

The Clarkston News

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PENNY STRETCHER

Vol. 87 No. 6 Wed., December 11, 2013

1 Section, 48 pages \$1.00



ROCK IN THE CLUB: Kathy Best, at right, and fans rock to the blues tunes of Urban Nomads, with Mark Best on vocals and Cliff Douglas on guitar, at the Rock and Roll Toy Drive, Sunday at Oakland County Sportsmen's Club. The band, also featuring A.J. Brookshear on bass, and Jim Hamblin and Pete Foss on drums and percussion, joined Skee Brothers, Blues Conspiracy, Soul'd Out, and Faze2 at the benefit concert for the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots. Photo by Phil Custodio

Where's my Penny Stretcher?

If you are a regular reader of the *Clarkston News'* total market coverage (TMC) publication, you may be asking the headlined question, "Where is my Penny Stretcher?"

Well, it's sorta in your hands. All ads from local businesses and classifieds seen weekly in *The Penny Stretcher*, are also regularly published in *The Clarkston News*. *Clarkston News* readers get the bonus of staying informed and on top of local issues with timely and relevant news, PLUS all the ads seen in *The Penny Stretcher*.

This week you have a special *Clarkston News/Penny Stretcher* in your hands, something we hope to do on a monthly basis -- *A SUPER Chew*, if you will. Not only will you have the opportunity to read local sports, local school and local event news, but you will also be informed on the latest news from Independence Township.

The middle four pages are stories straight from the township -- from Supervisor Pat Kittle, Treasurer Paul Brown; from the Assessing, Parks and Recreation departments, as well as from the fire, senior citizens and Oakland County Sheriff's departments. It's called *Township Times*.

There's a ton of information for you here and we hope you enjoy it. Please read and let us know what you think. Give me a call or send me an e-mail. Thanks, and Happy Reading!

Don Rush
248-625-3370

Don@ShermanPublications.org

Sashabaw work on the way, officials say

BY ANDREAM BEAUDOIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

A \$4 million project to improve Sashabaw Road at 1-75 and Waldon Road is a top priority for Independence Township, according to officials.

Plans to improve traffic in the area are being made to prepare for new growth, like a proposed \$300 million McLaren hospital on Sashabaw Road and Bow Point Drive near

the McLaren health park.

"McLaren is coming up with some pretty significant contributions towards the improvements," said Randy Ford of Hubbell Roth & Clark, the township's engineering firm. "It mixes various funding sources."

Ford discussed the project at a Nov. 19 Board of Trustees meeting. It includes a 443,000-square-foot hospital, which Independence Township Supervisor Pat Kittle said

will add 1,300 employees and a huge financial boost to the local economy.

The project will also include new turning lanes and Sashabaw and Waldon roads. Lanes will also be repainted, and a traffic light installed at the park and ride. The most significant part of the project is a new ramp to southbound Sashabaw Road from northbound 1-75, Ford said.

Please see Decision on page 16

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Sandra Kitchen makes a donation to Clarkston Rotary for their yearly Goodfellows newspaper. Ken Barks grabs the cash and hands Kitchen a paper. Photos by Andrea Beaudoin.

Goodfellows for a good cause

Clarkston Rotary Club volunteers and friends hit local stores and intersections last week, selling their Goodfellow newspapers to raise money for Shoes for Kids.

They will provide shoes, hats, gloves, and other items to children in need at Oakland Woods Baptist Church, Dec 14.

The club meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at Buck Shots Bar and Grill, 7048 Gateway Park Drive.

For more information, check clarkstonrotary.org.



Tatiana Duva-Voigt said the Rotary helped her several times when she was in need. "You always have to give back," she said. "This is my way of giving back."

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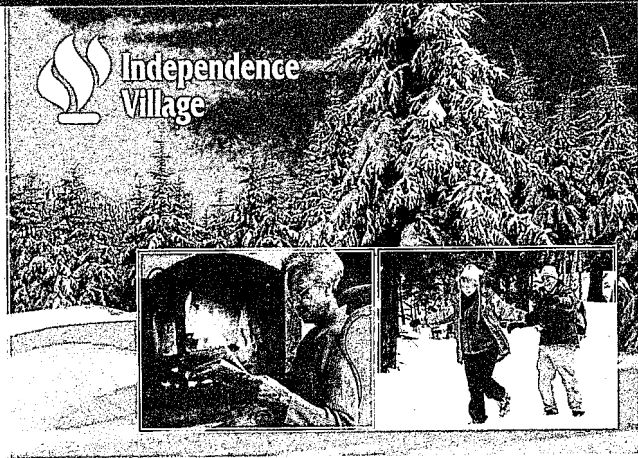
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*Conditions apply expires 12/31/13.



Volunteers Darlene Welch and Mike Morris at Sunday's Stuff a Bus at Kroger's. Photo by Phil Custodio

Drivers collect donations for Lighthouse

Clarkston bus drivers and friends volunteered for two weekends during this year's 10th annual Stuff a Bus. They collected food donations for Lighthouse at Neimans Family Market on Dixie Highway and Krogers on Sashabaw Road.

"It's going pretty good - we did well at Neiman's," said bus driver Darlene Welch at the Kroger event last Saturday.

"It's just to help the community, to be there for them. We're happy to do it."

"It's a very worthy cause," said Mike Morris, retired bus driver who has volunteered at the event for several years.

They delivered a full bus load of food from the Neiman's collection and were on the way to collecting another last weekend at Krogers, said Connie Stapleton of Lighthouse.

Paraeducators and post high students also volunteered to help out this year, Welch said.

"It's working out really well, and we're thrilled the school district helps us use a bus for this," she said. "People donate so much every year - I can't imagine how Lighthouse would get through the holidays without them."

- Phil Custodio

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TOYS FOR TOTS: From left are Oakland County Sportsmen's Club President Terry Ondusky, Salli Petherbridge, office manager, and Lance Corporal John Altena with a table filled with donations for the Marines' Toys for Tots program. The toys were donated at the club's Rock 'n Roll toy drive, Dec. 8. Photo by Phil Custodio

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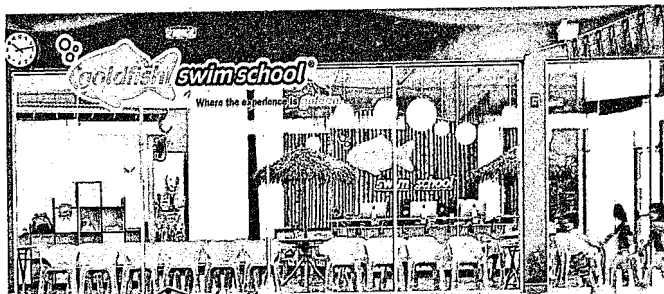
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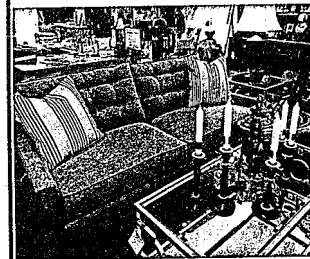
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Briefly

Anonymous donor grants \$70,000

Independence Township Supervisor Pat Kittle told the Board of Trustees that an additional \$70,000 was bestowed to help build an addition to the Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center.

Parks, Recreation and Seniors Director Ken Elwert has been working to get additional Community Development Block Grant funds for the project.

Trustee Jose Aliaga also received a list of possible grants from Congressman Mike Rogers which he gave to Elwert.

The center is raising \$300,000 for the building addition at Clintonville Park on Clarkston Road.

Firefighter promotion

Robert A. Doran, a former driver engineer with the Independence Township Fire Department, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant at the Nov. 19 Independence Township Board of Trustees meeting.

Doran started the new job on Dec. 2 with a \$1,199 wage increase.

Community band

The Clarkston Community Band invites everyone who plays a band instrument is invited to join. No auditions are required.

The band is looking to enlarge all of its sections, especially percussionist and clarinet.

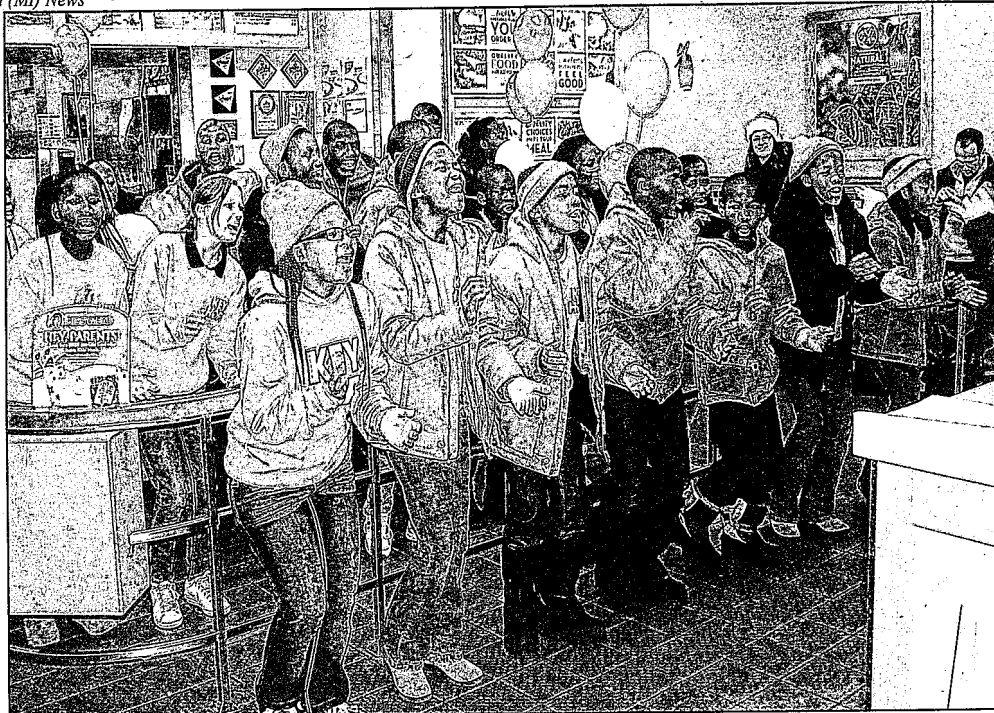
Rehearsals are Tuesday's, 7-9 p.m., at Sashabaw Middle School, 5565 Pine Knob Lane. Concerts run through the end of May.

Cost is \$30 per half season, January - May, free for high school students. For more information, email clarkstonband@gmail.com or check clarkstonband.org.

This week on Clarkston TV

See the full interview with Key of Hope Children's Choir and their first experience at Wendy's or learn how to analyze handwriting. Catch Don't Rush Me, the show by assistant publisher Don Rush. See Phil in the Blank by Clarkston News Editor Phil Custodio.

There is much, much more to see by visiting www.clarkstonTV.com



The Clarkston News facilitated a lunch for Key of Hope at Clarkston Wendy's at Dixie and White Lake on Dec. 7. After lunch and Frosty's, the group performed a song from their concert series called Sound of Hope. Photos by Andrea Beaudoin

A warm welcome

Community offers new experiences to visiting choir

BY ANDREAM.BEAUDOIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

For a group of visitors in town from the other side of the world, one device symbolized the latest technology America has to offer - a pop machine offering dozens of choices at the press of a button.

"I'm from America and that pop machine amazes me," said customer Carol Goldsmith.

The machine was a big hit with the Key of Hope Children's Choir from Durban, Africa at the Clarkston Wendy's, 7149 Dixie Highway,

Wendy's welcomed the group for a free lunch, and the kids could order anything they wanted off the menu.

Kids raved about the pop machine as well as the burgers, chicken sandwiches and French fries. After lunch, Wendy's staff invited the kids up to the counter to try out the famous Frosty.

The kids in the choir enjoyed their fast food experience in Clarkston. Cherry Hill Lanes North in Clarkston gave the kids free bowling before they visited Wendy's for lunch.

Staff at Wendy's went all out for the kids. In addition to being attentive and asking if

they needed anything, the staff decorated the restaurant with balloons to welcome the group.

Kids also performed on their songs for the staff and customers at Wendy's.

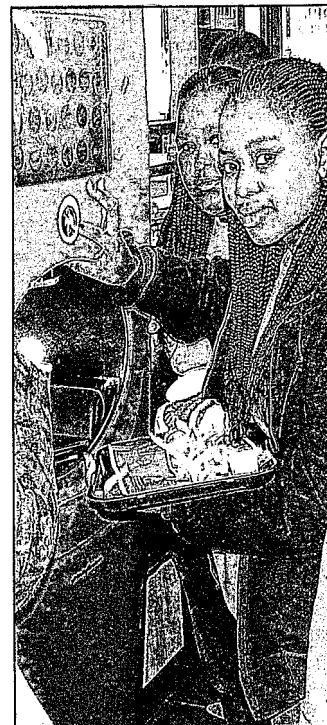
Clarkston owners of the Wendy's said inviting the group in for their first fast food experience is something that falls in line with "Dave's Legacy" a group of five principles Thomas created to run the franchise in the best way possible.

Dave's Legacy includes Quality is Our Recipe, Do the Right Thing, Treat People with Respect, Profit is not a Dirty Word and Give Something Back.

Giving something back is a big focus of management and employees at the store.

Clarkston Wendy's was voted by the Clarkston community as the Best Fast Food Restaurant in Clarkston. In 2013, the Clarkston location also won the "Give Something Back" reward for their work in the community with organizations like Wounded warriors project, employee and restaurant donations for Neighbor for Neighbor in Davisburg.

The restaurant also host fundraising events in which 15 percent of all sales is donated to a good cause.



The new pop machine at Wendy's amazed everyone.

Mission to help kids with Key of Hope

BY ANDREAM.BEAUDOIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

They came to America with a song in their heart, joy in their eyes and thankfulness in their spirit despite their troubled lives at home in Durban, South Africa.

Key of Hope a 501(c) 3 organization brought 22 kids to America to perform concerts around Michigan in a performance called "Sound of Hope."

Last week the group visited the 1st Congregational Church in Clarkston to perform for visitors.

The performance called "Sound of Hope" As the choir performed they listen intently on hand motion made by founder Rachel Smither.

Just before the performance, a video depicting the way of life for children from Durban filled a projector screen with images of a life much different than life in America.

Key of Hope founders Rachel and Dan Smither said it's their mission to bring the life changing love of God to children-not only through solid gospel teaching, but also in tangible ways that demonstrate that love.

Each week Key of Hope visits 1,000 children in their squatter camps near Durban in their hillside homesteads-places filled with the ways of extreme poverty, to provide whatever help they possibly can.

"There are 10,000 children just outside our reach," said Rachel. 10,000 more children right there that Key of Hope wishes they could reach out too and help.

Kids they care for have not only face a difficult life just to find the necessities needed to survive they have also been effected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, one of the worst in the world in the area they live. Some are orphaned from AIDS-leaving them without Parents. Some have the disease themselves.

The HIV/AIDS statistics are alarming - 1 in 5 are HIV positive, and every hour 35 people die of AIDS. An estimated three to six million children have been orphaned by the epidemic.

Although a shack may not be much for a home, for some it's all they have and when their parents die that home rightfully belongs to the child, Dan said. Many times someone will often come along and steal the shack and only possessions they have.

Key of Hope stands up for these children by involving the police, governments and encouraging other members of the community to pressure the thief into going the home back to a child.

Dan said many times family members or neighbors will take in an orphaned child, even when their family resources are stretched to the max.

"Even when they can't even feed themselves, they will still take in a child who has been orphaned," he said.

Key of Hope helps by making weekly stops to visit the kids and make sure the family has whatever they need.



Key of Hope performs at First Congregational Church. Photo by Andrea Beaudoin

The area they live is also riddled with crime such as kidnapping, child rape and violence.

Even though their way of life is difficult, the kids hold education in high regard.

"We value education here," said one boy in the choir.

"Education is not free in Africa, Dan said, adding that just \$75 sends one child to school for an entire year.

"They take school very seriously because many of them cannot go to school for many reasons. "Although it's just \$75 it may as well be a million dollars," said Dan.

Visiting America

Melissa Carozza, who helped plan the meals while the kids were in Michigan visited Africa over the summer and said you just cannot imagine how life is where the kids live. "Everything here to them is incredible even the carpet in a house," she said.

