Money-saving tips, how-to's, and suggestions for your special day in Weddings

special pages in this week's edition!

# Clarkston hit hard by long flu season

#### BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Local healthcare facilities have been inundated with sick Clarkstonites this flu season. Although the worst may be over, residents may be coughing and sneezing their way into the spring.

"There's

been tremendous number of cases," said Doctor Tim O'Neill of Clarkston Medical Group.



This O'Neill

year's most troublesome flu virus is called H3N2. While H3N2 is not a new strain, the early start of the flu season has kept medical facilities busier than usual. Activity in "urgent care has increased 30 percent," said O'Neill.

Cases of flu started showing up before the holidays, but typically the season begins right around now, he said.

There is some good news on the horizon, though. O'Neill thinks cases of the flu have likely reached their peak; however, the flu season probably won't wind down until around March.

Despite the large number of flu cases he's seen, O'Neill points out that it would be much worse if so many people hadn't already been vaccinated. He encourages everyone who hasn't gotten a flu shot to do so.

"It's safe, and it works," he said.

getting Besides vaccinated, washing your hands well, drinking fluids, and taking care of yourself are good ways to avoid coming down with H3N2.

If you do get sick with the flu, O'Neill says to stay home.

Quarantining yourself will help prevent others from catching it. Patients who recognize they have the flu should talk to their doctor who might prescribe Tamiflu, if H3N2 is caught within the first 48 hours. O'Neill recommends rotating Motrin and Tylenol to relieve your symptoms. Additionally, staying well hydrated will ensure a speedy recovery.

Symptoms of H3N2 include sudden onset of fever, muscle aches, sore throat, head aches, and coughing. Most with flu will feel awful for about 3 to 4 days and then they'll just feel like

Please see Flu on page 33



From left, Lumiere, played by Sam Cook, and Belle, played by Mason Van Gieson, perform "Be Our Guest" during the Clarkston High School Drama Club's rehearsal of "Beauty and the Beast." Photo by Wendi Reardon

#### BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Deep down in the Clarkston High School Performing Arts Center a beast is under a curse and an out-ofplace bookworm is the only one to look inside and change his life.

All will come alive as the high school's drama club presents "Beauty and the Beast" from Feb. 14-17.

"We wanted to choose a show

more focused on children," said Director Jeff Tice. He has only directed two children's shows since he started in 1992, Wizard of Oz and Cinderella.

"We had such a great turnout with Cinderella we thought we would see where we could go with Beauty and the Beast. It's awesome with what they have done. The costumes are amazing. The talent is really wonder-

Mason Van Gieson is stepping

into the role as Belle and has her own spin on her character.

"It's different than the Disney movie," she said. "In Belle's case, she has a little more gusto and more internal strength than Disney's Princess Belle. It's a lot of fun to put a new take on Belle and make her a little more of my own."

Van Gieson is also excited to become a Disney princess, espe Please see Beast on page 34

Red Tail in town



Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson, with a model of a P-51 Mustang fighter, which he flew in World War II. Photo

#### BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Staff Writer

History came alive for Clarkston High School students when Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson visited on Jan. 22 to share his experiences in World War II.

Jefferson flew 19 missions as a Tuskagee airman, a "Red Tail" fighter pilot in the war. He received many awards over the years includ-ing the Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross, and is in the Michigan Aviation Hall of

He was drafted in 1940 and started out by unloading ships, explaining he was small and only weighed 110 pounds.

An opportunity came up to join the U.S.

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# Clarkston traveler seeks peace in war zone

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

Annette Thomas of Clarkston was thrilled when the film Five Broken Cameras was nominated for Best Documentary Feature in the 2013 Academy Awards.

"It shows our friends, the people we stayed with, the village we stayed in," said Thomas. "I'm excited for them."

The film documents Palestinian resistance to Israeli settlements in Bil'in, a village in the contested West Bank. Thomas and other members of Michigan Peace Team were there. They travelled to the West Bank in 2005 to serve as volunteer peacekeepers and observers on behalf of the villagers.

"We were human shields, standing between teenagers and the soldiers," she said. "It was incredible. I've never seen anything like this in my life. Their homes were being demolished, their land confiscated, family members killed. At what point do we say enough is enough - I believe everybody is entitled to peace with justice."

The documentary is co-directed by Emad Burnat, a Palestinian, and Guy Davidi, an Israeli. Its name comes from the cameras destroyed while the filmmakers recorded confrontations between Palestinian protesters and Israeli

Thomas got involved in the conflict around 2002. She was visiting friends in Jordan when she read local newspaper accounts of Palestinian children killed in Gaza.

"I was devastated - they said it happens all the time," Thomas said.

A frequent world traveler, she made her next trip to the Jenin Refugee Camp in the West Bank, a life-changing moment for her, she said.

In the following years, she has written dozens of letters to editor and articles for magazines and newspapers, and speaks out at universities and rallies about what she has seen and learned about the conflict. One thing she's learned -Palestinians have been unfairly stereotyped as masked terrorists

"Our media is biased," she said. "I've never seen violence by Palestinians. What I've consistently heard from them is they want to live side by side in peace with their Jewish neighbors."

Many Israelis tell her the same thing, she said. "So many stand alongside Palestinians and say this isn't right," she said. "Jewish people of conscience are extremely supportive of the Palestinian cause and work side by side with the people there to try to bring about a just peace."

American government involvement in the area doesn't help, she said.

"If the government wouldn't intervene and the United State would butt out, these people would be able to live side by side in peace," she said.

Her travels aren't over. She wants to return to Gaza and the West Bank, as well as go to troubled areas in Africa and South America.

"I'll never retire. I'll do this until I die," she



Annette Thomas and another Peace Team member protest



Thomas, other volunteers, and local children demonstrate against Israeli settlements in the West Bank.



The Academy Awards airs on Feb. 24. . . . . Israeli soldiers are equipped for combat at the site of the protest.

# Briefly

# McLaren amendment

A second reading of the McLaren hospital plans will be at the Independence Township Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. at Township Hall. The amendment includes changes to the hospital permit conditions such as traffic improvements and a provision ensuring the facility is on track to be a Trauma II center.

# **Going Native**

Looking to spruce up your landscape with indigenous plants? Check out the North Oakland Wild Ones' presentation called "Transforming Urban Spaces to Native Landscapes" on Feb. 6 from 7-9 p.m. at the St. Daniel Church Cushing Center. The guest speaker is Master Gardener Cheryl English.

To register for free, email Anne Bushroe at annebushroe@hotmail.com.

## Women's health

Swan for Life Cancer Foundation presents the women's health event "Love Yourself." Saturday, Feb. 9, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 5680 Bow Pointe Drive.

The event includes keynote speaker Florence Williams, author of "Breasts." Topics include breast health, gynecological health, heart health and nutrition and exercise. Breakfast and lunch is served during the event.

RSVP by calling 248-620-9600, ext. 5.

# **Bowling fund raiser**

Clarkston Clarkston High School Bowling teams are hosting a fundraiser at Cherry Hill Lanes, Sunday, Feb. 10, 1-4

Contact Coach Elanor Hallman at emhallman@clarkston.k12.mi.us.

# Seek legal help when considering oil contract

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

If your doorbell rings and there's an oil and gas representative on your porch seeking your signature on a lease agreement, you may not want to sign right away.

"That lease is written by and for the company," and "every paragraph and every word has long-term meaning," cautions Curtis Talley, farm management educator at Michigan State University Extension.

According to Talley, oil and gas producers offer private property owners contracts they've drawn up.

"No standard lease form is universally recognized and used by the oil and gas industry. Instead, each company (or independent lessee) has a pre-drafted agreement that has proven suitable to them in the past," he said.

It's the responsibility of the landowner (lessor) to understand the language in the contract and decide what they are comfortable signing.

#### Seek legal advice

One of the best ways a landowner can feel confident about entering into a lease agreement is to get an attorney. But not just any lawyer will do, Talley points out.

"They need to have an attorney that understands oil and gas or they're not going to get much help."

Without proper legal guidance, a landowner who accepts the standard agreement offered by the oil and gas company may end up with a well near their home, gas stored on their land, damages to their water supply, or post-production costs,

#### Protect your property

The standard lease most residents will see allows for well installation within 150 feet of their house, but a landowner can change that. In fact, "if you know what to do, you can put certain areas of your property offlimits," said Talley.

If a property owner wants to only allow drilling operations on particular parts of their land, they can use a lease addendum, which

is a separate agreement.

If a landowner wants their land restored in a particular way once the oil and gas company is finished, "they need to put language in their lease as to what 'restored' means," he stated.

Unless property owners make the language of a standard lease more specific, the oil and gas company could place a brine disposal well on site or they could store gas

underground, explained.

addition addendums, property owners may have another option. "There's another kind of lease called a nondevelopment lease that the company usually doesn't tell you about," said Talley.

In Jordan Exploration's proposal to

Independence Township Board of Trustees, the lease was designated as "nondevelopmental," which means the township won't see any surface impact on their property.

#### Get the deal best for you

Talley

Besides concerns about the impact mineral extraction could have on the surface of the property, landowners also want to get the best bang for their buck.

Instead of a royalty based on net income, landowners should seek royalties based on gross income, which won't include post production costs.

Such charges involve the treatment of oil and gas after it's been taken from the ground and can include charges to the landowner for metering, dewatering, compressing, transporting, return on capital, return on depreciation, reasonable return on investment, and reimbursement of pipeline.

"In the state of Michigan, it's illegal to withhold post production costs unless the landowner agrees to it in the lease. Most landowners don't know that," Talley said.

In addition, he suggests property owners "make sure your lease is limited to harvesting

hydrocarbons. Sometimes it says 'oil and gas, and other minerals."

Because some minerals are worth more than others, landowners may want to negotiate a different royalty percentage and can even seek a lease specific to the mineral. Talley knows of one lessor who has both an oil and gas agreement and a potassium lease, and the landowner receives a different percentage of the royalties depending on the lease.

#### Pooling may offer a better deal

From Talley's point of view, landowners who struggle to negotiate with an oil and gas company shouldn't feel that they might get a bad deal if they are subject to compulsory pooling.

Oil and gas companies sometimes make compulsory pooling "appear very negative for the landowner, that they're going to have to wait years to get a royalty, and they're going to have to sign the lease anyway that's all incorrect," he said.

Actually, Talley said, "I've had a number of oil and gas attorneys tell me it's better than the standard lease."

The agreement made after compulsory pooling is non-developmental, and the 1/8 royalty is based on gross income. Additionally, "it only involves the amount of their property the company and supervisor of wells deem they need to get a drilling permit for one well."

While everything in a lease may be negotiable, Talley points out that landowners will likely not get everything they want. So, property owners should consider what is most important to them.

While landowners can benefit from royalties and many companies are responsible and avoid damaging one's property, "oil and gas attorneys tell me it's much better to wait than sign a lease you're going to regret, and these leases can last for generations," said Talley.

Go online to msue.anr.msu.edu/program/ info/oil\_and\_gas to view a state of Michigan lease agreement, list of oil and gas attorneys, and other information.



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# NOTA explores merging with Independence Township

#### BY DAN SHRINER

Special to the Clarkston News

Some exploratory discussions will be held between the North Oakland Transportation Authority (NOTA) and representatives from Independence Township about a possible

The bus service's board of directors voted to establish an Ad-Hoc committee to discuss a possible merger, but officials seemed to question whether a merger would be in the best interests of NOTA's riders in Orion, Oxford and Addison townships along with the villages in each community.

NOTA vice-chairman Bill Dunn said the first priority is to NOTA's current customers, who are senior citizens, mentally and physically disabled individuals and low-income residents.

"We have our priorities and there would need to be a reason to collaborate with communities that bigger than ours. There are a lot of questions. I'm not saying I'm against it or totally for it," Dunn said.

Independence Township Supervisor Pat Kittle plans to meet with a NOTA representative on Thursday.

"We currently have a contract through ŞMART," Kittle said. "We're trying to figure out which one would offer us the best bang for our buck.'

At the meeting, "we'll discuss what they have to offer and what price point," he said.

"I don't yet know what they have to offer," Kittle said. "We are always looking for new ways to improve the goods and services we offer citizens, but no decisions have been made yet.'

