

The Clarkston News

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Vol. 86 No. 19 Wed., April 3, 2013

1 Section, 32 pages 50¢

\$2.7 million in cuts coming to schools

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

About \$2.7 million in cuts are in the cards for Clarkston Community Schools.

The district faces a total shortfall of about \$3.983 million in its 2013-2014 budget.

Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock said the district will make up the difference through a mix of staff reductions, spending



Rock

cuts, and more revenue. "We are working very hard to offset reductions with revenues – the more revenues we bring in, the fewer reductions we have to make," Rock said. "Even as the state reduces funding for schools and promotes competition between school districts, we continue to work tirelessly to enhance learning for our kids."

The board voted 6-1, March 25, to approve a set of budget parameters, or assumptions, for

See Budget on page 14

Red flags in city manager search

BY MARY KECK
Clarkston News Staff Writer

For two former public officials, Clarkston's search for a new city manager wasn't nearly clear enough.

"It's about openness and transparency and letting the people of the Village of Clarkston have their say," said Mark Petterson, former Independence Township Trustee.

"If any committee should have been formed, it should have come from the council, not the Mayor (Joe Luginski)," said former City

Councilman Chuck Inabnit. "The mayor has no more power than anyone else who sits on the council."

Luginski disagreed. After consulting with City Attorney Tom Ryan, the mayor said the selection committee only made recommendations to the council, did not have a quorum for a voting body, and did not vote; therefore, there was no violation of the Open Meetings Act.

"Before we put an ad in the paper, before we got one resume, before anything

See Manager on page 3

Cat hat maker

Emily Patnaude makes the perfect Hat Snack during Seuss Night at Bailey Lake Elementary. For more photos, please see page 17. Photo by Wendi Reardon



Gymnast bounces back from bad break

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

When Sydney VanBuskirk of Clarkston was told by longtime instructors she was at the end of the line in gymnastics, she believed it.

"I believed them because I was with them for so long," she frowned. "I believed what they had to say about me and to me. I just wanted to give up."

But her parents, Rick and Valerie, wouldn't let her. "My wife was telling me this and she was struggling on the beam," said Rick, who was deployed to Afghanistan with the U.S. Army at the time. "I said she has two state championships in the beam – that's not Sydney. We were bound and determined. Sydney was not done with gymnastics."

Sydney tried out for a new gymnastics team, at AGA Gymnastics in Grand Blanc. That's where Coach Julie Fair noticed she was favoring one arm. Fair suggested Sydney to go to an orthopedic surgeon to check it out. They found out her growth plate was separated about



VanBuskirk

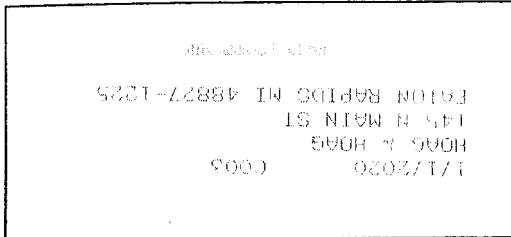
half an inch causing pain and difficulties she was having.

"They called it little leaguers arm," said Sydney. "If I would have done a ton more hand springs, which is a ton more hard pressure on your arms, and no one else would have noticed, my whole arm could have shattered. I'm happy they caught it."

Sydney was in physical therapy and gave it eight weeks to heal and connect. She was cleared and excited to get back to practicing.

"I can do this now," she smiled, after receiving the news she was cleared. "No one was going to stop me."

She noticed the change in her arm and performance. Please see Athlete on page 10



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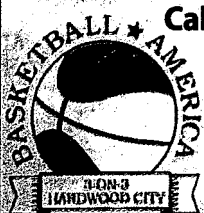
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NEW ROBERT'S RULES: From left, Linda Meadors, president of Louise Saks Parliamentary Unit, presents a new hardbound copy of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th edition, to Mary Himburg, secretary of the Clarkston Independence District Library Board and Library Director Julie Meredith, March 22. The Clarkston unit of the National Association of Parliamentarians made the donation in recognition of April as Parliamentary Law Month. The book is available for check out at the library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Photo by Phil Custodio

The Clarkston News

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Subscriptions: \$30/year in Oakland County, \$33/year out of county, \$38/year out of state.
Deadlines: Community News - noon Friday; Letters to the Editor - noon Monday; Classified advertising - Noon Monday; Display advertising - Thursday.
Delivery: Mailed periodicals postage paid at Clarkston, MI 48346.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Clarkston News, 5 S. Main, Clarkston, MI 48346.
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Petterson wants citizens' involvement

Continued from page 1
official was done, the selection committee was approved by City Council at a meeting," Luginski explained.

Petterson said City Council "did not involve the citizens, and that's what upsets me the most. I think their selection process right off the bat was a failure. They are required to abide by the Open Meetings Act."

Petterson feels the City Council violated the Open Meetings Act (OMA) while in the process of hiring a new city manager because the council did not choose who would serve on the selection committee, and they met before current City Manager Dennis Ritter announced his retirement publicly.

The selection committee is made up of former Mayor Sharron Catalo, Councilman Eric Haven, Mayor Joe Luginski, and Ritter.

According to the OMA, "all meetings of a public body shall be open to the public and shall be held in a place available to the general public."

A "public body" is defined as any "local legislative or governing body, including a board, commission, committee, subcommittee, authority, or council, which is empowered by state constitution, statute, charter, ordinance, resolution, or rule to exercise governmental or proprietary authority or perform a governmental or proprietary function."

After Ritter announced his retirement at a City Council meeting on Jan. 14, Mayor Joe Luginski told the council, "we formed a kind of behind the scenes, small committee, search committee if you will, which included Dennis, myself, Eric Haven, and Sharron Catalo, and we've met half a dozen times or so over the past couple of months."

Then, Luginski proceeded to hand out a packet of information the selection committee had compiled. The packet included job descriptions, interview questions, and a timeline for the process of hiring a new city manager.

At the time, Council Member Carol Eberhardt had not applied for the position; she is now one of the two final candidates for city manager.

At the next council meeting on Jan. 28, the City Council voted to approve the city manager search procedures and selection committee; however, the committee's meeting dates and times were not posted on the city's website or published in *The Clarkston News*.

From Petterson's point of view, the meeting times should have been announced so the public could be a part of the process of choosing a new city manager and the City Council and citizens should have chosen who would serve on the selection committee.

"They should have involved all of the citizens of the village of Clarkston instead of just picking their choice few people," Petterson said.

Luginski said he chose members for the selection committee based on their experience.

The OMA does not state how committee members should be chosen, but Clarkston City Charter 4.24, states "the mayor, with the advice and consent of the council, may from time to time, appoint such committees or boards as are deemed appropriate to advise and consult with them, and with appropriate departments, regarding municipal activity."

While Councilman Mike Sabol said he did not have a say in "who was chosen for the committee, he "felt the choices for the selection committee were very good."

He also points out the committee "didn't deny the council the opportunity to be included."

"As soon as they had resumes, I got to see them all," Sabol added. Every city council member saw the resumes of all 13 applicants, except Eberhardt.

At the City Council's meeting on March 11, Luginski informed the council of the four candidates the selection committee recommended for interviews, and during the discussion members of the council chose to interview one more applicant. The city ran a public notice in *The Clarkston News*, March 13, and five candidates were interviewed at

a special meeting of the City Council on March 16, with two chosen.

The final candidates are Eberhardt, who currently serves on the council, and Andrew Potter, a former Oak Park Public Safety Officer.

From Inabnit's point of view, Eberhardt's candidacy is "a clear conflict of interest." He feels the council "should not have accepted her application."

Because she is a member of the council, Inabnit believes the hiring process "was stacked from the get go in favor of [Eberhardt]," and other candidates "didn't even have a chance."

According to Luginski, if Eberhardt is chosen and her reference and background checks are approved, she will need to resign from her elected position and will not be allowed to serve on the council while being employed as city manager.

At every council meeting where candidates were discussed, Eberhardt recused herself from the discussion by leaving the room. She has not voted on any applicants.

"She is in no way informed about anything anymore than any other candidate that's going through this process," Luginski said.

If Eberhardt is hired, the council may need to vote for an exception to City Charter, which states in section 4.18, "except where authorized by law or five members of the council, elected officers shall not hold any appointed city office or city employment during the term for which they were elected, and former elected officers shall not hold any compensated appointed city office or city employment until one year after the expiration of their term in office."

Eberhardt's selection as city manager is not a foregone conclusion, however.

"I think both she and Andy Potter bring value to the table, so I don't think anybody has made up their mind yet including myself," Luginski assured.

Both candidates will give presentations at the next council meeting, April 8 at 7 p.m. at Village Hall, and the council will likely select the final candidate at the meeting.



Petterson

Briefly

City seeks new auditor

Clarkston City Council voted 7-0 to seek bids for a new auditing service at their regular meeting on March 25.

The city currently employs Janz and Knight P.L.C for approximately \$11,000 annually.

"Seems a little pricey," said Mayor Joe Luginski at the meeting. The council hopes to secure at least three bids for auditing services before hiring a new auditor.

An audit by Janz and Knight last year discovered "significant deficiencies" in the city's budget process, including repeatedly spending money and amending the budget afterwards.

Planning with RCOG

Both Clarkson and Independence Township will meet with Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOG) this week for strategic planning meetings.

On April 10, RCOG will meet with Independence Township officials at 1 p.m. at Township Hall and with members of the City Council at 3 p.m. at Village Hall to discuss future roadwork plans. These meetings are open to the public.

Camp Invention sign up

Clarkston Community Education is signing up students for this year's Camp Invention, starting July 22.

Beth Rogers and Jessica Herzog direct the week-long Geo-Quest program at the Clarkston Community Education building. Children will work together to seek innovative solutions to real-world challenges through four modules for each day. Call 248-623-5400 or email lmzara@clarkston.k12.mi.us.



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STATE CHAMPS: Clarkston High School's Mock Trial Team A, back from left, Kylie Cohu, Amanda Chamberlain, Anna Gray, Morgan Gibson, Amanda Hampton, and Brooke Huisman, and in front from left, Rebecca Rogers, Lexi Wung, and Sabrina Zayec, celebrate their victory at the State Championship in Lansing, March 23. The team, coached by John Zittel, Dave Helder, Rob Novy, Lyndsey Kitson, Jordan Bellant, and Barb Rush, qualified for a spot at the National Championship in Indianapolis in May. Photo provided

Taking issue with McLaren

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

From Independence Township resident Henry Woloson's point of view, opposing the proposed McLaren Hospital project is a matter of local, state and national interest.

"I think it is time for township citizens who have no agenda other than to act in the best interests of our community and state to stand up and be counted if they are opposed to this project," said Woloson.

He believes building a new hospital will contribute to the national deficit and cites a study conducted by Michigan State University to support his argument.

"It is estimated that Medicare will run out of funds in less than 10 years," said Woloson. "Medicare spending at hospitals for periods longer than needed and for tests that are also of questionable medical validity are frequently cited as reasons for Medicare costs greatly exceeding the amount of funds being received to replenish the Trust Fund."

