

The Clarkston News

My Clarkston.
Buy Clarkston.

Vol. 86 No. 21 Wed., April 17, 2013

1 Section, 40 pages 50¢

Spring at last!

With Mother Nature finally admitting it's spring. Check out ideas, tips, and shopping deals in *Springtime in Clarkston*, beginning on page 18



Science!

Eric Gohl explains his theory about mold during the Springfield Plains Science Fair, Thursday. For more photos, please see page 4. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Public hearing on school budget

The public will have a chance to address proposals to close a \$3.8 million school budget deficit, 6 p.m., April 22. The meeting was scheduled for Clarkston Junior High School off Waldon Road, starting with a presentation of the administration's budget recommendations.

"It was the consensus of the board to provide full public transparency to our community regarding the administration's recommendation as we look to

take action on these cuts," said board President Cheryl McGinnis.

Proposals include:

- Limited open enrollment in grades K-2;
- Chartering a school at an off-district location—an administration recommendation;
- Privatizing custodial, maintenance, or transportation services—not a recommendation of the administration; and
- Elimination of transportation

See Meeting on page 5

Independence outsources HR

BY MARY KECK
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The Independence Township Board will outsource Human Resources and payroll services, but the cost of doing so included laying off an employee.

On April 2, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to hire Human Capital for one year for \$62,280.

Independence Township's HR and payroll department's budget currently totals \$177,514; therefore, the township will save \$115,234 by outsourcing.

"We felt bringing in a professional organization would be in the best interest of the township," said Supervisor Pat Kittle.

Independence Township received a five percent discount for the human resources portion because they partnered with Orion Township to hire the

Rochester Hills firm. In 2013, Independence will pay Human Capital \$33,400 for HR as opposed to \$35,200.

"We joined forces with Independence Township," said Orion Township Supervisor Chris Barnett during a March 18 meeting. "Our joint committees unanimously decided Human Capital would be the right fit for both communities."

Orion's Board of Trustees voted to pay \$34,736 for Human Capital's HR services.

In addition to employing Human Capital for HR duties, Independence Township also agreed to pay them \$28,880 for payroll service. Because Human Capital will be taking on these functions, Finance Clerk Paula Heenan's position was no longer needed. In a 6-1 vote, the Board of Trustees voted to eliminate the position of finance clerk and

Please see Layoff on page 37

Full house for Dr. Carson

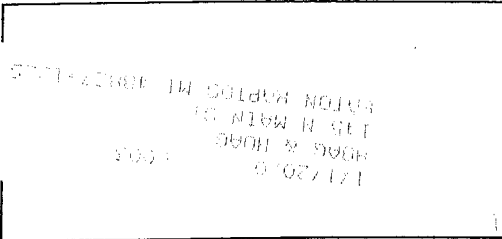
BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

More than 200 filled Fountains banquet hall in Independence Township to hear Dr. Ben Carson, Friday morning, leaving organizers scrambling for more tables and chairs.

"We were shocked," said Brenda Savage, executive director of Birth Choice Pregnancy Resource Center, a pro-life center in Clarkston. "We went over the seating chart at 1 a.m. and saw we were way over. It's amazing, so many people, here at 7 a.m. It says a lot about how important this is."

Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center, spoke about his

Please see Doctor on page 38





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Youthful Image owner Jessica Green, with her mother Denise Curd, left, will honor a deserving mom with a \$1,000 prize package for Mother's Day. Photo by Don Rush

Current Facial
Rejuvenation
Microcurrent
Massage
Velashape
Yoga

Pampering prize for Super Hero Mom

Youthful Image Health and Wellness has a \$1,000 prize package for a well-deserving Super Hero Mom this Mother's Day, but they need your help to find out who that is.

"We'd like to hear stories about mothers in the community, the challenges they face, and how they deal with them," said Jessica Green, who owns Youthful Image with her father, Dr. Kurt Jacobsen. "I'm a working mom, and I know how difficult it can be. We want to celebrate a person who truly deserves to be pampered."

The contest is a great idea for Mother's Day, said Denise Curd, Jessica's mom.

"At Youthful Image she is striving to provide other women with a bit of pampering with the goal of accentuating their health and wellbeing," Curd said. "After all, no woman can be a good caregiver without taking care of herself too!"

The Youthful Image Super Hero Mother of the Year 2013 Contest prize package

includes a Red Carpet 90-minute facial, 90-minute massage, paraffin hand wax dip, 30-minute heated Hydro Massage, two micro current face lift treatments, product gift basket, and an antioxidant health screening.

Entrants must live in Clarkston, Lake Orion, or Oxford areas. Write a story of why your Super Mom nominee deserves to win. Submit hard-copy entries in person to Youthful Image Health and Wellness, 3676 Clarkston Road, Suite A, by 5 p.m., May 5.

Stories will be read and the winner decided by a panel of judges from Youthful Image, *The Clarkston News*, and Clarkston and Orion chambers of commerce.

Winner will be posted on Youthful Image Facebook page by Mothers' Day, May 12, and the winning story and photos will be published in *The Clarkston News*.

For more information, call 248-693-0101 or check www.YouthfulImageLLC.com.

- Phil Custodio

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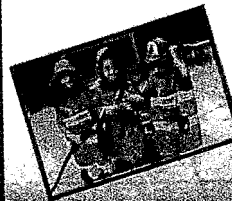
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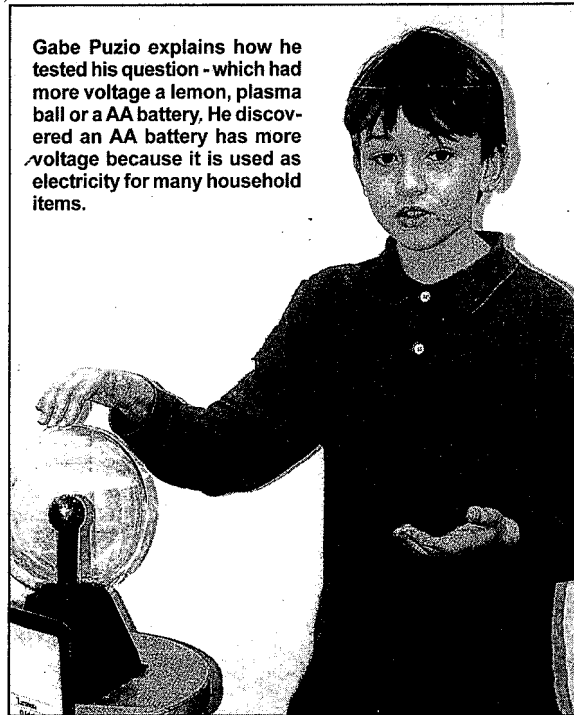
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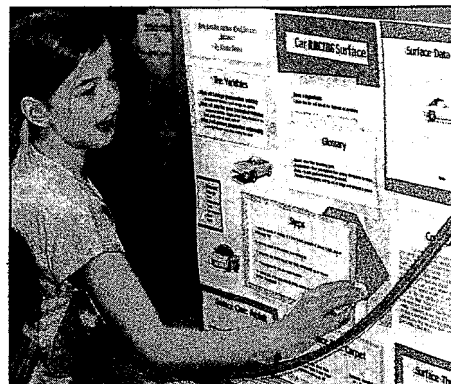
James Barnett uses static electricity for his Amazing Floating Orb.



Gabe Puzio explains how he tested his question - which had more voltage a lemon, plasma ball or a AA battery. He discovered an AA battery has more voltage because it is used as electricity for many household items.



Jacob Zelinski hooks up the power for the judges.



Alyssa Munro demonstrates how surfaces will effect a car's movement.

Testing theories at the science fair

The Springfield Plains Elementary gymnasium was filled with scientists as students presented findings from their experiments during the science fair.

Some students used their siblings or pets as inspiration. Mathias Heisler took a look at how weather effects his

sister's mood.

Others tested to see if their guinea pigs were motivated by sight or sound as they moved through a maze or to see if their pet preferred hay over fruits and vegetables.

Eric Gohl used food as inspiration

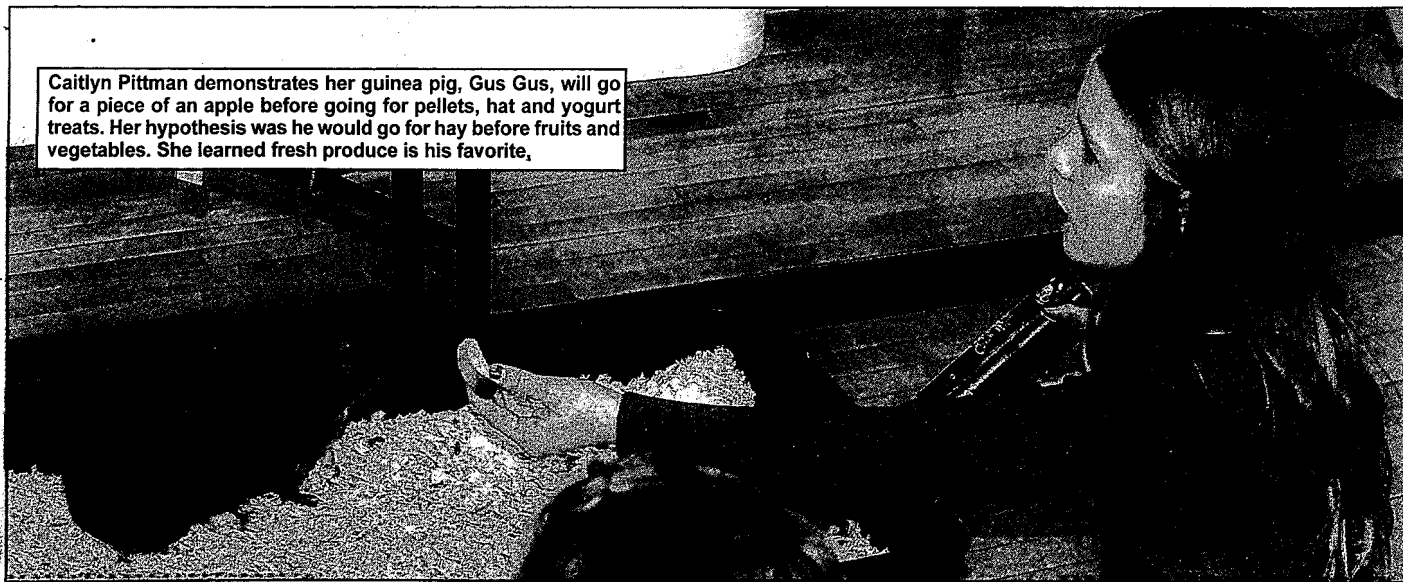
and hypothesized bread without preservatives molds faster.

"Mold is interesting," he said about his science project. "I wanted to see what stimulates mold and what stops it."

He found it took longer than he expected to mold, and it needs moisture.

Photos by Wendi Reardon

Caitlyn Pittman demonstrates her guinea pig, Gus Gus, will go for a piece of an apple before going for pellets, hat and yogurt treats. Her hypothesis was he would go for hay before fruits and vegetables. She learned fresh produce is his favorite,



Briefly

Safety Paths on web

Bikers, walkers, and rollerbladers will have a new place to find out the latest Safety Path news.

Independence Township's Safety Path Committee will launch a new website on Earth Day, April 22.

Pedestrians who want to know who to contact about the township's 48 miles of safety paths or residents who want updates on new sidewalk connections, biking routes, and pedestrian traveling tips can visit independencetwpsafety.paths.org or friend them on Facebook.

Student troops wanted

American Legion Post 63 hopes to sponsor local high school students, grades 10 through 12, as candidates for the State Student Trooper program. The program will take place July 14-19 at the state police training academy in Lansing, and applications are available at 8047 Ortonville Road. If you're interested find out more on www.michiganlegion.org/ trooper or call Jerry Grzywinski at 248-494-2821.

Puppet theater

On April 20 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., the Depot Theater will host a performance of "Dick Whittington and his Cat." The show is presented by Once Upon a Puppet and is appropriate for all ages. Enjoy the tale of an adventurous youngster and his cat Marmalade as they travel to London and solve a crime at Buckingham Palace. Tickets are \$6. Get more information on www.clarkstonvillageplayers.org or call 248-575-4104.

Race for Ryan

The Second Annual Race for Ryan Kennedy 5K is May 4 at Independence Oaks, 4 p.m.

Registration is \$35 if signed up before April 29 and is \$25 for students. After April 29, registration is \$45.

Registration can be obtained at the Clarkston High School attendance office or online at www.raceservice.com

All profits raised during the event will be used to build a play structure at Clintonwood Park in memory of Kennedy. Kennedy was a fourth grader at North Sashabaw Elementary School in Clarkston. After a very brave fight, Ryan passed away from childhood brain cancer last spring.