NOTA board member and Orion Township Supervisor Chris Barnett said he was in favor of talking to representatives from the other communities but also said any merger would have to be favorable to NOTA's com-

seen so far, it may not be to NOTA's advantage to merge.

Pearson, like other NOTA board members, said he is open to discussions but wants to be cautious.

Independence's transportation service provided 5,698 rides last year, which is relatively small compared to the 43,914 rides from NOTA in 2012. However, Pearson fears the potential for a dramatic increase in ridership based on population.

NOTA's three townships and three villages have a combined population of 63,359, based on a July 2012 estimate from the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG). Independence and Springfield townships, along with the city of Clarkston, have a combined population of 50,219.

NOTA's budget for 2013 is \$870,551, of which the three townships it serves will contribute \$205,000. The rest comes from various grants and a \$200,000 contribution from Training & Treatment Innovations, which serves mentally disabled individuals.

Last year, Independence's transportation service gave 5,698 rides to senior citizens age 55 and older and disabled individuals age 18 and older. There is a charge to riders in the Please see NOTA on page 33







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# Wendi's Word

A column by Wendi Reardon

# Winter cravings

I blame winter.

I blame Mother Nature's fickled moods the last few weeks. Though now I have said it and it is in print, she will bring down her wrath.

I am blaming winter for my occasional cravings as I continue being a good girl and keeping fats and sugars away as I am now down 70 pounds. Stay away you vampire food, sucking away my energy

and making feel, well, best way to describe is blah... You know the feeling, like you just finished three courses of Thanksgiving dinner and you are full and can't move.

es of and and

But yes, I find myself wanting bad foods and

I am blaming winter. During winter in Michigan it is natural to want fatty foods. You need to build fat in your body to keep yourself warm. So I am going against my body's natural instinct to warm up.

It sounds like a good excuse, doesn't it? This could be why many people in Michigan do not succeed with their resolution to lose weight. It's cold in Michigan, we need fat. The new year is deep in the winter season.

But despite my body protesting for more fat I am fighting the bulge back. I am not giving in. I will not back down. You will not find a home here. Actually you can take some of it away with you.

The cravings aren't too bad. More like a gentle whisper than a loud clanging sound. I just find myself fighting them off more. Especially last Friday when placed on the counter in front of my desk was a homemade chocolate cake with chocolate frosting. The smell was delicious. It truly tickled the cells in the nose.

I found myself wanting the icing more than the rest of the cake, which, even if I could be bad, I rarely go for. I went through a frosting stage in middle school. A really, really bad stage. If I haven't admitted it before, I will - I am a sugar addict. Completely, utterly, a sugar fiend. I even have a pin board completely dedicated to sweet treats on Pinterest.

Alas, when this stage is done for my nutrition plan with Nuview Nutrition and I am on maintenance, I will have to just keep it out or.... who am I kidding? I will have to cut it out completely.

Back to the frosting. It looked smooth and tasty as I bit into my apple as everyone ate a piece of chocolate cake. The apple was good.



SMILES OF THE WEEK: Stylishly dressed Jordan Roth and Rich Hansen were amongst the crowd of shoppers, revelers, and retailers at the Retro Strolling Cocktail Party in downtown Clarkston, Jan. 19. Photo provided

# Thanks for community support of Rotary

Dear Editor,

The Strolling Retro Cocktail Party hosted by 16 of the downtown merchants last Saturday was really what everyone needed to forget their mid-winter blahs. Nice to be able to wander into stores you might not seek out on a regular basis. Even better was being to talk with the owners and seeing their stores busy.

From the theme to the retro drinks and people dancing to the retro music in the background, there seemed to be something for everyone who attended. When was the last time someone ordered a Tom Collins or even a Grasshopper when they went out? There were more than enough appetizers and desserts to satisfy without ever wanting dinner

and there was the infamous candy bar at Real Estate One, with retro type candies.

The Clarkston Rotary would like to thank those merchants for hosting the evening's event and the donation jars benefiting Blessings in a Backpack and the Clarkston Rotary's "Illuminate Clarkston's Downtown for the Holidays" project.

My wife and I look forward to returning to many of these stores and merchants in the coming months.

Clarkston Retailers, thank you for making a mid-winter Saturday night a little warmer and providing a gathering place for friends and neighbors.

Joel and Mindy DeLong Clarkston Rotarians

# Constitution needs to adapt to times, reader says

Dear Editor

If you are going to drive a motor vehicle in Michigan and most states, you must qualify the motor vehicle and qualify the driver before the driver can take on the open roads.

To qualify the motor vehicle, there are hundreds of requirements. One must look to emission standards, seat belts and air bags, crash safety standards, miles per gallon, and all kinds of lighting requirements. The list goes on, gets longer and changes every year. Some foreign cars do not meet our safety standard and are not imported for that

Now to the driver, we have age requirements, vision and road tests. We have background checks. We have periodic tests to make sure the driver knows the rules of the road and meets the standards.

I do not know why we cannot apply the same thinking to gun ownership, that is, qualify the gun and gun owner. Gun advocates constantly shout any limitations on gun rights would be a taking away of their constitutional rights.

The Constitution is not frozen in time. I cannot think of a more fluid constitutional provision than the interstate commerce provision. This provision is constantly being updated to stay with the demands of interstate commerce. The dinosaur became extinct because it did not change; change is the only constant. We must change the gun laws to meet the new demands of our 21st century and the demands of our gun technology. The 1930 definition of "car" is very different from the 2013 definition.

Gerald McNally Independence Township

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

# A Look Back

From The CNews archives

### 15 years ago - 1998

"Schools hear from parents about schedule" Over 65 percent of parents surveyed by Clarkston Schools said they would like to see the February mid-winter break eliminated or reduced. Parents also wanted to see Christmas and Easter break unchanged and see the school year start after Labor Day. Four hundred parents in the district were surveyed.

"Fife's 33 lead Wolves to fourth straight win" Another day, another heart-stopping win for Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball. This time it was against Southfield-Lathrup and the boys won with 4.6 seconds left in the game off two free throw shots made by senior guard Dane Fife, who finished with 33 points.

"Sports complex coming to Sashabaw corridor" Developers proposed a 200,000-square-foot, multi-purpose ice arena and sports complex on Sashabaw Road at Bow Pointe Drive. They hoped to break ground on the \$10 million project that spring.

### 25 years ago - 1988

"Rotary snubs first woman applicant" The Clarkston Rotary Club rejected the membership of the first woman to apply. Though the rotary president and secretary did not comment, board of directors member Gerald McNally discussed the issue. McNally, a 52nd District Court judge, said the club didn't have a legal obligation to allow female members. He added, "I think they might be missing a new dimension, but that's their decision."

"Women's business club welcomes man" Clarkston resident John Stuetzer became the first male in the Waterford-Clarkston Business and Professional Women's Club, which started 35 years prior. "The fact that I'm in this club shows the change in society today," said the construction owner.

#### 50 years ago - 1963

"Women's Club hears about Iran"
Glenna Wekili talked about the geography and resources of Iran and touched lightly on the government and her political views at the meeting in Clarkston

"Clarkston locals" Mr. and Mrs. Richard Detkowski of Clarridge Road spent last Saturday evening visiting friends, the Gary Skibowskis of Dixie Highway. Sunday, they were dinner guests of his sister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Duffiney of Keego Harbor.

# Wanting to go to work vs. having

It is so much easier on a person when they do something they want to do versus being told they have to.

Attitudes are more refreshing, smiles come quicker, life itself is more pleasant and complaints fewer.

I don't recall a time when I fought going to work. When I worked for someone else or during the Depression/recession times of self-employment, I would often be in the building before others arrived.

(Later in life I "opened up" because I felt I was setting an example employees would follow. Arrivals didn't seem to change. Some people are just late people.)

I'm not building myself up as anything. I just feel people who like going to work are fortunate. Fortunate to be doing something they enjoy doing. When this is the case, it doesn't seem like work.

This bit of analysis came after someone asked how I got into the community newspaper business.

When does a person know what they want to do to make a living the rest of their life? At what age?

Were they just lucky? Did they learn to enjoy the

I've reviewed my thinking many times since work became a necessity. All through high school it was driven into me that I was to go to college. What school should I enroll in and what for?

We four Sherman children were told often to look elsewhere than our father's railroad for a job. This may have been the only thing Dad told us that we all agreed

Jim's **Jottings** 



a column by Jim Sherman

upon. So, Western Michigan, here I come. Make a choice. Ok, teaching. Two semesters of failing Spanish and disliking the biology instructor and it was time to enter the service as my two brothers had. I picked the Navy and was in Great Lakes Naval Training station on my 18th birthday.

Then, after the War, back to Western Michigan and something still unknown to me put me into the printing school learning Linotype operations, handsetting type from a California job

case and re-taking Spanish.

But I got to try out for the Broncos'basketball team. However, their required physical found I had TB. So, two years of cure put me back to preparing for my future.

I know this is boring to many. But it shows the twists and turns some of us go through to find the perfect job. It does not explain, nor can I explain, how I got there.

By now, Hazel and I were married. She worked in, and we lived in, Owosso. I had the GI bill for college that I had been obligated to attend, so what to study? Michigan State University (it was College then) was commutable.

I had concluded I didn't want to sit at a Linotype all day. Ah, printing . . . newspapering . . . sounds close enough. I enrolled in the journalism school. Soon, at 25, it was time to quit fooling around and go to work.

So, I quit college and found a job at the Gladwin County Record in 1951.

Voila! My kind of job. I loved it and have ever since. But what was the thing that drew me to newspapering? Was it because in the late 1930's an uncle owned a part of the Lapeer County Press, then bought a paper in Nelsonville, Ohio and later the Gaylord paper? I remember this uncle only by name, Uncle Mac. I was told he and Aunt Inez asked my parents if they could adopt me in the heart of the Depression.

If this was my draw into journalism it had to be subliminal. Maybe it was the paper route I had in high

What drew you to the work you love?

This best-of Jottings first appeared on Jan. 23, 2008.

# Neato, nifty Rush turned fifty

Lo these many years I've heard that in town, Don Rush. when dudes hit the half century mark, weird crap starts happening. Don't know if it's physical, emotional, mental or spiritual -- but I've heard these rumors for as long as I care to remember.

Well I'm hear to say, based on my own extensive, scientific experiments, it must all be hogwash. Yep. I rolled out my tape measure to 100 inches last Friday and found myself at 50. Uhmmm.

. . I am still waiting for the euphoria to quake me to my soul. As of 50 years and 72 hours, nothing.

I think it's all a bunch of hooey.

I feel no sudden urge to date as many 20-something woman as there are days in the week, month or year.

I see no need to let my hair grow

I still believe pain hurts, and therefore I see no tatoos nor piercings of any sort in my immediate future.

I like my grayish-silver 2008 Ford Escape even though it's not a rag-top, only sports four cylinders and twowheel drive. Thing is, I still feel like me, your hero, the ever-loving, coolest cat

So, what gives?

I feel gypped. I mean, ain't it my God-given right, as a red-blooded

Don't **Rush Me** 



A column by Don Rush

American of my gender to turn all selfish and stuff whilst I still can?

Grrrrrrrrrrrrrunt. iust tried again, real hard, to be in some mid-life transition place and nothing happened. I felt no movement of any kind -- physically or metaphysically. Maybe I am trying

too hard. Maybe it's just like what I had to tell my son when he was three, and four and five. Just sit there, Son. Relax. It'll happen. Stop pushing, you'll hurt yourself. Here, try this prune juice, maybe that'll help.

Prune juice . . . how does that stuff taste anyway?

That night I turned 50, if I think really hard and truthfully about it, I probably was a teeny-weenie bit selfish. I

spent it alone, by myself. Which was totally fine. Without guilt, I made myself a triple decker peanut butter (smooth) and strawberry preserves and banana sandwich and then washed it down with a tall glass of whole milk. If you must know, I don't cotton to skim or fake milk. Why should I pay 100 percent of the cost for something that's only two percent of what I like?

Later on in the night I watched a couple of movie DVDs. Movies, I might add, that posed no social or moral questions.