A February 2013 study published in the journal *Plos One* supports regulation of hospital beds.

Lead researcher, Paul Delamater of MSU, told *MSUToday* the study concludes, "current regulation of hospital beds is justified" because it keeps "the number of hospital beds aligned with the health care needs of the population."

McLaren hopes to move 200 beds from their Pontiac hospital and build a new \$300 million healthcare facility on Sashabaw Road, but bed regulation is holding them back.

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) issued a proposed denial in response to McLaren's Certificate of Need (CON) application last year because McLaren was not able to "demonstrate that there is an unmet need in the community," said Tulika Bhattacharya of the MDCH.

Since their CON application was not accepted, McLaren continues to appeal the decision and has approached building the hospital from a legislative route.

State Sen. Mike Kowall proposed a bill to amend Michigan's CON law to allow the beds and alter membership on the CON commission, but the amendment has not passed.

Despite the state's CON law, McLaren Healthcare's Senior Vice President Greg Lane insists, "we continue to move forward. We continue to expend funds on the project with our consultants, with our lobbyists. We are fully committed to this project."

At the Independence Township Board's last regular meeting, the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution in support of the hospital. It focused on the jobs the new facility would create and McLaren's willingness to invest in infrastructure improvements.

During the meeting, Supervisor Pat Kittle

stated, "we put together a resolution that we could send out to counter some of the negative press and some of the special interest groups and go on the offensive."

He pointed out, "It is a long ambulance ride to St. Joe's or Genesys."

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

"I am opposed to this project but that does not mean I am a member of the press or part of a special interest group," said Woloson.

He feels the Township Board should honor the decision made by the MDCH to deny McLaren's CON.

"Your collective action to overrule this important and valuable committee by your recent resolution is highly irresponsible in light of the proven cost savings that have resulted from CON Committee oversight," he told the board in a letter.

From Woloson's point of view, "driving 14 miles to St. Joseph Hospital or 21 miles to Genesys Hospital can be a contribution by the residents of Independence Township towards reducing our massive national debt."

In addition, Woloson thinks traffic congestion due to events at DTE Energy Music Theatre in the summer could cause the "EMS to drive the 14 or 19 miles to another hospital rather than fight the traffic" anyway.

It isn't only the traffic that has Woloson concerned about the current hospital plans, however.

"The proposed hospital is going to place heavy demands on our municipal water and sewer system," he noted. "I have not seen where McLaren has unequivocally stated they will pay the estimated \$2 million needed for those upgrades."

At a Board of Trustees meeting in February, Lane said McLaren has not yet met with Linda Richardson, director of public works, to discuss the impact of the hospital on the water system, but he indicated McLaren plans to do so.

Although he refers to traffic and water, Woloson says his opposition to the McLaren project is fueled by his "legitimate interest in my community, and I define my community as not only my local community, but my state and national community."

"I think people need to start understanding that this is a microcosm of a much larger issue, and if we are going to be addressing deficits, we need to start in our backyards."



Woloson

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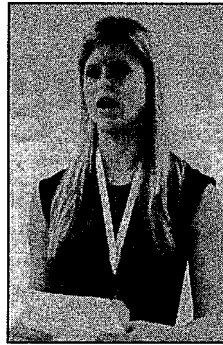
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Mason VanGieson



Katie Gipe



Anna Gray

Writers honored by Optimists

Clarkston High School students Katie Gipe, Anna Gray, and Mason VanGieson were honored with medals, plaques, and accolades in this year's Clarkston Area Optimist Club essay contest, March 27.

"It's important to recognize youth, and this is a great platform to do that," said Optimist Penny Hileman, contest chair.

High school students submitted 42 essays in the contest, with the theme "How can I help my friends realize their value?"

Gipe, earning the top spot, drew inspiration from Martin Luther King Day, which is when she was writing it.

"MLK would not have achieved equality for all, if his friends had not been by his side," she said, reading her essay to the assembled club. "He never underestimated the power his friends could have and the potential they possess to make a change. We should strive to follow in his footsteps, and by bettering our friendships we can in turn also better this world."

Gray's second-place essay turned to a quote attributed to Ben Franklin.

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn," she said. "This quote by Benjamin Franklin connects me to the value of being involved and growing with friends when people are involved as a part of a family, a team, a friendship — they learn. They learn who they are and who they can be; they learn to share confidence, to share optimism, to share value."

For VanGieson, third-place winner, value stems from respect.

"Respect, in all its forms, truly is the basis of encouraging self worth," she said. "I am elated to say that I see my group of friends, myself included, becoming more confident every day. I truly believe we have this confidence because of each other. I certainly hope that by respecting my friends and valuing them so highly, I can help them see themselves for what they truly are — beautiful."

The winning essay will be sent to the district level to compete for scholarships and a spots at the national level.

— Phil Custodio



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Wendi's Word

A column by Wendi Reardon

Where's spring?

Here is one thing I remember from my grade school days - if March comes in like a lion, it goes out like a lamb. And vice versa. April showers bring May flowers.

Or, just forget about it. It's Michigan. The weather will do anything it wants to do including prolonging the spring sports season.

The spring season for the Wolves officially began on March 11 with the usual tryouts. Then, figuring out teams and practice.

Usually they hit outside for practice, but because of the cold weather some of the teams had to do what they could in the gym.

The weather has also delayed the season opener for the boys and girls track teams and the girls soccer teams. But then again, last spring was a wet season for baseball and softball. Mother Nature is fickle for our spring sports.

Keep fighting on athletes - it is bound to be a teensy bit warmer. I am crossing my fingers for you.

As for me, I am ready. I always have my poncho, sweatshirt, winter coat, umbrella and snow boots in the car. (But not rain boots. I haven't had rain boots since I was in grade school, when you could trust a groundhog with the weather.)

You can become prepared for the spring season, too. Our Spring Sports Preview comes out next week. It's fun to hear what the coaches and athletes look forward to in the new season and their goals in the interesting spring.

Check it out - it includes rosters, schedules, team photos and of course preview to the season.

Keep in mind the schedules aren't set in stone - you know, Michigan weather. Though, I will keep our Clarkston News - Facebook and Twitter - @CNNewsWRSports updated with game changes. I can already tell you from the first few games - not cancelled by weather - the boys varsity lacrosse team had their first win.

The girls varsity lacrosse team began the season on a 3-0 streak. Not too bad. Three games in one week - watch out for them. The girls varsity soccer team scored on each of their attempts in their first game against Farmington. The girls varsity tennis team won their first tournament.

For baseball, softball, track and golf we will just have to wait...mostly for the weather.



Opinion Pages

Letters, columns & Editorials

Thanks for help in rescuing stranded cat

Dear Editor,

We live in the Clarkston/Orion area and yesterday (March 25) at 7 a.m., a cat was spotted in a tree across the street from our sub.

The tree was about 50-60 feet high. Many residents from our subdivision, Montclair at Oakhurst, called various agencies, animal control, fire department, and sheriff, without any help.

Three different neighbors put out food to entice the cat down. However, that did not help. We had about 10 residents at one time calling for it to come down and then two neighbors even tried to cut down a very slim tree to lean against the tree the cat was in.

That didn't work out either.

After an entire day, and night upon us, everyone went home praying the cat would come down on its own.

We woke to the cat still in the tree! It was freezing and now had been over 24 hours.

It was about 8:30 a.m. when I heard a truck. It was Davey Tree Service setting up the cherry picker to rescue the cat!

Kenneth and Josh saved the cat! They were such nice young men. Later in the day, we found out a neighbor had called the tree service and explained the situation. They came out to rescue the cat at no charge!

Thank you Davey Tree Service and to our sweet neighbor, Sophia, for calling. The cat is still afraid and in my garage. It has food and water and is free to go home but won't leave from under my stairs. I'm sure he just has to regain some confidence.

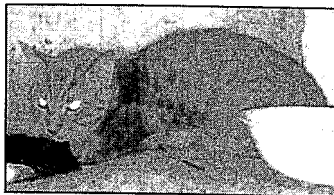
We would love to see this story go public. We are a small but very tight group who appreciates the help from Davey Tree Service!

*Erin Kelch
Independence Township*

Checking in, April 1. Erin said the cat was doing fine. "We've seen him around. I think he has a home but I couldn't say for sure. He is definitely an outdoor cat," she added.



Davey Tree Service helps out a cat in need.



The cat after its ordeal seemed none the worse for wear. Photos provided

A Look Back

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1998

"First spring snowstorm creates havoc on area roads" An unexpected spring snowfall caused a series of accidents for two days especially on Clarkston Road and M-15.

"Schools, Twp. pursue solutions for flooding" Heavy rains and a snowstorm threatened to raise waters flooding the wetlands for Almond Lane residents. The wetlands were also bordering the new high school. Clarkston Community Schools and Independence Township were in the process of soliciting quotes to pump the water out of the wetlands.

"20,000 marshmallows fell from the sky" Independence Township Parks and Red hosted the annual Marshmallow Drop for Easter, dropping thousands of the fluffy treats from a helicopter and bucket truck to hundreds of boys and girls in Clintonwood Park.

25 years ago - 1988

"Too pretty to eat" Cherie Hartwick from Tierra Arts and Design shared the history and how to make Ukrainian Easter eggs. She shared the eggs are a symbol of good luck and are often given as gifts to special occasions like a wedding or birth of a baby. Light colors are given to children and darker colors to adults.

"Tornado twists up trees in Clarkston" A tornado that touched down in Clarkston and Independence Township on Easter Sunday left behind minor property damage, downed trees, and an angry township fire chief. Tornado sirens sounded 10 minutes after it struck, said Chief Gar Wilson.

"Board pares list to 3" Clarkston Board of Education narrowed candidates for school superintendent to three candidates, including Gary Haner. Following the informal interviews, the school board planned to go out to dinner with the candidates and their wives.

50 years ago - 1963

"Area election returns" Incumbent Independence Township Supervisor Duane Hursfall, Republican, was reelected with 1,304 to Democrat Carl Golding's 509. Running unopposed were board Clerk Howard Altman, Trustee Harold Bauer, and Justice of the Peace William H. Stamp.

"Local news" An April fool baby, Kelly Ann Lynch, celebrated her third birthday. Mollie Lynch celebrated her sixth birthday five days later. A friend, Vickie Kidd, spent the weekend with Mollie.

The voice of a free people

The Clarkston News reserves the right to edit for accuracy, brevity, or clarity. Letters must include the full name of the writer, home address and daytime telephone number (which will not be published). Anonymous letters will not be published.

For consideration for each Wednesday's edition, the deadline is noon the Monday before

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You can drop them off or mail them to 5 S. Main Street, Clarkston, MI 48346; fax them at 248-625-0706 or e-mail ClarkstonNews@gmail.com.

Any questions, call The Clarkston News at 248-625-3370.

Spring means new life, activities at schools

Happy spring!