Contact Amy Quayle at ataequayle@clarkston.k12.mi.us or John Drallos at jedrallos@clarkston.k12.mi.us

Eberhardt ready to be city manager

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

"I feel like I'm coming home," said Carol Eberhardt, who was recently hired to be the City of the Village of Clarkston's city manager. "How lucky am I? I get to live where I work and do what I love," she added.

Eberhardt, who was elected to the council in November, will resign from her position and take the job as city manager on April 22 at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall. She replaces Dennis Ritter who has served as city manager since 2008.

"My first priority is to talk to as many people as I can to get a sense of their needs and requests," Eberhardt said.

She intends to meet with each council member individually, and hopes to speak with the Clarkston Retailers, Historic District Commission and Planning Commission too.

During Eberhardt's interview before the City Council on April 8, she shared a 100-day plan with those in attendance.

Her goals included gathering volunteers from the area, working with the treasurer to learn the city's budgeting software, meeting with Lt. Dirk Feneley, Oakland County Sheriff's substation commander, and researching grant opportunities.

Eberhardt wants to tweak the city's website by making forms available and posting happenings on a "special events" page. She wants to create a welcome and resource packet to be hand delivered to people who move into the community, as well.

Along with meeting with community members and changing the city's website, Eberhardt stated, "We need to get serious with our ordinance enforcement."



Eberhardt

In particular, she referred to applying the sign ordinance with the downtown business owners. "My rule is you either enforce the rules that you have or throw them out. There is no middle ground," she said.

"The retailers market the cute, quaint, historic Clarkston and then kind of work in the opposite direction to glitz it up a little bit or to change the historic flavor of the buildings," Eberhardt noted.

"I don't think the retail district truly understands what level of communication and teamwork should be happening with the council and how we all want the exact same thing to happen here. We want it to thrive, and we want to maintain our historic district flavor," she pointed out.

In addition to getting tough with ordinance enforcement, Eberhardt wants to make changes in the City's Department of Public Works (DPW).

"I think the way they are supervised needs to change," she said. "I think their reporting system needs to change."

The DPW isn't the only department that can expect alterations once Eberhardt gets started, however.

"The other thing we need to look at is the Building Department," she told the council. "A change needs to happen there only because Sy [Seymour Stone], our Building Inspector, has aged, and he is not well, so it's been very, very difficult for him to do his job," she said. Eberhardt stated she would likely look into the township's service offerings then offer a recommendation to the council on how to proceed.

While Eberhardt brings many ideas to her role as city manager, she said, "I want every resident to feel free to wander into City Hall to talk to me. I'm extremely approachable and easy to get to know."

Meeting on schools of choice, other issues

Continued from page 1

also not a recommendation of the administration, said Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock.

Open enrollment would offset losses in enrollment and allow the housing market to expand locally, bringing more students in to the district, Rock said.

Administration's recommendation is for one year, followed by reevaluation.

Administrative staff is looking at the other alternatives at the request of the board, Rock said.

"It is important our community know all options to the board whether recommended by administration or not," McGinnis said. "Board members felt it was important that the community had the full picture before the board, not just a snap shot. Therefore, additional items not currently recommended by administration will be discussed."

Administration's plan to eliminate the \$3.8 million deficit includes up to 13 teacher layoff from the budget and through attrition, a

\$750,000 cut - layoffs are scheduled for discussion and approval at the April 22 school board meeting, following the public hearing; \$200,000 transferred from the Early Childhood Center budget fund equity; \$250,000 in At Risk funding from the state; \$60,000 cut from facilities and transportation; \$1.25-\$1.5 million cut from human resources; and \$73,000 in non-personnel cuts.

New revenue in the plan includes \$100,000 from Community Education; \$300,000-\$800,000 in partnerships with private schools; \$141,000-\$708,000 from open enrollment; and \$100,000-\$250,000 from possible partnership with a local charter academy.

Administration's proposals for open enrollment and partnerships with private and charter academies is expected to bring in from \$541,000-\$1.76 million, total. If the school board rejects those proposals, layoffs and other cuts would probably have to be deeper, said Deputy Superintendent Shawn Ryan.

For more information, call 248-623-5408.

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Wild Ideas

A column by Mary Keck

Thanks and farewell

When I came to Clarkston a year ago, I fell in love, but it's not the charming, historic downtown that made me feel that way. It's the people who make Clarkston a landmark community.

I'm impressed with the courageous voices of citizens who hold their elected officials accountable. I have respect and admiration for our public servants tasked with solving complicated problems. I applauded the local business owners who have weathered the economic storm through innovation and the artists who have made me laugh while challenging me to think differently.

I'm inspired by residents who find strength in one another as they grieve for a lost community member and who organize fundraisers for those who need support. What's more, I have seen how their volunteerism has motivated future generations who will ensure their town retains the feeling of home.

Because of Clarkston I've found out just how miraculous it is for Michigan's Monarchs to migrate South each year. I've seen that love crosses international borders, and I know a simple ride to the store holds great significance to one's sense of freedom.

It's this picture of the community that a newspaper like *The Clarkston News* creates each week. We aren't afraid to share the good with the bad and those gray areas in between. As a result, I have been proud to be a part of such a publication.

It's with this sincere love of Clarkston's people and its longtime community newspaper in mind that I bid you all farewell. As I chase my piece of the American Dream to Port Huron, I want to say thanks for all the memories I'm taking with me.

Most of all, the staff at *The Clarkston News* will always have my respect and gratitude. Not only do they keep a priceless record of Clarkston's past, they shape its history. From spending cold nights at games in overtime to staying up late to watch election results to answering the phone no matter who might be on the line, their dedication to this community is evident with each edition.

Come what may, they are behind the scenes to celebrate Clarkston's success with enthusiasm and feel the sharp pain of its losses. I count myself lucky to have worked among people with such integrity and passion.



Reader suggests school consolidation

Dear Editor,

In response to "Budget tightrope," April 10, instead of increasing class size, reducing instructional staff and quality of education, why not consolidate under three or four county school districts like the majority of other states?

There are 28 school districts in Oakland County, which means 28 school boards, superintendents, deputy superintendents, athletic directors, school bus garages, administration offices and the list goes on. Let's not forget

about negotiating contracts with multiple teacher unions. Create four districts such as Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast districts serving those schools.

The state of Michigan has over 860 school districts (of overhead) with a total state population of 9.8 million residents. A state such as Florida has only 67 school districts with a total state population of 19.3 million. Just a thought!

James Phillips
Independence Township

Libraries and senior facilities essential, reader says

Dear Editor,

Many business people are used to the "Cost - Benefit" model, which makes sense where the issue is purely dollars and cents.

But we are talking about a community, with people of many age groups, varying incomes, varying resources, of various needs; most of whom pay taxes.

So such a model when applied to a community involves people and their needs, not just money. Most communities understand this, but there are differences of opinion as to what services are "essential" to meet these needs. Most people agree that such services are police and fire protection, provision of good roads are essential, but not everyone agrees that libraries and senior services are essential.

What must be recognized is libraries and senior services are essential, particularly given the changes occurring in communities such as Independence Township.

According to SEMCOG and other sources, in just a couple of years the number of seniors in this township will exceed the number of children enrolled in schools - in fact they constitute the fastest growing segment of our community where other parts of the population growth is leveling off and the growth of all other age groups is declining.

Incomes are declining significantly. There are notions that Libraries are antiquated and unnecessary; yes, they are antiquated, but are

very necessary - they simply need better facilities, equipment and services.

More people are using libraries for job searches, reading material, as quiet spaces, and for research of various kinds.

One reason libraries are considered unnecessary is because more printed resources are being digitized - that is, available by electronic means. But many of these resources are too costly for individuals to access.

Many of these resources require ownership of appropriate electronic equipment, such as computers, iPhones, or iPads which require a degree of technical knowledge and finances; the older you are, the less likely you are to have that knowledge - and, then, it changes rapidly - and the better devices cost more money, or costly apps or software.

These devices are socially isolating - you don't have the benefit of face-to-face conversation, especially for Seniors who do not want to be isolated. All of this is particularly challenging to seniors.

The evidence is clear: facilities and services provided by a library and senior center are essential, and are a clear benefit for our taxpayers - the cost is worth it. They have gone underfunded for too long, and certainly don't need to be downsized; they need to be brought into the 21st Century!

Dr. Thomas K. Stone
Clarkston

New city manager signals support for status quo

Dear Editor,

Regarding the recent Clarkston city manager selection, Section 4.18 of the Clarkston City Charter states "Elected officers shall not hold any appointed city office or city employment during the term for which they were elected."

This type of charter language solely exists within the city charter to prevent an egregious elected official from cherry picking compensated appointed positions, such as the position of city manager in this case.

Instead of hiring the Michigan Municipal League to conduct an executive search, Clarkston council spent our finite tax dollars on an attorney to explain a way around section 4.18 of the city charter. Looking at all the events surrounding the selection process of the city manager, it is obvious the Clarkston City Council never had any intention of hiring anyone but Councilwoman Carol Eberhardt and stacked the deck to assure her appointment.

It is transparent Councilwoman Eberhardt's competitor for the city manager's position was an unknowing participant in a cleverly orchestrated dog and pony show to validate the council's choice for city manager.

Councilwoman Eberhardt's acceptance of the position displays her selfish sense of entitlement, her lack of regard for the citizens of Clarkston, and her lack of jurisprudence involving city governance. Councilwoman's acceptance of being appointed to the city manager contrary to Section 4.18 of the City Charter will ensure the status quo of mediocrity within her tenure as the city manager.

By the Clarkston City Council's act of waiving section 4.18 of the city charter, it is inherently obvious the council is not there to serve the citizens of Clarkston, but is there to serve one another with our tax dollars.

Hillary Scott
Independence Township

A Look Back

From *The CNews* archives

15 years ago - 1998

"Life's a beach" The city of Clarkston is finally ready to go forward with its one-dollar agreement with Independence Township. After nearly a year of discussion, the council voted 5-1 to authorize City Manager Art Pappas and Mayor Sharron Catalo to sign the Deer Lake Beach lease with the township for one dollar. It's an 11-year agreement with a five-year extension option. The lease will expire Dec. 31, 2014.

"Birdland roads to be repaved" Fifty-six residents will benefit from smoother and safer streets in Birdland, thanks to a repaving contribution from Independence Township. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a five-percent contribution toward a \$146,555 project for Chickadee, Warbler, and Goldfinch roads. The remainder will be funded through a Special Assessment District created for residents living on those roads. The cost per homeowner is \$2,775.

25 years ago - 1988

"Small turnout for soccer team" A shortage of players may come back to haunt the girls soccer team at Clarkston High School this season. Heading into the year, Coach Hana Olsen has enough players to fill all the positions but is sorely lacking in the substitute department. "If we have an injury, we are going to be in trouble," she said.

"Superintendent search is complete" The Clarkston school district chose their new superintendent to begin July 1. They chose a face familiar to the district - Gary Haner. Haner and his wife both taught at Pine Knob Elementary and lived in Clarkston.

50 years ago - 1963

"Former Teacher Passes" Services were held for Allena Jickells. She was a victim of cancer at 85 years old. A lifetime resident of Oakland County, she was a teacher in the Clarkston Schools. The Reverend William J. Richards officiated with interment at Lakeview Cemetery.

"Independence Township Board Proceedings" The board voted in favor of certifying the April 1, 1963 Biennial Spring Election voting results were correct. The Township Canvassing Board canvassed ballots cast for questions and candidates during the vote in the township's five precincts.

"Dairy Queen in Clarkston" Ground work was underway on M-15 near Dixie Highway for the new Dairy Queen.

America founded on powerful, inspirational ideas

What is America?

America is an improbable idea, a nation divided by race and opinion but yet at the same time united as one.

America is uniquely original by design; there never was a country quite like America and there still isn't to this day.

While many other nations share the same ideas of democracy and liberty, none of them do so in the same way as America.

Forged out of the hopes and dreams of the colonist of a mighty empire of old, America came forth as a sovereign land conceived in freedom and justice for all people present and future.

America rose from 13 colonies under the control of a kingdom far away to become the greatest and most powerful

nation in the world. A new country in a new land establishing new ideas to shape the future of our planet.

The former citizens of an old empire came forth to establish a new empire.

But this empire was not like the other empires that have existed throughout our history.

America is an empire of ideology. Rather than an empire driven by the ideas of an autocrat, America is driven by the ideas of a people.

The ideas that have guided our county from its founding at Independence Hall to our position as a

world power today.

The ideas that inspired craftsmen and farmers to take up arms and fight for their right to live in a land of liberty.

The ideas that make it possible for a poor child growing up in the inner city to one day become the CEO of his own business.

The ideas that truly make America the greatest country in the world. This path has not been an easy one, nor has it been one without mistake, but this path that we have chosen has been a worthy one none the less.

We have come together as a nation of many individuals with many different backgrounds and of many different heritages.