But, as Andrew Llyod Webber wrote so Madonna could sing, "Don't Cry For Me Argentina." I got plenty of unwanted attention this past weekend, as well as my fair share of adult diapers, fiber-fortified foods, bunion pads and the like. There was even a big, neon green sign stuck up on Main Street in Clarkston screaming something like, "DON RUSH IS 50!"

There was plenty hullabaloo. Not only was there a work party with lots of jeers and double chocolate cake, but my sisters made sure to celebrate my steps onto the 50 plane with an entirely

different party the following night.

During the evening of my birthday, I thought it would be a nice to call most every body who was on my cell phone and thank them for helping me make it to 50. I think those folks I talked to appreciated the call. If I didn't call you, you probably haven't called me in a while (or I haven't programmed you into my cell phone's memory -- sorry 'bout that, my bad).

So, let's assess about my fifty-hood.

- 1. It's not very likely I am gonna' head into the wild zone with long hair, earring or tats or a super cherry muscle
- 2. I like triple decker peanut butter and strawberry preserves and banana sandwiches.
- I like smooth peanut butter. and 4. I have enough adult diapers to last me, but I guess that depends.

Oh, what I didn't tell you . . . one of the cool things about my 50th birthday weekend was I finally got my 2013 Spring Catalog from Gurney's Seed & Nursery Co. Sixty-eight pages of seeds, seedlings and neat stuff for the garden!



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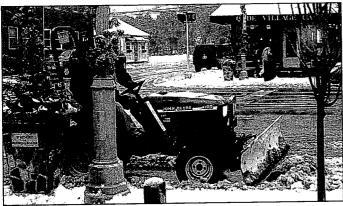
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mclaren.org/clarkston



ICY ROADS: Jason Miller of Clarkston DPW clears away slush and ice from Main Street, Jan. 28. Icy rain earlier this week made back roads slick enough to cancel school, Monday and Tuesday. Photo by Phil Custodio

# Hille Salav

Reports from Oakland County Deputies and Independence Township Fire Department

## Suspected drunk driver

A deputy stopped a 52-year-old Holly man for driving from side to side in his lane, 2:25 a.m., Jan. 12, on Clarkston Road near Snow Apple Drive. Smelling strongly of alcohol, he was taken in for a blood draw after failing to provide adequate breath test, and jailed for drunk driving.

# Damage to vehicles

A vehicle's back window was shattered while parked overnight in the driveway in the 6000 block of Park Valley Drive, Jan. 19.

The back window of a minivan was shattered overnight while it was parked in the 7000 block of Scenic Ridge Drive, Jan.

# No license to speed

A deputy stopped a 22-year-old Independence Township man for driving 77 mph in a 35 mph zone on Sashabaw Road, 7:43 p.m., Jan. 19. The driver had a suspended license and arrest warrants out of Flint and 51\* District Court. Waterford and Flint police both declined to pick him up, so he was cited for driving with a suspended license and speeding, had his vehicle impounded, and released.

# Stolen purses

A diner reported her purse taken while she was eating lunch at a restaurant in the 6000 block of Dixie Highway, Jan. 19. One of her credit cards was later used at a local store to purchase \$126 in groceries.

A shopper left her purse in a shopping cart at a Dixie Highway store and it was taken, 3:40 p.m., Jan. 23. She cancelled her credit cards

### Let me in

A Woodglen Drive resident opened his door to the knock of a woman he didn't know and let her in, 12:37 p.m., Jan. 21. The woman, described as short, heavy set, and Hispanic, told him she bought the house on the corner. As they were talking, a man described as a large, 6-foot-tall black man with a mustache, walked into the home, went into a bedroom, and started going through dresser drawers. The lady of the house noticed this and yelled for the couple to get out of their home. The suspects left quickly, got into a vehicle described as a light-colored, four-door Ford SUV with an out-of-state license plate, and drive away.

# **Unexpected discovery**

A homeowner in the 9200 block of Lakebluff Drive in Springfield Township called deputies when she found what looked like hand grenades in her late husband's belongings, 2:15 p.m., Jan. 23. Deputies determined they were practice grenades, used by the military for training. They called Michigan State Police Bomb Squad for disposal.

# Snowboarder injured

A 21-year old resident of Windsor, Canada, was seriously injured when he lost control of his snowboard and fell, hitting his head and losing consciousness, at Pine Knob Ski Resort, 9:22 p.m., Jan. 26. Independence Township firefighters took him to McLaren Oakland in Pontiac, where he was listed in critical condition in ICU with massive head interiors.

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



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\*Q&A following

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# Wolves post two road wins

BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Cagers knocked North Farmington out the first place spot in the OAA Red last Friday with a 50-31 win.

"It is always a challenge in our league especially North Farmington - they play hard," said Dan Fife, long-time head coach for the Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball team, heading into the game.

Before they went into the game, North Farmington, Clarkston and Southfield were in a three-way tie for first place with a 4-1 record in the league.

The Wolves dominated the first quarter with a 17-2 lead to boost them through the rest of the game.

Senior Jordan Dasuqi led the team with 27 points while scoring six field goals. Senior Dylan Hancook added 10 points and junior Nick Owens had seven points and one field goal

The Wolves opened the week with another win on the road when they beat Oxford, 59-34.

"On a cold, miserable night, it was a good win," said Fife. "It was a win we should win. We played pretty good."

Oxford opened the game with two missed field goal opportunities and it was the Wolves who took the lead with one point from junior Michael Nicholson and two points from junior Press Kampe off his steal.

"We scored a lot off our defense tonight,"
Fife added. "We don't always do, so that was
a good thing."

Dasuqi added six points to the score and another two points from sophomore Andrew

Myers made the score 11-0. Oxford scored two points with 43 seconds on the clock.

The Wildcats opened the second quarter with four points but Clarkston came back with four points of their own from Myers and Owens

Oxford connected the ball more easily in the second quarter but it wasn't enough to catch up and they were still nine points behind, this time 24-13, when the half ended.

Fife added a big help during the night was the boys having only eight turnovers and noted they usually have turnovers up in the teens.

He said what helped with the turnovers was the team talking about it, concentrating on their cuts to be open better, and getting open.

"We still made some mistakes that frustrate me," Fife said. "Again, they are young varsity players and young with experience."

Dasuqi led the team with 20 points. Myers had 11 points and Owens added eight points.

"Myers had a lot of assists," Fife noted.
"He got some easy baskets, too."

Oxford is a team the Wolves normally don't see during the basketball season because they are in a different division in the OAA league. Fife explained Oxford has a new coach and wanted to upgrade the schedule.

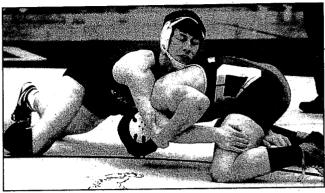
"They have played in the Flint Metro League for years," he added. "It was good for his team to understand the speed of the game and the changes of the game they need to play with:"

The wins put the Wolves at 9-2, 5-1 in the league. They head to Carman-Ainsworth on Tuesday. JV is at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.



Surrounded by Wildcats, Nick Owens looks for an open player. Photo by Wendi

# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Nick Vandermeer takes on Oxford. Photo by Wendi Reardon

# Victories for Vandermeer

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Out of the top 15 wrestlers in the 152pound weight class in Michigan, Clarkston High School senior Nick Vandermeer is holding onto the top position at number one.

"It feels good to say it," he smiled. "But at the same time it's a huge target. I just have to wrestle good all of the time now. I have to win no matter what. It doesn't matter if I pin or not I just have to win."

He added his team has helped him get to the top spot, especially wrestling teammate senior Chris Calvano.

"I just keep going all of the time not putting my head down," said Vandermeer.

His two most recent wins came from last Wednesday's home meet against Rochester and Oxford - both ranked in the Power 15 in the state.

He defeated Wesley Maskill from Oxford, 16-2, and Aaron Morgan from Rochester with a pin three minutes into the match, both in the 160-pound weight class.

He continues to aim for more wins as the boys head into the MHSAA Wrestling District matches next week.

His goal is to make his third visit to the MHSAA Wrestling Individual Finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills at the end of February.

During his previous two visits he was named All-State with a seventh place finish last year and eighth place his sophomore year. For his senior year he would

like to win the state championship.

He began wrestling when he was 4-years-old.

"I was forced into it by my parents," Vandermeer grinned. "My dad ran the Clarkston Wrestling Club so I was pretty much put into it. I wrestled with everybody. It's really cool because if you look up at the wall I have wrestled with most of them. It feels proud to be part of that."

Wrestling became funner as he became older and found himself the kid who enjoyed going onto the mat.

"I was the kid who went out there with a smile, got pinned and came off of the mat with a smile on his face," he said. "Then as soon as I started becoming aware of winning and losing I won more. When I lost I got really upset. The driving factor was winning."

He added his older brother, Matt, has helped him out by wrestling with him when he is home from college. Plus, through Matt he has gotten to know the wrestling coach at Lake Erie College and will be wrestling with his brother next fall. Nick said he is undecided about what he will study because a lot of topics interest him.

Vandermeer wrestles year round and took first place in the 155-pound weight class at the MY WAY State Wrestling Championships last March and competed with the Michigan USA Junior National Wrestling team.

• His advice for aspiring grapplers is to go year round and go to a lot of camps.



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# Wolves capture wins on foes

#### BY WENDIREARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

When it is the last home meet as a senior, you want to go out with a bang and the Wolves did just that last Wednesday, taking down not one but two OAA Red opponents - Rochester and Oxford

"Our seniors wrestled great," said Clarkston Varsity Wrestling Coach Derek Moscovic. "It's always a lot of pride when you walk out here and it's your last home dual meet. For the seniors, it's a great accomplishment. They should be proud."

Seniors Nick Vandermeer (160) and Chris Calvano (189) went undefeated for the night with success over the Wildcats and the Falcons

Vandermeer pinned Aaron Morgan from Rochester in his first match with one minute to go in the second period. Against Oxford's Wesley Maskill, he scored 16-2 for the win.

Calvano also pinned his Rochester foe Chris Russell and he did it with 54 seconds left in the first period. Calvano also pinned Liam Logan from Oxford as the buzzer ended the second period.

Senior Mike Cardinale went 1-1 for the night after he came from behind to defeat Oxford's Edwin Schlickenmeyer. He began the second period behind 0-2 and with a few moves and a reversal near the end, took the lead, 5-4. With 15 seconds left in the third period, Cardinale had a reversal and put the score 7-6 to win.

"He wrestled really well," said Vandermeer.
"He came out and beat Oxford. Some of us just need to come out of our shells like that."

"It was a huge match for him," Moscovic added.

Seniors Adam Myers (215) and Luis Reyes (285) also went 1-1 for the dual meets. Myers defeated Oxford's Ben Line, 7-2, and Reyes

defeated Rochester's Cameron Daniels, 4-1.

"We had a great night," said Moscovic.
"All of them found ways of winning and getting bonus points and it all added up for a team victory."

The Wolves opened the night against Rochester with their 38-27 win. They came to the mat and won their first two matches off Mitchell Nelson (103) with a pin and Nick Vandermeer (112) with a technical fall to give them a 11-0 boost.

After a loss of four points to Rochester Cameron Wilkie (125) pinned Tyler Dukart for six points.

Rochester came back with two wins to put the score 17-13. It was up to Tyler Slating (140) to keep the Falcons' Dillon Maier from getting the lead. Maier went for the take down to start the match and Slating reversed and took control. He closed the first period ahead 7-4. He gained points in the next period going neutral and a take down but Rochester tied the score with a near fall. Slating reversed and gained three points on a near fall to close the period. He kept up the pressure and won the match with one more point in the third period, 16-10.

Kas Waitkus (152) won his close match 4-3 and Nick Vandermeer, Calvano, and Reyes added three more wins to the score.

"I am really proud of them up and down the lineup," said Moscovic. "We had some guys that stepped up and challenged and beat some kids ranked higher than them. We had other very few guys gave up pins. They did a nice job. They showed a lot of integrity and a lot of perservence in those matches.