As our students, their families, and our staff enjoy spring break, the Clarkston Community Schools celebrates the accomplishments achieved throughout the year. Here are just a few examples.

Since Clarkston hosted over 800 educators from around the world at our Project Zero Perspective Conference in November, our principals, teachers, students, and central office staff have continued to work together to make students' thinking visible. This involves book studies, professional development sessions with Ron Ritchhart of Harvard, parent nights, and community visits to classrooms. Recently, Pine Knob, Springfield Plains, Sashabaw Middle, and Clarkston High hosted these visits. On April 22 from 12:00 to 2:00, Clarkston Junior High School will host a visit. We hope that you will consider attending to see the great learning that is happening in our schools.

Words from the Sup't



Dr. Rod Rock

Each of our elementary schools has implemented comprehensive literacy plans to support students' learning. Teachers have engaged in professional development, visited other schools, and looked together at assessment data. We believe that a strong literacy base is essential for every child, and we are working hard to achieve this.

Last week, the board of education completed the process of refinancing community bonds. These efforts mean a savings of over \$15 million for taxpayers. Our partners in this accomplishment included State Representative Eileen Kowall, whom we thank for her assistance.

Our athletes, musicians, mock trial team, Team RUSH, DECA, and many other individuals/groups have achieved league, district, regional, state, and national recognition. Congratulations to our coaches, sponsors, parents, and students for their hard work and achievements.

Under the leadership of Kevin Bickerstaff, CCS's transportation department safely transports over 5,500 students each day. Recently, Lorri Kaczor, a CCS bus driver, was selected to receive the 2013 Oakland County

Excellence in Transportation Award. We congratulate Lorri, and the transportation team, on her receipt of this outstanding achievement.

We also celebrate our parents and community who give so much to our students. From school fairs to concerts and athletic events to spring clean ups; from PTA and PTO service to hosting interns, we wish to thank everyone who contributes to making our school system great.

Our board of education recently achieved the Michigan Association of School Boards' Standard for Excellence and Honor Board Awards. This means that each board member has completed certification training. It takes a great deal of time and commitment to achieve these distinctions.

We are grateful to our board members for their service to the students, staff, and community.

I look forward to many more celebrations throughout the remainder of the school year.

I wish everyone a wonderful spring break. I pray for the safety of each of our students, their families, CCS staff, and our community members.

So, it's the first week of April and . . .

Spring has technically been here for a couple of weeks and while I get it, I ain't buying it. It's too cold. (Whine, grouse, complain.) Heck, according to the National Weather Service, we might hit 50 degrees by the end of the week. Whoopee! (Whine, grouse, complain.)

I know, I know: Donny Downer is trying to harsh y'all's buzz -- but, Dude, it's like frigid out there. We're sposed to have lows in the high teens this week for crying out loud! (Whine, grouse, complain.)

I know already. I've seen the robins, smelled the skunks, smashed the mole tunnels, cursed the deer who chewed down my spring tulips, I know it's sposed to be spring. It just don't feel like it. It's too cold. (Whine, grouse, complain.)

The other day somebody tried to trick me into feeling better about spring. Said he, "I heard April is gonna be above average in temperature."

Yeah. Right.

Another gal said, "I heard it's going to be a warmer than average sum-

mer."

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

To which I replied, "I'll believe it when I see it."

I reckon I'm getting anxious about good weather. We've been teased with a few good days with temperatures up near 60. On that day, I was sure we'd turned the corner from winter to spring for I saw a man walking on the sidewalk in front of my home. His walking was not the

sign. The sign of turning (or so I thought) was when he swiped at a bug that was buzzing around his ear.

Nope. Temperature dropped. Cold ensued. (Whine, grouse, complain.)

I know spring is close at hand, it has to be. Heck in a few weeks all our taxes are due. Oh happy day.

Speaking of taxes, do you know what Tax Freedom Day is? I only bring it up to bring you down. It's lonely down here in the pits, and since I don't feel like lifting

myself up, I figured I'd drag you down here with me. Feeling crappy yet? Hang on, I'll get you there soon.

Tax Freedom Day is, "... an effective way to gauge the average impact that taxes will have on American citizens each year, in terms of the length of time it will take the average person to pay off their taxes."

In other words, it's the day you start working for you, instead of working to pay off all your taxes. I think the "Tax Foundation" does the calculations, whoever they are.

This year they ain't sure when we'll shed the shackles that bind us, because we're all paying more taxes and who knows what the heck is happening in Washington, DC. According to the Tax Foundation website, last year Michigan's Tax Freedom Day was April 14. That meant ALL the money you and I earned from Jan. 1 up to April 14 was the amount it took to pay all our taxes, local right on up the ladder.

Also from the website . . .

. . . 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2006 all saw a higher tax burden than 2012. Hoo-

ray!

(But, wait, I'm sposed to be depressing you.)

. . . The 2012 Tax Freedom date occurred five days later than the 2011 date due primarily to a 1.5% overall tax increase (from 27.7% to 29.2%).

(That's more like it!)

. . . The national percentage of tax burden has changed dramatically over time (from 5.9% in 1900 to 29.2% in 2012).

(But wait! There's more!)

. . . The 2012 Tax Freedom Day for Tennesseans last year was March 31.

(Hey, that just ain't fair.)

I suppose it could be worse. On April 1, 2002 we had an ice storm that made things interesting, and we all could be living in the great socialist states of Connecticut or New York. Last year, their Tax Freedom Days were May 5 and May 1, respectively. Talk about a bummer!

Need to whine, grouse or

complain? Email

Don@ShermanPublications.org



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Public Safety

For Clarkston and Independence Township

Shoplifter

A loss-prevention employee spotted a shopper exit with a cartful of groceries without paying, 1:24 p.m., March 8, in the 5000 block of Sashabaw Road. The shopper, a 42-year-old Independence Township woman, was stopped and held for police. She said it was an accident. She was cited with shoplifting, under \$200.

Barking dogs

After issuing a warning on a previous incident, a deputy cited a homeowner in the 4000 block of Independence Drive on a barking-dog complaint, 1:14 a.m., March 12. Several complaints had been made about the dogs, which were kept in an outdoor kennel. No one answered the door, so the citation was mailed.

Paying her bond

A 30-year-old Independence Township woman was found to be responsible for a traffic accident at Maybee and Waterford roads, 4:08 p.m., March 14, and also to have an arrest warrant for selling tobacco to a minor out of 52-3 District Court. She had \$250 in cash, so she paid the bond and was released.

Theft from home

A house under construction in the 4000 block of Hadley Road was found with a door kicked in by a cleaning-service employee, 12:28 p.m., March 14. Hearing voices inside, the employee reported it to her employer, who called police. Deputies didn't find anyone, but noted footprints in the dusty hallways. Copper pipes were also found cut away.

Suspicious tracks

A resident in the 6000 block returned home at 2:30 p.m., March 17, to find the back door to the garage ajar and tracks in the snow leading to it from the woods. More tracks led from a door on the other side of the garage back to the woods. An interior door remained locked. The deputy provided information on exterior lighting and cameras, as well as chemical irritants.

Pushy salesman

A resident asked what a solicitor wanted through a closed door after he came knocking, 5:09 p.m., March 18, in the 5000 block of Fenwick Place. He told her to open the door because he didn't want to talk to her through it, but she declined. He left, and she called police. A deputy found the salesman, a 28-year-old Novi man, on Sunridge. He said he was selling windows, but didn't have a permit. He was cited with soliciting without a permit.

Drunk speeder

A 60-year-old Independence Township man was clocked at 60 mph in a 40 mph zone on Sashabaw Road, 7:55 p.m., March 17. He told the deputy he had been drinking, and asked if he could get a break and allowed to go home since he was almost there. With a preliminary breath test of .15, he was arrested for drunk driving.

No license

A deputy on patrol ran the license plate of a vehicle in front and found its owner had an expired license, 10:14 p.m., March 18, at Clintonville Road and Fay Street. The driver, a 41-year-old Independence Township resident, said he was in the country illegally. He was cited with driving with an expired license and no proof of insurance, and his vehicle was impounded.

Found gun

An Independence Township man called police to report he found a cased .380-caliber pistol on Reese Road near Deerview Court, 12:27 p.m., March 18. It was registered to a Reese Road resident, who said it must have fallen off the roof of his car as he left for work. The owner picked it up from deputies.

Arrested on warrants

A deputy on patrol stopped to check on a vehicle parked running along the sidewalk in the 2000 block of Fox Creek, 11:58 p.m., March 19. The driver, a 31-year-old Pontiac man, told the deputy he had a couple warrants and a suspended license. A records check showed he had seven warrants out of Detroit, Michigan State Police, Oakland County Sheriff's Office, and Bloomfield Township for misdemeanor traffic offenses and possession of marijuana. Bloomfield Township picked him up.

Unwanted advances

A Davisburg resident and her pre-teen daughter were shopping at Kroger in the 6000 block of Dixie Highway when they were approached by a man offering them his services, 8:45 p.m., March 23. Described as white, bald, six-feet-tall, 215 pounds, and around 40 years old, he said he was a talent scout. The mother said they weren't interested, and he gave them his card. Later, she saw the man talking to her daughter alone and called for assistance. Employees told the man to leave. Deputies went to his house, where he admitted he never succeeded in finding anyone work and was advised not to approach children. He said he only approaches children when they're with their parents. A records check showed he had received treatment for mental illness.

Landscaping tips from Tom

Bulk mulch up to 10x cheaper than bagged!

Knowing how much mulch to purchase for your beds or gardens is always a bit of a guess, but if you own a pickup truck or your project requires two or more yards of mulch, buy bulk. Bulk mulch is substantially more cost effective than bagged mulch. Bulk mulch, even including a delivery fee, will almost always be less expensive.

To determine how much mulch you need, measure the square footage of your area and the desired depth, in inches, of mulch. If you want to compare pricing on bagged vs. bulk, know that bagged mulch is usually sold by either weight or cubic volume.

There are 27 cubic feet in a cubic yard.

The average 40 lb. bag of mulch is approximately equal to 1 cubic foot.

The only compelling reason to buy bagged mulch is ease of transportation. Bagged mulch can be up to ten times more expensive than bulk. It makes sense to pay a delivery fee and borrow a wheelbarrow if you don't have one. Further, cheap bagged mulch can sometimes contain shredded construction debris or other waste with toxic chemicals.

Bulk mulches from reputable landscape companies are likely clean and safe. Mulch is useful for preventing soil erosion and holding moisture in the ground. It helps to inhibit weed growth and gives a garden a manicured appearance.

Mulches vary in makeup, color, texture and appearance. Use the following examples to help guide your selection:

For a soothing, natural look, use dark-colored mulch.