We have come together has a melting

pot of individuals from every country and from every race.

We have come together to prove that the ideas that this nation was founded on are still alive today. Liberty and justice for all.

A nation made up of all the different peoples of this world coming together under one flag to live in a land of liberty with the freedom to make their own destiny.

That is what defines us as a nation. That is our America.

Christian Bodenmiller of Springfield Township, a 10th-grade student at Holly High School, wrote this essay on his own after a discussion with his English teacher on what America means to us.

Guest viewpoint



by Christian Bodenmiller

Seeds sewn, readers respond

Last week I pondered on what to do after I sowed some seed in the warm confines of my own home. The seeds have sprouted, I wrote, now what?

* * *

Don, I asked my Dad why my indoor seedlings toppled as soon as I took them outside. He said they need to get used to a breeze before they get too long and "leggy." Mine had worked hard looking for sun and were not strong enough to stand on their own. I had braced them gently to a stick with a twist tie and they were CUT OFF with a breeze." Heather M.M.

To which I responded, "So I need to blow on my seeds --- or get a fan on them?"

To which Heather responded, "The first may be exhausting and the latter might be too much. Maybe move seedlings near a vent once up and a drafty window when weather is mild. Place pots outside on the best days until getting to real earth!"

* * *

Don, I'm sure you know that asking a plant question to gardeners is like waving puppies around in front of women. We have to respond.

The biggest threat to your little plants right now is damping off. That's when the cool moist soil sets up a fungal type attack on the stems of little seedlings right at the surface/stem contact. You will know when it hits because the tiny plants fall over, and you can see the skinny pinch mark in their stems where the disease has hit them. The top of the soil should be kept as dry as possible to avoid this dreaded thing, so there is an art to watering them. Water from the bottom by letting the pots soak up water on their own from beneath. Water at a time when its going to be warm and dry so the soil surface doesn't get so wet, or at least dries very fast. Do not water in the evening, for instance. I hope those egg cartons you used were cardboard.

PS. Your egg cartons won't be able to keep your plants happy for very long at all . . . probably a poor choice. The roots will have outgrown them in short time. You will need to transplant soon. Good luck! Angie A.

* * *

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

Oh my poor friend, new tomato plants and no where to plant them till spring! As a caretaker, my wife says you should take your new plants and transplant them to larger pots. Then take a shop light, four feet is good, and hang the light over the plants at a height of four inches above the very top of the plant.

Let plant grow 24/7 until they reach the lights. Continue to move the lights four inches higher every time they reach the lights. Do this till May 15 when it is safe to transplant your tomato plants outside for the summer. Don't forget to water and mist daily. A small fan set on low will help the trunk of the plant to strengthen so they will be accustomed to breezes. Don't forget to pick off the suckers as the plant grows. Add some Miracle Grow or other plant food once a week to give plant a good start. DON'T over fertilize! A little goes a long way.

Drop some off at the American Legion Post 108 in Oxford so I can taste some of what you grew. Robert T.

* * *

Mr. Donny Green Thumbs: Welcome to the world of growing heirloom tomatoes. Brandywine is a good variety to start growing from seed indoors. You'll have much more satisfaction when you pick the first tomato, smile and say, "I grew this from last year's seeds."

Are you aware that there are many fellow "Green Thumbs" locally who grow tomatoes and compete for bragging rights at the Oakland County Fair? Annually, youths and adults compete for "Best Cherry Tomato Plant." These are truly growing competitions because all the cherry tomato plants are the same variety and dispersed at 4H Discovery Day on Saturday, May 4. Master Gardeners will help show local youth how to plant and grow their tomatoes and many youth will return with their plants to compete at the Fair for bragging rights and trophies.

So what to do with your "itty-bitty seedlings?" You have a good start and hopefully have made a hole in each of the egg carton sections so the seedlings aren't drowned when watering. You need to thin the seedlings to only one per section either by carefully pulling them apart and replanting or snip the smallest one(s). Depending on rate of growth, your egg carton may be good for 3-4 weeks when your seedlings need to be transplanted into larger containers. I feed my plants once per week one-half strength liquid fertilizer and grow lights are on 14-16 hours per day. Large growers may use fans to circulate the air to strengthen plants but you can brush the tops of the plants as you walk by to help toughen them. I've been told music helps plants grow but never tried it so I can't recommend any songs but would assume local ones would like Kid Rock and Bob Seger. Tomatoes thrive on warmth and sun, so don't plant them in your garden or leave them outside until the soil temperature is above 60°F and nights are warm.

Best of luck and hope you stop by 4H Discovery Day, May 4, 9-3 at Springfield Oaks.

BTW - A few years ago when the Fair was later in July, the winning youth entry had 502 tomatoes on a seven-foot plant! John O.

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For Clarkston and Independence Township

Rifle found on Holcomb

An Independence Township man taking a walk, on Holcomb Road at Depot Road, 8:52 a.m., March 28, noticed a rifle case in the road. He picked it up and turned it over to Clarkston DPW, who gave it to police. Deputies found no record of the bolt-action rifle's serial number and were holding it until the owner could be located.

SUV hits mailboxes

Witnesses called police to report a possible drunk driver after watching an SUV run over mailboxes in the 4000 block of Mary Sue Avenue, 9:16 p.m., April 1. Deputies found an SUV with both passenger-side tires flat, broken side mirror, and front and side damage, parked in a driveway on Mary Sue. A suspect inside refused to answer questions. The SUV, which smelled strongly of marijuana, was impounded pending identification of the driver.

Suspect caught after chase

Anthony Delacruz of Springfield Township, 22, was arrested after a foot chase through the woods behind Bluewater Apartments, April 2. Deputies were there to investigate a no-contact order violation against the suspect, filed by his ex-girlfriend. He also had two warrants for his arrest, for domestic violence and failure to appear for sentencing on another domestic violence charge. When deputies knocked on the front door, he jumped out the back window and fled on foot. Nine deputies participated in the pursuit, catching the suspect before he could escape.

Tax fraud

When an Independence Township man read a letter from the IRS about a review of his tax return, April 4, he knew there was a problem. He hadn't filed yet. He was told someone used his Social Security number to file a fraudulent report. He owes on his taxes, so the fraudsters didn't get anything.

Vehicle thefts

A GPS unit and golf clubs were taken from a pickup truck parked in the 5000 block of Stone Hill Court, March 31.

Someone took a GPS and sunglasses from a vehicle in the 4000 block of Stone Gate Court, April 1. There was no sign of forced entry.

Stereo equipment was taken from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 4000 block of Fox Creek, April 5.

Car window smashed

The rear window of a vehicle parked in a lot in the 5000 block of S. Ortonville Road was smashed out, April 8.

Suspect charged

John Michael Loiseau, 34, was arraigned, April 9, on two felonies and three misdemeanors in connection with a domestic assault in Independence Township.

Deputies responded to the 5000 block of Mary Sue, 5 a.m., April 8, on a domestic assault and home invasion call. The suspect allegedly went to his ex-girlfriend's home uninvited and entered the home where he attacked her and two other people there.



Loiseau

During the assault, the victims tried to call 911, but the suspect took their cell phones. The suspect also took about \$200 in cash and a purse, and fled. The victims found another phone and called police.

Oakland County Sheriff's Fugitive Apprehension Team, along with sheriff detectives from Independence Township and Orjon townships, tracked, located, and arrested the suspect, who lives in Orion.

He is arraigned on felony First Degree Home Invasion, punishable by up to 20 years and \$5,000, and Interfering with Electronic Communications, two-years, \$1,000; as well as misdemeanor charges, Domestic Violence and two counts of Assault or Assault and Battery, each 93 days, \$500. He is being held in Oakland County jail, \$40,000 cash/surety.

Damaged vans

Someone cut the catalytic converters from two work vans parked in the 6000 block of Dixie Highway, April 6.

A commuter returned to her vehicle at the Park and Ride, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, 4:31 p.m., April 9, and found the catalytic converter had been cut away.

Solicitors stopped

Deputies stopped to check on two solicitors, a 23-year-old Flint man and 41-year-old Flint woman, in the 5000 block of Autumnwood Court, 6:38 p.m., April 8. They were cited for soliciting without a permit, and the woman was turned over to Burton Police on a failure-to-appear warrant on a prostitution charge.



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Clarkston's Sporting News

This Week ..

Clarkston Kickers are home on Thursday against Oxford and Friday against Avondale. JV begins at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

Lady Wolves play to win

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

The Lady Falcons tied the game moments after Lauren Sharkey made her second goal last Friday. It would be the last time they would be close in the score.

Sharkey came back to score not just one goal but two to put the Lady Wolves Varsity Lacrosse team into the lead over Rochester, 4-2.

The two goals started a momentum which would eventually end the game in a 23-9 win for Clarkston.

"They stayed calm," said Coach Daneen Kincaid. "The girls didn't panic, and they stuck with their skills. They had a great attitude and stayed positive with each other."

Sharkey led the team with 11 points and two assists.

"She is a phenomenal player," said Kincaid, adding they are focusing on Sharkey adding more assists during the games. "For her to get assists our offense needs to be willing to move to receive those passes. Right now they are in the complacency mode to let her run it. We are trying to teach the whole team then need to have their sticks ready to score.

Sophomore Lindsey Pike had three goals and two assists during the game.

"She played well especially coming off the scoring exhibition she put on against Lake Orion," Kincaid smiled. "She is turning out to be a really strong player for us that people

aren't aware of."

Juniors Sierra Pass and Ryleigh McGregor also made their own impacts during the game. Pass made eight saves while McGregor controlled the draws and scored three goals.

"She is really stepping up and learning the position," said Kincaid. "We threw her into it. She deserves a lot of credit for being a very coachable athlete to just do what we tell her to do and implement it in the game. I was very proud of that."

She added sophomore Jade Beauregard and the defense players caused havoc and turnovers for Rochester.

"Our girls are doing a good job listening to us, putting their sticks up in the air and causing some turnovers," she said. We are creating a little more chaos than teams are used to seeing."

The girls defeated Lake Orion last Thursday, 9-7. They were down 6-5 at the end of the first half and came back with a punch in the final half.

"Orion was beating us to the ground balls and our team was getting mad. They didn't like it," said Kincaid. "We shut them down in the second half. The difference was we calmed down. We played our game instead of a panicked reaction game."

Pike scored four goals in the game. Pass made six saves in the net for the win.

The Lady Wolves head to Rochester Adams this Friday. Varsity begins at 5:30 p.m. and JV follows.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Anna Gray controls the play as Notre Dame Prep moves in. Photo by Larry Wright

Gray shines bright

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior co-captain Anna Gray shared one of the reasons the Clarkston Girls Varsity Lacrosse team is 5-0 going into this week.

"It has a lot to do with the positivity and the team being well-rounded," she said. "We are a really good team and we focus on everyone's strengths. Coach (Daneen) Kincaid does a lot to make sure everyone is happy and doing well in school, out of school, as well as on and off of the field."

Gray helped her team in the first week of competition with scoring six goals. She scored four against Notre Dame Prep.

"Anna was crucial in the draw control," added Kincaid. "She had a winning percentage of 73 percent in our opening game versus Waterford United."

Gray began playing lacrosse in ninth grade - explaining it was an experimental sport for her.

"I wanted to see if I liked it," she added. "I ended up loving it. Now I am going into

my fourth year, working as one of three captains with Lauren Sharkey and Maddie McGuire and seeing all the new players come in and being able to help them."

"Anna works hard to maintain a balance between her academic and athletic pursuits, and recently was accepted to Princeton and Yale," Kincaid added.

Gray currently had a 4.0 grade point average and in her last trimester is taking French 5, AP Computer Science, AP Biology, Laboratory Technician and Dual Enrollment in Physics at Oakland Community College.

She is still looking at colleges and leaning towards studying chemical or electrical engineering. She is also looking for a campus where she can continue playing lacrosse and golf.

"It's really important to me to have a sport," Gray added: "Not only a sport but other activities to be involved in to stay well-rounded and to stay active. Golf and lacrosse have provided me with a really fun way to get to know other people and have fun. I really enjoy them."