The Wolves continued with a 35-25 win over Oxford, which began with Nate Vandermeer defeating Bailey Kammerer, 12-0. Cameron Wilkie (125) won by a void; Cardinale won with a defeat, 7-6; Slating won

with a pin 1:20 into the match; Nolan Eriksen (145) won with a 11-4 defeat; Vandermeer won with a 16-2 victory; Calvano with a 4:00 fall; and Myers with a 7-2 defeat.

"We wrestled really well," said Vandermeer. "We came out and wrestled better than we have been and beat two really good teams. What helped was not getting pinned and getting pins."

Both Rochester and Oxford are ranked in the Top 15 in the state and Moscovic added it was a great win against those two teams.

"It's a great confidence builder," he said.
"They are two great, well-coached teams that come out to wrestle every time and our guys competed with them. If you can compete against these two teams, you can compete against any team in the state."

He added it shows the team is continuing to grow and is different than they were from the beginning of the year.

"We were making a ton of mistakes in matches and dual meets," Moscovic said. "We are coming together as a team. When you come together as a team you are wrestling constantly, every period, every take down, not only for yourself but for your team. You can accomplish great things and they did."

The wins will help as the boys finish their regular season this week and prepare for the road to the state finals.

The Wolves head to Lake Orion on Wednesday for a dual meet against Stoney Creek and Sterling Heights, 5:30 p.m. They close the regular season at the OAA tournament at Oxford on Saturday, 9 a.m.

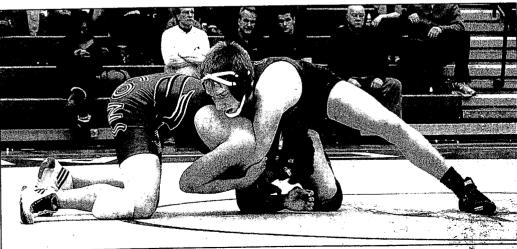
They begin the post-season next week with the MHSAA Team District at Waterford Kettering on Wednesday, 6 p.m. and the MHSAA Individual District at Walled Lake Central on Saturday, Feb. 9.







News.com



Mike-Oardinale-keeps Rochester on the mat in his last home meet in his high school career. Photo by Wendi Reardon

# ves ice Dragons

Junior forward Garrett Polish sealed the deal for the Wolves on Saturday as they faced their rivals Lake Orion.

He scored a pair of goals in the third period to help the team win the game, 5-3.

The Wolves opened the game with a power play goal from senior forward Joe Smith. less than two minutes into the game with assists from junior Jacob LaPorte and Polish.

Clarkston brought the puck back into Lake Orion territory and faced a few turnovers but kept bringing it back.

Once they had control again they made another hit - this time from iunior forward Carter Rea with 8:15 left to go in the first period. Sophomore Drake Gentile and junior Roman Reiner lent their skills on the goal.

Lake Orion took a few shots on the Wolves' net to get their revenge and put a point on the board but their shots were deflected by iunior goalie Jack Viazanko or missed their

The Wolves opened the second period with three shots on goal. It was junior forward Kyle Hogarth's shot to get through with 9:35 left in the period to put the boys up to 3-0. He grabbed control of the puck from Lake Orion in the Wolves zone. He skated past the

a long shot towards the net. Smith and senior John Foust assisted on the goal.

The Dragons' Marc Kerchner scored two minutes later on a power play goal.

They took another shot with four minutes left in the period and Viazanko dove to save it from going in.

Lake Orion tried one more time on another power play and Connor Moesta scored with 2:59 left in the period.

They took possession from the center of the ice and made another play for the net only to be denied by Viazanko.

Viazanko made 28 saves for the night and the Wolves had 32 shots on the goal.

Farlier in the week they beat Howell, 5-1.

LaPorter had one goal and two assists. Smith, Polish and senior Matt Denny scored a goal each. Senior Adam Johns and junior Chase Wiedemann had three assists each while Viazanko had 23 saves.

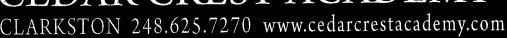
The wins put the boys up to 10-7-1.

The Wolves played Stoney Creek on Tuesday and will head back to Onyx Ice Arena on Saturday for the MAC/OAA Day. They will play Romeo at 4 p.m.



period. Photo by Wendi Reardon

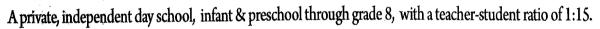






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# Controlling OAA Red

Avondale Yellowiackets with a 55-43 win last Friday

"It was a good road win for us," said Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Tim Wasilk, "Avondale is a tough place to play. They are a much improved team."

The Lady Wolves led at the end of the first quarter with 15-10 but slowed down the next quarter. They led by one point going into halftime

They changed things when they came back to the court from the break to make it a 12-point lead going into the final eight minutes of the game.

"It was really big for us," said Wasilk, explaining they took their press to a half-court defense and were able to get more stops. Plus they adjust the offense as well to help.

"It was good to see our girls close it out," he added. "We struggled in the fourth quarter but we still found a way to close it.'

Sophomore Erika Davenport led the team with 23 points while getting 10 rebounds and had two steals. Senior Erin Davenport had 12 points and two assists and senior Delanev Kenny had nine points, seven rebounds and two assists.

"We played pretty well offensively," said Wasilk. "We moved the ball well. Our guards

Lady Cagers took the sting out of the did a really nice job handling the pressure on the full court and half court - in particular, Erin and Delanev. It was nice to see. It was a competitive game."

Juniors Carly Giroux and Kacy Robinson also had an impact in the game. Giroux scored seven points and had five rebounds and four steals Robinson had five rebounds and three

The girls beat Pontiac on Monday, 36-29. Erika led the team with 21 points.

"It is always a tough place to play," Wasilk said before the game.

The win keeps the Lady Wolves undefeated in the OAA Red at 8-0 as they head into their game against Troy this Thursday.

They beat Troy earlier this season and Wasilk expects it to be a different game than the last time they saw them.

"They are healthier than they were when we played them before Christmas," he noted. "They are an improved team. It should be a good matchup. They were struggling a little bit before Christmas."

The girls basketball action begins on Thursday at Troy High School as the freshman team plan to continue their winning streak at 4:30 p.m.

The JV and varsity teams play at Clarkston. JV is at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

# We're Serving Up Some Winter Fun



# Basketball America

# 2nd-4th Grade

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Instructional Volleyball League

Thursday Games • 5:30 pm • 8 Weeks • Beginning Feb. 7th

All players must be registered by and present at the evaluation session Feb. 7 at 5:30 pm

# 5th - 6th Grade

Sign up your team or individually be placed on a team. Everyone makes a team Individual players will be placed on House teams according to skill-level.

**Sunday Afternoon Games** 8 Weeks • Beginning Feb. 24

1/2 Hour Practice 3 Game Match On Sunday Afternoons

All players must be registered by Feb. 24 • Teams must have a minimum of 7 players.

Players without a team must be at evaluation session Feb. 24 at 3:00 pm.

# 7th & 8th Grade League

Sign up your team or individually be placed on a team. Everyone makes a team. Individual players will be placed on House teams according to skill level.

Sunday Afternoon Games · 8 Weeks • Beginning Feb. 10 •

All players must be registered by Feb. 10 • Teams must have a minimum of 6 players. Players without a team must be at evaluation session Feb. 10 at 5 pm.
A \$10 late fee will be added if accepted after deadline

ructional League - Boys & Girs 4-6, Monday Games - 6 Week Season

Girls - Monday Games Ages: 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-16

Boys - Wednesday Games 🗸 Ages: 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-16

8 Weeks - Girls Beginning March 18 • Boys Beginning March 20th All players must be at evaluations March 19th or 20th

Call For Details or Questions 24:409:45:56



Stop In or Register Online at www.BBallAmerica.com

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# arkston scratches the surface

The Wolves continued on their winning streak as they took down Royal Oak and Oxford on the lanes.

The Clarkston Boys Varsity Bowling team beat Royal Oak on Jan. 22, 22-8. Kyle Kirby bowled a 214 and 194 for a 408 series and Anthony Hernandez had a 201 and 204 for a 405. Jacob Kersten bowled the highest in one game with a 216.

They beat Oxford on Thursday, 17-13. Kirby bowled a 237 and 259 for a 496 and Kersten bowled a 204 and 243 for 447.

The Lady Wolves also were undefeated for the week. They beat Royal Oak scoring all the points for a 30-0 win. Vicki Wolfgang

bowled 190 and 167 for a 357, and she had the highest game. Danielle Hopkins bowled 171 and 160 for 331.

They beat Oxford 17.5 to 12.5 with Chelsea Turk bowling 193 and 220 for the highest game for total of 413. Hopkins bowled 179 and 192 for 371.

The boys JV team lost their two matches. They lost to Royal Oak, 22-8. Kevin Wagner had the highest series with 364 off a 173 game and a 191 game, which was the highest for

They lost to Oxford, 17-13. Wagner led with a 434 series from a 244 game and a 190 game.



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Clarkston



# Coffee Club

News about and for local business folk

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

# Vitamins, exercise to stay healthy

Question: If I get sick, will loading up on Vitamin C help me get better sooner?

Answer: This question is coming at a great time, and many people will start to worry about how much Vitamin C they are consuming when they feel an illness coming

For the most part, studies have shown little to no benefit. Consuming extra Vitamin

C after you're already showing signs and symptoms of an illness will not help you recover faster. Matters

However, for those that consume the proper amount of Vitamin C regularly, this may help reduce the duration of a cold by about a day, and they may have fewer symptoms than a person not meeting their daily Heidi Duffy requirement.



Unfortunately, relatively high doses of 1-2 grams may be needed to elicit these very mild benefits, so is it really worth it in the end? Keep in mind, the RDA for women is 75 gms per day and 90 gms per day for men.

Vitamin C can be found in acidic foods such as oranges, strawberries, kiwis, and also in green, leafy vegetables. It's also found in citrus juices or those fortified with Vitamin C.

Bottom line-only you can decide if you want to dose up on Vitamin C.

It certainly won't cause any problems, but the minimal benefits may not justify the added expense.

Question: I have taken some time off from the gym and gained some extra weight, not to mention the fact that I feel a bit weaker. Did all my muscle just turn to fat?

Answer: This is a great question and all too often it may seem like this is actually happening when people stop working out. However, muscle and fat are two completely different types of body tissue. Neither can simply turn into the other.

When people stop working out for long periods, food intake should decrease because if you're not expending as many calories, you certainly don't need to consume as many calories.

It's important to remember that the muscles in your body are active tissues that

you're sedentary.

This means the more muscle you have, the more calories you need. The opposite is true as well.

Unfortunately, when workouts decline, people often consume the same amounts of food that they had been when they were working out.

These extra calories are stored in your body as adipose tissue (body fat).

If you make a conscious effort to consume fewer calories when you stop working out, then you should be able to avoid the added pounds.

Question: Foods seem to be so high in salt these days, and I'm aware of the dangers of hypertension, heart disease, and stroke. Can you please clarify the amount of sodium I should be consuming daily?

Answer: You're right-salt is everywhere. Processed foods are the main culprit, but the increased reliance on fast foods and restaurant meals are problematic as well.

To add to the confusion, people often have trouble differentiating between sodium

Salt is actually 40% sodium, so when discussing recommendations, we need to be clear about what we're talking about.

The current Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends less than 2,300 milligrams of sodium per day (about I teaspoon of salt).

On the other hand, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommends 1,500 milligrams of sodium per day (about 2/3 teaspoon of salt), and they set the tolerable upper intake level at 2,300 milligrams.

It's clear that your intake should fall somewhere between these two ranges, or even less, but it's actually quite difficult to keep your sodium level as low as 1500 milligrams per day.

In fact, the IOM points out that 95% of American men and 75% of American women consume sodium in excess of the tolerable upper limit-not good news for those of us looking to avoid chronic disease as we get older. In order to keep your sodium intake in check, you need to eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, and make sure you buy foods that are fresh and unprocessed.

And don't forget to avoid adding salt at the dinner table as well.

Contact Heidi Duffy . resconstantly psing energy even when , heidi anylimefitness@comcast.net.

# **Business achievements**

Zoe Hull of Clarkston recently joined Clarkston State Bank's branch management team at Sashabaw and Waldon roads.