Another major problem the children face is a lack of water.

When they first got to the US we noticed the water taps in the sink where we are staying would always be left on," said Dan. "Over in Africa to get water you need to hold the water tap down and when you let go the water stops. They thought the sink was broken because the water just kept coming out."

"You have food here everywhere in America, in South Africa food is hard to find," said one girl.

"Anything you want here you find everything," said one boy.

During a trip to a farm the kids were amazed that table scraps were given being fed to animals on the farm.

Before the choir performs, a video is played depicting scenes from in their homeland. Scenes are filled with a life of hardship and squalor.

Each of the kids in the choir will tell you life much different than life here in America.

Dan & Rachel

John Gunn, founder and executive director of Power Company, knows Dan and Rachel well. Rachel also formed a choir while

working with kids at Power Company Kids Club in Pontiac where she and Dan helped troubled kids.

Gunn said Rachel and Dan, both Michigan natives, have always been devoted to troubled-kids. He added that while working at Power Company they couple encouraged kids to stay in school, stay out of trouble, and say no to drugs. They helped them stay on the straight and narrow," he said.

"Dan and Rachel are great leaders and they have taken that same devotion with a staff of seven in eight squatter camps in Durban."

In 2008 Dan and Rachel decided to sell everything they own and go on a mission to help those afflicted by HIV/AIDS. "We sold everything," he said. "Our house, our car-everything."

Dan said he and Rachel sold everything because they felt God was calling to embrace a similar mission and help troubled children.

Although they were uncertain of where they wanted to go they eventually decided on Africa to work in one of the hardest hit areas of the world for HIV/AIDS.

After selling everything, they arrived in South Africa with just 16 suitcases not knowing exactly where they were headed.

Since they arrived that day in South Africa, they work continues helping make life easier and spreading the word of God.

Many of the kids did not know god before Key of Hope ministered to them, Rachel said.

"They think no one cares about them and Key of Hope makes them feel like they are loved. When we first start visiting the kids it's hard to tell them God loves you when their life is so bad, but after a few years of helping them move towards a better life we go back to them and tell them see God loves you."

Key of Hope will be in America through December performing at various locations. For more information and performance dates, visit www.Keyofhope.org

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Andrea's Anecdotes

A column by Andrea Beaudoin

Goodwill, generosity

I can see why the Clarkston Wendy's was voted best fast food restaurant during the Clarkston News Best of the Best in 2013. I can also see why Cherry Hill Lanes North has been around forever in Clarkston.

All it took for me to facilitate a lunch at Wendy's was a quick phone call to the Clarkston owners, whom I had worked with to write their stories. The owners called me back within five minutes and said they would love to host "Key of Hope" Children's Choir from Durban, South Africa.

It's a similar story with Cherry Hill. I found out the choir went bowling before they came to Wendy's, and after I told owner Jim that the kids had never been to America, and I told him their story, he refunded their money back. Cherry Hill and Wendy's gave these kids an experience they will never forget.

The Clarkston News also worked with Halo Burger, promoting their new restaurant in Clarkston, and they too have agreed to give the kids 30 \$10 gift cards. What awesome contributions to these awesome establishments.

Our crew from Clarkston TV recorded a full length interview about the choir at the Clarkston church, and their experience at Wendy's. Our first interview featured talks with Rachel and Dan Smither, founders of Key of Hope and then an interview with some of the kids.

Our second interview features the fun Wendy's outing. Kids are interviewed then too while eating, and then an awesome bag of candy that Holly Lawn Care and Bridge Lake Market made to the kids.

This was a great experience to learn about people who come from a much different way of life than we have here in America. We are lucky to be sure. Some of the kids live in shacks, and have trouble finding food and water. A few of them even told me, here in America you can find whatever you want whenever you want it.

These kids even if they are from a troubled existence are intelligent and great to talk to. They have a sweetness in their eyes and thankfulness in their heart. I have learned something from them indeed, and that is to always be thankful for what you do have.

I have also learned why it is people give themselves to good cause. There is no other feeling on Earth like you feel helping someone who needs it.



Opinion Pages

Letters, columns & Editorials

Savor your championship now, because governor wants to take control of our local schools

Dear Editor,

As I watched community members pour into the high school to get their football playoff tickets for our team and then fill Ford Field to watch our football team win our first football state championship, I know we are blessed with a community that not only supports our sports teams, but the whole school district in general. Even though the last school district millage failed, many community members came out to support our schools and I feel that the economy had as much to do with that as anything. The community spoke and decided what was best for our school district at the time.

Not only are our sports teams doing well (see boys tennis, girls swimming & diving etc.), our academic teams such as Mock Trial and FIRST Robotics are making headlines. Our performing arts teams are regularly making state tournaments and our theatre productions are first class out of this world.

Say good bye to them along with local control Clarkston Community School district citizens if Gov. Snyder and his Oxford Foundation or other "skunk works" projects get their way.

Although most of the recommendations (www.oxfordfoundationmi.com) from this project have not been enacted upon yet, the Michigan legislature is looking at many of the objectives in the upcoming legislative session.

In short, Gov. Snyder is looking to privatize public education and take away local control of our school district. If this happens, no public school system will be able to afford any extra-curricular activities, which include sports, clubs and performing arts.

Many readers will remember that Proposal A mandated that school funding follow students from one district to another or to charter or on-line schools. The Oxford Foundation and Gov. Snyder's proposals go one step further and suggest that school funding be piecemealed and follow students by the hour. This would theoretically allow students to take more on-line classes from anywhere. The Oxford Foundation and Gov. Snyder's proposals would allow corporations and cultural institutions to open up "school districts" to receive state funding. By the way, the Michigan legislature passed and Gov. Snyder signed legislation allowing

unlimited charter schools (P.A. 277).

Since these new "school districts" would NOT have to transport students, would NOT have any class size limits, would NOT have to offer special education services and would NOT have to offer extra-curricular activities, they can run at a much lower cost than traditional public schools. Where do social skills and collaboration fit into these new "school districts"? Gov. Snyder and the Oxford Foundation do not see the relevance of these skills for the 21st century learner.

Public school per pupil funding has been cut 24.5% in real inflation dollars since 2002 (MI Dept of Ed.) Combine this with the expected enrollment decreases in Michigan and funding decreases from Gov. Snyder's attempt to privatize public education and you will get a public school system that cannot service special needs students, yet alone field competitive, functional sports, academic and performing arts teams.

Clarkston citizens, you better savor our first football state championship now because if Gov. Snyder gets his way, local control of school districts is on paper only and this may be the last time you will see a Clarkston sports team able to be called state champions.

Sincerely,
Brooke Davis

Bridge in Depot Park has several deficiencies

Dear Editor,

If one looks under the bridge you will see that the center beam has failed and is several inches below the deck boards ("Depot bridge out for repairs," Dec. 4). This is what makes the deck bouncy and has caused the deck boards to fail.

This bridge also has many other deficiencies and does not meet any known criteria for pedestrian bridges and public safety including federal ADA guidelines.

As a walker, concerned citizen and registered professional engineer, I hope the city realizes their responsibility to the public and governing laws. It makes little sense to put more time and tax payer money into something that does not work and puts everyone at risk.

Cory Johnston
Clarkston

Make your voice heard with a Letter to the Editor:

Deadline is noon, Monday. You can drop them or mail them to 5 S. Main Street, Clarkston, MI 48346; fax them at (248) 625-0706; or e-mail shermapub@aol.com, attn: Clarkston News. Any questions call The Clarkston News at (248) 625-3370.

A Look Back From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1998

"Just what is a warehouse?" It looked like Ryder trucks would not be carting GM parts in and out of Independence Township just yet. The decision to pass construction of a warehouse on 31 acres at the end of Bow Pointe off Sashabaw Road was postponed for the second time.

"Schools change redistricting plan" Residents upset with some of the plans for redistricting Clarkston's elementaries in the 1999-2000 school year got their wish - changes were made. The redistricting committee presented a revised plan to the Clarkston board of education during their meeting.

"A little paint, a little magic" For Mary Kalosay what could be imagined could be brought to life with a little paint and a little magic. Kalosay and Cooley Pope talked about giving a new look with interior and exterior painting with Cooley's Painting.

25 years ago - 1988

"Independence becomes fully computerized" The Independence Township board voted unanimously to spend \$12,552 to double the capacity of their current computer system and ensure all departments within the township could access the system. Within the previous three years the board purchased a mainframe computer and computer terminals in every township office except the library.

"Junior high school students get new computers" Junior high students in Clarkston schools would soon be working on up-to-date International Business Machines (IBM) computers. They would have 50 student stations for a total of \$55,300. Each student station included a color monitor, dual disk drive, 640K memory, a mouse and software.

"Elwell develops paging system for bedridden" It was an exciting year for George Elwell - he accepted an early retirement and began to work full-time at a business he loved - developing paging systems to help those less fortunate than himself. He planned and found a manufacturer for Silent Call, an in-home, portable communication system for the hearing impaired.

50 years ago - 1963

"Debate team splits at last meet" The Clarkston High School Debaters gained a split in the Wayne-Oakland League meet held in Brighton. The Affirmative team of Gary Fitch and Tom Masters remained undefeated as they won over Clarenceville.

Thus began my mistrusts . . . and other thoughts

I surely wonder about where we're headed under Obama's leadership. Russia's Putin told the world, "Obama's a liar."

Obama used the words "crossed the red line" in a speech to us a year ago. Recently he said, "I didn't say that, they did."

Lie and deny is a habit of our leader.

When my two brothers and I returned home after serving our nation during World War II, our father reminded us every time we got together, he fought in World War I, "The war to end all wars."

Since then, except for World War II, our leaders justified the conflicts, disturbances, disagreements, clashes, skirmishes, encounters and scrimmages but seldom war.

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

Since I'm into the subject of war, I want to tell Jottings readers, for the first time, that I am not just a veteran of World War II, I'm a pension drawing disabled veteran. I've been drawing \$67 month since 1947, \$53,868 total. For several months the government only sent me half of it because I had no dependents.

I have no idea where some of that money was spent, but I spent it all. Saving was not on my list in year 1947, '48, etc. Yes, I still get \$67 a month, BUT I AIN'T BUYING.

Background: In the fall of 1946 I went to Western Michigan and tried out for the Bronco's basketball team. That physical found a spot on the apex of my left lung. That finding put me in the Veterans Hospital in Dearborn, then the Ingham County Sanatorium for 17 months.

To check for tuberculous my sputum (sputum is mucus that is coughed up from

the lower airways) was injected in a guinea pig. To gain release, a guinea pig had to live three months. I think someone in the lab hated me.

Thus began my mistrusts. I enrolled in Michigan State.

• There's nothing so fine as a good piece of swine.

-Porcupine Press

• Ben Stein asks us to fathom the hypocrisy of a government that requires every citizen to prove they are insured . . . but not everyone must prove they are a citizen.

• Football can be a game enjoyed by little boys (and girls), but mostly by large older men. - Dick Millman

Daughter Luan has taken to saying 'Oakie doakie.' A foreigner visiting the United States thought that was feminine of "O.K." Of

course he was mistaken. The feminine of "O.K." is "maybe."

A creative professor at Michigan State U.; William Penn, is quoted by the Associated Press as telling his students Republicans "raped this country."

I wrote recently of a Virginia Tech professor encouraging his students to stop supporting our troops. MSU's Penn, a full professor with tenure, has been reassigned, but will be drawing \$150,000 salary.

Penn has also disparaged athletes and Christians as "blind followers."

The MSU spokesman said MSU is committed to "creating a learning environment that is characterized by mutual respect and civility where diverse ideas can be explored."

Sounds like the spokesman has a political future.

The closer we get to Dec. 25, the more Fruit Cakes appear

I walked into one of the financial institutions I bank with last Friday and saw an old friend. A fruitcake for sale. And, I remembered a column I wrote about these fruit cakes and said so. "Hey, I wrote about these five or so years ago." The teller smiled and tried to ignore my small talk (I have that affect on women.) When I got back to the office, I found it wasn't five or so years ago I wrote this fruit cake column. It was -- gulp -- written 11 Decembers ago!

I think it's time to bring it back!

On a recent blustery day I stumbled into Lakes Community Credit Union in Lake Orion. And, there up on the counter separating me from the teller chick, was a familiar white box. A box with the promise, "Baked in the deep south according to a famous old southern recipe."

That holiday favorite, the Claxton Bakery Fruitcake, was sitting pretty, in all its glory, begging to be bought.

"Do you actually sell these things?" I asked the teller-chick, Maureen to family and friends.

"Yeah. I'm gonna' buy one," she said and smiled.

My shock, which I thought was well concealed, must have been oozing through to my facial expression. Without prompting, Maureen added, "I don't eat fruit cake. I'm gonna' cut them up, shellac 'em and make them Christmas ornaments."

"Great, now can I draw some money out of my checking account and I'll get me and my dumb look out of your financial institution?"

Back in the car, I started to think. Does anybody eat fruitcake? When you mention fruitcake, people get funny looks on their faces. Yet, they must be popular for something, there are a lot sold . . . so, I thought some more.

My top 10 things you can do with a fruitcake . . .

10. Give as a gift to that "special" somebody
9. Sell to somebody else
8. Wear around your neck while you sleep to fend off little fairies and whacked-out elves
7. Throw 'em in the back of the pickup for added weight

during the winter driving season

6. Makes a great paperweight
5. Cut 'em up, shellac 'em, hook 'em and make Christmas decorations
4. Bomb shelter building material, would also serve as emergency food rations in case of the "big one."
3. Make it an anchor
2. Festive looking doorstop.

And the Number 1 thing I can do with a fruitcake is give it to my wife as a present.

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

Yep, it's true. I came home with a wad of cash in my pockets, this great idea for a column (making fun of fruitcake) and she tells me she loves the nutty, fruity goodness that is a fruitcake.

"Everybody jokes about them, but I never get one," she said, nearly putting a dagger in the back of this week's column. Nearly.

I was able to look inward and access my feelings. Taking shots at fruitcake was a go!

I did research on Claxton Bakery and fruitcakes in general. The recipe, "from the deep south," was created by an Italian immigrant, Savino Tos, who opened the Claxton Bakery in 1910, in Claxton, Georgia. The fruitcake of note was born when, in the fall, "Tos decided to capture the spirit of the season by offering a premium quality fruitcake, filled with nature's finest fruits and nuts."

In 1927, Tos hired an 11-year-old lad, Albert Parker. In 1945, Tos retired and sold the business to Al. According to legend, Al saw the writing on the wall when it came to the bakery business. Grocery stores were putting the hurt on the local baker. Al focused all his energy on one thing: Fruitcake. And, in that first year, Al and a few workers baked 45,000 pounds of fruitcake.

Their 50,000 square foot bakery, now produces millions

of pounds of fruitcake yearly. Claxton, GA, is now the Fruitcake Capital of the World, and over 1,000 service groups sell the fruitcake as a fund-raising project. Al ran the company until his death in 1995, at the age of 79. His four children now run the company.

As Paul Harvey would say, "Now you know the rest of the story . . ."

And, from the internet, here's a fruitcake recipe:

1 cup butter, 2 cups sugar, 6 large eggs, 2 teaspoons baking powder, 3 cups flour, sifted, 1/2 t. salt, 1 cup bourbon, 1 pound pecans, chopped, 3 cups white raisins (or use candied fruit), 1 t. nutmeg. AND a very large bottle of bourbon whiskey.

First, sample the whiskey to check for quality. Assemble all of the ingredients. Check the whiskey again. To be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat this step.

Turn on the electric mixer and beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add one teaspoon of sugar and cream until beat. Make sure the whiskey is still okay... try another cup. Turn off the mixer. Beat six leggs and add to the bowl, then chuck in the cup of dried flut. Mix on the tuner. Throw in two quarts of flour. Gradually pour in the cow. Add 2 dried anything.

If the fried druit gets struck in the beaters, pry it loose with a drowscriver. Sample the whiskey and check it again for consistency. Next, sift two cups of salt. Or something. Who cares??? Check the whiskey again.