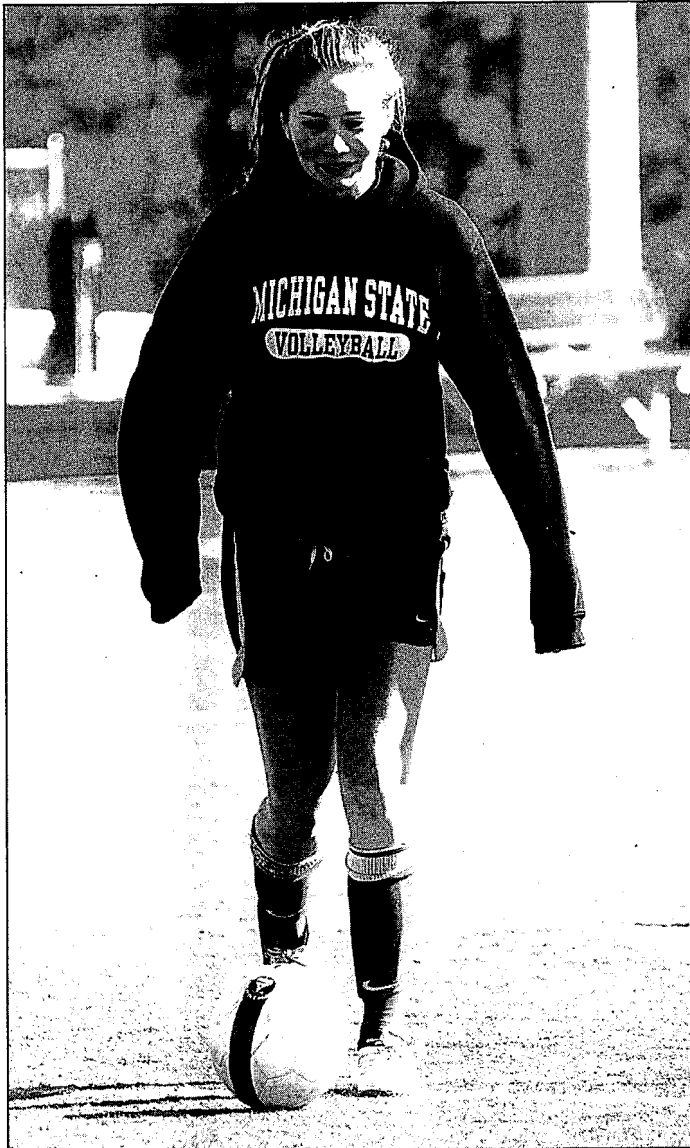
Lauren Sharkey drives past Rochester to add another goal to the Lady Wolves' lead. Photo by Wendi Reardon



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Sophomore Hannah Siegfried practices for the next game for the Lady Wolves Varsity Soccer team. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Sports in a flash

Sophomore Olivia Montgomery led the Clarkston Girls Varsity Soccer team in their 2-1 win over Waterford Kettering last Friday.

She scored both goals in the second half for the win to put the girls 2-0-2 overall. She was assisted by junior Shelby Hopper and senior Alison Roberts.

Sophomore Kayla Grzesiak made two saves in the net.

The Lady Wolves are home this week as they host Oxford on Thursday and Avondale on Friday at the high school stadium.

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

Baseball and softball teams look to begin their season after last week's cancellations due to weather. Baseball hosts Oxford on Wednesday and Stoney Creek on Friday, 4:30 p.m. The varsity softball team holds their second annual Girls in Pink on Saturday, 10 a.m.

Follow @CNewsWRSports on Twitter for game updates, scores, cancellations and re-schedules of games.

Landscaping tips from Tom

Home Grown Native Michigan Plants Add Beauty & More

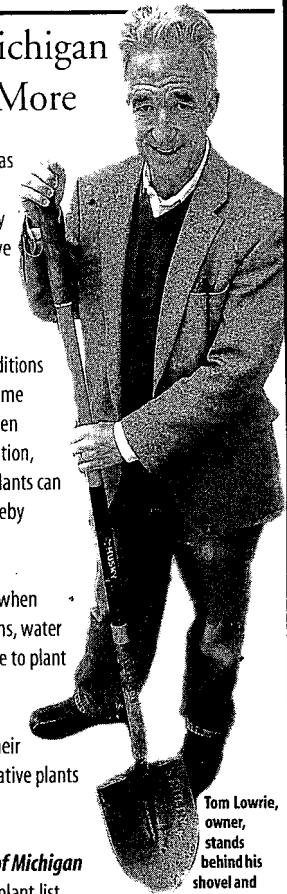
Native Michigan plants have appealing characteristic as garden and landscaping plants. There are advantages to using native plants over ornamental and potentially invasive species. There are over 1,800 species of native Michigan plants including: wildflowers, ferns, trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, rushes and sedges.

Native plants naturally adapt to soil and weather conditions of Michigan, so they need less care once they've become established and have a greater chance of survival. When planted in the proper location, they need little fertilization, irrigation, or winter protection. Deep roots of native plants can provide a path for water to seep into the ground, thereby preventing runoff and soil erosion.

The expansive selection of Michigan plants is helpful when creating shade gardens, butterfly gardens, rock gardens, water gardens, and yard landscapes. If you have kids, be sure to plant nectar sources to provide food for caterpillars!

Native plants can be found for every type of environment, from dry and sunny to moist and shady. With their variety of colors, heights, foliage, and bloom times, native plants add beauty and interest to any landscape.

Oh and check out *Landscaping with Native Plants of Michigan* by Lynn M. Steiner, as it has a great native Michigan plant list.



Tom Lowrie, owner, stands behind his shovel and his work!

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Offense comes alive in second half victory

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Junior Reid Kaminski started the celebration after the Notre Dame Prep game on Sunday as he led the Wolves in singing "Sweet Caroline."

The Clarkston Boys Varsity Lacrosse team finished the game after a powerful fourth quarter as they took the win from the Notre Dame, 15-7.

"It was a revenge game," said Evan Kneisel, senior defender. "We had high hopes for this game."

The boys finished the first quarter tied 2-2 after a goal from Kaminski. Notre Dame came back to score three goals to take the lead within the first five minutes.

"We walked in flat and said we can't do this because it was a home game and one of our goals is to go undefeated at home," said Kneisel. "It was definitely a big pushing factor."

The Wolves closed in with a goal from sophomore Andrew Williamson with five minutes left in the first half.

With 27 seconds left, they tied the score with a goal off junior Connor Dziewit's swing into the net.

"We talked at half time and said we are going to break this down into six minute increments," said Brian Kaminkas, head coach. "We said at half time if you play the first six minutes the way you are supposed to play you will win the game. After they got through those first six minutes then the next, they started to realize it and believe it was not a difficult game in front of them."

It began the momentum in the second half as they pulled into the lead during the third quarter, finishing with a 7-5 lead.

"We started out pretty cold but the last quarter we stepped it up," said junior goalie Jake Hendricks.

The Wolves outscored Notre Dame 8-2 in the final quarter. The scoring began after Notre Dame's Kyle Beauregard tied the score

with 8:37 left in the game.

Senior Jordan Moore caught a long pass and passed the ball onto senior Kyle O'Grady 34 seconds later.

O'Grady struck again less than a minute later, this time he passed the ball to Dziewit for his goal.

"It was awesome," Kneisel said. "It got the momentum going. Everyone on the bench was cheering. Defense was cheering."

Hendricks added it especially helped him as he was in the net.

"I could see the ball a lot better," he said. "It feels awesome to stop them."

"We started out slow but we stuck to it and we adjusted our game plan," said head coach, Brian Kaminkas. "It's always nice to get a win off Notre Dame. They have one of the coaching legends over there. It's good to play against him and beat him. I thought they played well."

Junior Connor Ward led the team with four goals. Dziewit scored three goals and had three assists. O'Grady had three goals and two assists.

"Kyle and Connor both had very nice games," Kaminkas added. "As the game went on, the attack really came alive and did very well especially with Hendricks in goal."

Kaminski scored two goals. Senior Jordan Moore and sophomore Austin Egler scored one goal each. Hendricks had 13 saves during the game.

The boys began the week against Troy Athens on Tuesday for their first OAA league game.

"They are always a tough rival," said Kaminkas. "It's going to be a tough week. This is the first time this year we are going to do game, practice, game, practice because of cancellations. We have to recover the body, recover the minds and get back at it."

The Wolves head to Bloomfield United on Thursday for a 7 p.m. game and are home on Saturday when they host St. Francis High School, 2 p.m.



Kyle O'Grady pushes past defense. Photos by Wendi Reardon



Evan Kneisel grabs the ball from Notre Dame possession.

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This Week on ClarkstonTV.com

ClarkstonTV.com has a new look. Now part of the Sherman Digital Publications, the website features all four Sherman Publications newspapers and some of your favorite shows on ClarkstonTV.com.

The latest episode of your favorite ClarkstonTV.com show, "Phil-in-the-Blank", "Don Rush - The Show", "Jill's Show", "Seeing Green", "Pet Talk" etc., can be seen by clicking on the appropriate picture. Each of the newspapers can also be accessed the same way. To access all the rest of the ClarkstonTV.com shows, click on the "ClarkstonTV.com" picture. Try out the new site and send us an email telling us what you think.

New this week are two shows.

Show #4 on ClarkstonTV.com features Clarkston High School Drama Club cast of the play "Sylvia" - showtimes April 26-27, 7 p.m., at the CHS Auditorium. Tickets are \$8.

The new series "This Darn Landscape" features Tom Lowrie of Lowrie's Landscape with tips to help you improve your landscape, at Show #8.

Also, a new episode of "Pet Talk" tells us all about Preventative pet care is featured in the Show #3 spot.

Young volunteers gather with some of the blankets they made during the project. Photo provided



Spring breakers make blankets, pillow cases for troops

Children and volunteers made 15 blankets and 50 pillowcases for troops overseas, April 2, at American Legion Auxiliary Campbell-Richmond Unit 63 during Spring Break Service Project night,

in partnership with Clarkston Coalition for Youth.

"Members of the auxiliary unit demonstrated how to make fleece tie flap blankets and how to transform a T-shirt

into a pillowcase," said Amy Laboissonniere, Unit 63 Auxiliary. "Families looking for safe and fun outings during Spring Break came out to take part in the activities."

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Networking is a must for small business owners, but let's be honest, who has the time these days to go out networking door-to-door? By establishing mutually-beneficial relationships with other small business owners and entrepreneurs, you can exchange information, ideas and support, and potentially gain new clients.

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- Cindy Burroughs, The Clarkston News
- Don Rush, The Clarkston News

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Pay still a bargain, trustees say

Continued from page 1

some members of the board felt might be unfair to other workers.

Lohmeier said he was "nervous that we're only doing it for these two individuals. While their workload is clearly higher, everyone's workload in the township is higher than it was a couple of years ago."

Pallotta said she felt torn about increasing the building inspectors' pay. "The last 60 days, I've had to make some hard decisions with my own staff," she mentioned.

"I can't compensate them for the extra hours they put in because my budget doesn't allow for it," Pallotta said, "It breaks my heart to watch all of our employees work so hard everyday, and they don't get the benefit of these contractors."

In addition to considerations of fairness in offering the raises, Lohmeier felt the job performance in the building department didn't warrant an increase.

"We nearly lost our building authority because of issues we had in inspection, so I wouldn't hold it up as a model of quality in the past," Lohmeier said.

"If I had \$14,000 to put in a kitty to distribute based on performance, I don't know if this is where I'd spend it," he added. "It's a huge increase in compensation."

Treasurer Paul Brown disagreed. "My perception is not that we're giving them a huge increase; my perception is that they are hugely underpaid," he said.

"For us to pretend that we're doing them a favor by bringing their compensation up to a reasonable level is a bit of an insult," he stated. "We need to do this because it's the right thing to do."

"The fact that this is a huge increase doesn't exclude it from being a huge bargain," said Trustee Andrea Schroeder.

Supervisor Pat Kittle compared the \$66,000 pay for Independence Township's inspectors to Orion Township's \$144,000 and Oakland Township's \$94,000 compensation for similar work.

"If these guys decide to walk, what's the risk to the township as far as incremental expense?" Kittle asked. "I don't know if we'd ever get similar services done at similar prices."

"I don't have a fear that folks are going to walk away instantly," Lohmeier said. "Why aren't we bidding out this work? We should be trying to get the best service at the lowest cost for the taxpayer."

"I don't think if we go through the bid process we're going to get this rate," Schroeder said.

"The demand for their services has gone up," said Trustee Ron Ritchie. "I think there's some security in this for the township with having some metrics to review every ninety days."

The board meets again on May 14 at 7 p.m. at 6483 Waldon Center Drive.

Milestones



Becky and Brandon

Rumph-Pender

Becky Rumph and Brandon Pender will celebrate an August wedding in Rochester, Mich.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Paul Rumph of Clarkston. She is a graduate of Clarkston High School and Michigan State University, and earned a Dr. of Chiropractic from Life University in Marietta, Georgia. Becky proudly serves as secretary for Clarkston SCAMP.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Randall Pender of Novi. Brandon graduated from Novi High School, earned a Political Science degree from Lake Superior State University, and was a captain in the U.S. Army.

He is presently a Logistics Team Leader for the Department of Army. Brandon is active in Wounded Warrior Projects. They will reside in the Ortonville area.

Patrice-Bojanowski

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Fuller of Clarkston have announced the engagement of their daughter Lauren Patrice to Gerald Bojanowski II of Royal Oak, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bojanowski of Washington Township, Michigan.