"I am excited to be part of a true community bank where providing

outstanding customer service is at the core of their mission," Hull said.

She previously worked at Flagstar Bank in Clarkston and Rochester Hills as well as the Clarkston Area Chambel of Commerce and Liberty Banquet and Golf.

Hull lived in Clarkston for many years and has always been involved in the communities in which she resides. While at the chamber, she coordinated networking events, increased membership and was a resource to businesses in the community.

"Professionals like Zoe are what the bank is all about; people who are committed to their community and really believe in what they do," said President J. Grant Smith. "We are excited to have her part of our team."

Financial advisor James B. Kruzan of Clarkston was recently named a member of the 2013 Chairman's Council, an honor pre-

sented to the top echelon of the firm's financial advisors. This is the eleventh consecutive year Kruzan has qualified for this recognition.

Kruzan, who joined Raymond James in 1987, has more than 30 years of experience in the financial services industry.



Dawn Raffler, owner of Clarkston Cleaning Services, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for The Association of Residential Clean-

ing Services International. Her one-year term began Jan.1, 2013.

The non-profit association works to advance the home cleaning industry and represents members in the US, Canada, Europe and Australia.

"Without ARCSL I would never have realized how large Raffler my company could get," she



said. "I love being connected to so many great people. The public needs to know that when they hire an ARCSI cleaning company, they are making the informed, correct choice.'

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The Clarkston News

January 30, 2013

# eddings

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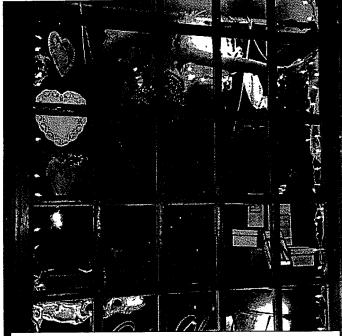
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# Wedding:

Simple ways you can save

According to a 2012 report in *Brides* magazine, the average American couple spends just under \$27,000 on their wedding, while their northern neighbors in Canada spend slightly more than \$23,000 on average for their big day. Clearly couples can expect to invest a substantial amount of money for their weddings.

While many couples find the cost of a wedding is well worth it, others would like to find ways to save so their big day isn't a budget-buster. Such savings aren't always easy to come by, especially for couples with a very distinctive picture in mind of what their wedding should be. However, even couples strongly committed to a certain wedding style might change their minds once they realize how much such a dream wedding will cost. For those couples as well as couples who simply want to save some money, the following are a few ideas to avoid busting your budget without venturing too far from your dream wedding.

Trim the guest list. The guest list is perhaps the easiest place to begin saving money. Many reception halls will charge by the head, so consider if you really need to invite 150 guests or if 100 will do. Such trimming can save you a substantial amount of money. For example, a banquet hall that charges \$200 per guest will cost couples with a guest list of 150 \$30,000 for the reception alone. Cutting that guest list to 100 reduces that cost by \$10,000. When putting together the guest list, remove those candidates who would best be described as acquaintances. This can include coworkers with whom you don't socialize, as well as old college friends to whom you rarely speak. Distant cousins you haven't spoken to in years can also be cut from the list.

Don't go overboard on the gown. According to a survey of wedding trends conducted by *Weddingbells*, an online resource for brides, the average American bride spends roughly \$1,100 on her gown.

Styles are ever-changing, so there's a strong chance brides won't be passing down their wedding gowns to their own daughters someday. What's popular now will likely seem outdated by the time your daughter walks down the aisle. Keep this in mind when shopping for a wedding dress, which can be made in the same design as the one you try on but with cheaper fabrics that are a fraction of the cost.

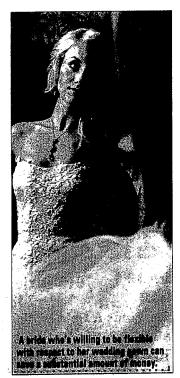
Get hitched in the off-season. Many couples prefer to get married sometime between the months of May through October. During these months, venues and vendors, including limousine services, ca-

terers, photographers, musicians, and deejays, are more expensive. If you are willing to switch your wedding date to the off-season you can save a substantial amount of money. In addition, you likely won't face as much competition for the best venues and vendors as you will during the peak wedding season.

Trim your beverage budget. The bar tab at the end of the reception can be considerable, but there are ways to save money while ensuring your guests can still toast you and yours with a few libations. Rather than offering a full bar, limit the choices to beer and wine, which will be perfectly acceptable to most guests anyway. In addition, rather than paying the caterer for the wine, buy your own and you'll save a considerable amount of money. You may have to pay the caterer a fee to pour the wine, but that fee is negligible compared to what you'd pay the company to provide the wine

Choose a buffet-style dinner over waiter service. Many guests will no doubt prefer a buffet-style dinner instead of waiter service, so take advantage of that and choose a more affordable buffet-style dinner that allows diners to choose their own entrees and side dishes.

When it comes to trimming wedding costs, couples will have to make compromises. But those compromises don't have to come at the cost of a beautiful and memorable event.







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# Wedding Specialists: Clarkston Jewelry Outlet

Dan and Tracy Chiappelli. owners of Clarkston Jewelry Outlet, 7012 Dixie Highway, are a trusted local jeweler since 1987. Clarkston Jewelry Outlet has been business since 1987 and at its current location since 2007, Clarkston's hidden

"We are a family owned business, we do not retail price and we offer exceptional personalized customer service and we are proud of our reputation and of our accomplishment this year," Tracy said. Clarkston Jewelry Outlet was voted "Best of the Best Jeweler" in Clarkston in 2011.

'Getting married is one of the most important events of a couple's life. We offer a large variety of Wedding Sets and Men's Wedding Bands and we can find the perfect ring for any nerson's budget." Tracy said.

They also have a large selection of certified diamonds at

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

Clarkston Jewelry Outlet is a full-service shop. When shopping for gifts for your bridal party they offer thousands of pieces of fine jewelry below wholesale prices. They also have a wide selection of special order personalized gifts

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# How to choose a photographer

Choosing the best wedding photographer is one of the most important decisions for your big day. Your photographer will be the primary source for remembering your wedding in the future. Experienced wedding photographers can even help you plan your day to make your wedding runs more smoothly.

The four steps to choosing your photographer are Images, Professional, Budget and Personality.



Images - Do you like the look of their images? For most people, the quality of the wedding images are very important, for some, just recording the event is enough. Look through the

prospective photographer's work. The website is a good place to start, that is where a photographer puts only the best images from their best weddings. Look at the albums of past weddings, and even ask to see some recent complete weddings.

Professional - Is your photographer a professional? Photographers get one chance to capture a wedding. Are they ready for the day? Are they ready when things go wrong? It is not if equipment will break it's when! While you may not need to know exactly which camera the photographer uses, it's good to know they have backups. What if the church is very dark, or it rains? A pro has the equipment and experience to deal with changes.

Budget - Is the photographer's offer within your budget? Photography is a creative service and is difficult to price, so pricing varies widely. A national industry standard is photography is 15% to 20% of the wedding budget. Ask what is included in the offer and what is an additional cost. Get it in writing. Is there a limited amount of hours, how much is additional hours, engagement session included, proof books, on-line ordering, reproduction rights/DVD, album, additional photographer, additional prints? Another consideration is when you will see your images and prints.

Personality - Can you see yourself spending the majority of one of your most important day with this person? At least have an extended conversation with your photographer. Better yet, meet them. An engagement session is a great time to work together and get to know each other.

Hopefully this will help you to come to a cision and pick the perfect photographer to

carriare your perfect day. Amen:

Lark Kelk is a Clarkton-based photographer. You



Many people dream of a wedding in a church or synagogue before family members and friends. Others prefer to forgo the fanfare of a large wedding ceremony and are content with a civil wedding instead.

Civil ceremonies are often a choice for couples who may have different religious beliefs or do not belong to a particular religious persuasion. In lieu of being presided over by a pastor, priest or rabbi, civil ceremonies are conducted by an authorized official, such as a judge or justice of the peace. The marriage also can be performed by a licensed wedding officiant. Depending on where a couple lives, mayors or even notary publics can solemnize a marriage. Pilots and ship captains also may be able to preside over the ceremony. Some states allow anyone to solemnize a wedding, provided they have a special permit for the day.

In terms of location, the most basic of civil ceremonies take place at the county courthouse, where paperwork is immediately filed. Ceremonies also occur at City Hall. Couples can choose to hire an officiant to go to another location to oversee the marriage ceremony. The latter is the more expensive option and will be based on the officiant's schedule.

The structure of a civil marriage is more lax than those which follow the more raditional course Radies than .

wearing a certain wardrobe or meeting requirements of a particular church, couples often find flexibility with the civil route. Although some brides and grooms prefer to wear a tuxedo or suit and a wedding gown, it's not necessary. There are many couples who have tied the knot in more casual clothing or even

In order to participate in a civil ceremony, couples must secure a marriage license. This is usually obtained by a county registrar or another officer of records where the couple lives. Regulations vary as to the time period in which the ceremony can be done after the mariage license is received. Some licenses may be voided if the couple does not tie the knot within a few days!

When the ceremony will take place is generally up to the couple and, if a member of the judiciary will be overseeing the wedding, the courthouse. Some courts require an appointment for the wedding, while others may have a walk-in policy. Determine these policies well in advance of the wedding day.

There is often a fee collected for the wedding ceremony in addition to what was paid for the marriage license. For those hiring a private officiant, the fee will be much higher than what a clerk of the court will cost. The couple will need to bring the marriage license and 

will need to be present with their own photographic identification. These witnesses need to sign the certificate.

Because there is no firm tradition with civil ceremonies, couples may need to be more hands-on when it comes to executing the wedding. Here are some tips to consider.

- \* An officiant may not organize the wedding, meaning it will be up to the couple to choose vows, arrange where people will stand, request any clerical blessings, or include any other special el-
- \* Some officiants enjoy presiding over weddings, while others see it as just a part of public duty. Couples can try to find an officiant who meets with their approval and will keep with the tone that is expected of the ceremony.
- \* For those adding personal vows, keep them brief and tailored to the occasion.
- \* Know how many people can attend the ceremony in advance. Couples should recognize that space could be limited and restricted to only a few people if the wedding is taking place at the courthouse.
- \* Arrange the venue for a party afterward. Couples may choose to record a video of the ceremony for playback at a reception to enable those who were not in attendance to be part of the special moment where the rings and vows were ex-

# How to find the right banquet hall for your big day

Planning a wedding is no small feat, as couples are faced with many decisions seemingly from the moment they get engaged right up until they walk down the aisle as man and wife. One of the biggest decisions a couple will make is where to host the reception.

Couples must consider a variety of factors when looking for the right banquet hall to host their reception. The wedding is a celebration, and the banquet hall is where the couple and their guests will let their hair down and hopefully enjoy a festive and memorable night. Because the reception is typically the most lengthy portion of a couple's wedding day, it's important to find a place where everyone can be comfortable and enjoy themselves. The following are a few tips for couples looking to find the ideal banquet hall to host their wedding reception.

Ask around. Word-of-mouth is a great way to find the right banquet hall. Ask friends or family members who got hitched in the same town where your ceremony will be if they can recommend a reception site.

These friends or family members can provide a behind-the-scenes look at a reception hall, from how accommodating the staff was to how flexible the banquet hall was with regard to pricing to how open the staff was to suggestions. Wed-

ding planning isn't easy, so if friends, family members or coworkers recommend a hassle-free banquet hall, that recommendation can remove a lot of the stress from planning a wedding.

Consider the size of the facility. Some couples prefer an intimate affair with relatively few guests, while others will desire a large wedding party with lots of guests.

Couples can find a banquef hall that's capable of catering to small or large wedding parties, but find one that fits your party specifically. If your wedding party is small, then avoid a larger facility that will appear empty. If the party is large, make sure there's adequate room so guests won't feel like they're sitting on top of one another during dinner and dessert.

Don't downplay decor. A banquet hall with an attractive decor is not only aesthetically appealing but can appeal to a couple's finances as well. Such a hall likely won't need any additional decorations, while a banquet hall that's unadorned and lacks embellishments will, and those decorations can dip into a couple's overall wedding budget.