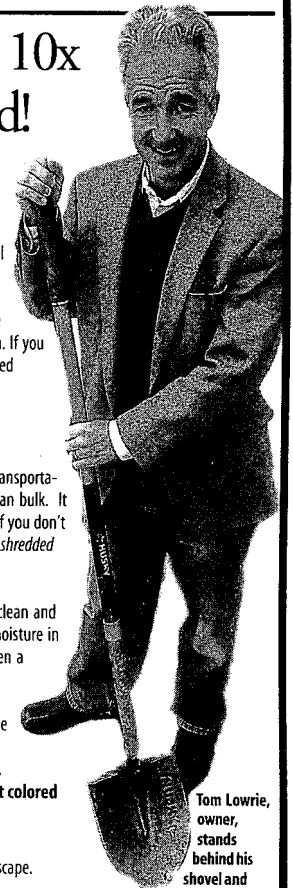
For a brighter bed, use lighter mulch or consider light colored gravel.

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Clarkston's Sporting News

Wolves return April 9
Sport teams are on spring break and return next Tuesday with season openers for track, baseball and softball.

Success in season opener

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Lady Kickers made each of their shots count in their season opener against Farmington, March 26.

They made three shots on the goal - sinking each one to win the game, 3-1.

"We did a good job of capitalizing on our opportunities in front of the net," said Clarkston Girls Varsity Soccer Head Coach Sarah Wasilk. "Their defense is tough. Their whole team pressured the ball really well. We didn't take very good care of the ball today but we still managed to pull out a win. We didn't have very many opportunities but the ones we did have - we scored."

The Lady Falcons opened the first half with possession of the ball and quickly headed into the Wolves' turf.

They made a shot six minutes into the game and sophomore Clarkston goalie Kayla Grzesiak was ready as she blocked it from going in.

The Wolves gained control of the ball minutes later and took it deep into Farmington's territory.

Sophomore defender Brooke Henney passed the ball to senior forward Allison Roberts. She ran right of the net before taking her shot and putting it in with 28:11 on the scoreboard.

"She had a great goal," said Wasilk. "She got her head up and she placed it right in the

back of the net."

Farmington attempted to tie the score but attempts were blocked by defenders and Grzesiak.

It was Clarkston who scored again with 14 second left in the first half. This time it was sophomore Morgan Halligan. With defense only a few feet away she sped up, heading towards the net. She placed it in the back of the net, putting the score, 2-0.

"She had great speed up top," Wasilk said.

Farmington put more pressure on the Wolves in the second half and making more of a push on the defense and scored 12 minutes into the half.

"We talked about it at half time," Wasilk added. "I had a feeling that's what they would do. We didn't adjust very well to it at first but the last part of the second half I thought we did a better job of keeping them out of our end."

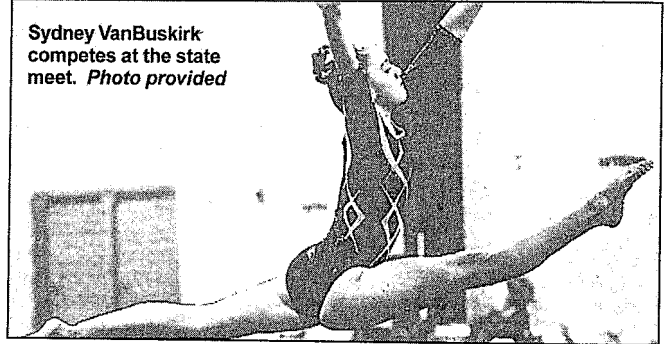
Sophomore Madison Herbert took a shot and the goalie punched it out of the net. With 24 minutes to go in the game, the girls set up for a corner kick. Farmington's goalie knocked it right back out. Herbert passed it to senior Morgan Todd in the box and she sent it into the corner.

Grzesiak had three saves during the game and the girls made three shots on the net.

They play at Bloomfield Lahser next Tuesday.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Sydney VanBuskirk competes at the state meet. Photo provided



State titles despite setback

Continued from page 1
immediately.

"It was easier to perform and give my best without pain," she said. "It made a difference to my gymnastics overall because I was healed."

She finished her gymnast season with two state titles for Level 7 in the 2013 Michigan Level 7-10 State Meet, March 24. She won the All-Around state title with a 37.850 score and the floor exercise with a score of 9.725.

"I knew I nailed it because the moment I heard my music I said this floor routine is going to be mine," she admitted. "I just put more power into it."

She also placed second on the bars with a 9.50, second on the vault with a 9.475, and eighth on the beam 9.150.

"I was happy," VanBuskirk smiled. "I was happy I got to share the moment with my new team because they were so supportive of me. I knew they were proud. I was really happy my parents and my grandparents were there. I looked out and saw them all crying with joy."

"She worked really hard through a year and was able to perfect everything she was told she wouldn't be able to do," Rick added.

Sydney added the support from her

parents really helped her out and inspired her to keep going.

"I was happy my parents didn't let me quit," she said. "They were such great motivations. They knew this was something I loved to do and I knew it was something they loved watching me do. I took their advice and thought wait a minute this is something I love to do. I can't be told I can't do this. I made my attitude really just go for it. With great coaches and support I was able to prove them wrong."

Her mom put her in gymnastics when she was 3 years old as a way to learn discipline.

"I was little and my dad is in the army and he was deployed overseas at the time," Sydney added. "She thought, let's put her in gymnastics because she is always bouncing around. Hopefully she likes it - since then I have loved it. I can't imagine not doing it."

Sydney is currently a seventh-grader at Sashabaw Middle School and is training on her new skills for Level 8, the next level. She would like to continue gymnastics in college.

Her advice for aspiring athletes is if told you can't do it, not to listen.

"You need to think of another way," she added. "You can - no matter what."



Sophomore defender Courtney Hughes leads the ball back into Farmington's territory. Photo by Wendi Reardon


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Lady Lacrossers open season with a bang

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

The Lady Wolves headed into their spring break vacation with smiles on their faces.

They finished their third game of the week with a 16-5 win over Swartz Creek on March 28, putting their record 3-0.

"The game was good," said Clarkston Girls Varsity Lacrosse Head Coach Daneen Kincaid.

The Lady Wolves grabbed the lead with three goals scored by senior Lauren Sharkey, sophomore Lindsey Pike and junior Sara Hall within a one minute span.

The momentum only grew as the girls continued to take control of the ball and take it into the Lady Dragons turf.

The Lady Wolves led 10-0 as the first half ended with another goal from Sharkey, shot after she made a beeline to the net.

"We had the opportunity to play a lot of players," Kincaid added. "It was a great learning experience for some of our new team. Five returning varsity players is all I had. We need these experiences."

Swartz Creek opened the second half with their first goal but Clarkston came back less than a minute later with Sharkey's fourth goal.

Sharkey ended the game with two more goals made in the last three minutes putting her total for six during the entire game with one assist.

Pike had three goals during the game while freshman Sabrina Parks and Hall scored two goals a piece. Junior defender Ryleigh McGregor, senior Natalie Bowman and senior Anna Gray scored one goal each.

The Lady Wolves made 33 shots on the net. Goalie junior Sierra Pass made nine saves for the night.

They won their season opener against Waterford in a cold battle on March 25, 15-6.

"It was a little more physical than we would have liked," said Kincaid. "It was a good learning experience and it got the jitters out of the way. We definitely had first half jitters."

Clarkston ended the first half tied with Waterford, 3-3. The tide turned in the second

half as the Lady Wolves pulled away on the scoreboard.

"They second half they put their game faces one and settled down," Kincaid added. "We played Clarkston lacrosse. We have a pretty strong offense and our core defense is starting to understand what we are trying to teach them."

She noted the difference was also the excitement as most of the team hadn't played in front of fans and they had to make adjustments to mesh netting on their sticks before the game due to the cold conditions they had practiced in prior to the game.

"It took them a little while to get accustomed to their sticks and that pregame adjustment," Kincaid said.

Sharkey led with seven goals and four assists. Bowman and Pike had two goals in the game. Parks, Gray, Hall and sophomore Madelyn DeClercq had one goal each. The girls made 24 shots on the net.

Pass had five saves during the game.

The third win was against Notre Dame Prep on March 27, 13-7. Sharkey led with five goals. Gray added four goals and Pike had two goals and one assist. Parks and McGregor had one goal each.

"Sabrina is turning out to be a nice surprise," Kincaid added.

The Lady Wolves made 23 attempts on the net and Pass had eight saves during the game.

With three wins already under their belt, the team is excited to get back from spring break and so is Kincaid.

"I have a dedicated group of girls," she smiled. "They are dedicated to their fitness and they are dedicated to their team. I didn't have one person ask to leave early for spring break. They knew they had a game and that was their focus. That speaks for their commitment to this sport."

The Lady Wolves are back in action as they head to Lake Orion on April 11 and are back home on April 12 against Rochester.



Jillian Kurolevch gains control of the ball with a swoop of her net. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Back in action

Clarkston athletes are on break this week but will be back from spring break next week (and hopefully to warmer and dry weather.) Here is the schedule for the beginning of the week.

Tuesday, April 9

4:15 p.m. Tennis at Detroit Country Day
4:30 p.m. Track v. Stoney Creek
4:30 p.m. Baseball v. Oxford
4:30 p.m. Softball v. Swartz Creek (DH)
TBA Soccer at Lahser

Wednesday, April 10

4 p.m. Baseball v. Lahser (DH)
4:30 p.m. Softball at Rochester (DH)
Look for our Spring Sports Preview in next week's edition with interviews with coaches and athletes, team photos, rosters and schedules - on stands April 10.

Nominations

Do you know someone who should be Athlete of the Week? Please send all nominations to 5 S. Main Street, Clarkston, MI 48346 or email them to clarkstonnews@gmail.com to the attention of Wendi Reardon.

Please include contact information for you and the athlete and reason for nomination

Hitting the net

Scott Cuthrell, son of Clarkston High School 1983 graduate Dawn Cuthrell, scored 35 goals and 12 assists for his junior hockey team, the Cleveland Junior Lumberjacks during the season.

In three playoff games, he added three more goals, including two game-winners, and five assists. The goal-scoring streak finally ended at 22 games with a two-assist effort in a 10-1 rout of the Toledo Cherokee to complete a three-game, first-round playoff sweep.

He was an All-State selection, finishing second in high school scoring last season for Waterford Mott.

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Death notices & Obituaries

Ruth Hammett Gardner, 82

Ruth Hammett Gardner of Pontiac, formerly of Clarkston, passed away March 31, 2013, at age 82.

She was preceded in death by first husband Ramon Hammett in 1987 and second husband Hal Gardner in 2011. She was the mother of Rita Raymer and Anthony (Linda) Hammett; grandma of Ryan Raymer, Chelsea Hammett, and the late Richard Passino; great grandma of Marilyn, Sarah, and Kelly; sister of Ruby (Otis "P.L.") Green.

Ruth retired from Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital after 18 years of service. She enjoyed ballroom dancing, bowling and traveling.

Funeral service, Thursday, 12:30 p.m., at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, where friends may visit, 11:30 a.m. until time of service. Interment Ottawa Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Sanctuary Hospice. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Mary Ruhala, 84

Mary Ruhala of Clarkston passed away March 25, 2013, at age 84.

