotiation process.

11. The agent will be present during the home inspection, if the buyer requests one.

12. The agent will schedule with the city or town to have a certificate of occupancy inspection conducted.

13. The seller will be notified by the agent when the buyer has obtained a mortgage commitment and made good faith deposits.

14. The agent will likely be present at the home closing with the real estate attorneys.

Individuals buying or selling a home can certainly do it by themselves, but real estate agents have the knowledge and provide assistance through the myriad steps of the process, helping individuals to save time and money.



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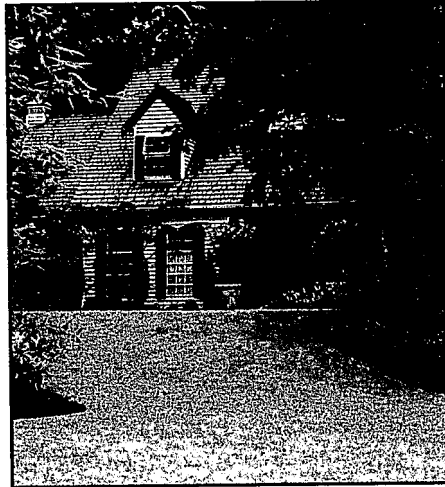
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How to improve your home's curb appeal

Men and women who have tried to sell a home are likely familiar with the phrase "curb appeal." Curb appeal is similar to getting ready for a big date, only you're not dressing yourself up to make a strong first impression. Instead, improving curb appeal involves dressing your home up in the hopes it makes a strong first impression on prospective buyers, many of whom will have a strong opinion about the property before they even get out of their cars to have a look around.

A home with strong curb appeal can entice buyers who are likely to believe that a home with a well-maintained exterior is likely to have an equally impressive interior.

* **Clean up.** The most effective way to improve curb appeal is to clean up the property. Many homeowners are savvy enough to remove toys and other items from the yard before showing a home, but cleaning up goes beyond removing clutter from the property. Make sure all hedges are trimmed and remove weeds, sticks and other debris from any flower beds. Lay mulch in the flower beds and



garden, as mulch prevents weed growth while helping the soil retain moisture, resulting in more attractive gardens to catch a buyer's eye.

* **Get an "edge" on other sellers.** Edging is another easy and effective way to improve curb appeal. Edge driveways, sidewalks and other walkways around the property, removing or trimming anything that is hanging over the driveway or walkways. If the boundary between your driveway and

lawn is not distinct, consider installing edging materials such as stone or bricks. The edging can be level with the driveway or elevated, but keep in mind that elevated driveway edging can protect the lawn, preventing kids from riding their bicycles onto the lawn or cars from driving onto it.

* **Take to the trees.** Many homeowners grow accustomed to overgrown trees around their property and may not notice that low-hanging, unsightly branches are hiding the home from view. Buyers want to see the house, so take to the trees and trim any branches that hang too low or obscure your home.

* **Clean the gutters.** Leaves and sticks hanging from the gutters are a red flag to buyers, who tend to associate clogged gutters with roof damage. Clean the gutters thoroughly before putting your home up for sale and keep them clean throughout the selling process. If your property includes lots of trees, install guards to keep twigs and leaves out of the gutters.

* **Make the home accessible**

through the front door. Many homeowners enter their home through a side door or through their garage. If you fall into this category, keep in mind that prospective buyers will be entering through the front door, so make this area accessible. Clear any clutter, such as overgrown hedges, away from the front door, and consider upgrading the door handle to a more modern feature. In addition, make sure the lock on the front door doesn't stick, forcing the realtor and buyers to immediately struggle before entering the home. You want buyers and their real estate agents to get in and out of the home as smoothly as possible.

* **Make sure all plants, including flowers, are living.** Dehydrated or dead plants and flowers are eyesores, and they will give buyers the impression that you didn't pay much attention to your property. When purchasing new plants, choose low-maintenance varieties that appeal to buyers who want good vibrant plants but might not want to put in much work into the garden.