The bride elect is a graduate of Clarkston High School and Albion College. She is employed as the Youth Programs Director at the Baldwin Center in Pontiac.

Bojanowski is a graduate of Romeo High School and Nichols College, MA. He is employed as an Account Manager at Magna International in Troy.

The couple are planning a June wedding at St. Florian Polish Catholic Church, Hamtramck.



Gerald and Lauren

Students achieve success

Claire Beverly Huttenlocher of Clarkston was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2012 semester at Washington University in St. Louis. Huttenlocher is enrolled in the university's College of Arts & Sciences.

Erika Anderson of Clarkston earned academic honors for the fall 2012 semester at Purdue University.

Taylor Walker of Clarkston recorded per-

fect grades and was named to the President's List at Saginaw Valley State University for the fall 2012 semester.

Clarkston students earning a spot on the Dean's List at Saginaw Valley State University include **Gregory Alexander, Kayla Bell, Megan Chesney, Eileen Gemborys, Kaitlin Glynn, Kaley Gross, Danielle Guldi, Brandon Harris, Meredith Harrison, Alex Keesling, and Heather Pantea.**

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Oil exploration from the beginning

Part I of a two-part story on oil and gas exploration from start to finish.

BY MARY KECK

Clarkston News Staff Writer

The lease Jordan Development offered Independence Township is "non developmental," which means no drilling or mineral storage will occur on their property. The same may not be true of leases signed between Jordan and individual landowners, however.

To get to the minerals beneath 98 acres of Independence Township, a well will be drilled on privately owned land nearby. *The Clarkston News* spoke with Jordan's partner West Bay Exploration to find out what you can expect if there's a drilling operation on your property.

A peek at the earth's subsurface

West Bay's Vice President Pat Gibson said his oil and gas company has been working with Jordan Development for ten years. "Each of us owns our proportionate share of the well" on Teggerdine and White Lake Roads, he said.

Before any drilling occurs, companies like Jordan and West Bay will be very familiar with the area. In particular, they're knowledgeable about what's below the ground.

According to Gibson, "We're very science driven." The process starts with West Bay's geologists who research "where other wells were drilled historically" by checking the state's "records of those wells, and they can go back and look at the rock types that were drilled through."

After the geologist has done some subsurface mapping, they'll point to particular sections the oil and gas company may want to explore. "Then, we program the seismic crew to come out and shoot," Gibson said.

This seismic survey is done using sensors about the size of tent stakes placed in the ground along a street. "The straighter the road, the better for the quality of data," Gibson pointed out, which is why West Bay will be running their vibratory tractor along M-15 in the coming months.

"We've run hundreds of thousands of miles of road seismic in Michigan," Gibson assures, "it is not something that's detrimental to the roads or to pictures hanging on people's walls in their living room."

After the test, Gibson will see a 3D image from the seismic test that allows him to look up to 9,000 feet down, but he won't get a glimpse of any prehistoric bones or primitive burial grounds. "It really is a bunch of squiggly lines," he described.

Those squiggles will "show you where the highs and lows are" in the Niagaran Reef, ancient coral formations that are now porous rock about 4,400 to 4,600 feet beneath Michigan's surface, Gibson explained. "The

Niagaran Reef didn't necessarily create the oil, but it became the trap and the reservoir to hold the oil," he added.

If the seismic map reveals where oil and gas might be trapped, Gibson takes into account what has been found in these parts of Michigan in the past.

"If you're in an area where reefs did produce hydrocarbons, more than likely the reef that you find will. If you're in an area where reefs were drilled and they contained salt water, you're less likely to drill," he explained.

Once West Bay and Jordan think there's a good chance of finding valuable minerals captured in the holey rock underground, "we would start leasing fairly intensely," Gibson said. "Because we start leasing, it is not a sure thing we are going to drill there," he notes. "It just means we have a promising idea that we want to continue exploring."

Although the technology used for such seismic studies is more advanced than ever before, the only way to know for certain if there are valuable minerals beneath the surface is to drill.

Reaching black gold

It isn't always the oil and gas company that does the drilling.

In the case of West Bay and Jordan, "all of those services are provided by contractor companies," Gibson pointed out. "There are specialized contractor companies whether it be for the actual drilling rig itself or the cement company that does the cementing of the casing."

Once a contractor is hired, "the very first piece of pipe that goes in is called the conductor," Gibson said. "It looks like a steel culvert," and is driven into the ground about 15 to 20 feet. "That's going through top soil, sand, clay, and gravel, and that's just used to center the rest of the drilling that's going to go on and give us a stable circle to start from."

After the conductor pipe is in place, "we drill a larger hole, we set steel casing, we drill a bit smaller hole, we set more steel casing, fill it with concrete, and we keep doing this up to five times. . . all the way to the surface, all the way to the bottom," said Gibson. The wells they hope to drill in Independence Township will reach about 5100 feet.

"The drill bit itself is three sets of teeth that crush the rock in little tiny pieces," Gibson stated. The drill bit gets smaller and smaller the deeper they bore into the ground, and it moves at about eight minutes per foot. "It's a six and a half inch bit by the time we're at the bottom."

The main types of rock they're drilling through are limestone, dolomite, salt, and

shale. If they reach layers of granite, they call it "the basement" because they can't break through it.

"In addition to those things crushing and grinding up the rock at the end, we're injecting water down the middle of the pipe, and it's coming out over the top of those bits; that's what flushes all the rock that's been broken up and brings it back to the surface," Gibson explained.

At this point, the force driving the pipe down into the earth is gravity. "By the time you're down there five thousand feet, even though you're using a six inch pipe, a mile of six inch pipe is some pretty heavy pipe, so we don't really have to pull down on it or push on it," Gibson said.

They don't just drill straight down, however. To reach the oil and gas below Independence Township, they'll need to drill horizontally.

"When we're directionally drilling, we put a piece of equipment near the drill bit; it's called a mud motor," he said. The mud motor uses some of the fluid they're pumping down into the pipe to push the drill bit. "Instead of going straight down, it's putting just a little flex onto the drill bit."

The process of creating that slope and bending the steel pipe takes a while. "If we're going to take a 90 degree turn that could take several thousand feet."

Gibson said no chemicals are used in the process, which requires about 10,000 gallons of water. They use freshwater, salt water, Bentonite mud, and hydrochloric acid to clean the pipe when they're finished. Surface water isn't used. Instead, the company may drill a water well near their operation or trucks will bring water to the drilling location.

Next week, Part II on mineral extraction and DEQ regulations.

CHS hosts camp

The Clarkston High School Drama Club hosts the CHS Musical Theatre Camp for students in grades 2-6, May 10-11.

This year's theme is "Tangled." The songs and dances are going to be from one of the newest Disney movies around.

The 2-day program is for students interested in acting, singing, learning fun dances, songs and more while making new friends. The registration fee is \$50 and includes a cool camp t-shirt, dinner on Saturday, snacks, and assists the Drama Club to cover the costs of camp.

The camp is May 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and May 11, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. with a performance for parents at 5:30 p.m.

You can register by calling Clarkston Community Education at 248-623-4326; faxing 248-623-4555; or stopping by at 3558 Waldon Road.



Gibson

CNews
People Poll
April 17, 2013

Clarkston Schools are talking about enrolling up to 150 K-2 students from other districts

What do you think?

"I've been in other districts where enrollment was opened and saw the damage it did - money is important



but this is not the answer!"

- Stacie Rustile

"Some things are not worth the money and our kids deserve better than being sold out because the district wants to fill a few



more seats. We all moved to this area for a reason - the schools. Now that they have opened it up to K-2, the floodgate has been opened. This is a bad decision by the district for too many reasons to list here."

- Colleen Armstrong

"I, for one, will be contacting Rod Rock, to urge him to find another way to secure the needed funds. I already contact my



governor and representatives on a regular basis, to make sure they know how devastating these cuts are for our children."

- Ellen McNaughton

"Why not? Clarkston students are first. If there is room, open it up to others. What's wrong with that?"

- Karen Schreiber Skene

"Calling your state reps for a restoration of funding would be a start. Clearly Michigan businesses didn't use the tax breaks to hire

people."

- Scott Banks

By Phil Custodio

The Clarkston News'
Millstream

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



Brian and Kimberly Daly share a plateful of chocolate treats.



Julie Meredith tries a cupcake.

Chocolate dream

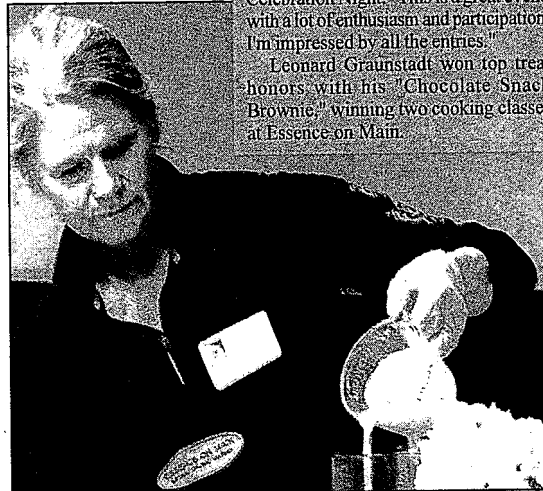
Clarkston's Friends of the Library membership meeting was standing room only, April 9. The tables filled with chocolate might have had something to do with it.

"Normally, attendance is light - there's much more participation this way," said Carol Grubba, chairperson of Chocolate Celebration Night. "This is a great event with a lot of enthusiasm and participation. I'm impressed by all the entries."

Leonard Graunstadt won top treat honors with his "Chocolate Snack Brownie," winning two cooking classes at Essence on Main.



Suzanne Rizzo samples a chocolate dipped strawberry.



Joan Donnay of Essence on Main demonstrates how to make chocolate truffles. Photos by Phil Custodio



A tableful of chocolate.

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Get Dirty!

Your first garden isn't as hard as you think

By Sam Erickson

Growing a garden may seem like a daunting task, but more and more people are doing it every year. It is a

simple and rewarding way to reduce some of your impact on the environment and make your life greener. You don't have to be self-sufficient. You

can make a difference by growing a small amount of your own food.

Food is the most essential element to life. In the modern world, it is also one of the biggest contributors to the degradation of the environment. Much food in the United States is grown far from where it's consumed and requires a lot of energy to be distributed. These days, there is also the risk of additives and disease. Growing your own food will allow you to know

exactly where your food is coming from, reduce your food budget each week and allow you to get a little closer to nature, even in the heart of a big city.

You don't need a ton of acreage to grow your own food. You just need a small yard, a deck or even a patio to put out your plants. To start a garden, pick a site that gets good sun. Usually, this means something on the south side of your home that isn't shaded by a large tree. All you need is a little bit of dirt, and potted plants work great for those in apartments. If

you have the inclination, try a raised bed, which helps the soil stay warmer and drain better, giving you better growing conditions. For more success your first year, use garden starts rather than seed. Starts do cost a little more, but they are already well into their growth and much hardier than seedlings.

It's important to plant things that will grow well in your area. Get familiar with the zone you live in and what works well there. Your neighbors, local garden store, local bookstore and the Internet will all have tremendous resources to help you get started. Your state university extension office will also have troves of information to help you get started. After a few years, you'll know what you like to eat and what grows well in your environment.

The point of a home garden isn't to give yourself another job but to provide you with a little food for your effort. With time and practice, you can have exactly that—a cornucopia of fruits, vegetables and herbs that come straight out of your home.

While you probably won't completely change the food system, you can make a small contribution and green up your life by growing some of your own food.

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Looking for gardening tools? Look in The Clarkston News & Penny Stretcher want ads. Bargains galore to be had!

Home Improvement

Kitchen Cabinets

Just the basics

By Tresa Erickson

Browse through the kitchen cabinet section of your local hardware store, and you're sure to come across dozens of styles. Before you start looking into the style choices available, you might want to know a little more about how kitchen cabinets are actually constructed.

Kitchen cabinets are generally constructed in two ways: framed and frameless. Framed cabinets have an actual front built onto the cabinet box, making them stronger and easier to install than frameless designs. They also feature a more traditional look, which may explain why they are a staple in American kitchens. Because of the front, however, they offer less storage space and cost more.

Frameless cabinets have no front. The doors attach right onto the cabinet sides, allowing for ample storage space. With minimal space between doors, frameless cabinets make for a clean design. They are typical of European kitchens.

Kitchen cabinet doors come in three main types: inset, full overlay and 1/2 inch overlay.

Inset doors fit entirely within the cabinet front. While they look nice, they are harder to install and require an even temperature to be maintained in the home to avoid contraction and expansion and ultimately sticking.

Full overlay doors completely cover the cabinet front, while 1/2

inch overlay doors cover the cabinet front partially. Because you can see some of the front, 1/2 inch overlay doors work well for vintage or duotone designs.