She was preceded in death by her husband Joseph. She was the loving mother of Joseph, Kathleen (John) Hanyok, Ann (Bruce) Hubbard, Tony (Kris) and Maria; and proud grandmother of Nathan, John (Amy), Lucas, Anna, Matthew, Andrea (Rick), Kristin, Garrett and Kallan.

Mary enjoyed couponing, travel and playing the slots.

Funeral Service was March 29 at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Interment Great Lakes National Cemetery, Holly. Memorials may be made to American Heart Association. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Obituaries posted daily at Clarkstonnews.com

Elwood Johnson, 88,

Elwood Waldemore Johnson, 88, of Canadian Lakes, Mich., went to be with the Lord Jesus Christ on March 29, 2013.

Elwood was a World War II Navy hero, serving on the U.S.S. Intrepid in the South Pacific. He was a long-time resident of Clarkston, where he taught high school and later spent 25 years as an engineer for General Motors. Elwood was born and raised in Muskegon, Mich. and majored in Mathematics, Chemistry, and Physics at Western Michigan University.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Margarite and John Johnson, one brother, four sisters, and one grandson, Darren W. Gietz. He is survived by Thelma Johnson, his loving wife of 66 years; five children, Cynthia, Richard, Janet, Marcia, and Anne; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren, and one sister.

He was our Daddy-O, little bookworm, and quiet pillar of strength. Elwood was a sports enthusiast and avid bird watcher. Oh, by the way, he was the cutest dad ever! A full military service will be held later this year at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Mich. Friends may share a memory with the family online at www.crittendenhansen.com.



Game for a Cure

The Clarkston High School Boys Varsity Lacrosse team is sponsoring their ninth annual Game for a Cure, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., May 11.

All proceeds go to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Cancer Research Center in Pontiac. Last year, Clarkston Lacrosse donated over \$15,000.

T-shirts are \$15 and allow free admission when worn to Game for a Cure. In addition to lacrosse games played every hour are a bake sale, fastest shot contest and dunk tank, and youth tournament with players in grades 2-8 in the fields behind Clarkston High School stadium.

Game for a Cure was started nine years ago as a tribute to Frank Kaminskas "Big Poppa," whose positive influence impacted many in the lacrosse community. Clarkston Lacrosse continues to honor Big Poppa by hosting Game for a Cure.

"It's a way to teach our young players the importance of giving back and investing in their community," commented Brian Kaminskas, Clarkston Boys Varsity Lacrosse head coach.

Twenty-six teams will participate in lacrosse games throughout the day, leading up to boys varsity against Petoskey at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Kim Kneisel at kk2tall@aol.com

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BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

When Karen Marie Simmons of Independence Township passed away Feb. 13, her family suggested mourners offer a donation to the Clarkston Farm and Garden Club in lieu of flowers.

"It's what Karen and I have talked about for years - pay it forward," said her husband, Ken Simmons.

Friends and family filled Wint's during the funeral, and donated a total of \$6,865 by the time Ken met with garden club representatives, March 28.

"I was overwhelmed by the turnout," Ken said. "You don't always realize how or who you help."

"I couldn't be more thrilled, it's a very generous donation," said Liz Schoebel, garden club president. "It's amazing."

In 1966, Karen was preparing to graduate from Clarkston High School and was looking into college scholarships. She applied for a scholarship from the Clarkston Garden Club.

"A few days later, she got the scholarship - tuition and books for four years," Ken said. "Karen never forgot it."

The donation will fund four \$1,000 scholarships for high school graduates heading to college, as well as mini grants for teachers to educate Clarkston students

about conservation, earth science, biology, plant science, and the environment.

"I think it's fantastic," said Julie Upchurch, Karen and Ken's daughter. "All these years, I didn't realize how important the scholarship from the farm and garden club was to her. I'm proud she decided to pay it forward."

"Who knows what it will ignite in someone in the future," said their son, Mark.

Karen earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Oakland University in 1970, and worked as a first-, second- and third-grade teacher, all at Bailey Lake Elementary. She retired in 2004.

"Her forte was working with first graders - she loved it," Ken said.

She and her husband lived on Oak Hill Road, so Mark, Julie, and their sister Ann Simmons attended Brandon schools.

"But a lot of my friends had my mom as a teacher - they remembered her," Mark said. "And we'd be out shopping and see someone who was in her class 30 years ago and she'd remember their name."

The Karen Simmons Memorial Scholarship will be added to the club's existing scholarship program. Scholarships are presented to students in July. Check clarkstongardenclub.org for information.



From left are Clarkston Farm and Garden Club Treasurer Sue White, Mark Simmons, his sister Julie Upchurch, their father Ken Simmons, and Liz Schoebel, garden club president. The Simmons family donated almost \$7,000 to the club in memory of Karen Simmons, Mark and Julie's mother and Ken's wife. Photo by Phil Custodio

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- Dawn Raffler, owner Clarkston Cleaning

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Board of Ed sets budget parameters

Continued from page 1A

administration as it develops the budget, he said.

Parameters include cuts to state Best Practice Funding by \$36 per pupil, for a total of \$280,000; state performance funding cuts totalling \$323,000; increase in health care costs by 3.5 percent, \$280,000; increase in retirement by 0.5 percent, \$200,000; and loss of about 70 students this year, each a loss of \$7,082 in per-pupil state funding totalling about \$500,000.

Parameters also include no changes in state per-pupil funding or school district salaries, and a \$2.4 million deficit carried over from 2012-2013.

Budget parameters call for \$2,679,000 in spending cuts and \$1,304,000 in new revenue to result in a balanced budget.

"The only way for us to bring in revenue for students we do have is increased enrollment," Rock said. "We can't pass a revenue. We can't charge tuition. We don't want to compete with other districts for students. It is the situation the state has put us in. All of the other districts in the county are considering this."

The district's fund balance, its reserves or savings account, would be about \$3.8 million, about 5 percent of its budget.

The board will approve the budget by the end of June, with several meetings and discussions until then. The first will be on April 8, where the board will consider reductions and revenues in detail, Rock said.

School union fees extended

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Three days before Michigan's "Right to Work" law took effect on March 28, Clarkston Board of Education took action.

The school board voted 5-2 to approve agency-fee agreements with Clarkston Education Association, Clarkston Office Personnel Association, Clarkston Transportation Association, Clarkston Custodial Association, and Clarkston Paraeducators Association.

The employee groups brought the items to the school board, said board Treasurer Steve Hyer.

"As a board, I'm happy to support an item that doesn't cost us anything as a board, that supports our employees," Hyer said.

The agreements, effective March 26, ensure employees "pay their fair share" for benefits of union representation through June 30, 2016.

Service fees are needed because unions are lawfully required to provide training, legal advice and services, and contractual responsibilities to all employees, said Brooke Davis, president of Clarkston Education Association.

An overwhelming majority of employees support it, Hyer said.

"This is something we can do for our employees to show our good will and appreciation during this very difficult financial time," he said. "This is something that we can do to really extend the olive branch and say, 'hey, regardless of our personal viewpoints, regardless of what the political will of the state might be, this is something that's legal that we

can do that we can work together on."

Trustees Sue Boatman and Joan Patterson voted against the agreements.

"I took the stance I did to support the intent of the law, in belief that not doing so will lead to severe financial repercussions," Patterson said. "Adopting a non-standard contract is inconsistent with that direction and a blatant attempt to undermine the new law, skirting the intent, direction, and the people of the state."

By following only the "letter of the law" in a way that was not intended subjects the district to consequences from the state government, she said.

Boatman said the House Appropriations subcommittee on K-12 schools' 2013-14 School Aid budget includes possible consequences.

"It contains language that disqualifies school districts that extend closed shop agreements before March 28, 2013, from receiving tech infrastructure grants and district performance grants, unless the new agreements provide at least a 10 percent savings in wages and benefits," she said. "This year, Clarkston Community Schools received over \$400,000 from these grants."

The closed shop agreements approved by the board includes no savings, she said.

"The board does not know if the house subcommittee recommendations will be adopted nor do we know how much grant money will be allocated to Clarkston Schools," she said. "In good conscience, I could not support the desire of the unions to retain a closed shop for three more years when it could result in the loss of potentially \$400,000 of income for the district. This comes at a time when the school district is facing budget cuts for next year."

The "Right to Work" law, Public Act 349, was signed by Gov. Rick Snyder last December. It prohibits unions from requiring public employees to become a member or financially support it.



Rachel Hampton speaks at the University of Michigan ceremony.

Students' success

Rachel Hampton, 2010 Clarkston High School graduate and junior at the University of Michigan, was the honorary student speaker at the University of Michigan 90th Honors Convocation, March 17.

Hampton was recognized as a Four Term Angell Scholar and for University of Honors. She is a double major in political science and German and is minoring in sustainability in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts. She is interested in political theory and environmental policy and is planning on enrolling in law school or graduate school following her graduation in 2014.

Monica Young, a junior majoring in Actuarial Science and daughter of Robert and Sonja Young of Clarkston, was named to the Spring Arbor University Fall 2012 Academic Honors List.

Tyler Alexander Smith of Clarkston was named to the Miami University president's list.

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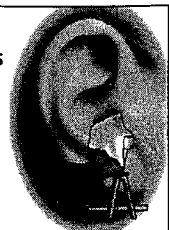
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Ryan Bean DPT, OMPT, OCS is a board-certified orthopedic specialist and has an orthopedic manual therapy certification specializing in the spine and extremities. He has been with NovaCare for nine years. Ryan works closely with Brenda Ressler, a licensed Physical Therapist Assistant with over 17 years experience.

Natalie Karpovich MPT, CHT is a board-certified hand therapist with nine years of clinical experience. In addition to traditional physical therapy, she specializes in treatment of wrist/hand injuries and surgeries. She works closely with Rachelle Avery a licensed Physical Therapist Assistant, who has been treating for six years.

When you stop in or call for an appointment, you will be greeted by our friendly patient service specialist, Heather H. She has been with us for nine years as well.

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**Ryan Bean DPT,
OMPT, OCS**



**Natalie Karpovich
MPT, CHT**

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rehabilitation for patients who are undergoing or have completed their chemo/radiation therapy. After patients have completed their prescribed physical therapy, we offer a post-therapy fitness or "after-care" program for our patients to enjoy and continue their path to a healthier and happier life.

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Come join us for the informative seminars given by our experienced staff and

other presenters. We can be reached at 248-625-5998 or feel free to stop in at our clinic at 6770 Dixie Highway, Suite 104.

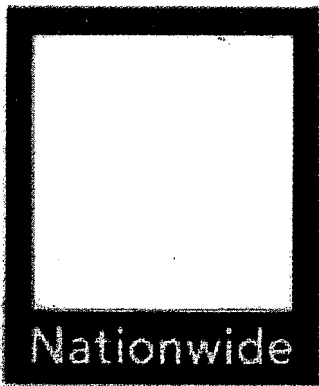
We would enjoy showing you our facility and answering any questions you may have so you can see that there really is quality care close to home.