Now sift the nutmeg and strain your nuts. Add one table. And the spoon. Of whiskey. Or something. Whatever you find left. Grease the oven. Turn the crake pan to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner.

Pour the oven into the batter. Throw the bowl out the window. Lick the batter off the floor. Bake 300 minutes at 50 degrees. Finish the blobble of whisly and flow to bed.

E-mail Rush, Don@ShermanPublications.org

Clarkston's Sporting News

This Friday...

Cagers host their home opener against Ferndale. JV begins at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

Lady Cagers sink win

BY WENDIREARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior Carly Giroux caught the pass from sophomore Kayla Russell and sank her first 3-pointer within the first 29 seconds of the season.

The momentum only escalated for Clarkston Varsity Girls Basketball as they hosted Walled Lake Western, Dec. 3.

The Lady Wolves kept Western scoreless for two quarters to win the game, 57-9.

"I was happy with how we played on both ends of the floor," said Tim Wasilk, head coach. "We came ready to play and played four quarters of basketball. I was happy with our effort."

They scored 24 points in the first quarter with another 3-pointer and a basket from Giroux, six points from senior Erika Davenport and four points from junior Jessica Altene.

"It was nice to see Carly after coming back from an ACL injury hit her first three shots down tonight," Wasilk added. "All deep jump shots."

Defense kept Walled Lake Western at bay going into the second quarter as the opponents only scored six points. The Lady Wolves put 13 points on the board to close the half, 37-6.

Wasilk added Western lost eight of their top nine players from last year's team and have a lot of new players.

"They are going to take a lot of bumps

early," he said. "I told the girls it doesn't matter who we are going against. We have to come with the same intensity on both ends of the floor. We did that. There was no let down after the first half. We defended well. We communicated. We shut down the driving lanes. On the offensive side of the ball, we moved the ball inside and out. We had some jumpers."

Sophomore Mariah Hood was the first to score the the Lady Wolves in the second half. Davenport scored 20 seconds later after grabbing a loose ball in Clarkston's end of the court and speeding towards the basket with one defender trailing. The girls added ten more points and kept Western at zero.

Davenport led the team with 14 points, eight rebounds, four assists and six blocks and senior Alaina Cook added ten. Hood had six points as well as four assists and three rebounds

"Erika did a good job distributing the basketball to other people both inside and leading the break," Wasilk added.

The Lady Wolves beat Macomb Dakota on Friday, 44-33.

"They have a Division 1 player on their team and they beat us last year at our place," said Wasilk before the game. "We have gotten better each week these first three weeks. We are just trying to take steps forward. We have some growing pains. We lost three starting

Please see Dakota on page 12

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Jack Viazanko makes a save. Photo provided

Viazanko view in net

BY WENDIREARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior goalie Jack Viazanko put his first shutout of the season in the books as he blocked 44 shots from Northville from getting into the net.

It was his second game in the net. For his first game, he blocked 35 of Berkley's 38 shots as the Clarkston Hockey team tied their OAA Red game, 3-3.

With 94 shots against him in his first 127 minutes of play for his finals season creates pressure. But it's the pressure he enjoys as goalie.

"It is a love/hate relationship with the pressure," he said. "But that pressure is something you can't get in other positions. You are the only goalie on the ice for your team. The game can be decided on by a goalie."

He doesn't just block opponents' shots but has viewpoint of the whole ice to help his teammates out. He can let them know if a player is on them.

"I let them know what they can't see so when they get the puck they can turn and make a decision quickly," Viazanko added.

"It helps the defense."

His personal goal for the season is to have a save average over 90 percent and have less than two goals scored on him per game.

Viazanko began playing hockey when he was 8-years-old.

"Growing up my family was big Detroit Red Wings fans," he explained. "Once I got older and it was time to pick a sport hockey stood out to me. It has always been a love for me."

He took his spot in the net when he was 10-years-old when the goalie on the team quit in halfway through the season.

"Our team was desperate," he remembered. "My dad asked me 'do you want to give it a shot?' I said, why not? I have loved it ever since."

Viazanko plans to go into financing and business and was accepted to Michigan State University and is awaiting word from University of Michigan.

"I have always been a strong math student," he explained. "Numbers come easy to me. Business is something I think I

Please see Striving on page 11

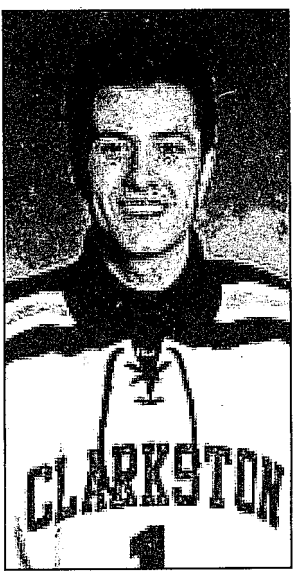


Kayla Russell blocks Walled Lake Western from getting past Lady Wolves' defense. Photo by Wendi Reardon

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Wolves home this week on court and mat



Viazanko

Striving for goals

Continued from page 10
can utilize. I also like to work with people. With the personality traits I have business will be good for me."

He will continue playing hockey depending on if he receives any offers.

When he is not playing hockey or studying he enjoys working out in the gym with his dad as well as attending Clarkston sporting events.

"I am just trying to enjoy my senior year and living it to the fullest," Viazanko added.

His advice for aspiring is to work hard in the moment.

"It is already my senior year and I feel like yesterday was my first year on the team," he added. "It has flown by. Even if it seems like your sports career is going nowhere work as hard as you can because you never know who is watching."

Grapplers and cagers host their home openers this week and are ready for tough opposition.

Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball team hosts their home opener against Ferndale on Friday.

They opened the season against Waterford Mott on Tuesday.

Long-time head coach Dan Fife said they haven't seen both teams play and it is the first week of play for all the teams.

"We are away at Mott so whenever you go to an away gym you better be ready to play," he added. "We will find out who we are right away."

Ferndale is in a lower OAA division and wanted to play Clarkston, he said.

As of last week the starting line up had not been set.

The Wolves hosted their annual scrimmage on Nov. 29 and out of it the coaches and players saw a mix of good things and things to work on.

"We did good at times and bad at times," said Fife. "It is early so we are going to make mistakes but we are going to get better."

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

Clarkston Varsity Wrestling hosts a quad on Wednesday as they take on Waterford Kettering and Grand Blanc.

"We look good," said Wrestling Head Coach Derek Moscovic. "We have a lot of kids to make an impact. We have seven senior. We can compete against anybody. Kettering has a good team and so does Grand Blanc. They both have a lot of strong wrestlers so we will have to be ready to go."

Waterford Kettering will be looking for a win after the Wolves beat them in the district round last season.

"There be no doubt they will be looking to beat us just like every team we wrestle," Moscovic said. "It would make their year to beat us which is something we need to be aware of and ready to go. We don't want that to happen."

He added Kettering has a lot of wrestlers returning this season. Grand Blanc also has a few returners, including state qualifiers and placers from last season.

"It's going to be a tough dual meet,"

Moscovic said. "I cant remember the last time Grand Blanc beat us. They will be more than happy to beat the snot out of us if they are allowed to."

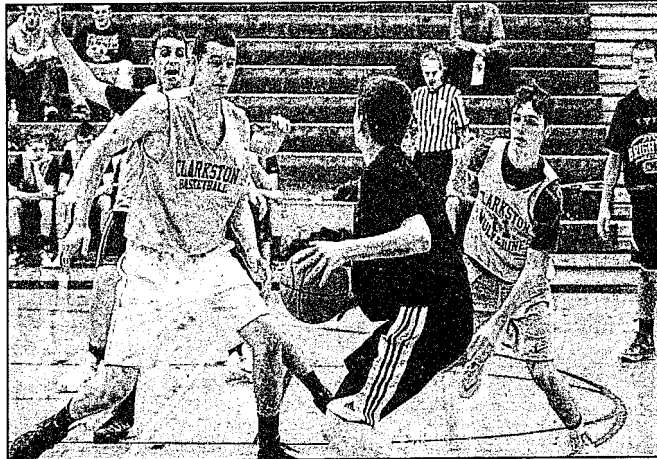
Both teams will help Clarkston before they face off their league opponents next week and Oakland County teams on Dec. 20 and 21.

"It is good to wrestle teams from all over in our league, in the county, so wrestling outside of it helps us prepare for districts, regionals and the state tournament," Moscovic said. "I am always excited to wrestle outside of the league."

The boys took first place at the John Glenn tournament on Saturday to open the season.

Look for season previews on wrestling, basketball and the winter sports in next week's print edition on stands, Dec. 18.

~Sports Writer Wendi Reardon



Michael Nicholson and Press Kampe block a Brighton forward during scrimmage. Photos by Wendi Reardon



Andrew Myers aims past defense.

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Dakota stopped

Continued from page 10

guards from our team last year. We have guards ready they just have to get game experience."

Davenport led with 27 points and had 17 rebounds, three assists, three steals and two blocks. Kacy Robinson added eight points and had four assists and two steals.

"Jessica had a great defensive effort for us on their top player and had six rebounds as well," Wasilk added. "It was a big win for us. Overall it was a great team effort. Our intensity was good. Our defensive effort was very good. What I liked about us is we played with a lot of energy in the game. Not only the people who were on the floor but the bench as well. We had a lot of kids step up to play minutes for us. It was their first taste of playing on varsity this week and they have done a good transition."

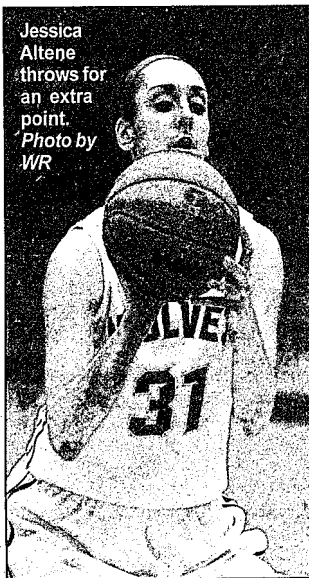
The Lady Wolves played Lake Orion on Tuesday.

"They are our rival so we will be ready to go," Wasilk said before the game. "We are excited. They are always well-coached and a good team."

They travel to Dearborn Heights on Saturday against Chicago Bogan High School in the Holiday Classic.

They host Southfield-Lathrup on Dec. 17. JV begins at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

Find out the results on ClarkstonNews.com or Twitter, @CNewsWRSports.



Jessica Altene throws for an extra point. Photo by WJR



Austin Fullmer positions himself to block offense players. Photo by Larry Wright

Overtime goal for win

Icers split the week with games in the OAA Red.

Clarkston Varsity Hockey team began the week on Friday with a 5-0 loss against Rochester United at Onyx Ice Arena.

The Wolves found themselves in penalty trouble eight times in which three short-handed goals occurred.

Senior goalie Nick Surovec blocked 25 of the 30 shots Rochester United put on him as the Wolves took 16 shots on the net during the night.

The boys bounced back the next night for an overtime win over North Farmington.

They jumped to an early lead on a power play goal by senior co-captain Garrett Polish from fellow co-captains Eric Matynowski and Chase Weidemann.

North Farmington responded late in the second period during a power play, tying the score at 1-1.

With just under five minutes remaining in regulation and just as Carter Rea's second penalty of the night expired, North

Farmington's, Adam Fine, snuck the puck past Wolves netminder senior goalie Jack Viazanko, in a goal mouth scramble, to give his squad the lead.

Farmington's lead was short lived, due to Weidemann, netting a smooth centering pass from Jacob Laporte with just 1:26 left in regulation time, sending the contest to overtime.

Clarkston put on a run during overtime and took seven shots on North Farmington's goalie, A.J. Miller, in less than two minutes.

Matynowski shot the tie breaking goal on a drive to snatch the victory with 6:03 remaining in the extra period.

Bryan Kryiger, head coach, praised the boys after the game for their defensive work and Viazanko's save of 16 shots in the net.

The Wolves head to Lakeland Arena on Wednesday to take on neighbor rivals Waterford United at 7:30 p.m.

The Wolves host Grand Haven on Saturday at Detroit Skating Club, 12:30 p.m.

Then they prepare to take on Lake Orion at Comerica Park on Wednesday, 10:30 p.m.

Sports in a Flash

First win in basket

The Lady Mountaineers opened the season with their first win on Dec. 3.

Everest Collegiate Girls Varsity Basketball beat Novi Franklin Road Christian, 56-39.

They took the lead in the first quarter by when they scored 19 points and held Novi Franklin down to eight.

The Lady Mountaineers were outscored in the next quarter 15-12 but came back in the second half to hold onto the lead with 25 points.

Lucia Westrick led the team with 17 points. Mary Jo Allen scored 12 points and Claire Lasceski scored eight points, including two 3-point shots. Angelina Mastromatteo scored one 3-pointer, to score a total of seven points.

The team returns the same starting line has they had last season, in which they won a district title.

College notes

Clarkston grad Tyler Scarlett, along with six of his teammates, earned honorable mention in the All-League picks in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Scarlett is currently the junior quarterback with Michigan Tech football and finished the season completing 189 out of 330 passes for 2,552 yards in ten games, averaging 255.2 yards per game with 16 touchdowns. He also helped his team win their game against Hillsdale in double overtime when he run the winning touchdown.

He was named GLIAC Rookie of the year in his freshman year in 2011 and led them to a Division Championship last season in 2012.

Youngstown State University junior Alexis Elger, now a junior player for the women's volleyball at Youngstown State University was named to the All-Horizon League team.

Egler and her teammate, senior Jenna Cavanaugh, are the first YSU duo to earn all-league accolades in the same season first-team honorees 1999.

Egler became Youngstown State's primary offensive weapon in October and averaged 2.98 kills per set in Horizon League play, the seventh-most in the conference. She also averaged an impressive 2.63 digs and 0.44 blocks per set in league matches as a six-rotation player. Entering the league tournament, Egler had 316 kills and 297 digs this season.

Share your athletic achievements by calling Wendi at 248-625-3370 or emailing clarkstonnews@gmail.com

Public Safety

For Clarkston and Independence Township

Credit fraud

An Independence Township resident returned from vacation, Dec. 2, to find many letters from his credit union about his overdrawn account. Someone had fraudulently charged \$3,648 in 21 purchases in Mexico and overseas from Nov. 18-24. He closed the account.

Expired plate

A deputy stopped a vehicle with an expired license plate sticker on Dixie Highway, 2:39 p.m., Dec. 2. The driver, a 24-year-old Grand Blanc man, was cited with driving with an expired registration, and also suspended license and no proof of insurance.

Time for an update

A 37-year-old Rochester Hills man was stopped on Dixie Highway for not having a license plate on his trailer, 9:46 a.m., Dec. 3. He said he was from Kentucky, where plates weren't required for trailers. He has been living in Michigan for the last three years, however. He was cited for no trailer plate, expired driver's license, and expired plate on his vehicle.

Cameras taken

Two sports cameras were stolen from a trail along Clintonwood Park off Perry Lake Road, Dec. 3.

Assault with knife

A 43-year-old Independence Township woman was arrested for felonious assault, and resisting and obstructing police, 6:11 a.m., Dec. 3. During an argument, she allegedly pulled out a knife and pushed her landlord, a 60-year-old Independence Township man, against a wall and held him there at knife point while threatening him. The landlord was able to break away and locked himself inside of a bedroom where he called 911. Deputies tried to talk to the tenant, who would not cooperate. When the tenant refused several orders, the deputy shot her with a Taser. Independence Township paramedics checked and cleared the suspect medically, and she was jailed pending issuance of a warrant. Investigation continues.

Suspicious van

Security checked on a brown, older-model conversion van parked with windows fogged up at the back of an apartment complex in the 4000 block of Fox Creek, 12:32 a.m., Dec. 5. The driver said he was waiting for a friend who lived on the other side of the complex. He left at a high rate of speed with no headlights, but the officer saw a female passenger with him as he went by.

Home invasion

On Nov. 27 at 4:30 p.m., a deputy responded to the 4000 block of Beechwood for a report of home invasion. The complainant said he left his home the day before at about 5:30 p.m. and returned around 3:30 p.m. He sat down to watch the news on television and noticed his 42-inch flat screen TV was missing. He added two weeks ago, someone broke in and stole old cell phones and watches, but he didn't report that theft. There were no signs of forced entry, but the complainant said he was sure he locked the door. The deputy advised him to install a deadbolt lock.