These are the construction basics. If you are planning a kitchen cabinet purchase, knowing whether you want framed or frameless cabinets, along with the style of door, will help you narrow your choices considerably. The sales associate can then show what styles are available for those selections.

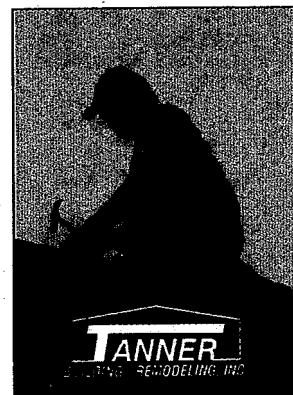
You may still wind up with several choices, but with the construction basics out of the way, you can concentrate on the aesthetic appeal of the cabinets and make sure the style you choose reflects the kitchen design you hope to create, whether contemporary, French country or Italian.

When you are ready to shop for kitchen cabinets, learn everything you can about what is available and take the time necessary to choose the right ones. Kitchen cabinets can be costly, \$3,000 and up, depending upon whether you choose stock or custom cabinets. Make sure you choose the right cabinets for your needs the first time around.

Or, ask around. There may be local interior designers who can "reface" your cabinets for a new look, at a more cost effective price.

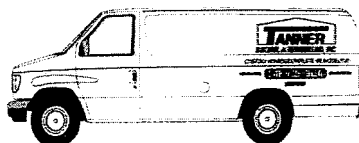
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Moving Up?

To buy or sell?

By Sam Erickson

Maybe your family has grown, shrunk or you're just looking to get out of your current home. Now it's time to buy a new house, but you've already got a mortgage. If you are one of the lucky few, you've been able to pay off your current home, but most people won't fall into that category. If you sell your current home, you'll have to either move twice or buy something under pressure. If you buy before you sell, you'll be under pressure to sell your home, potentially getting less than it is worth. What's a homeowner to do?

If you are in a buyer's market, you'll have a lot of homes to choose from at reasonable prices, but you might have trouble selling your home. In this kind of down market for sellers, many people are willing to set the date for the closing significantly in the future to be assured that they have a sale. You can even make the home sale contingent on the sale of your own home. That way, you'll have a very short overlap between the purchase and the sale. Not all sellers will be willing to make this arrangement, though.

In any case, you'll want to buy low and sell high, and the best way to do this is to pay attention to the markets you'll be in. If it's a seller's market with high prices and low inventory, it's best to sell your home and take advantage of the time you'll get for that high price looking for a new home. You might end up owning two houses at once, not something anyone looks forward to.

In order to get the financing to own two homes at once, you may have to pull some strings. Some people will have

family or friends willing to loan them the money for a brief period of time. To protect all parties, this should be a formal arrangement with a competitive interest rate and legally binding paperwork to ensure the money is repaid. If this isn't possible, many lenders will offer bridge loans for that brief period. These often have higher interest rates than mortgage loans, so they make the most sense for those who are moving into smaller or less expensive homes.

In either case, you'll want to have your home prepped and your financing in order. Real estate agents will be eager to work for someone looking to trade homes, and you might have a good relationship with the person who helped you buy your first home. You might also investigate having a professional home stager come through to help you dress up your home. Take the time and invest in a home inspection so that you'll know what major issues you'll need to address in your current home. The last thing you want is a bad home inspection on your current home holding up your sale and move to a new home. You can also get all of your financing in order with your mortgage lender or broker.

A home is like a giant ship on the water, and steering two of them at once can be very difficult. If you are switching out your old home for a new one, be sure to be aware of the real estate market and choose a real estate agent with experience trading homes.

That experience can make the difference between an easy, successful purchase and one that will give you headaches throughout.



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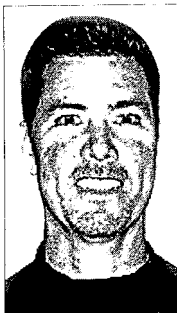


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Recreation & Fitness

Resolving to be a better golfer To go green

I've come up with some golf related resolutions you can think about achieving in 2013. It's always best when we get pen to paper, listing our goals for the year -- yes, even in golf! There's something about seeing our commitment written on paper, and something very rewarding when we can then cross off the list those deeds we've accomplished.



Marc White - PGA teaching professional

Resolve to learn a new shot this year. Learn how to hit a good bunker shot, the high lob shot, how to knock it down into the wind or hit a low skipper that checks up after a few bounces.

Resolve to go through the fitting process and learn about the importance of lie angle, shaft flex, shaft material, grip size, club length and head design. How does ball speed, club speed and launch angle fit into the fitting process? Properly fit clubs are a must.

Resolve to learn more about the value of golf fitness. Physical limitations can and do restrict our ability to swing the golf club correctly. In most cases, these limitations can be improved.

Resolve to practice and play more. Your commitment will pay off. Trust me.

Resolve to get your family more involved in the game.

Resolve to attend a golf school, camp, or seminar this year.

Resolve to actually read that golf magazine that is delivered every month from cover to cover.

Read the Rules of Golf book this year, one rule at a time.

Resolve to spend two-thirds of your practice time working on your short-game. Without a doubt it's the

fastest way to lower your handicap.

Resolve to attend a high school golf match. The two best players from each school are always paired together. Walk nine holes with them and marvel at how far they hit the ball and just how good young players are today.

Resolve to give something back to junior golf, your time, money, old equipment or encouragement.

Resolve and commit to making 2013 your best golfing year yet!

* * *

I look forward to being a regular contributor to *The Clarkston News*. If you have questions about your golf game that I can answer in future columns, please email me, you can write, mlwPGA@yahoo.com



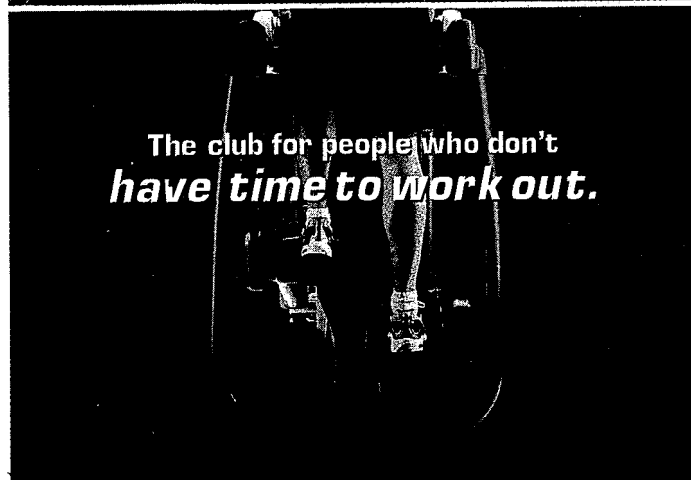
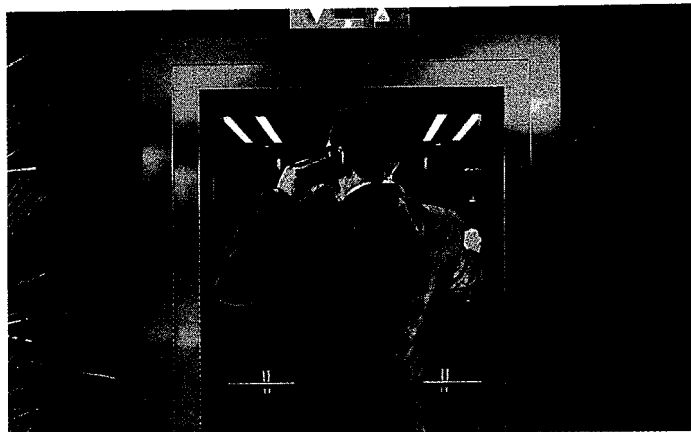
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The Color Dilemma In pursuit of matching paint pigments

By Tresa Erickson

Most of us have been there, done that—perusing paint chips for days on end, selecting a few colors, applying them to the walls and hating the results. We don't have the time, money or desire for a redo, so we tell ourselves to live with the paint colors for a while to see if they grow on us. Sometimes they do. Sometimes they don't, and we go through the process all over again or just learn to live with what's there. How can we ensure we pick the right paint colors the first time around?

Unfortunately, there is no surefire way to ensure you pick the right paint colors the first time around. There are some things you can do to improve your odds, however. Study the room long beforehand and determine the

purposes you want it to serve. Will it be a place to relax and watch TV, a place to gather with others and eat, or a place to study and work? Read up on the color wheel to determine what color families will make the best backdrop for the purposes you intend for the room. If you want to use the room primarily as a place to relax, for example, reds and yellows might not be a good choice, as these will evoke energy and passion. A soft brown or blue, on the other hand, might do just the trick.

Shop around for paint colors. Go to several stores and select as many paint chips as possible. Bring them home, take them to the room you plan to paint and lay them all out on a table. Look at them at various times of the day and in various lighting conditions.

Know what each color will look like at any given time. Toss out the chips you don't like and tape the ones remaining to the wall where you can see them throughout the day.

Narrow your choices until you have 10 or less. Then research the paint brands and find out how they stack up against each other. Choose the top ones and make sure the colors of choice come in the type of finish you desire. You might not be able to find that sassy hot pink or fiesta lime green in the eggshell finish you want. Finally, get some paint samples. Many stores now carry small paint samples that you can purchase for less than the price of a quart. Apply your samples to the wall near each other and check them out at various times of the day under various lighting conditions.

Continue narrowing your color choices until you have the exact palette you want. If you're still undecided, consider painting some wallboards in the colors in question. Then set the wallboards along the walls in the room you plan to paint and live with them for a while to see which ones appeal to you most. With any luck, you will soon know what you want and love the results!

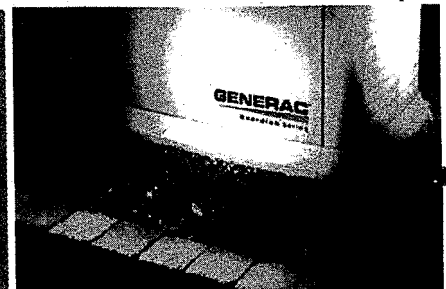
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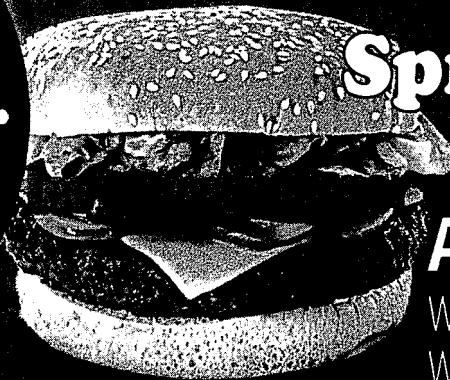
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Events

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.

Symphony of the Lakes, 7:30 p.m., April 20. Clarkston Junior High School, 6595 Middle Lake Road. \$20/regular admission, \$15/seniors, free/students.

Dick Whittington and His Cat, Once Upon a Puppet's original Puppet Play for the whole family, 1 p.m., 3 p.m., April 20, Clarkston Village Players' Depot Theater, 4861 White Lake Road. \$6. 248-575-4104.

Lifeguard Certification Class and Review Class, American Red Cross, 3:30-5 p.m., April 22-26 and April 29-May 3. Clarkston Community Education. \$185/certification, \$100/review. 248-623-3588.

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, auctions, music, dancing. \$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.

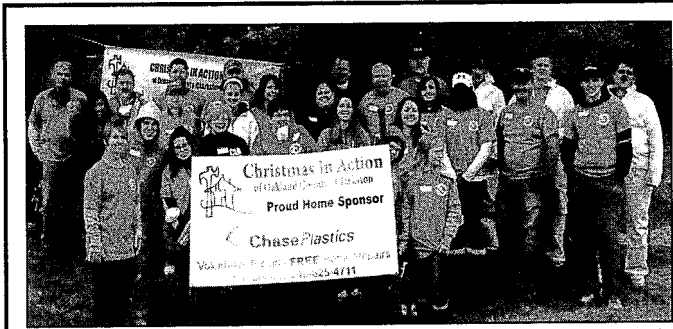
Used Book Sale, April 24, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m., April 25-26, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., April 27, bag day, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Independence Township Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. 248-625-2212.

Neighbor To Neighbor Giveaway, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., April 28, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5464 Waterford Road. Free clothing, furniture, games for kids, bedding,

Around Town



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



Christmas in Action volunteers gather for a group photo during last year's work day. Photo provided

Call for CIA volunteers

Christmas In Action's annual work day is coming up next weekend, April 27, and the Clarkston community group is signing up volunteers.

"We have several home improvement projects as well as many rake-n-runs. This is also a great opportunity for the youth to earn service hours," said Mike Gemborys, board member with Christmas In Action Clarkston.

Volunteers of all skill levels provide

indoor and outdoor repairs, cleaning, and other services to seniors, low-income, and people with handicaps.

Previous projects include major plumbing and electrical repairs, repairing holes in floors, rebuilding ceilings, painting, yard work, tree trimming, new handicap ramps, deck repairs, and repairing doors, fences and gates.