DOLLY ON STAGE: Everest Collegiate High School Drama Club presents its spring musical *Hello Dolly* on stage, Friday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 20, 7:30, with optional dinner theater at 6 p.m.; and Sunday matinee, April 21, at 2 p.m. Call Everest, 5935 Clarkston Road, at 248- 241-9012. Photo by Phil Custodio

Congratulations Pat Toohey!

Thank you for your outstanding commitment to Nationwide and the Clarkston community.



We wish Pat and his family years of health and happiness in retirement.

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Hatted cats at Bailey Lake Seuss Night

Before March is Reading Month closed, Bailey Lake Elementary Students filled the school for their annual Seuss Night, March 20.

The school was swarmed with striped hats made by the kids to look just like the infamous Cat in the Hat. Students also went home with colorful face paintings based on the beloved books, not to mention bags of Oobleck goo.

They played over 20 games - each based on a Dr. Seuss book.

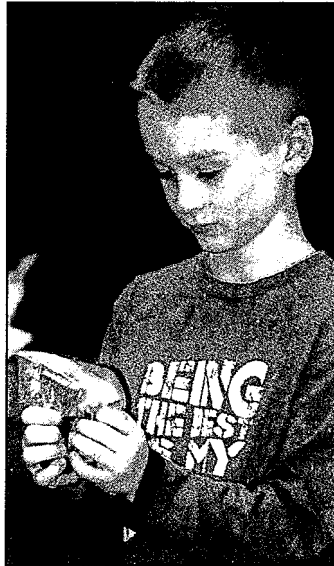
They also created their own "hat snack," a tasty treat with candy, cookies and frosting.

Before they left, students met Cat in the Hat and took their photo with him.

Photos by Wendi Reardon



Koen Suender tries to walk with duck feet.



Colton Minot squeezes his bag of Oobleck goo.



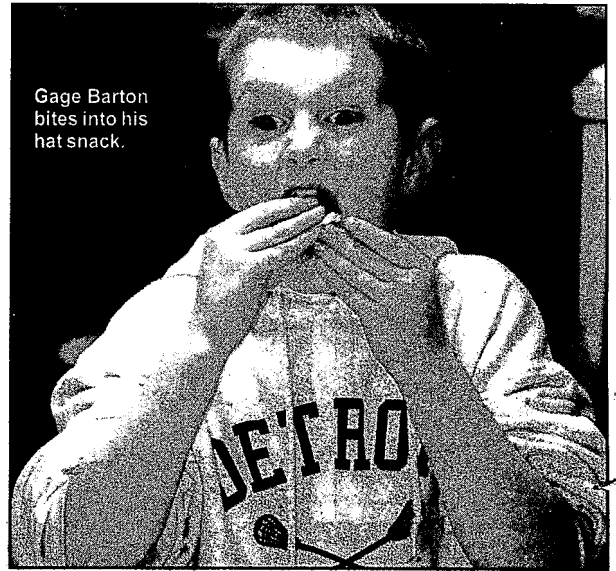
Lauren Fishtahler keep her balance and an apple on top of her head in Ten Apples Up on Top.



Alison Lieblang with her Cat in the Hat face painting.



Emily Valencia cuts out paper for her Suess hat.



Gage Barton bites into his hat snack.

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CNews People Poll April 3, 2013

What do you call someone from Michigan?



"Michigander is what I've always heard."

- Katie Smith and Riley Smith



"Michigander?"

- Dayna Mazza
with Geno Mazza

"I don't know."

- Dominic Mazza
with Rocco Mazza



"Michigander."

- Tom Middleton

"Cold!"

- Katherine ShROUT

"Eskimos!"

- Stacy Zorski

"Awesome."

- Jon Drouin

"Flexible."

- Jacque Brandel

"Lucky."

- Becky Taylor

"An almost Canadian. Duh."

- Kiara Woodward

"A Wolverine, of course!! Could be a Michiganian too!!"

- Deborah Thomas Stuart

"A Michigonski."

- Anna Miller Clark

By Mary Keck

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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

Labor of love to support the troops

BY MARY KECK
Clarkston News Staff Writer

For 40 hours each week for the last 10 years, Independence Township resident Mary Pope has been performing a labor of love.

Every day, Pope spends hours cutting out shapes, stamping out designs, coloring with markers, taping, and folding. When she's finished, she has a homemade card to send to a soldier serving overseas.

"I like the idea of giving something handmade," she said.

Pope has drawers full of shapes, stickers, photographs, and other materials she uses to create unique cards containing sentiments of appreciation. Sometimes she cuts figures from wrapping paper or uses wallpaper samples to create a new design.

"How many kids go over there and don't hear from anybody?" she asked.

Pope sends cards to the troops, "just so they know somebody cares."

Whenever she hears of a care package packing party, Pope kicks her card making talent into high gear. She not only sends a card of thanks with a personal message, but she also

puts together packs of ten blank cards in plastic bags to add to each box so the troops will have a note they can send home to loved ones.

From stationery featuring familiar pictures of Snoopy, Tinkerbell, or Spiderman to snowy landscapes, hot air balloons, jungle scenes and patriotic designs, Pope has a card for any occasion.

She delivers boxes of the cards to the Desert Angels and Our Lady of the Lakes so they can be added to care packages sent to soldiers. She intends to give cards to American Legion Post 63 for their packing party on April 8 at 6 p.m. In addition, Pope hopes to make 3,000 cards before next winter, so she can mail them to the troops for Christmas.

From time to time, Pope gets help making the patriotic stationery. For instance, when volunteers from Girl Scout Troop 42085 came by, they wrote personal messages to the troops inside each holiday card.

Although, Pope occasionally has friends who help out, she does most of the work on her own and pays for all the materials herself.

"I try and get things on sale," she said.

Pope estimates she spends about \$100 every six weeks just on double-sided tape. When her machines and cutting boards wear out, she has to purchase new ones. With all the paper, envelopes, as well as the cutting and drawing tools, it costs about 75 cents to make each card.

Although Pope admits it gets expensive, she keeps creating the handmade notes because "it's my thank you," she said.

Pope's labor of love stems from her personal ties to the armed forces. Both of her sons have served overseas and making the cards is not only a way of expressing appreciation, it is also therapeutic. As her youngest son continues active service in the military, Pope keeps her mind on making cards.

"They're the heroes," Pope said.

Find out how to help Mary Pope by emailing her at popemc@yahoo.com.

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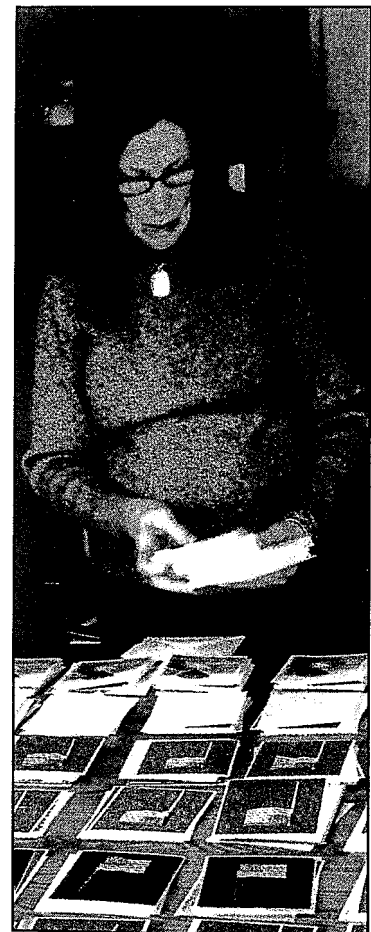
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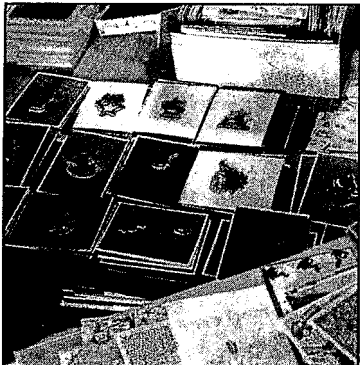
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Mary Pope sorts through cards. Photos by Mary Keck



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Events

Chocolate Celebration Night, Friends of the Library, 6:30 p.m., April 9, Clarkston Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Chocolate Challenge contest with Chef Joan Donnay of Essence on Main. cgrubba@comcast.net.

Spring Rummage Sale, April 11, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; April 12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., First Congregational Church, 5449 Clarkston Road. Donations accepted. 248-394-0200.

Clarkston Riverdaws "Spring Training" 5K Run/Walk, 10 a.m., April 13, Independence Oaks, for Riverdaws players, teams, and local community. \$20. www.riverdawsrun.org.

Used Book/Bake Sale, April 18, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; April 19, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; April 20, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Springfield Township Library, 12000 Davisburg Road, 248-846-6550.

Fashion show with Kim Rose Boutique, 4 p.m., April 20, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Scarf tying demonstration, door prizes. Freewill offering. 248-625-1611.

Youth Recognition Program, Clarkston Area Youth Assistance, 7 p.m., April 24, Clarkston United Methodist Church. The Clarkston High School group Detroit Voice will entertain. 248-623-4313.

The Sapphire Ball, Helping Hearts Helping Hands' sixth annual dinner dance, 6 p.m., April 26, Deer Lake Banquet Center, 6167 White Lake Road. Dinner, silent auction, live auction, cash bar, music, dancing fund raiser for mission to help children in Honduras. \$80 before April 20; \$90 at door. Under 21, \$35 before April 20, \$45 at the door. \$20 after 11 p.m. 248-660-4507, 248-830-6871.

Friendship Tea to Benefit Esthers Children, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., May 4, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Luncheon tea, Creative Scarf Tying with Christina Calka of Village Fashion Boutique. \$30. Reservations by April 27, Pam at 248-421-7699 or Leslie at 248-625-8240.

Daffodils & Duds style show and luncheon, Springfield Garden Club, 11:30 a.m., May 9, Genesys Conference and Banquet Center, 805 Health Park Blvd., Grand Blanc. Fashions from Coldwater Creek, silent auction, door prizes. Reservations by April 28, \$27. Call Donna, 248-634-1680, or Vicky, 248-625-0395.

50th Reunion, Pontiac Northern Class of 1963, Sept. 27, Fountains Banquet, 6060 Maybee Road. Call Penny, 248-328-1217.

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.

Around Town

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



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.

Tell Us About Your Travels, 7-8:30 p.m., third Wednesday, Clarkston Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. 248-625-2212.

Thursday

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

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

Independence Township Conservative Club, 6:30 p.m., April 11, Red Knapps Restaurant, 6722 Dixie Highway. Speaker: Independence Township Supervisor Pat Kittle. Dinner, 6 p.m., info@itccinfo.com.

Local Business Network, Clarkston/Auburn Hills Chapter, first and third Thursday, 7:30-8:45 a.m., North Oakland County Board of Realtors, 4400 W. Walton Blvd., Waterford. 248-370-8029.

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

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.

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

50+ Individualized Computer Tutoring, Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., Senior Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. \$30/member, \$35/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 Salcena, 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. 248-625-1611. Please see Around Town on page 31

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 improving 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, 248-625-8223.