Mail theft

Money and mailbox keys were taken from a Juniper Street resident's vehicle while it was parked unlocked in a Brandon Township mobile home park, Dec. 4.

Heavy truck

A deputy noticed a truck driver talking on a cell phone on Andersonville Road, 9:45 a.m., Dec. 5, so turned around to follow. The truck also looked overweight. It weighed 116,200 pounds, was allowed 100,800 pounds and plated for 100,000. The owner of the truck was cited for improper plate, overweight, and no annual inspection. The driver, a 55-year-old Ortonville man, was given a warning for talking on the cell phone.

Domestic assault

A 12-year-old Independence Township boy was taken to the hospital for evaluation after threatening his family, 4:44 p.m., Dec. 5. He had thrown scissors at his sister previously.

Warrant for hacker

Oakland County Sheriff's deputies assisted in a Federal Bureau of Investigations search warrant on a home in the 6000 block of Snow Apple Drive, 5:29 a.m., Dec. 5. The FBI was investigating computer hacking into social media of a television show's cast members. Residents said a 17-year-old neighbor had asked to use their WIFI some time ago for homework. The officers spoke to the boy and his mother, and he admitted to participation in the incidents. The agents confiscated his laptop and smart phone, with his mother's permission. FBI Detroit Division declined to provide additional details.

Call Crime Stoppers of Southeast Michigan at 1-800-SPEAK UP, or Oakland County Sheriff's Office CRIME TIPLINE, 888-TURN-1-IN OR 1-888-887-6146.



HAPPY TO SIGN: Sami Stelpflug, in front, with her mom, Rita; sister, Megan, and dad, Randy, in the back, signed with the swim team at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. See story on page 15. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Winter Sports Preview!

Do you like winter high school sports?

Do you know of a local wrestler, swimmer, skier or basketball player?



The Clarkston News will preview all the teams, with stories, names, dates and coaches commentary in next week's edition.

And, read how the season plays out each week thereafter!

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December
18, 2013!

HomeTown Experts Answer Your Questions Monthly

Heating and Cooling



Q: Why are my boiler pipes so noisy?

A: If you are experiencing unusual noises coming from your baseboard heating system, it is usually caused by low water pressure and air in the system. These noises can be annoying especially when trying to sleep and more importantly, can make your system less efficient. At A1 Indoor Comfort Systems we can diagnosis and resolve these issues quickly along with any other issue you may be having. Give us a call today to schedule an appointment for us to come out. 248-394-9000



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Orthodontics



Dr. Charles F. Munk
Dr. Charles W. Munk

Q: Does dental insurance cover the cost of braces?

A: Many dental insurance plans cover a portion of orthodontic treatment for children, and some also include coverage for adult orthodontics. Our office can verify your coverage or you can check your plan for details.



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Mortgage



Jason Nolan
Senior Loan Officer



Q: I keep hearing that rates are going to rise once the Federal Reserve starts to "taper". What the heck are they talking about?

A: "The Taper" refers to the Federal Reserve and their current practice of quantitative easing. In simplest terms, each month the Federal Reserve has been purchasing \$85 Billion of long term bonds. This bond buying program was undertaken in an effort to drive down interest rates to stimulate borrowing, and thus increase economic activity. "Tapering" was the word used by the Feds when they began discussing how, and when, to end these bond purchases. Rampant speculation about when, and how aggressively, tapering will commence has caused uncertainty and rates have jumped in response. Since the "taper" phrase was first uttered in May, interest rates on 30 year mortgages have increased nearly one full percent. If, and how much more, rates will rise once tapering actually begins is anyone's guess. Stay tuned.

91 North Saginaw Ste. 206 | **248-674-6450** | Pontiac, MI 48342

Real Estate



Christopher A. Mersino
Broker/Owner

Q: Do I need to be present for the home inspection?

A: It's not required, but it's a good idea. Following the inspection, the home inspector will be able to answer questions about the report and any problem areas. This is also an opportunity to hear an objective opinion on the home you'd like to purchase and it is a good time to ask general maintenance questions.

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Orthopedic Specialist

Q: How do I protect myself and my children from winter sports injuries?

A: In 2011, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Reported nearly 340,000 injuries from ice hockey, skiing, snowboarding, and sledding. These injuries include sprains, strains, dislocations, and fractures. Here are some helpful guidelines to follow for prevention.

- Never participate alone in a winter sport.
- Cold muscles, tendons and ligaments are vulnerable to injury, so it is important to warm up thoroughly before playing.
- Wear appropriate protective gear, including goggles, helmets, gloves, footwear and padding.
- Check to make sure equipment is in good working order and used properly.
- For warmth and protection, wear several layers of light, loose and water- and wind-resistant clothing.
- Take a lesson (or several) from a qualified instructor, especially in sports like skiing and snow boarding.
- Pay attention to warnings about upcoming storms and severe drops in temperature to ensure safety



Shivraje Hallamothu, D.O., F.A.O.A.O.
Orthopedic Surgeon

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ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

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Rehabilitation

Q: Snow Shoveling 101?

A: Shoveling snow is a cardiovascular and weight-lifting exercise so treat it like one. Warm up and stretch prior to shoveling. Take frequent breaks and use good body mechanics. Here are a few tips to help this winter:

- Wear boots/shoes with good treads.
- When lifting, bend knees, tighten stomach and use your legs while keeping back straight
- Keep your shovel close to your body.
- Avoid twisting your back, move your whole body.
- Move smaller amounts of snow vs. all big loads
- Take in to consideration wet vs. "dry" snow.



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Marketing



Don Rush
Assistant Publisher

Q: My business has a great website, but I'm not getting any traffic. What gives?

A: Have you told anybody about your website? Many business managers feel all they need is a website and a social networking page and they are good to go. Unfortunately, that ain't so. Your social networking page is pretty much just for the folks who already know and like you, and your website can get lost in a virtual sea of common businesses. How do you expand and get new business? Cross market. Put up a sign in your window with your web address. Make sure the website is on all your printed material, including receipts. And, if you have a community newspaper, consider ads promoting not only your business, but the special deals they can find on your website. They don't have to be big, just consistent. Each month I will offer tips on your marketing questions. If you can't wait, and need help email me, Don@ShermanPublications.org



The **Clarkston News**

5 S. Main Street | **248-625-3370** | Clarkston, MI 48346

Title winners sign up to continue sports careers

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Three Lady Wolves are ready for the next step after signing their names to colleges next fall.

Sami Stelpflug is heading to University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee; Brianna Frakes, Robert Morris University; and Katie Chadwell, Oakland University.

"I am proud of any athlete who signs," said Clarkston Varsity Volleyball Coach Kelly Avenall. "It is a great testament of their high school career. They played hard and have done some good things and they get continue on the college level."

"I am excited," Stelpflug smiled about joining the women's swim team in Milwaukee.

She was looking at University of Kentucky and Oakland University when she went on a recruiting trip to Wisconsin.

"I fell in love with the school, the team, the coaches and just the environment," Stelpflug said, adding her brother and relatives are in the area so it is already a home away from home.

She is undecided for her course of study since she is looking at different options including interior design and veterinarian.

"It is a wide range," she smiled.

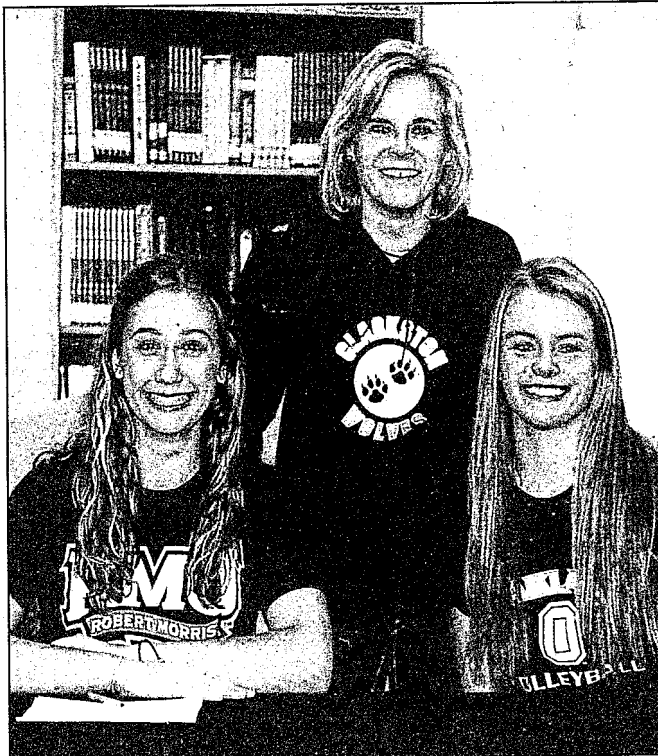
Stelpflug began swimming when she was 7-years-old and finished her senior year helping the Clarkston Girls Swim & Dive team to take eighth place at the MHSAA Division 1 State Championship.

She took sixth place in the 100-yard breaststroke, 1:06.22; and seventh place in the 200-yard IM, 52.65. Stelpflug, along with her sister, Megan, and teammate Kathryn Culver and CJ Hughes took seventh place in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Sami added swimming for Clarkston will help her as she goes to the college level.

"I definitely learned a lot of team aspects and how to be a good teammate and a good person," she said. "I learned a lot of different aspects of how to be a better person and a better athlete."

For Frakes, playing for Clarkston Varsity Volleyball since she was a sophomore pre-



From left, Brianna Frakes, Clarkston Varsity Volleyball Coach Kelly Avenall and Katie Chadwell. Photos by Wendi Reardon

pared her for tough competition as she heads to Robert Morris University.

"The speed changes completely," she added. "It will help me with the speed college volleyball will bring."

She added the volleyball program also taught her how to be a leader, be on a team, balance her time and have a team family.

"I have learned a lot from Coach Avenall through the years. It has been a good experience. It has gotten me ready."

Signing to Robert Morris was a big relief,

she added.

"I am super excited to continue my volleyball career," Frakes smiled.

She talked to over 100 schools when she began the process before she went through the long process of narrowing it down.

Robert Morris University stood out to her for the atmosphere and the academics.

"When I went there I had the feeling it was the right school," Frakes added. "I loved the team. I loved the coach. I knew it was going to be perfect."

Frakes began playing volleyball in elementary school when her mom and her sister got her started. Her mom coached her for a while and her sister began playing before Frakes joined.

"They are my role models coming into volleyball," she added. "They helped me because I got to watch my sister and learn stuff from her and my mom helped me through it. She knew a lot of the stuff to do to become a good player."

Frakes is planning on studying business because it is one of her strong suits.

Chadwell is leaning towards studying social work when she goes to Oakland University in the fall but is still unsure.

"Social work is a field you can help people," she explained why she might go into that field. "That's what I want to do - help people."

She added she felt great about signing to become a Lady Grizzly and not having to worry about having to apply to colleges.

Chadwell began playing volleyball in seventh grade after starting at Basketball America.

Through the years her coaches in the Clarkston program have helped out and also with teamwork.

"It will help prepare with team bonding," she said, adding it will help with the competition she will see as well. "College is always competitive even more competitive than high school. I am really excited for the competition and getting better and competing in college."

Frakes and Chadwell were captains for the volleyball team this year. The two, along with their teammates, scored their seventh consecutive OAA Red league title and district title.

"They have been solid players since they were sophomores," Avenall added. "They made it to the final four team in their sophomore year as starters. They continued to progress over the last three years. They are a big reason why we have won the league the last three years and why we have won the district championship the last few years."

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Decision expected soon on McLaren hospital lawsuit

Continued from page 1

Widening Sashabaw north to DTE Music Auditorium may also be included, which will help ease traffic during entertainment events, he said.

"That's one significant improvement we think will not only help during the afternoon peak rush hour of people trying to head southbound on I-75, but also when you do have a concert event at DTE in the summertime," said Ford. "The level of service currently in the area is rather poor, and will only be exacerbated when we get additional growth in

the area."

Future growth expected in the area was considered throughout the project, which the improvements will accommodate, he said.

On Oct. 30, McLaren, based in Flint, announced it had acquired assets from the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute based out of Detroit.

McLaren's Vice President of Marketing Kevin Tompkins said despite the acquisition McLaren would continue to fight to build the hospital in Clarkston.

McLaren sued the state of Michigan after

the denial of a Certificate of Need (CON). In May, the CON was denied again for the third time in two years.

The lawsuits was filed in June after the Michigan Department of Community Health, which approves licenses of hospital beds, denied a request from McLaren to move 200 beds from a facility in Pontiac to Independence Township.

A decision is now in the hands of Oakland County Circuit Court, Judge Colleen O'Brien.

A decision is expected anytime.

Kittle said regardless of whether the hospital is built or not, McLaren has already committed \$1.5 million to fund the road improvements in the township.

The Sashabaw Road corridor has about 190 acres of undeveloped land.

A three-story 80-plus-bed Comfort Inn Hotel near Culver's and Taco Bell on Sashabaw is also in the works.

Kittle said plans for the hotel are in the very beginning stages of planning, but the road improvements will help attract new business.

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- Peg Hill, The Big Deal Coupon Magazine
- Cindy Burroughs, The Clarkston News
- Don Rush, The Clarkston News

Last school polling place eliminated

Independence Township Board of Trustees voted, Nov. 19, to eliminate the last polling place in a school, Pine Knob Elementary.

"This is just that last step in eliminating all of the polling locations at all the elementary schools," said Independence Township Clerk Barb Pallotta.

In 2012, the board moved four of five polls from schools to safeguard students and ensure adequate parking. Clarkston Community Schools has offered to let the township use the school administration building for elections.

They also reworked some precincts, Pallotta said.

"We had three other precincts that were split with Waterford and Clarkston Schools," she said.

One of the precincts split with Waterford had only 17 voters, which caused confusion. Now, all 1,151 Waterford School District in the township are in a single precinct, she said.

The abolished Precinct 14 from Pine Knob Elementary, about 1,000 voters. They will be moved to existing precincts.

The Independence Township Elections Commission, which includes Pallotta as well as trustees Ron Ritchie and Andrea Schroeder, will also have to approve the boundary adjustment.

-Andrea Beaudoin

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Township moves to honor football champs

BY ANDREAM BEAUDOIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

For members of Independence Township Board, Clarkston High School varsity football team deserves national recognition for last week's state victory.

"I asked that the team be recognized because it's the first time in history that they won the championship," said Trustee Jose Aliaga.

Aliaga contacted U.S. Senator James Marleau, Rep. Gail Haines and longtime Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson to ask that the Wolves be recognized for the big win.

He said he also requested Michigan Governor Rick Snyder sign the proclamation honoring the coaches and the team.

Aliaga received confirmation from Marleau's office that the achievement will be recognized by officials. Clarkston Community Schools was also notified the political figures would like to attend an event at the Clarkston High School recognizing the coaches and team members.

Independence Township will also issue a proclamation to the team during the ceremony, which is still being scheduled for sometime in January.

Township Treasurer Paul Brown congratulated the Clarkston Wolves football team on their Division 1 Championship title dur-

ing a Dec. 3 Township Board of Trustees meeting.

"I broke out my varsity jacket and wore it to the game and I think it brought them good luck," said Brown. "I think it brought them good luck - I wore it last year when I won the election."

Aliaga, who is running for state representative, said he wanted to recognize and acknowledge the support of the citizens, parents, friends, neighbors and everyone who came to the stadium and showed tremendous support when Clarkston Wolves played at Ford Field and won the game.

"I was really proud and happy to see the team win the state championship," he said.