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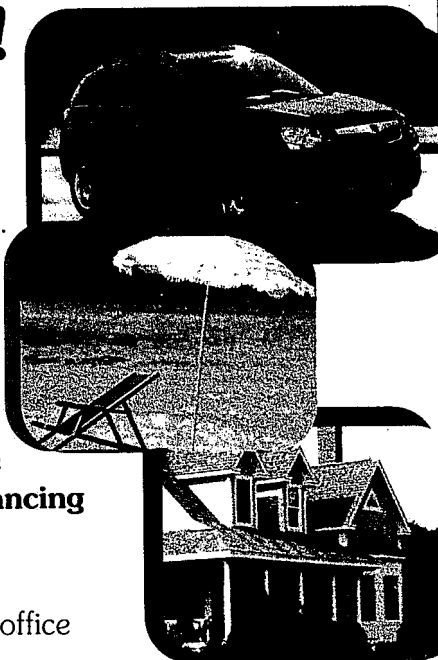
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Make the most of small bathrooms

Renovating bathrooms is commonly at the top of home improvement to-do lists. Though some rooms around the house may remain timeless, bathrooms, like kitchens, show their age (and era) much more easily, which could be why homeowners are always on the lookout for new ideas.

Although many people may dream about creating a spa-type oasis in their homes, not everyone is lucky enough to have a large bathroom, much less a large budget for a full-scale renovation. Small bathrooms are common, particularly in older homes, but they needn't force homeowners to compromise on style when renovating.

Small bathrooms may be a half-bath on a main home level or even a full bath, depending on the home. By thinking creatively, homeowners can maximize their spaces and redo bathrooms in ways that bring out their best assets.

* When space is at a premium, it's best to look for fixtures and items that fit with the scale of the bathroom. Although you may want a large vanity and cabinet in which to hide all of your toiletries, this simply may not be practical — taking up most of the bathroom real estate. Instead, look for elegant pedestal sinks that have a much smaller profile. They'll also help control the clutter in the bathroom.

* Use optical illusions to make the bathroom appear more roomy. For example, lay tile diagonally to create the impression of space. A large mirror will reflect the room back and make it appear much larger than it really is.

* Select lighter hues in paint colors and accessories. Dark paints and fixtures could make the room feel cramped. Dark colors are generally used to make spaces feel more cozy. In a small bathroom, it may make the space feel claustrophobic. Instead, think light and bright and the room will instantly feel more airy.

* Minimize wall hangings and keep fixtures smaller. Filling the walls with knickknacks may contribute to clutter and make the space appear closed in. Use decorative items sparingly.

* If possible, store towels in a closet outside of the bathroom. This way you won't have to devote space inside the bathroom to a closet, leaving more room for other things.

* While some people like the thought of a separate bath and shower, in smaller bathrooms this may not be possible. Instead, look for a combined shower and bath, or select a walk-in shower with a

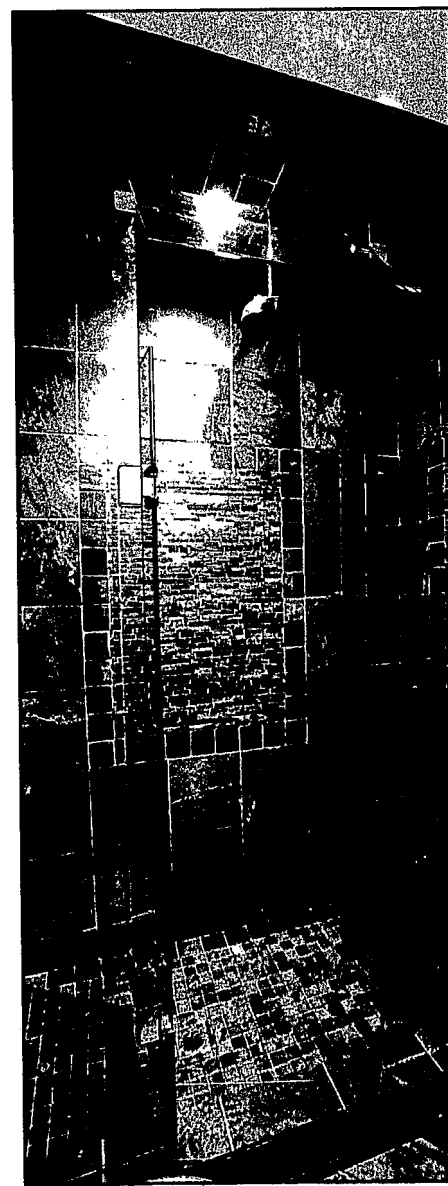
much smaller profile.