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

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

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.

Look Good Feel Better, American Cancer Society, free makeover for all women in cancer treatment, third Mondays, May 20, July 15, Sept. 16, Nov. 18, 1-3 p.m., McLaren Clarkston, 5680 Bow Pointe. 800-395-LOOK.

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. 248-891-4365.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Clarkston Community Women's Club, 7 p.m., third Tuesday, Clarkston Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. All welcome, www.ClarkstonWomensClub.org.

Wednesday

North Oakland Wild Ones, Wednesday, April 3, 7:30 p.m., St. Daniel Church Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park Drive. Deb Jackson, Brittany Bird, and Heather Huffstutler present All About Monarchs: Tagging, Way Stations, Plants/Flowers and School Involvement. Free. Register, anneshushroe@hotmail.com.

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.

Religion

Events Preaching

The church has left the building

I like to see the expression on their faces. They ask me, "How many ministers do you have at Clarkston Community Church?"

I say, "About 700." Their jaw drops. Then I clarify, "We consider every believer a minister. We have five pastors, but everyone is a minister." Then they want to punch me for being a smart-aleck.

But it's true. According to Jesus, every believer is a minister. I try to drive home this truth to my church.

So on Sunday, April 28, they will all have the chance to be ministers. We are having a special "The Church Has Left the Building" Sunday.

Instead of a normal Sunday worship service, the whole congregation will participate in service projects in and around our community.

The service projects will primarily be outside our church building but there will

be activities for all ages and all skill levels.

After a brief preparation time at 9:15, we will depart to minister in all sorts of ways: All 11 schools in Clarkston will receive volunteers to do spring clean-up.

We will partner with the school's PTA and maintenance personnel to clean the flower beds and clean up court yards or other tasks as assigned.

We will fill disaster relief buckets with supplies at the D.R.A.W. warehouse in Waterford. We will cooperate with Independence Parks and Recreation to stain the large wooden play structures at Bay Court Park.

We will fill grocery bags for needy families. We will tie blankets for cancer patients, fill baby bottles with coins for Birth Choice, write letters to soldiers, and do Elderly Care Home Karaoke. We'll also work in our Community Garden to start growing vegetables for needy families.

Want to serve too? Anyone is welcome! Let us know at www.clarkstoncommunity.com.

The Rev. Greg Henneman is pastor of Clarkston Community Church.

Spiritual Matters



Pastor Greg Henneman

In our churches...

Blood Drive, 2-8 p.m., April 9, St. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7925 Sashabaw Road. Walk ins welcome. Appointment, call 248-625-4644.

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., dinner;

classes for all ages, 7-8 p.m. Free nursery. Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. 248-625-3288. www.calvaryinfo.org

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

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.

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

First Friday Family Fun, 7 p.m., St. Trinity Lutheran Church, 7925 Sashabaw Road. Cards, dominoes, board games, video games, table games, kids' movie, snacks. 248-625-4644.

Call 248-625-3370 to take part in Spiritual matters

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248-625-2325

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(248) 625-3380
Located 2 bks. N. of Dixie Hwy. (E. of M-15)

Pastor: Russell Reemtsma
Sun. 9:30 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship
11:30 am. Worship Service
6:00 pm Evening Service
Wed. 7:30 pm Awana Club
6:30 pm Teen Ministry
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
6300 Clarkston Road • Clarkston
(248) 625-1323

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

CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston
(W. of M-15, just S. of I-75)
248-625-3288

Pastor Jonathan Heleman
Sunday Worship: 8:15 am, 9:30 & 11:00 am
Nursery: Children & Youth at 9:30 & 11:00 am
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 I-75)
625-4580
Rev. Christopher Maus
Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am
Religious Education: 625-1750
Member's Group, RCIA, Scripture Study, Youth Group

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

5449 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston
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Fax: (248) 394-1372
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Children's Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
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Bible Study
March - May and Sept. - Nov.
www.FirstCongregationalChurch.org

CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6000 Waldon Road, Clarkston
248-625-1611
Website: clarkstonumc.org
Sunday Worship: 9:00 am & 11:00 am
6:00 pm Evening Service
Nursery available for all services

DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH

8585 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI
(248) 625-2311

Website: www.dixiebaptist.org
Home of Springfield Christian Academy & Children's Ark Preschool
Pastor: J. Todd Vanaman
Sun. 9:45 am Sunday 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.

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5482 Winell, Clarkston
(Corner of Maybee & Winell)
248-625-1224
Service 9:00 & 10:30
www.ClarkstonFMC.org
Wednesday 7 pm Youth & Adult Ministry

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www.bridgewoodchurch.com
6765 Baitsee Lake Road
Clarkston, 48348 • (248) 625-1344
Sundays at 9:30am & 11:00am
- Adult experience
- Nature Center (birth-4)
- Kids Life (4-5th)
- Grave Students (6th-8th)
Sunday at 4:30am
- Velocity (College & Twenty-Somethings)
Wednesday at 6:45pm
- Women's Adult Focus Studies
- Nature Center (birth-4)
- Kids Life (4-5th)
- Grave Students (6th-8th)
Check out all that's new!
To attend your weekend at www.bridgewoodchurch.com

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



Kerry Carpentier with daughter Madie Carpentier, 9.



Samantha Conlon, 7 with Brianna Miller, 7.



Ava Holman, 5 years old.



Alexis Helka, 5, examines a prize.

Egg-stra hoppy!

With baskets at the ready, kids gathered for an egg hunt in Davisburg on Friday. When Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Tucker blew the horn, eager hunters sprang into action, racing to find every colorful egg.

Once their baskets were full of treasures, they spent some time with the 4H Rabbit Club in the Hart Community Center. From floppy ears to spots and cottony tails, children felt the soft fur of a variety of bunnies. The biggest one of all was the Easter Bunny, of course, who was on hand to wish every child a "Hoppy Easter!"

— Mary Keck



Zachary Brown, 5, meets the Easter Bunny.



Anastasia Salverson, with son Cody, 9, found a DQ coupon in an egg. Photos by Mary Keck



From left, Mackenzie Jacobsen, 1 year old, Jessica Jacobsen, 4, Leah Petty, 5, Lexi Petty, 6, and Beau Jacobsen, 5, gather with the bunny.

Who To Call

\$8⁹⁵/Week*

*Based on pre-paid 17-week contract. Call The Clarkston News at 248-625-3370. Deadline noon Thursday prior to publication. Reach Homes & Businesses Every Week With An Advertising Message On These Pages.

Some of these services require licensing. If in doubt, ask your contractor for their license or check with the State of Michigan.



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Addison, 6, Taegan, 4, and the rest of the Davis Family earned first place in the Traditional Category with this tall snowman.



In second place, Creative Category, is this snow caterpillar, with Craig and Isabella Popiolek. They helped build and color the caterpillar along with their mom, Kimberly Popiolek.



Traditional third place went to the Dimitrov family.

Award-winning snowmen

About 40 families entered this year's snowman building challenge, hosted by Independence Township.

"We started this building challenge about four years ago and it has grown from two families when we started," said Lisa J. McCoy, recreation specialist for Independence Township Parks, Recreation and Seniors. "It's nice that we have returning families that enter each year."

Snowmen competed in two categories, Traditional and Creative.

"We started this challenge to encourage families to get out and do something that is fun and easy, and spend quality time together," McCoy said.

The program, sponsored by Genisys Credit Union, won Best Family Program 2013 at the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association Conference this year.



Devon Dufour, with the help of his dad Scott Dufour, made this upside-down snowman, which won third place, Creative Category.



Ryan and Dylan Ludwa earned first place in the Creative Category with their heat-defying snowmen making s'mores. Photos provided



Second-place Traditional went to the Guidoux family, with May, 6, Pearce, 1 1/2, Paula, 17, an exchange student from Germany, and Elle, 4.



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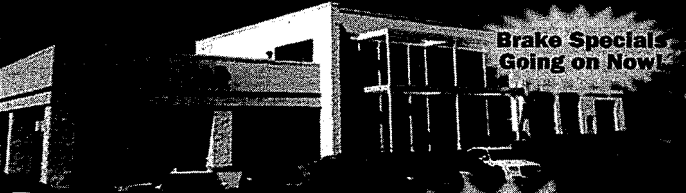
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Online Features
★ = Map
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www.oxfordleader.com
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Auctions	090	Help Wanted	360	Real Estate	310
Auto Parts	240	Holiday Items	010	Rec. Equipment	180
Bus. Opportunities	330	Horses	220	Rec. Vehicles	280
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Computers	140	Livestock	210	Tutoring/Lessons	070
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LOOKING FOR Repairable cars/trucks. Up to \$5,000 cash paid. Quick pick up. 810-724-7647, 810-338-7770. I1LZ184
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WANTED: LUGERS, Winchester, Colts, Savage. Top dollar paid. 248-818-9687. I1L182
WE BUY DIABETIC test strips. Highest \$\$\$ paid. Deal with the pros! Get paid in 24 hours. Free quick quote. 772-283-0425, www.Traderjackproducts.com/strips. I1CPM1
WANTED: ALL MOTORCYCLES & Memorabilia, pre 1980. Running or not! Top cash paid. 315-569-8094. I1CPM1
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Receive an additional \$5 per ton over scale price with this ad.
We also have a LARGE INVENTORY OF NEW & USED AUTO PARTS.
We now offer pickup misc Steel Service
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ZK356

050 FIREWOOD
FIREWOOD DIMENSIONS: a full cord is 4'x4'x8" and 4'x2'x8" is half cord. A face cord is 4x8x16 and is 1/3 of a full cord. I1L341fdh
SEASONED QUALITY hardwood, cut and split, delivery available.
248-627-6316. I1ZK241fc
PREMIUM MIXED Hardwood firewood, \$55 per cord pick up, or delivery extra. Mike 810-706-1842 I1L716
FREE FIREWOOD, Lakeville area. 248-628-3433 I1L181f

060 MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
BLACK SPINET piano for sale, \$100, good condition, needs tuning. 248-628-1972. I1ZK332

070 TUTORING/ LESSONS
GERMAN TUTORING: German speaking native speaker from Switzerland. Conversational German. Private tutoring sessions at my home, at your home. Tutoring lessons: \$25/ hour. Location: Clarkston. 248-620-0414.
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090 AUCTIONS
AUCTION
Sat. April 13, 2013 - 4:00pm
Stow-Away Storage
3060 Adventure Ln., Oxford
Unit #241 Candy Bishop, Household.
Unit #246, Tom Hanson, Water cooler.
Unit #275 Nick Tisch, Electronics
Unit #0108 Tom Randoel, Misc.
Building LLC., Promark Building Co., Inc., Restaurant Equipment
"CASH SALE"
\$100 Deposit. Refundable When Unit is Cleaned Out.
L172