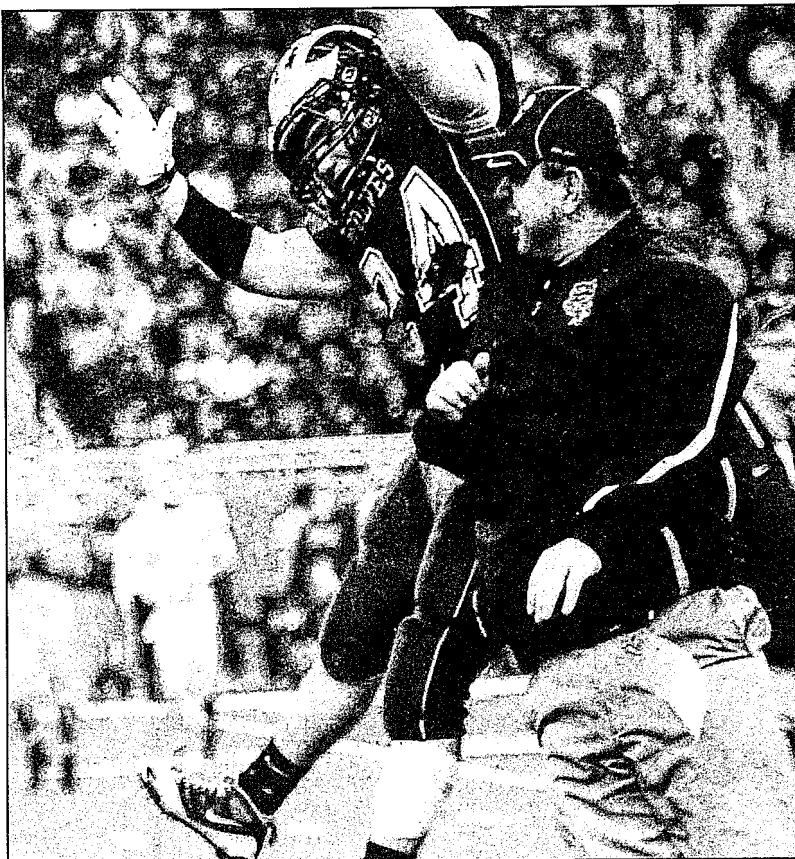
He added he was happy to see such courage on the field during the game by "guerreros" or warriors in Spanish.

"Now our warriors are champions and we are proud," he said. "We are proud of our community."

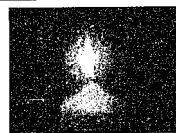
Brown said it was announced that the crowd for Clarkston was the largest for a state championship game in history, with an estimated 10,000 people in attendance at Ford Field.

"That's a third of the township," said Clerk Barb Pallatto.

The Wolves varsity football team faced Detroit Catholic Central and defeated them 32-14, taking their first state championship in history.



Blake Rehahn celebrates at the state championship game.



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Too many garbage trucks in neighborhood

BY ANDREAM BEAUDOIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Representatives from the Chestnut Hills Subdivision Barbara Taylor and Dean Grubbs are concerned over garbage trucks tearing up their private roads.

Taylor asked Independence Township trustees for help.

"Are you aware of the challenges and how it has to be grassroots, we have to get multiple petitions and we have tried a few times in the past and it failed," said Taylor.

Taylor said some of the challenges Chestnut Hills faces when repaving the road include working around underground utility easements and a well pump house.

"The last time we had it quoted the estimate for just my property alone was \$11,900," she said. "Traffic from garbage trucks is increasing every year."

Roads will soon need to be repaved because they are in bad shape, she said. If they are, the neighborhood association wants the traffic from garbage trucks to be reduced.

"A lot of residents are not aware of what they have to go through to have their roads repaved. They are not aware of the damage with the increased traffic of these 30 to 40 ton trucks. If I pay the \$12,000 to have my roads repaired, I would rather not have 8-10 trucks coming through every week," she

said.

There are six to seven garbage trucks that come through the sub every week, and the traffic from the trucks seems to be increasing every year, she said.

"We want to know what we can do to make this a community effort," said Taylor. "I know there are a lot of surrounding communities that do it successfully."

Taylor said in addition to reducing wear and tear on the roads, reducing garbage truck traffic will ensure garbage is only left out one

day a week and noise and air pollution will be reduced.

Clerk Barb Pallotta said garbage carriers must be registered with the township and her subdivision does not have seven carriers registered.

Pallotta said there is also an ordinance regarding garbage disposal companies.

Lohmeier said neighborhoods have agreed on one carrier. He added that a previous effort to get one carrier to pick up all garbage in the township also failed.



Dr. Rom Szymanowski visits his patient Dr. Earle Davis, at left, a veterinarian retired from his Clarkston Veterinary Clinic, at his bronze works exhibit at a gallery in Royal Oak. Photo provided

Animal doc now works in bronze

Dr. Earle Davis is retired from his Clarkston Veterinary Clinic, but stays busy creating works of art.

Dr. Rom Szymanowski, his ear, nose, and throat doctor in Clarkston, is a fan.

"He's quite talented," said Szymanowski, who has known the artist since 1982 and been a fan of his art for about six years. "I think it's outstanding, with feeling, flowing movement, circular

energy expressed in all his work."

Davis has been sculpting in bronze and stone for about 20 years.

"It's a creative thing to do - it feels good to see your work evolve," he said.

He took it up after he retired. He takes his work to about four shows a year in various galleries.

"I enjoy it - the creativity, trying to make the forms flow into each other," he said.

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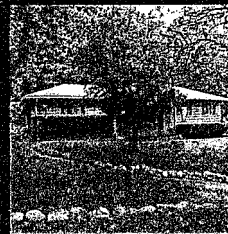
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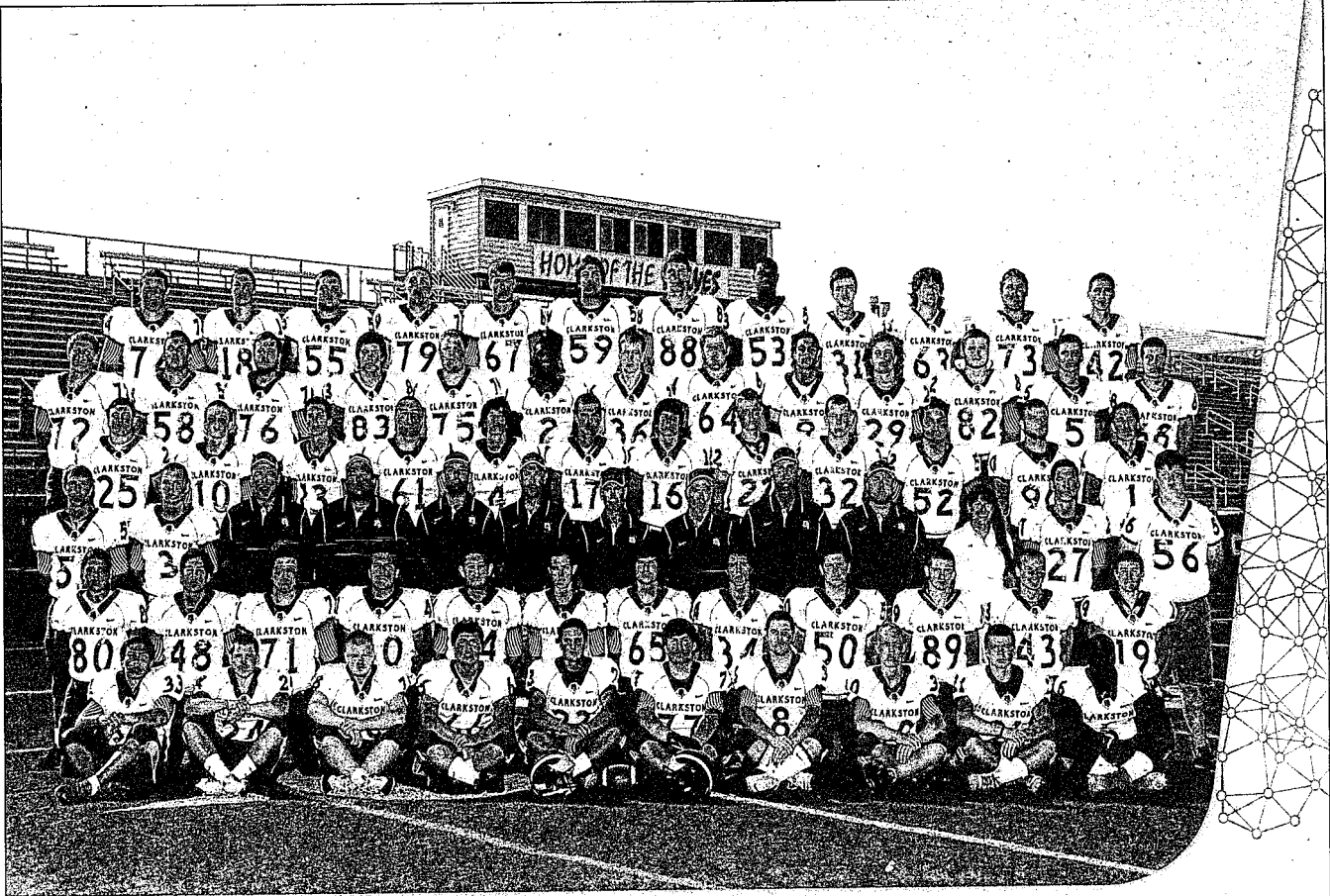


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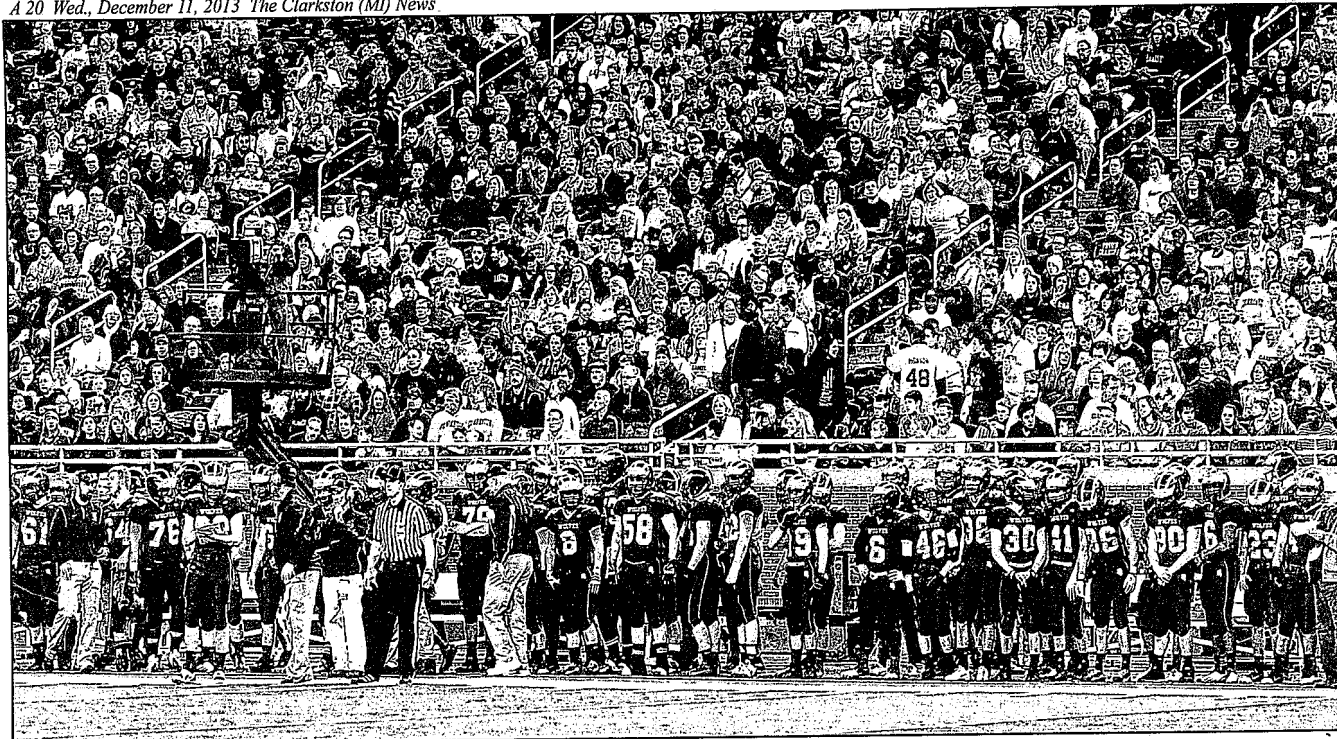


► Congratulations Clarkston Wolves— Division 1 champions!

McLaren Health Care is very proud to be a part of the Clarkston community and excited to recognize Clarkston High School's football team—the 2013 MHSAA Division 1 state champions. Congratulations to the players, Coach Richardson and his staff, students, teachers, parents, and all others who had a role in this well-deserved achievement.

Go Wolves!

 **McLaren**
HEALTH CARE



FANS IN THE STANDS: Clarkston fans show their support at the Wolves' state championship victory at Ford Field. Photo by John Azzopardi

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- Ann Berishaj



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- Ed Adler



I read The Clarkston News for all the local stories. I love to find out everything that's going on and of course to read all the news about Clarkston football.

- Bob Roth



"Nothing keeps you more connected to this community than The Clarkston News."

- Doug Scott

By Andrea Beaudoin

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Burleson brings Lionblood to Clarkston

BY ANDREAM BEAUDOIN

Clarkston News Staff Writer

When Ryan Leider met Detroit Lions wide receiver Nate Burleson at Bonnie & Clyde in Clarkston, he had only one question.

"Do you think you could beat Calvin Johnson at an arm wrestling match," asked Leider, an Independence Township resident and huge fan.

"I don't think so," responded Burleson. "They call him megatron for a reason."

Burleson visited Clarkston, Dec. 1, to meet residents and introduce his clothing line, Lionblood Clothing Company, to residents. The visit took place on the same day the Clarkston Wolves clinched a Division I State Football Championship at Ford Field.

Some of the visitors came directly from the championship game, excited to meet Burleson.

"I also just wanted to thank you for winning the Thanksgiving football game," said Leider.

Burleson also came to Bonnie & Clyde to show his support for Small Business Saturday.

Bonnie & Clyde owner Shari Schulz said she was impressed by the pro football players interaction with the fans.

"He has taken his time to really talk with everyone," she said.

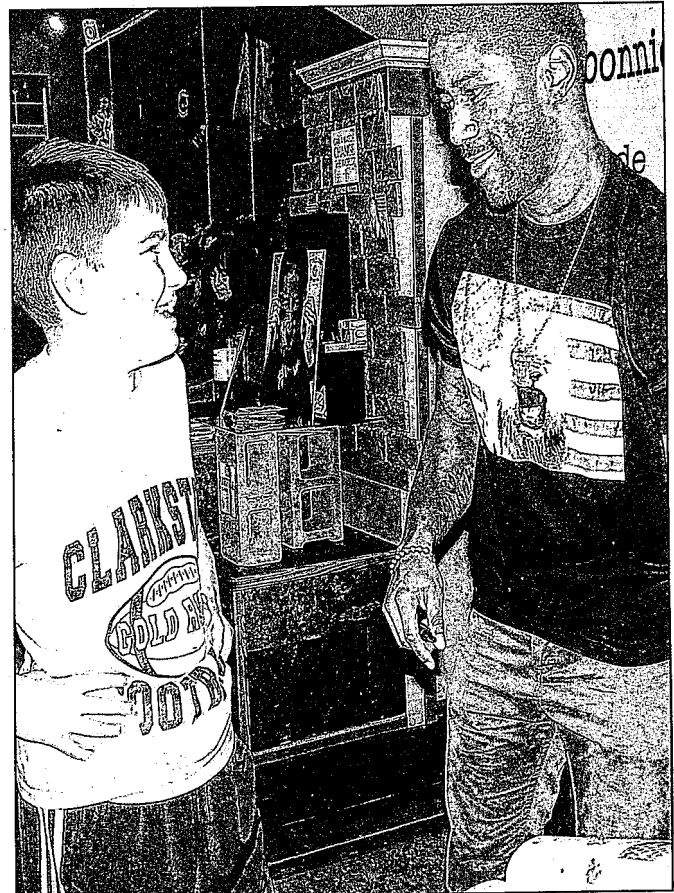
Fans could get their picture taken and get whatever they wanted signed. Lionblood Clothing Company gear was also for sale at Bonnie & Clyde and the store will carry the line.

"We started carrying the line about a month ago," said Schulz. "People are coming from all over to get it."

Burleson was impressed that Clarkston was so welcoming.