* Windows are often welcome in bathrooms because of the ventilation they provide, but they could be a hindrance in smaller bathrooms because they take up prime wall space. Cover a window in a shower stall to free up space. Just be sure to install a venting fan to reduce moisture in the bathroom.

* Maximize wall space if you need storage. Find cabinets that will fit beneath windows or be able to fit in thin areas between sinks and toilets. Over the toilet is prime area for cabinetry.

* Consider a frameless shower. This is a partitioned area of the bathroom that's set aside for the shower and is typically only cordoned off by a thin wall or piece of glass. Or a shower with no walls at all

* Think about installing a skylight if you prefer natural light, but there is no room for a traditional window.



A frameless shower can take up less space in a small bathroom.

Facing Foreclosure

Avoid foreclosure with these strategies

Diminishing jobs and widespread layoffs are causing many people to fall behind on their bills, including mortgage payments. That means many homeowners are facing foreclosure. But there are options to avoid it.

Statistics show that there are still a high number of homes that are going into foreclosure, despite early real estate stimulus efforts. The Mortgage Bankers Association predicts that 1 out of every 200 homes in the U.S. will be foreclosed on, and every three months another 250,000 new families enter into foreclosure.

A slower real estate market has translated into falling home prices for many people. For those who opted for adjustable rate mortgages, higher adjustments mean the inability to pay outstanding loans. Furthermore, low home values could mean that many people owe more on their home mortgages than the properties are currently worth.

Despite public perception, lenders do not want to foreclose on a house unless absolutely necessary. Lenders can lose 20 cents to 60 cents on the dollar for a foreclosure. The average lender loses \$50,000 or more on a foreclosure due to legal fees and other expenses. This means that banks may be willing to negotiate with homeowners who are facing foreclosure.

A lender will generally contact a person within 90 days if payments on the mortgage are missed and will file a "notice of default." However, even with one missed payment, the credit bureaus generally get wind of late or unmade payments, which can greatly affect a person's credit rating. Acting before payments are late can save a

homeowner's reputation.

* Contact the bank to talk about inability to pay. Homeowners will want to speak with the "loss mitigation" department. There they can talk about payment plans and schedules that may be able to stretch out or reduce payments, called loan modification.

* If there is enough equity in the home, a homeowner may be able to refinance the home at a better rate. Don't wait until the last minute to do this. Credit ratings are likely to be a factor when determining the interest rate. Steer clear of other risky loans, such as interest-only or another adjustable rate, if possible.

* Try selling the home in a conventional manner. Too many times people are attached to their homes. In essence, the home is a piece of property. Holding on to it when it cannot be afforded can spell trouble. Sell while there is still equity and find a new place to live that's more affordable.

* Consider a short sale if what is owed on the house is considerably more than what the house is worth. The loss mitigation department is also in charge of approving a short sale on the home. The lender will agree to accept a lower price on the home than what the homeowner currently owes on the mortgage note.

* Offer the lender a deed in lieu of foreclosure. If efforts have been made to sell the house without results, a homeowner can propose handing over the deed to the home and the lender agrees to release him or her from the mortgage. Lenders may only agree to this if an unavoidable hardship was the reason a person is facing foreclosure.