Compare the costs of the more decorated banquet hall with the one that's more plain in appearance, factoring in the cost to decorate the latter, and you might just

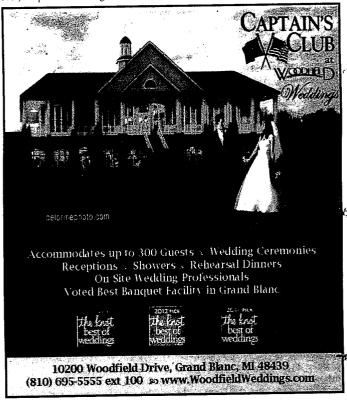
realize the one with more aesthetic appeal is more affordable in the long run.

Prioritize privacy. Few couples would be open to strangers having easy access to their wedding reception.

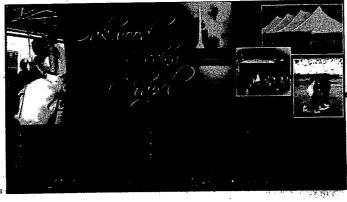
When shopping for a banquet hall, look for one that gives you and your guests all the privacy you need. Many couples have taken to hosting the entire ceremony at a hotel, which may handle the bulk of the planning and remove the hassle of transportation for out-of-town guests. However, couples considering a hotel should

look for one that can promise privacy from other guests at the hotel who aren't there for the wedding. The reception room should be secluded from the rest of the hotel so other guests walking by aren't tempted to walk in on the festivities.

The banquet hall is where couples can expect to spend most of their time on their wedding day, so couples should exercise their due diligence to ensure they find an inviting and festive facility.







# Tips for writing your own wedding vows

A wedding is a once-in-a-lifetime event for many couples, so brides and grooms wish for the event to be momentous and memorable. As such, couples are increasingly integrating personal nuances into their ceremonies and receptions to tailor weddings to their unique visions. The desire to include personalized wedding vows continues to be a popular trend.

if you are considering personalized wedding vows, first realize that it may not be a simple task. That's because you want the message conveyed to be dear to your heart, and that can be challenging when faced with the pressures and planning of the rest of the wedding. That isn't to say that writing your own vows is impossible. Here are some guidelines for personalizing your ceremony with your own sentiments.

Schedule time for writing. Amid the bustle of dress fittings and interviews with photographers, it can be easy to put off the important task of writing vows for another day. But as any great writer can attest, it takes writing — and rewriting — to achieve a finished product you can be proud of. Give the task of writing your vows your undivided attention. Mark it in on your calendar or set a reminder on your computer just as you would any other appointment.

Be aware of ceremony guidelines. It is best to check with your officiant and confirm that personalized wedding vows are allowed. During civil ceremonies it's often acceptable to customize vows as wou see fit. However, during religious ceremonies there may be lines of scripture that need to be read or certain passages required. Before you spend hours working on the task, be sure that it is allowed and that your spouse and you are on the same page.

Jot down your feelings. Answer some questions about what marriage means to you and how you feel about your spouse. Try to avoid trite sayings and think from your heart and personal experiences. Think about what is the most important thing you want to promise to your future parmer. These notes can serve as the starting points for the arms your.

Read inspirational writings. Permaps there is an author or a poet who inspires you? You can quote certain writers in your vows or let the tone of their



works help shape the words of your vows. There also are suggested wedding readings and other quotes about marriage readily available at the library or with a quick search online.

Decide on a tone. Although the day is based on love and affection, you may not feel comfortable spouting words of adoration in front of friends and family. Feel free to tap into your unique personality. Humor can be used if it aligns with the way you normally express your affections. Be sure to weave this tone into more traditional passages to create a cohesive expression of your feelings.

Establish an outline. Put together all of the words and phrases you've jotted down into an outline to help you organize the flow of the vows, using these words as a blueprint for the vows and building upon them. Make sure the vows will be concise. Aim for your entire speech to be around 1 minute in length to keep everyone engaged and the ceremony moving along.

Put everything together. Draft your vows and then practice them by reading out loud. You want to avoid long sentences or anything that trips you up. Although large words may sound impressive, they could make the vows seem too academic and not necessarily heartfelt. Enlist the help of a friend or two to act as your audience to see if the vows sound good and are easily understandable.

Writing your own vows can be a way to include personal expressions of love into a couple's wedding day. Public speaking is seldom easy, nor is finding the perfect words to convey feelings about a future spouse. However, with some practice, and inspiration, anyone can draft personalized vows.

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# Pilot had to overcome Nazis, racism during war

Continued from page 1A

Army Air Corps at a time when no African Americans were flying for the army.

"Organizations raised all kinds of hell," he said. "Elanor Roosevelt helped and all the sudden Congress had to allow \$3 million to build Tuskagee Army Air Field - a place especially to train black flyers. To be a pilot and learn how to fly was exciting."

He flew a P-51 Mustang, which went 400 miles per hour and at the time was the fastest propeller-driven airplane in the world – fast enough to shoot down German jets.

Their job was to fly long range missions and escort B-17 and B-24 bombers from Italy to Berlin. They flew above the bombers and protected them. For their 19th mission they had to go to southern France to destroy radar stations on a 200-foot cliff.

"We came in at 15,000 feet," he remembered. "We came off the ocean, beautiful weather, when they started firing at us. The whole side of the cliff opened up."

Over the radio every one was talking. The first flight made it through, then the second and third. As Jefferson got closer, the last plane in the fourth flight, all he could see was little red puffs.

"I go across and boom, the shell came up through the floor," he described. "I have gloves and oxygen mask. It gets hot. I am doing 400 miles per hour. Everything is in the redoil pressure, heat, everything. Everything on the instrument panel is blue. I have to get out."

He pointed out during the whole period of training he never learned how to get out of an airplane.

Jefferson did the only thing he could do - he pulled back



D.J. Zezula, left, and teacher Brian Zezula greet Alexander Jefferson at the high school. *Photo by* Wendi Reardon

on the stick to get some altitude. Then, he turned the stick

"When you turn the stick lose the airplane drops," he explained. "When it drops you have straps held by a big buckle and I am out. I remember when I came out, the tail going by was on fire."

The airmen with him reported him killed in action, but he made it to the ground and was captured.

"The German soldier was surprised to see me, my color and my rank," he said. "He saw the gold bar on my collar and saluted me."

He spent nine months in Germany as a Prisoner of War.

"We were treated like gentlemen because they knew everything about us," Jefferson said. "No beatings, no torture. I was safer in the Stalag Luft III POW camp than I would be

in Mississippi at the time. They were shooting people in  $\epsilon_s$  Mississippi."

They were released when the Soviet Army approached and ended up at an American camp near Munich. While they were waiting, someone mentioned a place called Dachau was nearby. Jefferson was part of a group to go investigate.

"The ovens were still warm where they were burning human bodies," he described. "The odor of burning human flesh is something I will never forget. You have probably heard people say Dachau didn't exist. I was there."

When he came back to the U.S., he was among 5,000 men of different ranks. They passed the Statue of Liberty and flags were flying. But as he got off the boat, Caucasians where directed to the right and African Americans to the left.

"I was back home to racism," Jefferson said, something he fought against all his life.

"You are in a different position then I was when I went to school with racist attitudes," he said. "I had to fight my way home. A kid called me a dirty name and I was fighting. I am talking about bullying. If you don't have enough guts on your inside to respect yourself, then nobody else will have any respect for you."

He wanted to be a chemist but was considered over qualified. He ended up teaching elementary science for 35 years.

"It was the best thing that ever happened because I had the chance and the opportunity to help young people grow up and join society," he said. "Don't be a dummy - go to school – be a nerd. If you are not, more than likely when you get out of school you will work for a nerd."

He wrote a memoir called Red Tail Captured, Red Tail Free: Memoirs of a Tuskagee Airman and POW.

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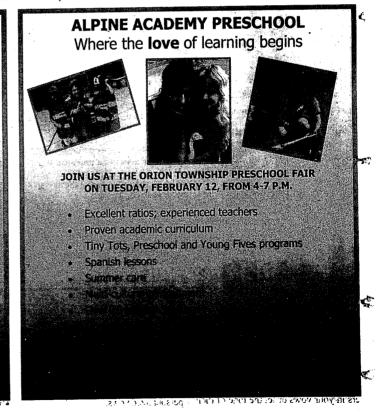


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- Heather Clement



24 to 46." - **Megan B**eacher



# Millstream News'

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



# Winter's no time to slack off healthy living

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

It's not too hard to stay in shape during summer, with bike rides, swimming, and other outdoor activities in the warm sun.

Winter is the real test, said Clarkston-area residents Denny and Carlotta Pawley.

"In winter, people take the time to slack off because it's dark and dreary outside," Carlotta said. "You just want to sit there. In summer, the sun is up before you are."

The treadmill is boring, especially in comparison with an evening walk by the lake with the grandkids.

"It's tough to get going," Carlotta said. "You just tell yourself you have to if you want to stay where you are."

"If I get the urge to take the day off, my conscious kicks in, which helps force me to do it." Denny said.

Denny, 71, and his wife Carlotta, 65, committed to their workout schedule in 1996. At the time, Carlotta had recently lost 40 pounds with Weight Watchers

"I was overweight my entire life," she said.
"I wanted to keep it off."

She found a trainer, Mary LoVasco of LoVasco Fitness and Nutrition in Independence Township, and she has worked with her twice a week for the past 17 years.

"It's not to build muscle – at this point, at this age, it's to keep healthy," Carlotta said.

Denny joined in, though at the time he was working 12 hour days as an executive with Chrysler.

"You have to carve out part of the day, an hour just for yourself," he said.

A smoker since her 20s, Carlotta quit cigarettes in 2005, with the help of nicotine patches.

"I decided it was time," she said. "I'd go for a walk and light up a cigarette – it defeats the purpose. I decided if I want to be around for the grandchildren, I needed to quit." Denny was on blood pressure medicine for several years when he joined his wife in regular training. He got off the medicine in 2000.

"We don't take any prescription drugs, just vitamins," Carlotta said.

Twice-a-week sessions include resistance training with weights and machines, and cardiovascular exercise on the treadmill. They also keep track of their diet, blood pressure, cholesterol level, body mass index, and other internal indicators.

"It's a whole body routine," LoVasco said.
"They're very committed and consistent –
Carlotta has been with me the longest."

Denny is retired but still works as a manufacturing consultant, and hunts and fishes with his children and grandchildren every year. Carlotta spends lots of time up north with the grandkids, and likes to read, play cards, and work on puzzles.

"The older you get, the less you're able to do, but with exercise, you can help your body stay healthier than it was yesterday," Denny said.

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Denny Pawley does some reps on a weight machine. Photos by Phil Custodio

Carlotta Pawley, with her trainer Mary LoVasco, works with some weights.



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#### **Special Events**

Canned Film Festival, 7 p.m., Jan. 30, North Oaks Community Church, 9600 Ortonville Road. Pajama night - wear appropriate jammies, bring slippers, bean bag chair, sleeping bag and/or pillows to watch Tangled on 12-foot screen. Regular seating also available. For admission, donate food item for charity. 248-922-3515.

District Open House, Clarkston Community Schools, 7 p.m., Jan. 30, Administration Building, 6389 Clarkston Road. 248-623-5408.

Art Presentations, 11:30 a.m., Feb. 6: Tudor Portrait Miniature, Lievine Teerline, Art of Limning; March 6: Spiritualism in Abstraction, Art of Paul Jenkins in the Context of Buddism. Senior Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. \$7/members, \$9/non-members, 248-625-8231.

Wild Game Dinner, 6-9 p.m., Feb. 9, American Legion Post 63, 8047 Ortonville Road. Elk, white tail deer, duck, walleye, salmon, domestic turkey, samples of other wild game plus desserts. Gun raffle, 50/50, "cheer" basket raffle. \$20. 248-625-9912.

Bowling fund raiser for Clarkston High School Wrestling Team, 5-7 p.m., Feb. 10, Cherry Hill Lanes. dawn.ulrich@comcast.net.