"It's a really great turnout," said Burleson. "People here are really excited to see me and

Please see Lion on page 22



Ryan Leider is a huge sports fan and was thrilled to meet Detroit Lion's player Nate Burleson at Bonnie & Clyde in Clarkston. Leider said he is also a big fan of The Clarkston News. Photo by Andrea Beaudoin



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Fans appreciate visit by Lion

Continued from page 21 that feels good."

Owen Hall asked Burlson to sign a football card, a football and a hat and Burlson happily obliged.

Both Owen and his brother Clay Hall play football at Clarkston and aspire to be professional football players, their mom Kathy said. Meeting Burlson just added steam to that dream.

Leider said he is really excited to be featured in their local newspaper.

"My whole family has been in the *Clarkston News* and I have always wanted to be too. My whole life I have wanted to be in that paper," he said.

Owen said he is a huge sports fan and was excited to read in *The Clarkston News* that Burlson would be in Clarkston.

Burlson also signed the football program from the Clarkston Wolves winning game. "We just came from Ford Field here Clarkston won the game," a fan informed Burlson.

Some products carried in Lionblood line include tops, fleece, jersey's, hats, hooded sweatshirts, earrings, dog tags, bandannas and sticker sets. Jockeys from the radio station WRIF 2 were also at the event. Bonnie & Clyde is located at 7150 N. Main Street in Clarkston.



Fans and supporters fill Bonnie & Clyde during a visit by Detroit Lion's player Nate Burlson. Photo by Andrea Beaudoin

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2010 GMC Yukon Slt \$24,495	2010 Ford F-150 Crew \$26,195	2008 Chevrolet Equinox Sport \$15,595
2008 Chevrolet Trail Blazer \$9,495	2013 Ford Escape SEL \$20,995	2012 Chevrolet Cruze \$14,295

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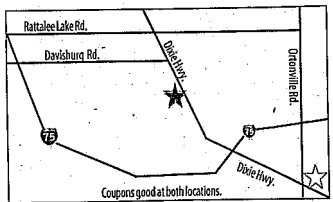
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Independence Township Times

Vol. 1 December 2013

First Year on the Job

If you can't measure it . . . you can't manage it. Staying on task is critical in today's business world. Even more so when you are responsible for managing taxpayer's money. As your new Township Supervisor, I can't believe how fast the first year in office has flown by.

When we first started, your Elected Team created a mission statement and scorecard to measure our effectiveness that included the following six categories: *Communications, Fiscal, Operations, Economic Growth, Community and Infrastructure*. Thought you might be interested in how we've been doing against our objectives.

Our Mission Statement is "To provide the 'best services' at the 'lowest possible cost' to enable both current and future residents to want to live, work and play in our community." This is the guiding principle for the Township elected Team.



Township Supervisor Pat Kittle

Communications:

Board Meetings: Working to keep Board meetings to a couple of hours and staying on agenda. While not as smooth as we would like, we're getting better at following "Parliamentary Procedure" and staying on task.

Independence Television: Integrating the current Public Access television studio with the Clarkston School System to leverage equipment and funding to get a better bang for our buck. While it is taking longer than expected to get all the bugs worked out, we think the results will be worth it. Aired the first football game with Romeo vs. Clarkston with more to come. The end goal is to create and broadcast the best about Independence Township/Clarkston Community School District.

News Articles: Need to provide more updates to the local newspaper. You deserve more communications from us. We are partnering with *The Clarkston News* as a first step in that direction with this edition of *The Township Times*.

Association Meetings: We also are making ourselves available for Homeowner Association Meetings to answer questions and seek resident feedback. Please call Leanna Cole at (248) 625-5111 to schedule. We also will soon conduct a Town Hall Meeting with the home owner associations presidents from across Independence

Township to seek input and ideas on how we can provide better services to the community.

Website Update: Taking longer than anticipated to update our website. Working with Oakland and Orion townships to leverage a group buy to bring costs down for this service. Target date: Spring 2014.

Fiscal:

Budgets: Staying within operating forecast. Separated proposed Capital expenditures to help account for each dollar spent. 2014 budgets are now set. Public Hearing was November 12 seeking resident input. With the exception of our Department of Public Works Sewer fund, we're looking pretty good from a financial perspective. We have created a *Citizen DPW Advisory Board* to work with the Township on restructuring strategies. Bottom Line, Township sewer rates have not kept up with Detroit sewage rate increases, county initiated infrastructure improvement projects and deferred maintenance items.

Contracts: Have re-bid our Auditing contract and outsourced Human Resources & Payroll realizing savings of over \$125,000 per year. Outsourced I.T. services reducing

Please see "First Year..." on Page 4

2013 Winter Tax bills are now due

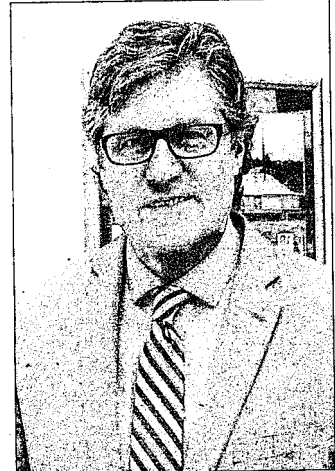
By Paul Brown, Township Treasurer

Winter taxes are payable December 1, 2013 through February 14, 2014 without penalty of interest.

Beginning February 15, a 3% penalty will be added to summer and winter unpaid balances. Payments can be made via cash, check or credit cards. Credit card payments can be made by calling 1-888-357-8394 or online through our website at www.indtwptax.com.

You are responsible for the convenience fee of 2.5% imposed by Official Payments for this service. Most major credit and debit cards as well as e-checks are accepted. Please allow up to 5 days for posting.

Credit card payments can also be made at the treasurer's office for a 2.75% convenience fee imposed by Merchant Services. There is an after hour drop box located at the Township hall that is safe and convenient. Please remember failure to receive a tax bill does not waive penalty or interest. Verification of tax payment can be made at the same website.



Township Treasurer Paul Brown

Sewer rates will have to increase

By Patrick Kittle, Township Supervisor

The Township currently has over 120 miles of sewer mains connecting 9,000 residences, 13 lift stations, 30 pumps, 2,000 manholes, numerous wet wells and holding tanks, all linked together with a communication network providing status updates on every mechanical component virtually every second of every day.

The price tag for all this equipment runs into the tens of millions of dollars. And all of this infrastructure is linked to huge sewage interceptor systems carrying waste to treatment plants in Detroit and Pontiac, costing billions of dollars.

Truth is the Township has been very cost conscience in the administration of this critical community service looking back from 2010 and projected to 2016. Labor costs have been running just a little over \$700,000 per year. Total revenue has been averaging \$4 million per year. The problem is there are factors outside of our control wreaking havoc with our budgets.

The biggest of these "uncontrollables"

is the Sewage Treatment fees being imposed by the Detroit Water and Sewage Department. The chart on Page 4 speaks volumes about the impact these fees are having on the Township and our ability to control sewage fees. Detroit Sewage Treatment annual fees alone have risen from \$1.7 million in 2010 to an estimated \$3.2 million in 2016 for an 88% increase. Another "uncontrollable" is the Oakland County sewage interceptor upgrade program. With a price tag of \$180 million the Township's portion of this vital upgrade is over \$9 million and will be paid through bonds and increased County sewer flow rates spread over the next 10 to 20 years.

Another key factor impacting Independence is the cost of just maintaining a system with an estimated value of \$27 million. You wouldn't run your car for a year without proper maintenance. Well, you can't run an infrastructure as big as our Sewer system without maintenance as well. Parts of the Township's infrastructure are well

Please see "Sewer..." on Page 4

Property values have increased

News And Information From Independence Township Assessing Department. If you have questions, please call us at 248-625-8114

New Construction and Recent Sales Activity. As the southeast region of Michigan begins to experience an improvement in its overall economy, evidence of an improvement in local market conditions can be seen as illustrated in the following charts:

Property Values. The 2013 tentative ratio determined by Oakland County Equalization to be used for the 2014 values in the residential class is 45.50%. What does this mean for residential values for 2014?

Overall, the residential property class will need to be increased by approximately 9.5% in order to be at the statutory required 50%. Should every residential property owner expect a 9.5 % increase in their assessment?

No.
The results of this study are used only to determine the overall increase by property class. Not all neighborhoods will move up or down by the same amounts, but the cumulative change in values for 2014 within the residential class as a whole will be an increase of approximately 9.5%.

Property Taxes. How will these ratios affect property taxes? The consumer price index (CPI) calculated by the State of Michigan for 2014 values is 1.6. This value is used statewide in the calculation of capped values. According to Proposal A passed in 1994, each year the assessor must calculate a capped value. If there have been no changes to the property (i.e. additions or demolitions), it is calculated by taking the previous year's taxable value and multiplying it by the CPI.

The capped value is then compared to the assessed value – as long as a qualified transfer has not occurred, whichever is the lesser of the two values (assessed or capped) becomes the current year's taxable value.

Property Appraisals. Each year the Assessing Department is required by the State Tax Commission to conduct reappraisals of 20% of each property class (residential, commercial, industrial) within the Township. The Assessing Department would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to all of the property owners involved in this year's reappraisal project for their cooperation with staff and support of this effort.

2014 reappraisal areas have not yet been determined, but all affected property owners will be notified by letter before field visits are conducted.

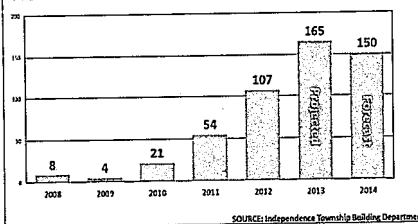
Recent Legislative Changes. There are several legislative changes that will affect how assessments are determined for 2014.

Public Act 153 of 2013 grants a property exemption to owners of commercial and industrial personal property having a True Cash Value of less than \$80,000 as of December 31, 2013. In order to qualify for this exemption, property owners **MUST FILE** the "Affidavit of Owner of Eligible Personal Property Claiming Exemption from Collection of Taxes" form (form number 5076), as approved by the State Tax Commission. The Affidavit must be received by the Assessor **no later than February 10, 2014.**

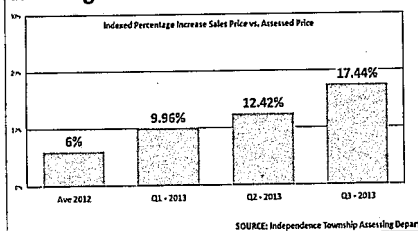
A copy of this form will be included in the normal personal property statement mailings sent out at the end of December.

Public Act 161 of 2013 grants a property exemption

New Home Construction



Housing Sales Prices



Upcoming Important Dates!

2014 Personal Property Statements:

Mailed to property owners by the end of December, 2013

(Note: these forms must be completed and returned to the assessing department no later than February 20, 2014; please note Recent Legislative Changes affecting filing deadlines for small business owners below)

2014 Assessment Change Notices:

Mailed to property owners by the end of February, 2014

2014 March Board of Review:

Begins on Wednesday, March 5, 2014

from the collection of taxes to disabled veterans (or their unmarried surviving spouses) who were discharged from the armed forces of the United States under honorable conditions. A "disabled veteran" is defined as a person who is a resident of this state and who meets 1 of the following criteria:

- o Has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.

- o Has a certificate from the United States Veterans Administration, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.

- o Has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as individually unemployable.

Questions or requests for additional information should be directed to the Assessing Department by emailing: assess@indetwp.com or by calling 248-625-8114. You may also visit our page on the Township website: www.indetwp.com

From the Fire Department

Smoke Alarms

The good news? Over ninety three percent of all homes in the United States have at least one smoke alarm. The bad news? One-third of them are not working. Make sure your smoke alarms are operating correctly by testing them once every six months. Change the batteries once a year with the changing of the clocks, or on another easily remembered day, such as a birthday or anniversary. It is recommended that one smoke alarm be on every floor of the house, with one being located on the hallway ceiling just outside the bedroom doors. This is for early detection and warning of smoke during times where occupants are the most vulnerable; at night while sleeping.

Candles

U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 11,640 home structure fires started by candles per year. These fires cause an annual average of 126 civilian deaths, 953 civilian fire injuries, and \$438 million in direct property damage. Candles caused 3% of the reported home fires, 5% of home fire deaths, 7% of home fire injuries, and 6% of direct property damage during this period. On average, 32 home candle fires are reported per day. Thirty-five percent (35%) of home candle fires started in bedrooms. These fires caused 42% of the associated deaths and 45% of the associated injuries. More than half (56%) of the home candle fires occurred when some form of combustible material was too close to the candle. Falling asleep was a factor in 11% percent of the home candle fires and 43% of the associated deaths. The top three days for candle home fires are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Eve.

Independence Fire Department, and the National Fire Protection Association, recommends you keep candles at least twelve (12) inches away from anything that can burn. Candles should be blown out whenever you leave the room. Never allow children to play with candles, and keep candles from being placed in areas where they can easily be knocked over. A safe alternative to traditional wax candles are battery-powered LED candles.

Christmas Trees and Holiday Lights

The winter Holiday season should be a joyous time of year. However, certain types of fires and injuries associated with holiday decorating are much more common during this season. Annually, between December 1st and January 15th, U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 230 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees. Home Christmas tree fires cause an average of four civilian deaths, 21 civilian injuries, and \$17.3 million in direct property damage. House fires started by Christmas trees are twice as likely to cause death compared to other common causes of home structure fires. Electrical failures or malfunctions were involved in one-third (31%) of the home Christmas tree structure fires. The risk of fire is higher with natural trees than artificial ones. Researchers found that dry natural trees burned easily, but trees that had been kept watered are unlikely to catch fire unintentionally.

Holiday lights and other decorative lighting with line voltage were involved in an average of 160 home structure fires during this same time period. These fires caused an average of nine civilian deaths, 13 civilian injuries, and \$9.0 million in direct property damage. Electrical failures or malfunctions were factors in two-thirds (69%) of the fires involving holiday or decorative lights.



It takes many friends to make a Friendly Forest!

By Lisa Christensen
Recreation Programmer

What started as a cold and rainy Saturday morning turned into a partly sunny, crisp, Michigan Fall day for our 16th annual Friendly Forest event, held October 19th at Clintonwood Park. Over 600 kids along with their families, trick or treated along our friendly trail while being greeted by their favorite cartoon and fairytale characters! Over 10,000 pieces of candy were handed out along with crafts, photos, hayrides, juice and donuts.

Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Clarkston Area Optimist Club for their generosity to this year's event. In addition to a significant monetary donation which allowed for decreased ticket prices, The Clarkston Area Optimist Club provided over 35 volunteers, solidifying their "friends of youth" excellence.

Independence Township would also like to thank all additional sponsors and volunteers; this event would not be possible without their continued support!

HELP!

We need your opinion about the *Township Times*. As Township Government we are always looking for ways to get you information. Would you be willing to let us know what you think of this pullout? Please visit the following website to let us know:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/TownshipTimes

Senior Citizens and Crime Prevention:

News from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department

As a senior you don't have to feel helpless. Senior Citizens should be aware of basic crime prevention techniques. Some of the more prevalent crimes that affect seniors include burglary, fraud, and identity theft.

The question you might be asking yourself is how I can protect myself. You can start by learning some basic crime prevention information. The information should include how criminals operate, how to make crime more difficult for criminals, things you don't necessarily need have, and some things that you need to do.

1. How do criminals operate? Remember criminals look for the easiest opportunities, so don't make yourself that easy opportunity.

2. How can I make it difficult for a criminal? Look for and remove any opportunities before criminals spot them. One example is locking your doors and windows before leaving your home.

In an Emergency ... Call 911

To Reach Dispatch call: 248-858-4950
For General Questions call: 248-620-4968

3. What you don't necessarily need when dealing with criminals is physical strength, agility, speed, or expensive security devices.

4. What you do need is to be alert, cautious, and self-confident. This will help prevent you from becoming a victim of the criminal.

Remember: A criminal will usually pick a target that is weak and not alert or cautious. If you make yourself aware of your surroundings and show that you are not a victim the criminal will most likely go elsewhere.