Renters may feel they have limited options when it comes to making changes around their apartment. In many cases, modifications to the space are governed by what the landlord will allow and what is stated in the tenant's lease. Renters may be able to make minor renovations and changes to the space. This can include patching and painting walls in a neutral color, or white if the landlord prefers. If the carpeting is in bad shape, it may be able to be steam-cleaned or replaced. The renter may do so at his or her expense, or a portion of the renovation may be covered by the landlord. It is always advisable to consult with the landlord before beginning any project. He or she may handle the repair or change or set the ground rules for modifications to the space. The landlord also may have a set list of contractors or repair persons contracted to provide the work. The changing of light fixtures may be allowed, while removal of walls, changing countertops or cabinets, or other large-scale renovations are likely off limits. Accessorizing the space with bold colors in draperies, furniture and throw rugs can help personalize an apartment where renovations are limited.



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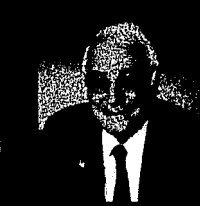
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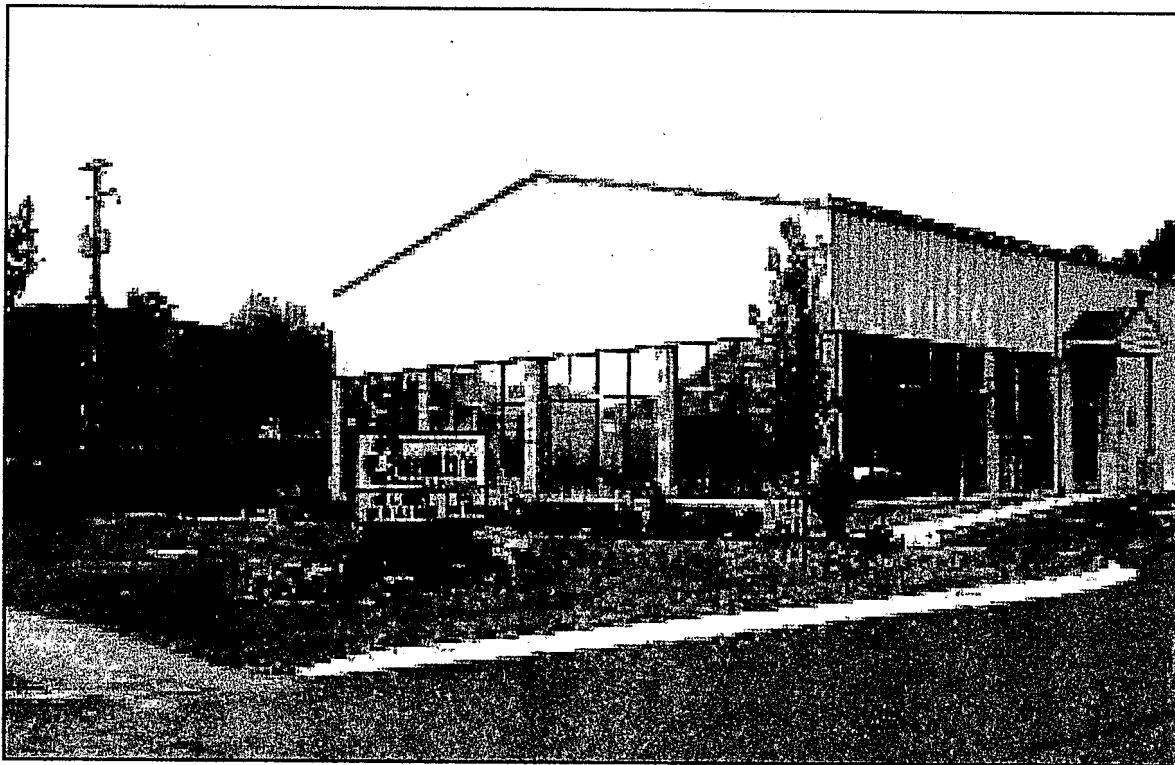
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