ESTATE AUCTION: van, boat, tractor, tools, furniture, collectibles. Sat., April 6, 10am. 6133 Green Rd., Fenton, 48430. 810-266-6474. NariAuctions.com. Tim Nari, Reg. MI Auctioneer #2801000051 I1CPM1
EXPRESS MINI STORAGE
2121 Lapeer Rd., Oxford
Announces the sale of: Unit #31 leased by Danielle Curtis. Grill, misc. boxes, Unit #147 leased by Heather Smiley, Misc. furniture, household items. Unit #193 leased by Mike Paquette, tools, wood, ladder, misc. boxes. Unit #239 leased by Sarah Pete, misc. xmas decorations, boxes. Unit #343 leased by Pam Wild, misc. boxes, misc. xmas decorations. Each unit sold as a whole. Cash Sale Only. April 20, 2013, 10am-2pm. 248-628-0004. L182c

SALE OF DEFAULT UNITS
Thursday April 18, 2013
@ 12:00 NOON
LAKE ORION SELF STORAGE
180 W. Church St.
Lake Orion, MI 48362
248-814-8140
UNIT #40001-David Porter: Misc. household items.
***IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS AUCTION WE WILL GO TO:
STORMAX SELF STORAGE
55 Mill St., Oxford, MI 48371
248-690-7705
Unit #C44- Richard Sietsma: 1- Makita (table) & 2- DeWalt saws, ladders, golf clubs, TV's, grill, misc. tools & much more!
L182

100 FREE
FREE: WORKING FULL size refrigerator/ freezer. 248-693-2470. I1R181f

110 GARAGE SALE
OUTSTANDING ESTATE Sale: tools, muzzle loader, lawn tractor, rototiller, garage supplies, kitchen items, linens, Pyrex, canning jars, refrigerator, small appliances, fabric, furniture, rocking chairs, televisions, TV stands. We have a 30x60 tent, garage and breezeway (filled) Pre-sale Wednesday, April 3, 8-2 with \$2 admission; regular sale Thursday and Friday, April 4-5, 9-5. 2130 Broker Road, Lapeer, off New-ark. I1L181

MOVING/ ESTATE SALE: 2015 Bald Mountain, Lake Orion. Last winter sales in March, T.F.S. 10am-4pm. Spring sales in April will be Saturdays & Sundays, 1pm-6pm, in yard & (part of) barn at 2015 Bald Mountain. You may find some treasures, I know there's a lot of that! Note: If cold or rainy, sales will be available those hours in my house. Rose, 248-693-9456. I1L172
MOVING SALE: March 30- April 1 and April 6 and 7, 9-5. Everything must go! Antique crocks, antique wooden tools, silver plated coffee/ tea service and accessories, service for 8 of fine Lenox china, beer steins, bird houses, furniture, American Girl dolls and clothes, Beanie Babies, wicker baskets, brass candle sticks, Christmas decorations, handmade children's furniture and doll houses, clothes and purses, snowboards and boots, wagon and sled, bikes, antique wedding dress, and much more! Come early! 1158 Semerville Drive, Oxford, MI 48371. I1L172

GUN SHOW
Saturday, April 6th
9:00AM - 3:00PM
Tables \$10. Admission \$5
BUY ● SELL ● TRADE
Oxford American Legion
130 East Draher Rd.
248-693-2444
L172

MOVING SALE SATURDAY April 13th, 9am-5pm. Electronics, household, kids toys, clothing, books, wagon, vacuum cleaners, surround sound & furniture. 3229 Yellowstone Ct., Lake Orion. I1L182

ESTATE SALE APRIL 5-7, 9am-5pm. 2510 Ildisway, Orionville (off Hadley Rd.). Tools, antiques, houseware. I1ZK341
MOM2MOM SALE, Sat. April 20, 9-1; 8:30 early bird. Good Shepherd Church, 1950 S Baldwin, Lake Orion. Find awesome deals on gently used maternity and kids clothes, toys and baby gear. \$1/\$2 early entry. Benefits MDPS. To sell call MarCharia 248-202-8606 or LOMOPSM2M@gmail.com.

HUGE SALE- INSIDE & out, April 3-5, 10am-5pm. Saturday, 7 1820 W Clarkston Rd., Lake Orion. I1R181
RUMMAGE SALE: IMMANUEL Church, 1 Hovey, Oxford. Thursday April 18, 8am-7pm, Friday 9am-noon. I1L174

MOVING/ ESTATE LEFTOVERS: 2005 Bald Mountain, Lake Orion. Last winter sales in March, T.F.S. 10am-4pm. Spring sales in April will be Saturdays & Sundays, 1pm-6pm, in yard & (part of) barn at 2015 Bald Mountain. You may find some treasures, I know there's a lot of that! Note: If cold or rainy, sales will be available those hours in my house. Rose, 248-693-9456. I1L172
120 CRAFT SHOWS
THE BIRDS NEST, Boyne City, Boutique on Wheels landing at LA Cafe, Waterford April 13, 11am-3pm. Details on Facebook. A unique shopping experience. 231-758-3500. I1C391
CRAFT SHOWS: DAVISON High School April 20; Goodrich High School April 27; Oxford High School May 11 and many more. For space 810-658-0440 or visit smetankacraftshows.com. I1ZK342
VENDORS WANTED: The Lake Orion Farmers Market is accepting applications for vendors for the 2013 season. Local produce growers, bedding plants, hanging baskets or handmade art/crafts welcome!
farmersmarket@downtowndelaware.org or Call Janet at 248-693-9742 for more information. I1L164dh

130 HOUSEHOLD
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A TEMPERPADIC STYLE Memory Foam mattress set. Queen, new, never used, as seen on TV, with warranty. Cost \$1800! sell \$695. Can deliver. 989-832-2401 I1CPM1

140 COMPUTERS
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MOVING, MUST SELL '79 GMC pickup, Case 444 tractor with accessories, Honda gas air compressor. 248-941-3904 !IR182

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WANTED: OCTOBER 24, 2001 edition of The Oxford Leader. Call 248-628-4801 or drop off at Leader office. !IL431f

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1 YEAR OLD Jack Russell/Poodle mixed. Fully trained. \$100. Call 313-828-4986 for information. !IL172

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2000 BUICK LeSABRE. Excellent condition. One owner. 60,000 miles. Runs great, just tuned up. Power windows & locks, A/C. \$6,300 obo. 248-650-7723. !IRZ184

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2010 FOCUS SE 4 door. Automatic, all power. Only 35,000 miles!! Like new. Extended warranty. \$8,500. 248-626-9738. !ILZ1212

2001 FORD TAURUS. Flex fuel, 114k, new tires, custom CD player with remote. Very well maintained. Black, 4 door. Excellent transportation. \$3,700. 248-627-6929. !IXZ3012

2001 BONNEVILLE. 3.6 liter, navy, 180,000 miles. \$2,100. 248-240-5395, Clarkston. !IC392

2003 PONTIAC AZTEC, yellow, 144K. Excellent condition. All maintenance records, one owner. Fully loaded, extra clean. \$3,800 obo. 248-627-6929. !IXZ2512

260 VANS

1999 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER. 195K, lots of new parts. Great transportation special. \$1,500 obo. 248-875-9905. !ILZ184

1999 FORD WINDSTAR LX. Runs & drives great. Many new parts. Silver with gray interior. Fully loaded, 7 passenger. \$1,500 obo. 248-929-1123, 248-929-1889. !IRZ174

270 TRUCKS/SUV

1993 FORD F-150, 351W automatic, new motor. Many new parts. New tires. \$11,500. 810-358-4784/ 248-929-1123 !IRZ184

2000 CHEVY S-10 pickup, LS, 4x4, 1 owner, ext. cab, 186K, 4.3L, V-6, dark blue, new brakes, auto, AC, power windows/locks/mirrors. Runs good. \$3,000 obo. 248-627-9438 !IXZ3512

1995 FORD F-350 XL Steak truck with 12' bed, dual tanks, dual wheels, radio, low mileage, excellent condition, \$6,000 obo. Call Steve 248-425-9266 !ILZ1212

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2001 FORD EXPLORER Sport, 2 door, 4WD. Loaded. 100,000 miles. Rear air, heat & radio. Blue book \$4,700, asking \$3,900 obo. 248-568-3492. !ILZ1212

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340 CHILD CARE

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Clarkston Lions donated a new American flag for the Clintonwood Park Carriage House. Photo by Phil Custodio

New flag from Clarkston Lions

Meeting twice a month at the Carriage House in Clintonwood Park, each starting with the Pledge of Allegiance and God Bless America, Clarkston Area Lions noticed the flag wasn't in good shape.

So at their March 14 meeting, the Lions donated a new flag to the Independence Township Parks, Recreation and Seniors for the Carriage House.

"The United States flag is not just a piece of fabric," said Lion Chris

Savage. "It represents our country and the principles that Americans hold dear like life, liberty and equality."

The flag reminds us of our past and gives us hope for the future, Savage said.

"As such it deserves our honor and respect," she said. "So the next time you're in the Carriage House look for the new flag and think about what it represents."

The Clarkston Area Lions Club

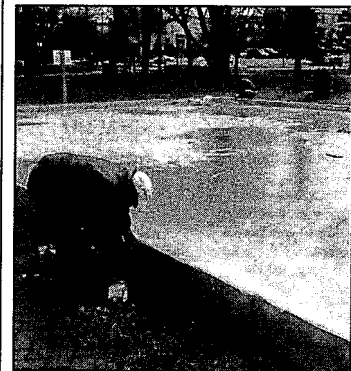
is a local service organization with international ties primarily working with the vision and hearing impaired.

They meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 6:30-8 p.m. For more information, check www.clarkstonlions.org.

American Legion Post 63, 8047 Ortonville Road, has a drop-off box for worn out flags, for proper disposal. For more information about American Flag etiquette go to www.americanflags.org.



Tom Middleton stores the sign and wood walls of the rink under the gazebo.



Volunteers take down the wall of the still frozen rink. Photos provided

Ice rink removed

With spring technically here, it was the end of the line for Clarkston Optimist Club's ice rink in Depot Park.

Volunteers gather in the park last week to take down the structure. The rink was still frozen, but they took the walls apart and stored them in the park gazebo.



Ava Facundo, 7, pets a bunny.

Live Easter bunnies at Hart

Students in the 4H Rabbit Club Community Center in Springfield Township, last Friday.

bunnies for kids to pet at Hart



Haley Gresham, 6, enjoys checking out a rabbit's ears.



EASTER VISIT: Haley Gresham, 6, visits the Easter Bunny after the Davisburg egg hunt, Friday. Photo by Mary Keck

Around Town

Continued from page 20
625-8231.

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

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

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.

Volunteer opportunities

Avalon Hospice, sit with patients, hold their hand, listen to stories, personal care, or just be there. Two hours a week or more. 800-664-6334; **McLaren Hospice**, not-for-profit, companionship-type to visit and provide emotional support for patients living with terminal illness, 248-320-0106. **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Oakland County**, 55+, opportunities at hospitals, cultural institutions, food pantries, schools. 248-559-1147 ext. 3422.

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