There are different types of fraud that you need to be aware of. There are home

repair scams, identity theft scams, and bank and charity scams just to name a few. Never give anyone your personal information over the phone unless you made the call yourself. Criminals that commit these types of fraud just want your information for their own economic gain. So keep in mind when someone calls you, sends you mail, or comes to your door asking for your personal information check them out first. You can call the Better Business Bureau, your local Chamber of Commerce, or the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the business. If you feel that you are, or have been, the victim of a crime call the Sheriff's Office and ask to speak with a deputy.

For more information, you can stop in at the Independence Substation located at 6560 Citation Drive to pick up a brochure or visit the Sheriff's website at www.oaklandsheriff.com.

Independence Twp Senior Adult Activity Center

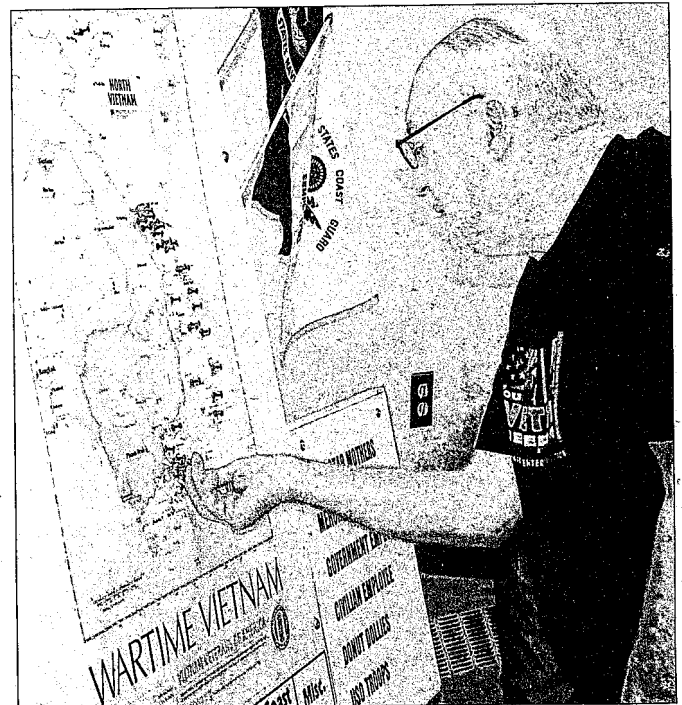
In honor of Veterans Day on Friday, November 8, the Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center sponsored its annual Veterans Luncheon at the American Legion Post 63 on Ortonville Road.

Over 100 veterans who served in WWII through our recent wars were invited to attend at no cost to them. Independence Township Supervisor Patrick Kittle provided the Invocation and guest speakers included Post 63 acting Second Vice Commander Jim Ward and Commander of the ROTC in Flint, Michigan, Mike Clift.

Over 30 students from Christine Rogers' Advanced History Class came for the third year to serve lunch and Gary Kolody provided the patriotic entertainment.

A special thank you to the Post 63 and their commander, Don Davis, Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, along with all other staff and volunteers who helped make this event successful. It was an honor acknowledging our veterans for their service and commitment to our country.

Barbara Rollin
Senior Center Coordinator



First year on the job, continued

costs \$25,000 annually. Rebid Snow Removal contract for additional savings to Township.

Build Cash Reserves: Refurbished a DPW vehicle vs. purchasing new for \$200,000 one-time saving. Saved \$30,000+ with aggressive bidding/leasing policies for copiers, computers and monitors. Changed financial services saving thousands annually. We're not done yet.

Benchmarking: Working with Orion Township on joint HR contract and Maybee Road Safety Path initiatives. Collaborated with Oakland County on Capital Asset Management and Mapping Tools saving Township \$60,000. Speaking with Orion & Oakland townships as well as Oakland County on other web-related projects.

Operations:

Human Resources: Hired a new HR company to assist with Job Descriptions, Employee Policy Manuals, a formal Evaluation Process and Ethics Policy. Preliminary documents drafted and in for internal review. Basic HR stuff that has been missing for years.

Citizens Advisory Boards: The Treasurer created an Investment Advisory Board to counsel on Fund Balance investments. A new DPW Advisory Board was also created to review and advise on our current sewage balance sheet, future capital needs and communication strategies. Our newest resident panel, the Video Center Advisory Board, has been appointed to assist and monitor integration with the Clarkston Community Schools.

Economic Growth:

Sashabaw Corridor: Plan created and funding sources identified for I-75/South Sashabaw Interchange and Sashabaw/Waldon Intersection. Plans presented to Township Board, Corridor Improvement Authority and Planning Commissions. Plan revisions have brought down estimated costs from \$4.5 million to \$4 million.

Dixie Hwy: Construction is completed on Dixie Highway. Plans to create *Welcome to Independence Township* marquees at the north and south Township borders in the works. Want to create a Dixie Business Advisory Board to *Put the Pride Back in Dixie*. Seeking volunteer business owners now.

Hospital: The Township is continuing to work with both local and state officials on the NEED for a new hospital. While this new hospital may be only 15 miles from the nearest trauma center, it is at-best a 25 minute ambulance ride, way too long when seconds count in a life threatening matter for a loved one.

Industrial Development District: The Township was approached by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation about a European auto parts manufacturer looking for a "friendly" community to set up business and selected Independence Township. The new company, Magneti Marelli, is located in the manufacturing facility at 5600 Bow Point. This will bring over 80 new jobs with an annual payroll exceeding \$5 million to our community.

425 Agreement: Have just completed an agreement with Springfield Township to have a 12-acre parcel, located at the corner of Dixie Highway and I-75, transferred to our community. This property transfer was approved unanimously by both Springfield and Independence Township Boards.

Community

Police: The Board was able to find money in the budget to add an additional Deputy on the afternoon shift, while keeping fund balances at acceptable levels.

Senior Center: Working with the Senior Advisory Board on finalizing their plans for an expansion project for their current building, doubling the footprint from 2,200 to 4,400 square feet. \$200,000 of the \$300,000 price tag was raised with private funds.

Riparian Issues: Have quickly learned arguments between Homeowner Associations regarding who can and who can't put boats on a lake is a fight I want to avoid in the future at all costs. No matter what you do to try to solve the issue, someone will not be happy. This was an expensive lesson to learn. Involved parties are now seeking resolution in Circuit Court.

Safety Paths: The Township voted in a special millage several years ago to create a pathway system linking parks, residential areas and business districts for pedestrians and cyclists. Due to the economic downturn, only 50% of the approved millage was levied in 2013, 202 mills vs. 4076 mills. The Board voted to increase the current Safety Path Millage by .1 mil representing an increase of \$132,000 in annual operating income. This increase was only approved after operating efficiencies were found in another fund that allowed the Board to lower that millage by .1 mil. Bottom line, current Safety Path projects can be accelerated with no incremental increase in taxes for the community.

Infrastructure

Capital Improvement Plan: Continuing to scrub the Capital Improvement Plan. Have eliminated or deferred over \$1 million in expenses to date.

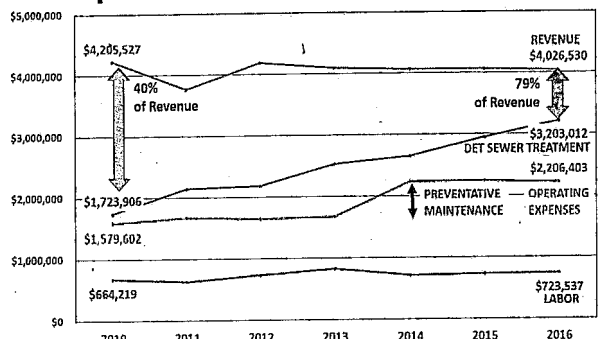
I.T.: We've replaced and upgraded the computer infrastructure at Town Hall to ensure data consistency and integrity are maintained.

Brady Lodge: Have approved \$200,000 in funds for restoration of roof and supporting infrastructure. This historic building in Baycourt Park has been around since 1929 and we intend to try to bring it back to some of its original stature. You can see more detail on the Township website.

In closing, being new to the office, your Elected Team quickly found there is no shortage of opportunities in our Township. We've come a long way in twelve short months. We also realize we have a long way to go. With your help and continued support it should be an exciting journey.

Pat Kittle, Township Supervisor

Independence Sewer Expenses



SOURCE: Independence Township DPW Department

Sewer expenses, continued

over 40 years old and have never seen a "doctor." It's now time for a system check-up and thorough cleaning to find out what's working and where (or if) the Township needs to begin investing in replacing and/or refining sewer mains before we have really big environmental problems. And this costs money; about \$500,000 for every 25 miles of cleaning and inspection. This one-two punch of "uncontrollables" and needed preventative maintenance is at the heart of our issue. We've tried to control what we can with Labor, Usage Rates and normal Operating Expenses over the years, but our business model is being turned upside

down by these "uncontrollables" and has to be addressed.

Because of the complexities of the subject, a special advisory committee of Township residents has been created to examine the problem and come up with a five year funding recommendation. The Township is currently subsidizing Sewer Rates out of Fund Balance. With expenses increasing so fast, this practice cannot continue for much longer. The early diagnosis is that Sewer usage fees are going to have to be increased. With our 2014 - 2016 budget now being finalized, we should have an answer as to "how much" in the first quarter of 2014. We will keep you informed of the committee's findings and recommendations.

Fire Department, continued

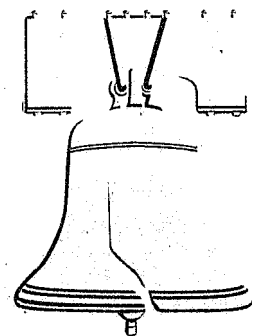
Independence Fire Department, and the National Fire Protection Association, recommends you keep your natural Christmas trees moist. This is best accomplished by making a 1/2" fresh cut on the trunk of the tree just

prior to placing it in the stand. The stand should be filled with water immediately, and kept full for the entire time it is in the stand. All electrical lighting (low-voltage included) should be inspected prior to decorating, and replaced (not repaired) as deficiencies are found.

Contact Independence Township

6483 Waldon Center Drive

General Directory	625-5111
Assessing	625-8114
Building	625-8111
Clerk/Finance	625-5114
Dispatch	858-4950
Elections	625-5113
Emergency	911 (Fire or Police)
Fire	625-1924
Independence Television	623-3661
Parks, Recreation & Seniors	625-8223
Police Non-Emergency	620-4968
Public Works	625-8222
Public Works Emergency	866-4844
Treasurer	625-5115



You can also find us online at:
www.IndeTwp.com

TIGER FANS: Jules and Lina Haviland visit with Richard and Kathy Verlander, parents of Detroit Tigers Justin and Ben Verlander and authors of *Rocks Across the Pond*, at the Clarkston High School craft and art show, Dec. 7. Photo by Phil Custodio



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REGULAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bug Removal ○ Presoak ○ Whitewall & Tire Cleaner ○ High Pressure Wash ○ Body Leather ○ Soft Touch Wash ○ Clearcoat Sealer/Wax/Protectant ○ Towel Dry 	\$6
DELUXE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bug Removal ○ Presoak ○ Whitewall & Tire Cleaner ○ High Pressure Wash ○ Body Leather ○ Soft Touch Wash ○ Underbody Wash ○ Clearcoat Sealer/Wax/Protectant ○ Towel Dry 	\$7
ULTIMATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High Pressure Wash ○ Trip of Foam with Clearcoat Protectant ○ Body Leather ○ Soft Touch Wash ○ Underbody Wash ○ Clearcoat Sealer/Wax/Protectant ○ Towel Dry 	\$9

\$1 OFF Any Wash Package **\$1 OFF** Any Wash Package

Town Center Auto Wash
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Lynn Gordon, Independence and Andersonville Elementary schools librarian, receives the 2013 Margaret Grazier Award. Photo provided

Business achievements

Lynn Gordon, school librarian for Independence and Andersonville Elementary schools, was presented the 2013 Margaret Grazier Award for Contribution to the Profession by the Michigan Association for Media in Education, Nov. 21.

Gordon was formally recognized at the President's Award Gala during the annual MAME state conference at the Kalamazoo Radisson Plaza Hotel.

She was nominated by Denise Lovse, school librarian at Clarkston High School.

"Lynn is a very caring person, who truly loves her students as it shows in her actions and instruction," Lovse said. "She is very patient and professional with students, teachers, and administration. Her no nonsense approach is refreshing and keeps everyone she is working with on the right track. Lynn is always contributing to the profession through her volunteerism and that is why she is perfect for this award."

Terri Caunt RN, BSN, recently joined NuView Nutrition of Clarkston to promote healthy living through educating clients on diet and nutritional support for whole body healing and wellness.

Caunt has been in the nursing profession for over a decade, graduating with high honors from Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

She began her nursing career in orthopedics/neuroscience before moving into pulmonary and ventilator unit nursing.

For the past few years, she has taken her nursing experience into the home care field, teaching adult patients about health and wellness, disease prevention, and nutrition for maintaining a well-balanced lifestyle.



Terri Caunt

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11:00 pm Candle Lighting
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www.clarkstonumc.org



ROCK AND ROLL: Mark Best of Urban Nomads ends a tune with a flourish at the Rock and Roll Toy Drive last Sunday at Oakland County Sportsmen's Club. Photo by Phil Custodio

Check out Around Town to know what's going on

Each week the "Around Town" community calendar, a section in *The Clarkston News* is always packed full of fun events. From fun with the kids to groups geared towards adults there is something for everyone.

Information for the various events include the date, time and where to meet.

Community organization meetings, artistic opportunities, exercise classes, fundraisers and special gatherings are just some of the fun that can be found every week.

Readers can also find information on gatherings they may have not even known existed.

For those that need some extra support after the loss of a loved one, a Grief Support Group meets at Coats Funeral Home every Monday at 6:30 p.m. Find solace in people who understand by meeting up with a breast

cancer survivor group.

Community singles can meet for a fun game of bingo or you can find out where to go for a class on slow flow or therapeutic yoga.

Find out where all the free events will be or where you can go for lessons on belly dancing.

Meet a local councilman for coffee or where ages 50 plus can go to play Pickleball.

Join a meeting at the Clarkston Mason's or The Clarkston Area Lions Club.

Attend events to honor veterans or help raise money for a good cause.

These are the kinds of activities and much more readers can find every week in *The Clarkston News* community calendar, and the events are always changing. Never miss all the local happenings of your community by getting your *Clarkston News* every week.

Events

Salute to Veterans, free luncheon for vets by Sons of American Legion Post 63, 8047 Ortonville Road, 12 p.m., Dec. 14 during Army/Navy game. Cash prizes at the end of each quarter, free drinks, door prizes. 248-625-9912. ***

Cookie Walk, Joseph C. Bird 249 OES, 4-6 p.m., Dec. 14, Clarkston Masonic Temple, 1 E. Washington Street. Cookies by the bag, \$5. ***

Monday

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

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

Clarkston Area Mothers & More, 6:30-8:30 p.m., third Monday. Red Knapps restaurant. Call Shelly, 248-778-8115, or Allison, 248-462-5510. ***

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

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

Pilates and Sculpt, Mondays, 7-8 p.m., Bay Court Park's Lakeview room. Independence Township Parks and Recreation, 248-625-8223. ***

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

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

Bingo games, Community Singles, Mondays,

Around Town



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

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

Tuesday

Breast Cancer Survivor Group, second Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., 21st Century Oncology, 6770 Dixie Highway. 248-625-3841. ***

Gentle Yoga with Rev. Matthew Long, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 10 a.m. Peace Unity Holistic Center, 8080A Ortonville Road. 248-891-4365. ***

Clarkston Community Band rehearsals, 7-9 p.m., Tuesdays. \$30/semester, free for high school students. Band room, Sashabaw Middle School, 5565 Pine Knob Lane, clarkstonband@gmail.com. ***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. ***

Office hours, Clarkston City Councilman Mike Sabol, third Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Village Bakery, 10 S. Main Street. ***

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

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

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

bership, \$5 lunch. 248-846-6558. ***

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

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

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

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

Saturday

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. ***

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

Volunteer opportunities

Avalon Hospice, sit with patients, hold their hand, listen to stories, personal care, or just be there. Two hours a week or more. 800-664-6334; **McLaren Hospice**, not-for-profit, companionship-type to visit and provide emotional support for patients living with terminal illness, 248-320-0106. **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Oakland County**, 55+ opportunities at hospitals, cultural institutions, food pantries, tutoring. 248-559-1147 ext. 3435.