Early Childhood Expo, Preschool Meet and Greet, Clarkston Area Mothers and More, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Feb. 12, Oakland Christian School-Clarkston Campus, 6300 Clarkston Road, www.clarkstonareamothersand more.com.

#### 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.

Mothers & More, non-profit dedicated to im-

# tround Town

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

proving lives of mothers through support, education, advocacy, 6:30 p.m., third Monday. Deer Lake Back Court Restaurant, 6167 White Lake Road. Call Shelly, 248-778-8115, or Allison, 248-462-5510

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

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

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

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

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

Fit Club Walks, Mondays, 6-7 p.m., Divine Nutrition, 7743 Sashabaw Road. Free. 248-393-08989 or 248-625-6551.

Tuesday 50+ Pickleball, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., First Congregational Church of Clarkston, 5449 Clarkston Road. \$3. Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., \$4.

Gentle Yoga with Rev. Matthew Long, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 10 a.m. Peace Unity Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-891-

Clarkston Community Band rehearsals, 7

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

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

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

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

Belly Dance Lessons, Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Sashabaw Road. Low impact traditional-style workout with Naima Marina. No experience necessary. All welcome. \$10. 586-292-7750.

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

#### Wednesday

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

Senior volleyball league, 9-11 a.m., Wednesdays, Fridays, St. Trinity Lutheran Church. Previous experience desired by not required. \$40, through April, trherh7966@comcast.net. 248-625-3881.

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

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

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-2 from-scratch, \$6 donation. Independence Township Adult Activities Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Make reservation by Monday before, 248-625-8231.

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

50+ Individualized Computer Tutoring, Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., Senior Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. \$30/member, \$35.00/non-members. 248-625-8231.

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

DivorceCare facilitated discussion, Thursdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road, room 122\_... 248-625-1611.

#### Saturday

50+ Spanish Lessons, Saturdays, 9-10 a.m., Senior Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. \$60/members, \$65/non-members. 248-625-8231.

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

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

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# **Obituaries**

# Loretta Graham, 75

Loretta May Graham, "Lu," of Waterford passed away Jan. 26, 2013, at age 75.

She was preceded in death by her husband Dabney and siblings: Geraldine, Margaret, Grace, Delores, John, Terry, and Joe; mother of Steve (Debbie), Weldon and Gale (Don Montgomery); grandma of Sam, Marty, Joe and Vickie (David) Powell;



great grandma of Robert, Abbagale, Davey and Maddy; great great grandma of Ruby Lu: Sister of Mary (Bill) Johnson, Jerry (Carol) Lawson, Betty (Danny) McInnis, Sandra (Phil) Wright, Sandy Hunt and Fay (Jr.) Blevins.

Loretta retired as Clarkston bus driver. She enjoyed coaching and playing ladies softball. She will be missed by her family

Celebration of Life Service was Jan. 29 at the Lewis E.Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. In lieu of flowers, Lu asked that donations be made to her family.

guestbook Online www.wintfuneralhome.com

# Sharon Putnam, 64

Sharon R. Putnam of Matthews, N.C., formerly of Clarkston, passed away Jan. 20, 2013, at age 64.

She was the loving mother of Doug (Lisa) Serb and Christie (Garrett) Mover; caring grandma of Chase. Madison McKenzie; beloved daughter of Ruth (the late Richard) Ushman; dear sister of Dr. Gary (Judy) Ushman.



Sharon served as a guidance counselor for over 20 years. Because of her love of spending time with her family and at the beach, she moved to North Carolina to be closer with them. She enjoyed gardening and traveling.

Funeral service was Jan. 25 at the Lewis E. Wint& Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment Grand Lawn Cemetery, Detroit. Memorials may be made to NAMI.

Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

> **Obituaries** posted daily at Clarkstonnews.com

# Mary Claire Theisen (MacDonald), 75

Mary Claire Theisen (MacDonald) of Boca Raton, Fla., for the past 20 years, formerly of Detroit and Waterford, passed away Jan. 22, 2013, at

age 75. She was the wife of Fred: mother of Gordie. Doug (Alison), Cherlyn Jenkins and Valerie Theisen; grandma of Eric. Tess, Leslie, Bailey, Anna, Alan and Nicolas: sister of John (Cathy) MacDonald.



Daniel (Donna) MacDonald and Diana Cooper; many nieces and nephews; preceded in death by parents, Ronald and Ethel and siblings Jerry, Ivan, Ron, Kathleen Pringle and Pearl MacDonald.

Mary was very artistic, creative and a passionate gardener.

Memorial visitation, Friday, Feb. 1, from 5-8 p.m. at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston, with a rosary at 6 p.m. Memorial mass Saturday, Feb. 2, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church, Waterford.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Hospice By The Sea, Boca Raton. guestbook Online

www.wintfuneralhome.com.

# In our churches...

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

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

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

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

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

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Men's Bible Study Women's Bible Study Mid Week Bible Study-Adult Sunday Moming Bible Studies 6300 Clarkston Road - Clarkston Oakland EPC is an Evangelical. Presbyterian Church with offices located at 7205 Clintonville Rd. Clarkston, MI 48348 Phone (248) 858-2577

# SASHABAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship 11:00 an

#### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CLARKSTON.

5972 Paramus, Clarkston, M (248) 625-3380 Located 2 biks, N. of Dixie Hwy (E.of M-15) Pastor: Russell Reemtsma Sun: 9:30 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 6:00 pm Evening Service Wed: 7:00 pm Awana Club 6:30 pm Teen Ministry 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

#### CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

(248) 625-1323 Home of Oakland Christian School Pastors: Greg Henneman, Bonita Laudeman, Kevin Kuchne Dan Whiting, Geoff Black Sunday: Worship 9:15 & 11:00 am Nursery Care at all services: Wednesday: Children's Minist 6:00-8:00 on Sunday: Youth Ministrie

5:00-7:00 pm

#### THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

5449 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston (248) 394-0200 Fax: (248) 394-1212 Rev. Dr. Matthew Webster Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:00 am Dream Keepers Youth Group Sunday's 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm March - May and Sept. - Nov. www.FirstCongregationalChurch.org

#### **BRIDGEWOOD CHURCH** 6765 Rattalee Lake Road

(248)625-1344 Services: Sunday 9:45am & 11:00am Moming Worship Service Exploration Station : Children's Ministry Wed. 6:45pm Fit For Life Adult Life Ministry cica v.e.-Student Life Ministry Ozone - Children's Life Ministry Nurture Center/Wonderland available for all services

#### CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

#### DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH 8585 Dixie Highwy, Clarkston, MI (248) 625-2311 website; www.dixiebaptist.org Home of Springfield Christian

Academy & Children's Ark Preschool Pastor: J. Todd Vanaman Sun: 9:45 am Worship Service. 11:00 am Sunday School for all ages 6:00 pm Worship Service Wed: 7:00 pm Children and Teen Clubs & Adult Bible Study Nursery available for all services:

#### CLARKSTON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

5482 Winell-Clarkston (comer of Maybee & Winell) 74R 671 1774 Service 9:00 • 10:30 www.ClarkstonFMCorg Wednesdry / project to Adult A

# CALVARY EVANGELICAL

LUTHERAN CHURCH 6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston (W. of M-15, just S. of 1-75) 248-625-3288 Pastor Jonathan Heierman Sunday Worship: 8:15 am. 9:30 & 11:00 am Nursery, Children & Youth at 9:30 & 11:00am Wednesday Evenings: 6:00-8:00 pm Dinner & groups of all ages Nursery, Children & Youth too www.calvaryinfo.org

#### ST. DANIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH 7010 Valley Park Dr., Clarkston

(W. of M-15, S. of 1-75) 625-4580 Rev. Christopher Maus Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am Religious Education: 625-1750 Mother's Group, RCIA; Scripture Study, Youth Group



# Who to Call

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1988 BUICK STATION wagon Excellent condition. 67,000 miles. Runs great. Some new parts. Tinted windows, all power, satellite radio. Everything original. \$2,950 obs.248-814-8633. ULZ312 -

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2FAHP71V58X150092. FOR further information or to view the vehicle, contact Chief Jerry Narsh, Lake Orion P.D. for an appointment (248)693-8321 Mon- Fri. 9am to 5pm.

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ENCLOSE your bid in a sealed envelope marked "FORD POLICE VEHICLE BID" in the lower left corner. Successful bidder to submit payment by certified check or money order payable to: "The Village of Lake Orion" within 3 days of acceptance of bid by the Village Council. The Village Council reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and to waive any formal irregularities in bidding procedures.

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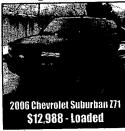
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# **NOTA** discussions

Continued from page 5

form of a "requested donation" of \$3 each way and \$5 each way for hospital trips to Pontiac and out of the area.

Independence's transportation system brought in \$100,000 in revenue from rider fees, donations and grants. However, the cost to operate the system was \$157,642, which includes \$119,942 in wages and benefits for two full-time drivers.

The \$57,642 difference was made up using monies from the Independence Township's general fund.

Independence Township officials also acknowledged that no one from the city of Clarkston or Springfield Township has been involved in any preliminary merger discussion with NOTA. Clarkston and Springfield are partnered with Independence Township.

It is not the first time that a neighboring municipality has inquired about partnering with NOTA. Brandon Township made inquiries several years ago and NOTA officials declined to discuss merger.

Mary Keck contributed to this report.

# Flu shots still available

Continued from page 1

they have a really bad cold for about a week. While fatal cases of flu are rare, O'Neill warns that the very young and very old or people with chronic illnesses are at the highest risk.

Most drug stores offer flu vaccinations, and Oakland County Health Department (OCHD) gives flu shots for \$15 general, free for children under 18 without insurance or whose insurance doesn't cover the flu shot. Call OCHD Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., 800-848-5533 or email noc@oakgov.com.

#### STATE OF MICHIGAN FILE NO: PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

Estate of James H. Pruett and Geraldine R. Pruett Rev. Liv Trust Dated

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The James H. Pruett and Geraldine R.

Pruett Rev Liv Trust Dated 8/13/03 Creditors of the trust are notified that all claims against the trust will be forever barred unless presented to James H. Pruett, named succes-

sor trustee within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice James H. Pruett 2040 Joy Road ROBERT G. ISGRIGG, JR. P-24924 2745 Pontiac Lake Ro Aubum Hills, MI 48326 Waterford, Michigan 48328 (248) 682-8800

FILE NO: STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Decedent's Estate

Estate of Scott Alan Atwood. Date of birth: 7-8-58

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Scott Alan Atwood, died

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Glenda Golden, named per sonal representative or proposed personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, and the named/pro-posed personal representative within 4 months after the date of publica-

ROBERT G. ISGRIGG; JR. P-24924 2745 Pootac Lake Ro Waterford, Michigan 48328 248) 682-8800 - - - - - (248) 212-2005

Glenda Golden 5218 Rosemond Ln Waterford, Michigan 48327

Got news? Give us a call at 248-625-3370, or email Clarkstonnews@gmail.com

# PUBLIC NOTICE Because the People Want to Know

#### INDEPENDENCE TWP. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at its regular meet-

ing on January 8, 2013, The Charter Township of Independence Board of Trustees approved a First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Certain Provisions of

#### ORDINANCE # 2013 - 01 THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN

PREAMBLE

The Township of Independence has determined it is appropriate and necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Township to amend Chapter 30 of the Code of Ordinances, Charter Township of Inde pendence, Oakland County, Michigan, Chapter 30, Article IV (Offenses Against Property); to create a new section Section 30-98, "Breaking and entering or entering without breaking", and to provide penalties for violation of Section 30-98 pursuant to MCL 750.115, as amended

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE OR-

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Ordinance shall be known as and may be cited as the "Breaking and entering

or entering without breaking" Ordinance. Section 2. AMENDMENT TO SECTION 30-98. Chapter 30 of the Independence Charter Township Code, Article IV (Offenses Against Property), Section 30-98, previously reserved, is amended by adding a new Section 30-98, which shall read as follows

Section 30-98: Breaking and entering or entering without breaking.