Sign up online by April 20 at www.christmasinactionclarkston.com.

household items for families, individuals in need. 571-221-4121.

Plant This, Not That, presented by Laura Zigmant, landscape designer and horticultural consultant, 7:30-9 p.m., May 1, St. Daniel Church Cushing Center, 7010 Valley Park Drive. Native alternatives to popular plants, shrubs, flowers. Free. Register, annebushroe@hotmail.com, Wild Ones, North Oakland Chapter.

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. \$30. Reservations by April 27, Pam at 248-421-7699 or Leslie at 248-625-8240. Also, **Resale Fashion Accessory Boutique**, drop off donations by May 3 at the church. 248-625-5185.

Chuck Keegan Race for the Kids, May 4, Clarkston Junior High track, 6595 Middle Lake Road. 5K run, 3K walk, "Donut Dash" for children 10 and under. Registration, 8 a.m.; events, 9 a.m. \$50/family, \$20/individual for 5K Run or 3K Walk; \$5/individual for "Donut Dash." Call

Mike, 248-623-5631, or check www.clarkstonfoundation.org.

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.

Monday

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

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

Tuesday

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.

Wednesday

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

Thursday

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

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

Saturday

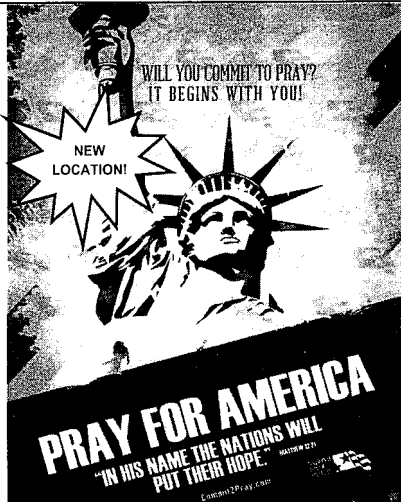
50+ Spanish Lessons, Saturdays, 9-10 a.m., Senior Adult Activity Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. \$60/members, \$65/non-members. 248-625-8231.

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.clarkstonlions.org.

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

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2013 CLARKSTON AREA NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST
THEME: PRAY FOR AMERICA (Matthew 12:21)

Thursday, May 2, 2013 - 7-9 a.m.

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Bonita Laudeman, Chaplain, Oakland Co. Sheriff Dept.
Emcee: Mickey York, Anchor - FOX Sports Detroit
Special Music: Matt Duncan

To be held at: **Fountains Golf & Banquet - 6060 Maybee Road, Clarkston**
 Tickets are \$10 per person and must be purchased by April 21.

Contact Calvary Lutheran, 248-229-2723, or Clarkston Community, 248-625-1323.

Death notices & Obituaries

Ronald L. Moore, 55 Shirley Blasko, 76

Ronald L. Moore of LaQuinta, Calif., formerly of Clarkston, passed away April 5, 2013, at age 55.

He was preceded in death by his wife Sandra. He was the stepfather of Bill Shuell; grandpa of Maxwell and William; brother of Jim Moore, Mary Jo Cantu and Camille Moore; preceded in death by his parents Denver and Bette Moore.



Funeral, April 12, **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Interment Lakeview Cemetery. Memorials may be made to American Cancer Society. www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Shirley Anne Blasko, June 15, 1936-March 24, 2013, of Clarkston passed peacefully in her sleep.

As daughter of Frank and Anna Kaye of Grosse Pointe Woods and wife of the late Joe Blasko, Shirley Anne Blasko is survived by her three children Chris, Vikki and Kirk, sister Marge, and five grandchildren, Shawn, Aliyah, Lexi, Kira and Kiya.



Shirley was a graduate of Grosse Pointe North School and Wayne State University. She began her career in education as an elementary school teacher in the Royal Oak area, and went on to serve as a substitute teacher in the Clarkston Schools for 15 years. As a teacher, she created special nicknames for her students and always joked about "the magic three-foot circle."

While living in Royal Oak, Shirley loved to take the kids and head north to the beaches of Pontiac Lake Rec. Area. Soon, Joe and Shirley moved into a home overlooking Walters Lake in Clarkston where they lived for nearly three decades.

She was known for her wonderful holiday dinners, although frequently commenting that her cookies were "burnt on the bottom and raw in the middle." The traditional Polish and Hungarian dishes were served up for dinner, from kiftli to cucumber salad and chicken paprikash.

Always a mom to the end, she was ready with a tea-and-brandy with lemon for anyone suffering a cold. She enjoyed visiting with her grandkids and loved to talk on the phone to her family each day.

Later in life, Shirley survived having both knees and a hip replaced, along with 13 eye surgeries. She eventually lost her vision to glaucoma, at the same time dealing with debilitating rheumatoid arthritis.

During this time, she was able to live independently due to the life-giving care, constant companionship and devoted support of Lora Baker. It is due to her unparalleled care that Shirley was able to continue on feeling the comfort and care of home for so long. Our family will forever be grateful to Lora for this generous gift to our mom.

While we mourn the loss of our mother, sister, grandmother and friend, we are comforted to know that she was cared for and loved to the end. And now she may rest comfortably in the arms of her husband and parents.

A memorial luncheon will be on April 20.

Theresa Peterson, 81

Theresa M. Peterson of Waterford passed away April 12, 2013, at age 81.

She was the wife of Herbert Alsup; mother of Joan (Wayne) Myers, James (Kristine) Peterson, Jeffrey (Maria) Peterson; stepmother of Dale (Bonnie) Alsup, John (Robin) Alsup, Joseph Alsup, the late Eric (Mary) Alsup; loving Mimi of Joel and Jennika Myers, Justin and Katherine Peterson; stepgrandmother of 11; also survived by numerous great grandchildren; sister of Mary Poczabut, Julia (Louis) Betit, Josephine (Wayne) Locke; sister in law of Mary Kaszuba.

Theresa was a Registered Nurse at Pontiac General and later served as Director of Nursing at Oakland Community College, Southfield. She was a member of Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church.

Rosary was April 15 at the **Lewis E. Wint and Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Funeral Mass, April 16 at Our Lady of the Lakes. Rite of Committal All Saints Cemetery. Donations, Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Church. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Karen McIntosh, 58

Karen McIntosh of Hadley passed away April 14, 2013, at age 58.

She was the wife of Jim; mother of Jason (Jessica) McIntosh; grandmother of Brandon, Kylie and Hope; daughter of Mary and S.B. Saylor Jr.; sister of Rebecca (Gary) Wilder and Pam Clardy.



Friends may visit Wednesday 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Private family funeral service. Memorials may be made to Avalon Hospice. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

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www.angelsplacrace.org

Religion

Events Preaching

Easter's not a day, it's a lifestyle

During Lenten and Holy Week our Congregation focused on hymns we like to sing and how they relate to our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection. On Easter we focused on the hymn *I Know that My Redeemer Lives*, hymn written by Samuel Medley in 1775, the tune, *Duke Street*, composed by John Hatton.

These words reflect the words of Job when, facing great struggle in his life (including loss of children, livestock, property and health), was encouraged to curse God and be done with it.

He speaks this confession of faith: "Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. (Job 19:24-27, ESV)

Even in Job's day people did not want to think about suffering and dying. They wanted to feel good. Job reminds us that without the suffering, without the death, there is no resurrection. It is coming through the trial that makes the resurrection such a great victory!

Every major religion talks about a tomb. Many will take you to where their founder is

buried. Only the Christian faith cannot take you to the body because the tomb is empty. God defeated the powers of sin, death and hell, rising never to die again.

Who else could proclaim that? Lazarus? Yes, but he died again. Everyone Jesus raised from death during His ministry died again. Since then people have been resuscitated, not raised, and will die again unless Jesus returns before that day.

If you are standing at the tomb of a loved one how do you feel? Empty? Hurt? Lost? Maybe you question why this happened, wondering "what now"?

Listen to the words of the hymn: *He lives to grant me rich supply. He lives to comfort me when faint. He lives to silence all my fears. He lives to wipe away my tears. He lives and I shall conquer death. He lives, my Jesus, still the same!*

As you hear those words how do you feel? Is the edge of death softened? Is the sting a little less? Do you hear the words of hope? Is the hurt covered with God's healing balm? Do you hear the answers to your questions?

What is the Christian faith without the death and resurrection of Jesus, without the cross and the shed blood that assures us of our forgiveness? It is nothing. St. Paul reminds us that *If in Christ we have hope only in this life we are of all people most to be pitied.* (1 Corinthians 15:19)

Easter is not a day, it is a season, it is a life-style and a life-time. Easter is knowing that YOUR Redeemer lives.

The Rev. Kendall Schaeffer is pastor of St. Trinity Lutheran Church.

Spiritual Matters



Pastor Kendall Schaeffer

In our churches...

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

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

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 p.m., 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.

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10:30 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Evening Service
Wed: 7:00 pm Awana Club
6:30 pm Teen Ministry
7:30 pm Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

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Home of Oakland Christian School
Pastors: Greg Henneman, Bonita Landeman, 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

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CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Sunday Worship: 8:00 am & 11:00 am
6:00 pm Evening Service
Nursery available for all services

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(248) 625-2311
Website: www.dixiebaptist.org
Home of Springfield Christian Academy & Children's Ark Preschool
Pastor: J. Todd Yanaman
Sun: 9:45 am Worship Service
11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
6:30 pm Worship Service
Wed: 7:00 pm Children and Teen Club & Adult Bible Study
Nursery available for all services

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www.ClarkstonFM.org
Wednesday 7 pm Youth & Adult Ministry

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Sundays at 9:30 am & 11:00 am
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- Open Sundays (6th-9th)
Singing at 8:30 am
Visiting Elders & Family Connections
Worshiping at Bridgewood
- Admitted to Holy Communion
- Nursery Care Available
- Bible Study
- Youth Ministry
- Prayer Ministry
- Music Ministry
- Homebound Ministry

'Sylvia' hits home

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Staff Writer

Alyssa Singles caught the ball and ran around the stage excitedly as the Clarkston High School Drama Club prepared for next week's spring production of "Sylvia."

Singles plays Sylvia, the dog causing chaos in the plot between married couple Greg and Kate, played by Carl Meyer and Mason Van Gieson.

"Sylvia is the alter ego which helps them travel through this adventure," explained Jeff Tice, theater director. "They go through a lot of stuff - serious and quite hilarious."

"Like a normal dog, I spaz out at everything, I bark," said Singles. "There is a lot of running around and being crazy and that is a lot of who I am."

Sylvia comes into the home as Greg and Kate are in the September portion of their lives and dealing with problems along the way.

Meyer explained his character is a 55-year-old and has come to the point in his life he doesn't care about a lot of things.

"He is losing interest in a lot in his life," he added. "He is becoming more detached from the business world and living as a free spirit. He starts off playing with the dog and trying to get his wife to like her."

As Greg is battling with his identity, his wife is as well. Van Gieson explained Kate's identity has been as his wife, and she is beginning to step out of it by getting a job as a teacher.

"She is very tired," she added. "She is tired of picking up after everybody. She wants to take her September years and take care of herself. She finds Greg skipping out on his responsibilities even more tiring. She is not in favor of Sylvia's presence in the family. She goes to some lengths to hold her marriage together. She is a very relatable character. I like her."

Sylvia tests the marriage as the story develops and the plot thickens for the characters.

Helping Greg and Kate out with their rela-



Brenna Witherspoon paints the set.

tionships with each other and Sylvia are Phyllis, played by Jessica Tucker; Tom, played by Christian Taylor; and Leslie, played by Charlie Fallis.

Phyllis is an old friend of Kate and a socialite, Tucker explained.

"She is over the top and I am, too," she smiled. "I like to let loose and have fun."

Tom tries to help Greg through his problems with the dog and his marriage, said Taylor.

"He has been there and has seen what happens when a guy gets attached to his dog," explained Taylor. "He really tries to be a sage to him but does not succeed as well as hoped. He is just so off the wall and very arrogant. He is very eccentric and weird. It was so fun to get into the character because it is something I am not used to being."

Trying to help both sides in the marital struggle is therapist Leslie, a gender neutral character.

"It's not really certain if Leslie is a guy or a girl," Fallis said. "It is to be determined by patients. Leslie tries to help people. Leslie's lines are hilarious."

"Sylvia" is rated PG for language and crude humor. It is being performed at Clarkston High School Performing Arts Center on April 26 and 27, 7 p.m.

Tickets are available for \$8 and can be reserved by calling the box office at 248-623-4024. They can also be purchased at the door before the performances.

"It is really something you need to see," added Tice. "We are pretty excited."

"It's a great show," said Meyer. "It's hilarious. It is a good story and it hits home. It makes you think a lot. It has a lot of deep and hidden meaning."