- (1) Any person who breaks and enters or enters without breaking, any dwelling, house, tent, hotel, office, store, shop, warehouse, barn, granary factory or other building, boat, ship, railroad car or structure used or kept for public or private use or any private apartment therein, or any cottage, clubhouse, boat house, hunting or fishing lodge, garage or the out-buildings belonging thereto, any ice shanty with a value of \$100.0 or more, or any other structure, whether occupied or unoccupied without first obtaining permission to enter from the owner or occupant, agent, or person having immediate control thereof, is guilty or a misde meanor.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to entering without breaking, any place which at the time of the entry was open to the public, unless the entry was expressly denied. Subsection (1) does not apply if the breaking and entering or entering without breaking was committed by a peace officer or an individual under the peace officer's direction in the lawful performance of his duties as a peace officer

State law reference MCL 750.115 as amended. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to limit the remedies available to the Township in the event of a violation of this Ordinance.

Section 3. SEVERABILITY. If any Section, subsection, clause, phrase or portions of this ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independence portion of this ordinance and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 4. SAVINGS. All proceedings pending and all rights and liabilities existing, acquired or incurred at the time this ordinance takes effect are saved and may be consummated according to the law in force when they

Section 5. REPEALER. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this ordinance full force and effect.

NOTICE TO BE PUBLISHED. The Town Section 6. ship Clerk for the Charter Township of Independence shall publish this ordinance in the manner required by MCI 42 22

Effective Date: This Ordinance section will be in effect as an Ordinance of the Charter Township of Independence immediately upon its Publication.

2013 Published Effective: 2013 ,

# PUBLIC NOTICE INDEPENDENCE TWP.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at its regular meeting on July 17, 2012 The Charter Township of Independence Board of Trustees approved a First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Certain Provisions of the Independence Charter Township Code, as follows: STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF OAKLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

ORDINANCE NO. 83A-12-01 THIRD AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE GRANTING THE MCLAREN HEALTH CARE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT LEGAL DESCRIPTION

REVISED OVERALL PARCEL Part of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 27, T.4N., R.9E Independence Township, Oakland County, Michigan, de-

Beginning at the East 1/4 corner of said Section 27; thence along the East-West 1/4 line of said section 27 as monumented, S88°23'42"W, 1330.17 feet to a found concrete monument:

thence continuing along said East-West 1/4 line as monumented, S88°15'40"W, 1263.69 feet to the east line of Sashabaw Road (60 feet half width):

thence along said east line, N01°07'14"W, 740.33 feet to a point on the north line of Bow Pointe Drive (variable width)

thence along said north line, N87°01'07"E, 114.97

thence continuing along said north line, S81°43'07"E. 128.00 feet to a point on the north line of Bow Pointe Drive (70 feet wide):

thence along said north line, N87°01'07"E, 131.01

thence leaving said north line, N00°30'14"W, 364.60 thence S86°49'46"W, 376.29 feet to the east line of

Sashabaw Road (60 feet half width) thence along said east line, N01°07'14"W, 245.08

thence N88°17'07"E, 1278.90 feet;

thence N01°06'15"W, 503.95 feet thence N01°25'43"W, 263.61 feet to the southerly line of Interstate-75 Highway (variable width);

thence 922.16 feet along said southerly line on the arc of a curve to the left, having a radius of 5926.58 feet, a central angle of 08°54'54", and a chord bearing

S58°22'54"E, 921.23 feet; thence leaving said southerly line of Interstate-75. S01°35'00"E, 839.62 feet;

thence 88.60 feet along the arc of a curve to the right, having a radius of 77.00 feet, a central angle of 65°55'51", and a chord bearing S22°57'06"E, 83.80 feet; thence N88°25'00"E 497.97 feet to a point on the

east line of said section 27 as monumente thence along said east line of Section 27, S01°35'00"E, 668.01 feet to the Point of Beginning; containing 76.601 acres more or less, and subject to easements and restrictions of record, if any.

An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 83A-07-03, as amended, under the Charter Township of ndence Zoning Ordinance, being Ordinance No. 83, for the purpose of amending the McLaren Health Care Planned Unit Development, also known as the McLaren Planned Unit Develop-

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE OR-DAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 of Ordinance

The property described on the attached and incorporated legal description (referred to as the "Property") was previously rezoned and reclassified in and under the Charter Township of Independence Zoning Ordinance and on its Zoning Map, from Industrial Office Park (IOP) and Office Service Two (OS-2) to Planned Unit Developr subject to and in accordance with Ordinance No. 83A-07-03, approved May 14, 2007, as amended by the first amendment to said Ordinance approved November 20, 2007, and by the second amendment to said Ordinance approved May 7, 2009. Said Ordinance 83A-07-03 and the amendments thereto are referred to as the "McLaren PUD Ordinance." This Third Amendment to Ordinance Granting the McLaren Health Care Planned Unit Development is referred to as the "Third Amendment to McLaren PUD Ordinance." The purpose of this Third Amendment to McLaren PUD is to amend the McLaren PUD Ordinance to incorporate amendments to the plans, permit conditions, and development agreement for the McLaren PUD that have been approved by the Charter Township of Independence (referred to as the "Township"). Section 2 of Ordinance

This amendment to the Township Zoning Ordinance is.

granted subject to, and all improvement and use of the Property shall be subject to and in conformity with, the

(A) Chapter 50, Article III, Division 22 of the Indepen dence Township Code of Ordinances, as amended.

(B) The PUD Plans for the McLaren Health Care Planned

Unit Development, as revised to date, and only as approved by the Township Board of Trustees on the date of adoption of this Third Amendment to McLaren PLID Ordinance by the Township Board of Trustees.

(C) The Amended and Restated Permit Conditions for the McI aren Planned Unit Development, dated October 16, 2012.

(D) This Amended and Restated Development Agreement for the McLaren Planned Unit Development, dated October 16, 2012.

(E) The Declaration of Easements, Covenants and Restrictions dated October 18, 2007, and recorded on October 24, 2007, at Liber 39696, Page 609, Oakland County Records, as amended by the First Amendment to Declaration of Easements, Covenants and Restrictions, dated April 20, 2009, and recorded on May 18, 2009 at Liber 41166, Page 538, Oakland County Records; and as re-recorded at Liber 41485, Page 276, Oakland County Records, and as shall be amended by the property owners, upon approval of such amendment by the Township Supervisor, for purposes of incorporating changes necessary to compurposes of incorporating changes necessary to com-ply with and maintain consistency with the PUD Plans, Amended and Restated Permit Conditions, and Amended and Restated Development Agreeme

 (F) Any and all conditions of the approvals of the Independence Township Board of Trustees and Planning Commission relating to the McLaren Health Care Planned Unit Development, as reflected in the offi-cial minutes of such approvals.

(G) All applicable Township ordinances and design standards for the Sashabaw Corridor Town Center Area of the Township, of which the McLaren Health Care Planned Unit Development is a part, except for the following items, which have been approved as part of the McLaren Planned Unit Development plan approval: (1) deviations from the setback requirement fo ing to allow parking in front of certain specified buildings (2) deviations from the lighting standards which are only required to be met for those light fixtures installed along Sashabaw Road; and (3) deviations from the setback requirement for the rear property

(H) Recordation with the Oakland County Register of Deeds Office of the Amended and Restated Development Agreement or an affidavit by the owner of the Property upon this Third Amendment to McLaren PUD Ordinance becoming effective, containing the legal description of the Property, specifying the dates of approval and all amendments of the McLaren Planned Unit Development, and declaring that all future development of the Property has been authorized, restricted, and required to be carried out in accordance with the McLaren PUD Ordinance as

All applicable Township ordinances and all Township design standards.

To the extent that there are conflicts or discrepancies tween the respective provisions or contents of items (A) through (I), above, between items (A) through (i) in McLaren PUD Ordinance and this Third Amendment to McLaren PUD Ordinance, or between any Township ordimcLaren PUD ordinance, or between any township ordinance and any of the provisions or contents of the McLaren PUD Ordinance or this Third Amendment to McLaren PUD Ordinance, interpretation shall be based upon the more strict regulation of the Property, and interpretation shall be subject to the determination of the Township Board in its reasonable discretion.

Section 3 of Ordinance

Amended only as specified in this Ordinance, the Zoning Ordinance shall remain in full force

Section 4 of Ordinance

Severability. If any section, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared to be unconstitutional, void, illegal or ineffective by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such section, clause or provision declared to be unconstitutional, void or illegal shall thereby cease to be a part of this Ordinance, but the remainder of this Ordinance shall stand and be in full force and effect.

all stand and be in the standard Section 5 of Ordinance

This ordinance shall be effective on the standard publication. date provided by applicable law following publication. Section 6 of Ordinance

Enactment. This ordinance is declared to have been enacted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Independence at a meeting called and held on the \_\_\_, 2012, and ordered to be given pub-

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lication in the manner prescribed by law. Introduced: July 17, 2013

Published: January 30, 2013

# Beast on high school stage

Continued from page 1

cially to all the kids in the community.

"The little girls are going to look up to me and that's exciting," Van Gieson said.

Charlie Fallis the infamous Beast, and brings out the character's animal nature as well as his human characteristics.

"It is definitely different," he said about his first lead role. "It's cool to get those human aspects of your character in there. It's a challenge but that's

what makes it fun." Guiding and help-

ing Belle through the castle are the memorable characters including Lumiere, a candlestick, played by Sam Cook.

"My character is pretty much similar to the Disney movie version," said Cook.

"I would say Mrs. Potts (played by Spencer McIntyre) and Cogsworth (played by Josh Bittick) are very similar because they are classic characters, he added. "It's hard to make them different for the student show."

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All three said bringing the classic characters to life has been fun.

"I have had a really good time because I really enjoy my character," Cook smiled. "He is fun."

"It has been an interesting ride for all of us," said Van Gieson. "The fact, all the char- Raven Ruelas sings during the reacters in the play itself are really iconic. All she steps into the role of Wardrobe. the little kids coming

to see it know exactly what is going to happen. All the audience members know exactly what is supposed to happen. It definitely puts a lot of pressure on you to do it

hearsal of "Beauty of the Beast" as

Stepping into the classic means they have their own favorite parts of the story they like to perform.

For Cook, it's performing "Be Our Guest," especially with all the different characters auch as the dishware and utensils dancing

and singing. "It's all fun, a huge number and everybody involved in it," he said. "I know the audi-Ence will know it and that makes it more fun." Fallis favorite scene is one of his own, hen Beast tangles with a bunch of wolves.

All the wolves are jumping on me and I ger to right them off," he said, adding it is

just play fighting.

Van Gieson looks forward to the very end of the play when the big reveal happens.

"They all have a happy ending," she said, adding it is her favorite scene because it is what everyone is waiting to happen

The cast invites the entire community out to watch "Beauty and the Beast."

"It's such a good show," said Cook. "There is something for everyone and it has

a good message. There are so many fun characters, fun costumes and talented singers, dancers and actors. The sets are amazing. The lighting is going to be awesome.

A bonus for the audience and the cast is children who attend the performances dressed as their favorite Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" character get a free picture with their favorite character.

"It's going to be spesaid Tice. cial." 'Cinderella was the first time we did a meet and greet."

"It's real exciting," Van Gieson said. "When I was fairy godmother in Cinderella, for me, it was the best part of the show because you had little kids coming up and talking to you as though you are the character. It was so much fun."

Fallis and Cook are also excited for their first meet and greet with the children.

"Usually you just perform and not see how it affects the kids," . Cook added. "It will be fun."

The performances are Feb. 14 and 15 at 7 p.m.; Feb. 16 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Feb. 17 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now. Prices are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and senior citizens. They can be reserved by calling the Clarkston High School Box Office at 248-623-

"It will definitely live up to expectations," said Van Gieson.

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" is based on the popular Disney movie and is Broadway's eighth longest running produc-



The cast of players in the castle in "Beauty and the Beast."



Sam Cook and Spencer McIntyre sing to Mason Van Gieson.





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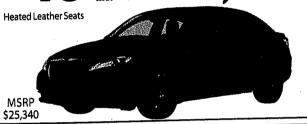
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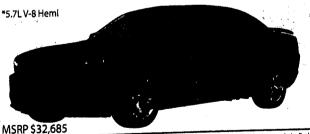
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