Sylvia (Alyssa Singles) excitedly meets Kate (Mason Van Gieson) for the first time.



Greg (Carl Meyer) explains his situation to Tom (Christian Taylor).

The cast of "Sylvia." From left, Alyssa Singles, Carl Meyer, Mason Van Gieson, Jessica Tucker, Christian Taylor and Charlie Fallis. Photos by Wendi Reardon





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030 WANTED

WANTED: LUGGERS, Winchester, Colts, Savage, Top dollar paid. 248-818-9687. #11202

LOOKING FOR Repairable cars/trucks. Up to \$5,000 cash paid. Quick pick up. 810-724-7647, 810-338-7770. #112184

VENDORS WANTED for the Oxford & Orion Farmer's Markets opening on May 8. Information at orionfarmersmarket.com or call 248-693-7067, or email: wielandproductions@gmail.com. Michigan grown, Michigan local, Michigan new business. #1183

WANTED: Old motorcycles, minibikes, ATVs, mopeds, running or not. 810-338-6440. #12374

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248-891-6306 L201

LADY GOLFERS TUESDAY mornings, Mulberry Hills. Start May 14th 9:30am. Shiela, 248-628-4865. #1192
WANTED: OCTOBER 24, 2001 edition of The Oxford Leader. Call 248-628-4801 or drop off at Leader office. #11431f

BUYING "CASH" FOR coins, jewelry, silver. Lake Orion Gold, 248-274-4653. #11616

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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. #11344tdh

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070 TUTORING / LESSONS

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090 AUCTIONS

AUCTION: Guns, Furniture, Tools, Antiques, Tractor, 4 wheeler. Sat., April 20, 10am. 6593 Tipsico Lake Rd., Holly 48442. 810-266-8474. NarhAuctions.com. Tim Narhi, Reg. MI Auctioneer #2801000051 #11CPM1

110 GARAGE SALE

MOVING SALE: Sunday, April 21, 10am-3pm. Speakers, electronics, work bench tools, frames, quilts, vintage pottery and kitchen, furniture, CDs and much more. 545 Grampian, off Orion Rd., Lake Orion. #11201

BARN/ MOVING SALE: April 26-27, 9am-5pm. 1760 N. Hurd Rd., Brandon Twp. Tools, housewares, furniture, antiques. #12362

ALL TYPES OF NEW Handmade grapevine wreaths, crocheted dish cloths, other crafts. Also finished edition clown prints, plus garage sale items. April 20-21 & April 26-28, 8:30am-7:30pm. 5340 Sherwood Rd., Oxford, 48371 (west of Baldwin). #11202

MOM2MOM SALE, Sat. April 20, 9-11:30 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 MOPS. To sell call MarCharia 248-202-8606 or LOMOPSM2M@gmail.com. #11174

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(Holiday deadlines may apply) L28-dh

Mom2Mom Sale

SATURDAY APRIL 20
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Lake Orion Community Education Resource Center (C.E.R.C.)
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Shop over 90 seller spaces L201

MOVING SALE: household items & more. 5783 Shannon Ln., Clarkston. April 20 & April 21, 9am-4pm. #11C402
HUGE BLOWOUT SATURDAY April 27th, 8am-4pm. 9505 Ridge Rd., Goodrich. #12362

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NEXT TO AN AD? Check our classifieds on-line for a photo or a Google map. Oxfordleader.com #119-tdh
MOVING/ ESTATE SALE: 2015 Bald Mountain, Lake Orion. April hours: Saturdays, Sundays: 10am-6pm, yard & (part of) barn. 40+ years of dirt, many items also smoke damaged. Don't wear white! Rose, 248-693-9456. #11202

GARAGE SALE, EXTRA large birdcages, furniture, wood burning furnace, antiques. Tonka toys, beanie babies, clothes. You need it. We have it! April 18 and 19, 10.5, 370 Sanders Rd., Oxford. #11201

MOVING SALE! Thursday, Friday, 9, 6. 5975 Wellington, Clarkston. Rain Shine! #11201
MOVING SALE: April 18-20, 10am-4pm. Furniture, tools, misc. 1931 Ryan Andrew Ct., Leonard (Mack & Rochester) #1192

120 CRAFT SHOWS

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. #12361

130 HOUSEHOLD

OLSEN DURDMATIC propane furnace. 80,000 btu's, \$450. Enduro A/T mounted on Chevy wheels, size 31 x1050 LT \$150! pr. 248-627-2777. #11202
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140 COMPUTERS

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170 GENERAL

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www.CenturaOnline.com #11CPM1

170 GENERAL

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SPRING LUNCHEON: Immanuel Church, 1 Hovey, May 9th. 12-1:30pm. !!L204

WEDDING INVITATIONS and accessories available online through Carlson Craft. Check our website at www.shermanpublications.com or call 248-628-4801 for more information. !!L9t

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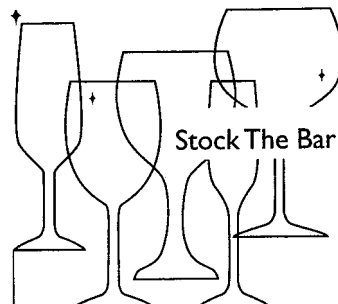
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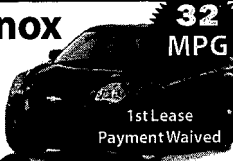
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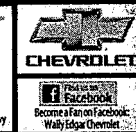
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Layoff needed to cut costs, board says

Continued from page 1
lay off Heenan.

Trustee David Lohmeier voted "no." "This is a real tough one for me," he said. "Is there a way we can take a valued employee and utilize her in an effective way through training or otherwise?"

Clerk Barb Pallotta said no. "This is the downside of making a hard decision like this because it does impact an employee who has been here for almost nine years," Pallotta said.

"This has been a really hard and emotional decision," she said. "We spent quite a few hours actually discussing whether or not we can afford not to do this. That's what it boiled down to; we had to do it because we couldn't justify the cost."

Heenan will receive a severance of one month's salary and up to \$3,000 in healthcare and outplacement services. The Board voted to terminate HR Director Carol Gabris in December.

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Barb Pallotta, Clerk
Charter Township of Independence

Clarkston grad to teach in Japan

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Meg Worden was in disbelief when she opened the email from the Japan Exchange Teaching Program coordinator.

The Clarkston High School 2008 graduate read it, taking in the words not to forget to do her paperwork. It was the next email she opened she was waiting for - it was to congratulate for making the program.

"I just stopped breathing," she smiled. "I was flabbergasted and giddy."

While she is in Japan, she will be an assistant language teacher helping to teach English to students from elementary school up to high school.

"I'm looking for a minimum of two years to be in Japan but hoping for five years," she said. "I want to be a Japanese teacher in the long run. I am gunning to be there long enough for a certain level of fluency and proficiency."

Faye Valtadoros, her Japanese teacher from the high school, was excited Worden was accepted.

"It is a very competitive program," she explained. "I can't even explain how excited I am and how proud I am of her. You have to really sell yourself on the application and the essay. She did just that."

The process to get into JET began in November for Worden, starting with the application and essay. She waited until early January to find out if she would go on to the next phase - the interview.

Worden knew she wanted to participate in JET when she was a sophomore in the Japanese program - her teachers had been in the program.

"I knew I wanted to do this," Worden smiled. "I wanted to go to Japan, teach and be



Meg Worden and Sachiko Tsumita, during Worden's visit to Japan in 2010. Photo provided

there for the culture. I have been looking at this for a long time."

"I know she has felt it in her heart since high school," Valtadoros added. "Having that love for it and wanting to do it sent the positive energy out there. It has really put her right where she needs to be. It is going to be such an amazing experience for her."

Worden admitted Japanese started to draw her eye in elementary with the popularity of anime shows like *Pokemon* and *Dragon Ball Z*. As she moved up into middle school, she eyed the Japanese program at the high school.

By the time she started high school, she was ready and not only joined the Japanese program but participated in the Japanese Club and exchange program. The exchange program helped her to experience the language on another level.

"With the exchange program, having a student in your home, it really gives you first hand experience with the language and cul-

ture," Valtadoros added. "It makes all the difference in this program. Clarkston is so lucky to have it and to have that opportunity for the students to be face to face with the culture both here in America and going to Japan and being in a host family situation."

Worden has visited Japan three times - in high school, to visit a friend, and studying abroad. Over the years, the friendships she made have only grown stronger. The young lady she hosted six years ago has become a second family to her.

"For me it's weird because I am in a strange in between where America is my home and I love America, but I also have a second love for Japan. It's like I am leaving home to go home," she said.

Worden is the first student Valtadoros has taught to be accepted into JET.

"If it weren't for Faye and the program I wouldn't have fallen in love with the language like I did," Worden added.

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Meat Stimulus Package
All Natural \$379
Price includes cutting, wrapping & freezing

Combo Package \$199
total 60 lbs.

- 10 Lbs. Ground Beef
- 10 Lbs. Beef Roasts
- 10 Lbs. Boneless Chicken Breasts
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Leg Quarters
- 5 Lbs. Pork Steaks
- 5 Lbs. Pork Country Ribs
- 5 Lbs. Boneless Pork Roasts
- 5 Lbs. Pork Sausage

Beef Sampler Package \$140
total 25 lbs.

- 1 Porterhouse Steak
- 1 Pot Roast
- 2 Rib Steaks
- 1 T-Bone Steak
- 1 Sirloin Steak

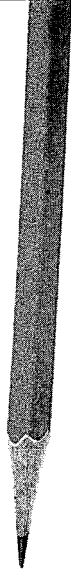
Chicken Package \$95
total 48 lbs.

- 7-8 Lbs. Roasting Chicken
- 20 Lbs. Frying Chicken, whole or cut
- 10 Lbs. Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts
- 10 Lbs. Chicken Leg Quarters

Pork Package \$105
total 30 lbs.

- 10 Lbs. Boneless Pork Chops
- 5 Lbs. Pork Steaks
- 10 Lbs. Country Ribs
- 5 Lbs. Boneless Pork Roast
- 5 Lbs. Pork Sausage

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²1.10% interest rate is accurate as of 4/1/2013. Funds currently deposited in accounts at Flagstar Bank are not eligible for promotional interest rate. The 1.10% interest rate is guaranteed for the first 6 months. The rate after 6 months is a variable interest rate and is subject to change. Limit one account per customer. Not available for public units. Fees could reduce earnings. Offer subject to change or cancellation at any time without notice. No minimum deposit to open at a branch; \$1 to open online.
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Ben Benson, board member with Student Statesmanship Institute of Lansing, talks with Dr. Ben Carson after his Clarkston speech. Photo by Phil Custodio

Doc talk

Continued from page 1

National Prayer Breakfast speech last February, growing up in Detroit, experiences in medicine, the importance of reading, and U.S. history.

"He was extraordinary – talking about what makes America great," said Kari Gorz, who attended the presentation. "I love the energy, the light he and his wife bring to shine on the issues of today."

"He's inspiring," said Sister Cynthia Obidike. "I watched his speech on YouTube. It was awesome, so when I found out about this, I had to come here to see it."

Carson grew up in poverty in Detroit, but his mother never allowed that to be an excuse, Carson said.

"My mother never played the victim, never felt sorry for herself – she never let us feel sorry for ourselves either," he said. "In retrospect, that was the best thing she could have done for us. This is what we have to reinstall in our nation."

Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, master of ceremonies for the event, said Carson would make a great U.S. senator for Michigan, but the doctor said he doesn't have any particular political aspirations.

"I see myself as a John the Baptist type person, a voice crying out in the wilderness," he said.

He and his wife also bought a house in Florida to escape excessive taxation in Maryland, he said.

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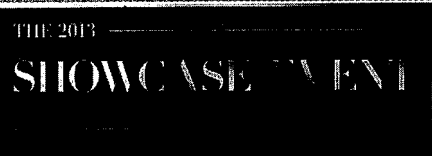
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 Employee Sale Price **\$28,681***

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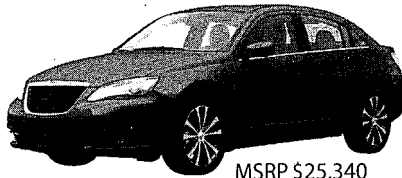
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*Heated Leather Seats

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24 mo. Lease

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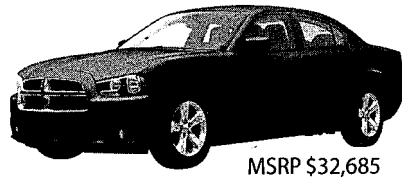
2013 Dodge Charger R/T

24 mo. Lease

*5.7L V-8 Hemi

\$119* mo.

Employee Sale Price **\$22,196***



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24 mo. Lease

• 20" Aluminum Wheels
 • Hemi

\$129* mo.

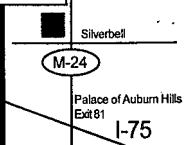
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