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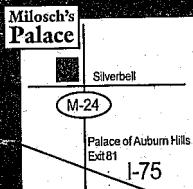
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 - Nurture Center (birth-4)
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 check out all BWC has To offer you online at
 bridgewoodchurch.com

Religion

Events Preaching

A time for new wineskins

For the vast majority of my life Dr. Leandro F. Africa has practiced medicine as a thoracic surgeon. At the end of this year, he is retiring.

This journey for my Dad began far and long ago. He graduated from the University of the Philippines in 1966; after which he came to the United States the following year to begin his residency in Toledo.

In 1977, he joined the staff at St. Joseph Hospital in Mt. Clemens (which is now Henry Ford Macomb Hospital).

Though he's worked at other hospitals in the Metro-Detroit area, this has been his "home" over the years. And at the end of this year, he is retiring.

When discussing our father's retirement, my sister fittingly noted that "our father's retirement is the end of an era."

I sort of picked up on this several months ago, when I had the privilege of walking through Henry Ford Macomb Hospital with my Dad in order to snap a few pictures of him at work for our family photo album.

I appreciated our time together on that Saturday morning. And though my Dad is a man of few words, it seems to me that he spoke volumes that day in his quiet way. He seemed to say, he was appreciative of the privilege he has had to practice medicine over all these years.

He seemed to say, he was proud of the work he and his co-workers had done together.

And he seemed to say, if "Father Time" invited him to do so, he would begin the next 37-years of his practice starting to-

morrow.

But no matter how noble the cause might be, time does not stand still. And so, at the end of this year, he is retiring.

I'm proud of my Dad. For all that he has done... For the way he has done it... And most of all, at this point, for recognizing it is time to begin a new chapter.

I'm fairly certain that one thing we've all acknowledged along the way, in some fashion or another is that "the only thing constant in life is change." Perhaps we've said it in this exact way..

Jesus acknowledges this reality in this way, according to the Gospel of Mark, "...who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before.

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins." (Mark 2:21-22, New Living Translation)

Change is not always easy. Change is not always welcomed. Change, however, allows for new beginnings and new possibilities; and it calls for new wineskins, a new way of doing something familiar or the start of something all together different. Does my Dad have his retirement completely figured out? I'm not left with this impression.

But the one thing we both know for certain is that the God who walked with him throughout all his years of practicing medicine is very same one who will walk with him as he picks up that new wineskin for the first time on January 1, 2014.

Come to think of it, change is not the only constant in life...

The Rev. Jeremy Africa is pastor of Goodrich United Methodist Church

Spiritual Matters



Pastor Jeremy Africa

In our local churches...

3D Vision Youth Group for grades 6-12, Wednesdays, 7-8:45 p.m., North Oaks Church, 9600 Ortonville Road. Pizza Party Kick-off, Sept. 4. 248-922-3515.

Wednesday Evening Feast, 6p.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 13-weekly seminars, Thursdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. 248-625-1611.

First Friday Family Fun, 7 p.m., St. Trinity Lutheran Church, 7925 Sashabaw Road. Board and video games, snacks for all ages, kids movies. 248-625-4644.

Obituaries

Death notices &

Richard Christiansen, 95

Richard L., Christiansen of Arizona, Minn., and formerly Clarkston, died Dec. 1, 2013, at 95 years of age.

He was the beloved husband of the late Helen E. Christiansen and Helen Moore Christiansen; loving father of Larry (Norma) Christiansen, Lynn (Keven) Anderson and Cindy (Vern) Hawley; dearest grandfather of nine, great grandfather of 12 and great great grandfather of one; preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, one brother and one grandson.

Mr. Christiansen was the former owner and operator of Concrete Step Co. He is a member of Trinity Methodist Church and a former member of the Clarkston Rotary Club.

Funeral Service was Dec. 7 at Trinity Methodist Church, Waterford, Rev. Dr. Theodore D. Whitely officiating. Burial at Ottawa Park Cemetery, Clarkston. Visitation was Dec. 6 at Coats Funeral Home - Waterford.

To send a condolence message go to www.CoatsFuneralHome.com/obituaries. Memorials may be made to the Trinity United Methodist Church.

Glenda F. Mudge, 77

Glenda F. Mudge of Clarkston passed away Dec. 7, 2013, at age 77.

She was the mother of Tara (Gordy) McKechnie, Jeff Mudge, LeAnn (Greg) Wells and Michelle (Scott) Hendricks; daughter of Mae (the late Clarence) Hill; grandmother of nine; great grandmother of four; sister of Betty Clemons, Bobbie Phillips, Delores Schuchard; preceded in death by her infant son Michael, granddaughter Maria Wells and brother Doug Hill.

Glenda was a member of the American Legion Clarkston Post 63.

Funeral Service, Thursday, 12:30 p.m., at the Lewis E. Wint and Son Funeral Home, Clarkston, where friends may visit Wednesday, 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Interment All Saints Cemetery, Waterford. Memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Online www.wintfuneralhome.com



Obituaries
posted daily at
Clarkstonnews.com

Carolyn L. Distel, 52

Carolyn Lee Distel of Clarkston, age 52, died Nov. 30, 2013, following a brief battle with cancer.

She was the dear sister of Alex (Dona) Distel, Jr., Margo (John) Keblaitis, Pam (Wendell) Evans and Richard (Shauna) Distel; preceded in death by her parents Alex Sr. and Margaret Distel; also survived by numerous nieces and nephews including her special niece, Kristi (Nate Gheen) Fruit.

Carolyn was a former manager of the family business, Superior Water Conditioning in Waterford. Funeral service was Dec. 4 at Coats Funeral Home - Waterford.

Memorial donations to Michigan Animal Rescue League.

To send a condolence go to www.CoatsFuneralHome.com/obituaries.

Cynthia Sue Fay, 63

Cynthia Sue Fay of Clarkston, formerly of Sylvania Lake, passed away unexpectedly Dec. 1, 2013, at age 63.

She was preceded in death by her parents Lloyd and Barbara Fay. She was the sister of Lloyd "Chip" (Norma) Fay; aunt of Adrianna Fay; also survived by many other family members and friends.

Cindy retired from Cranbrook Schools as an Administrative Assistant.

Private burial has taken place at Perry Mt. Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Michigan Humane Society. Arrangements entrusted to the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston.

Online www.wintfuneralhome.com guestbook

Sonya C. Funck, 49

Sonya Carol Funck of Clarkston died Nov. 30, 2013. She was 49, born Dec. 14, 1963, in Pontiac to George "Glenn" and Gwen (nee Cherry) Funck.

She is survived by her parents; one brother, Darrel Funck; aunts and uncles, Monie and Carol Funck, Ken and Jay Funck, Don Funck, Joe and the late Carlene Wood. Sonya was a graduate of Clarkston High School.

Funeral service was Dec. 5 at Coats Funeral Home - Waterford. Memorial donations may be made to National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders.

To send a condolence go to www.CoatsFuneralHome.com/Obituaries.



Leona Verkerke, 90

Leona C. Verkerke of American House, Pontiac, formerly of Clinton Township and Rochester, passed away Dec. 2, 2013, at age 90.

She was preceded in death by her husband John. She was the mother of Carol, Barbara "Bonnie" (Bill) Maine, Tom, Paul (Beth), Sue Belt, Steve (Cindy) and Ellen; also survived by 10 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren; sister of Laura DeJonckheere.

Memorial service was Dec. 6 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Inurnment Great Lakes National Cemetery. Memorials may be made to American Heart Association. Online www.wintfuneralhome.com guestbook



Lois McPhee Wright, 88

Lois McPhee Wright of Clarkston, formerly of Flint, passed away Dec. 4, 2013, at age 88.

She was the loving mother of Martha (Tim Pobuda) Wright and Omelia; beloved Mimi of Emily and Sarah Pobuda; dear sister of David (Judy) McPhee, Elaine Spencer and Edmund (Gail) McPhee; preceded in death by brother Donald Cameron McPhee, USMC; also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Lois was born in Stratford, Ontario, and came to Flint as a young girl. After attending Kalamazoo College, she earned a BS in Education from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Arts from Michigan State University. She was an Assistant Adjunct Professor in the Department of Human Development, College of Human Medicine at MSU, a Speech and Language Pathologist and Early Childhood Specialist in the Flint Community Schools and the first female head of the Department of Education at the Mott Children's Health Center.

She served on numerous community boards including the Greater Flint/Thumb Area 4C Association and Easter Seals. Lois was an enthusiastic patron of the Arts, a friend of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival, a member of the Smithsonian and the Flint Institute of Arts. She traveled the globe, visiting every continent, and loved theater, movies, books, dolls, miniatures, her garden, knitting, sewing and her granddaughters.

Memorials may be made to the Stratford Festival P.O. Box 520 Stratford ON N5A 6V2.

Private arrangements entrusted to the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Online www.wintfuneralhome.com guestbook



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Obamacare's confusing for employers

BY ANDREAM BEAUDOIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer
Part 3 in a series

Shannon Saksewski, from Detroit Regional Chamber and Daniel Russell from DEM Group LLC agree the Affordable Care Act, "Obamacare," has not been easy to understand for anyone, least of all businesses. "Employers must also offer affordable coverage, which means health care costs must not exceed 9.5 percent of wages for the lowest paid employee of your company," said Russell during a presentation at Fountain's in Independence Township.

During the presentation, brought to Fountain's by the Clarkston Chamber of Commerce, Saksewski and Russell addressed many questions being asked by businesses. "We are just trying to clarify and help move people and businesses through the process," said Saksewski.

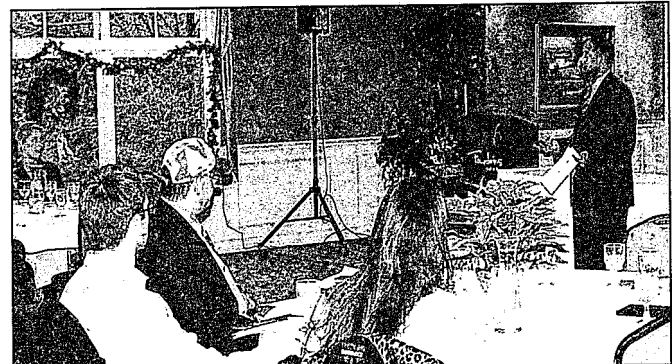
Michigan's biggest insurer Blue Cross Blue Shield went from offering 650 plans down to just 48, Russell said adding that he is running into the smartest business owners and employees who are confused by the ACA.

Insurance Agent Mark Davis from Waterford said he came to the presentation because health care is a hot topic for his clients and he wants to keep up on all the changes.

Changes are being made daily to the ACA, Russell and Sakewski told the group.

"The biggest scare for employers is being compliant with the ACA," said Russell. "Business owners now feel they have to become experts at healthcare," he said.

Russell clarified what employers have to provide health care coverage and who does not.



Daniel Russell discusses Obamacare during a presentation at Fountains Golf and Banquet. Photo by Andrea Beaudoin

"Employers with 50 employees or less do not have to provide health care coverage to employees, but companies with over 50 must provide coverage," he said.

However, under the new law which defines a full-time employee as working 30 or more hours per week or 130 hour per month, several part-time employees can add up to a full-time employee.

Russell explained although a company with under 50 employees do not have to get health care-their employees must. Employers with under 50 employees will not be penalized for not providing health care.

Small companies that have fewer than 50 employees and choose to offer health care coverage will be eligible for tax credits to help fund the costs.

Russell said many employers are hiring agents and are finding answers to questions they didn't even know existed, adding some employers are giving employees and increase in salary and telling them to take care of their insurance needs and find a plan themselves.

"This releases the employer responsibility," said Russell.

Despite all the problems with the ACA rollout, by January 1, 2014 employers must offer health care to employees.

Russell explained that the government has declared by January 1 everyone must sign up for insurance, but no penalties will be imposed until 2015.

After that if employees have not offered healthcare to employees, the fines are steep-\$2,000 a year, per employee steep.

Russell said many employees assume that a full-time employee works 40 hours a week, but that's not how it works under the ACA.

Employers must offer affordable coverage, not exceeding 9.5 percent, of income but employees must pay the rest.

Then you have employers that value their employees and want to provide health care coverage.

Recently, employers were required to send a letter to employees regarding the health care changes set to roll out. The government

said if they employers did not send out the letter they could get a fine. Although the government has not checked to see if employers followed through with sending the letter Russell said, "That does not mean the government can not say tomorrow every employer who did not send out a letter will be fined."

Employers must also decide what type, and the level of quality health care they want to provide.

Russell said employers are concerned with how their employees will react to any insurance changes. No one wants an angry employee that hates them, he said.

Employers have many issues to address including compliance with the ACA, how to purchase and obtain health care coverage, choosing what type of benefit plan to offer, deciding of benefit packages fit in with business strategies and what and how to tell employees about the changes that will occur.

Health care plans offered by employers must meet certain standards. An "adequate" plan meeting minimum standards must cover at least 60 percent of health care expenses.

Some other issues to be considered

-The spouse of a covered employee is not eligible for subsidies if health care coverage is provided through their spouses' employer.

-Individuals can choose to enroll in many ways from exploring the health care marketplace or insurance plans themselves, going directly off the marketplace to a carrier or hire an agent or a broker. Small groups can also hire an agent or broker, shop on health care marketplace or go through a private exchange to explore and obtain coverage.

-Employees who have been offered health coverage through and employer may be better off sticking with that coverage because they are not eligible for a subsidy if they choose to seek coverage on their own.

For more information visit www.mihealthanswers.com. More on the ACA next week in part 4

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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF OAKLAND**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of James Louis Boch. Date of Birth: November 10, 1946.
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, James Louis Boch,
died September 7, 2013.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the
estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jon B. Munger,
named personal representative or proposed personal representa-
tive to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac
and the named personal representative within 4 months after the
date of publication of this notice.

November 21, 2013
Munger & Associates, P.C. Jon B. Munger
4545 Clawson Tank Drive, Suite 100 4545 Clawson Tank
Clarkston, MI 48346 Drive, Suite 100
248.618.1200 Clarkston, MI 48346
248.618.1200

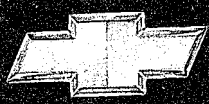
**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF OAKLAND**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

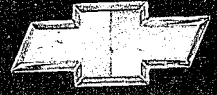
Estate of Helene S. Zarembo a/k/a Helene Sally Zarembo, de-
ceased. Date of birth: 9/27/1923

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Helene S. Zarembo,
died 11/26/2011
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the
estate will be forever barred unless presented to Sydney Zarembo,
named personal representative or to both the probate court at
named personal representative or the named personal repre-
sentative within 4 months after the date of publication of this no-
tice.

11/22/13
Kathryn M. Canuso (P44723) Sydney Zarembo
6480 Citation Drive 3063 Tremonte Circle N.
Clarkston, MI 48346 Rochester, MI 48306
248/625-0600 569.891.8860



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38 MPG



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\$147*

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\$10,588 Discount

6.2L 6 Speed Auto. Trans, RS Package, 20" Wheels, Power Folding Convertible Top, A/C, 4 Wheel Antilock Brakes, Cruise Control, Limited Slip Differential, Power Door Locks, Head-Up Display, Rear View Vision Camera, Remote Keyless Entry, Stabilitrak, Power Windows, Tire Pressure Monitoring System.

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94 MPGe

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\$177*

\$0 Down

2014 Equinox

6 speed auto trans, A/C, Bluetooth, antilock brakes, cruise, power locks, FWD, remote keyless entry, Stabilitrak, power windows & more



32 MPG

\$132*

36 Month 10K Lease \$0 Down

2014 Silverado

Double Cab



SILVERADO V8 ALL

\$0 Down

6 Sp Auto Trans, A/C, 4-Wheel Antilock Brakes, Cruise Control, Driver Information Center, Stabilitrak, Tilt Wheel, Tire Pressure Monitor.

24 Month 10K Lease
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2014 Malibu

\$114*
\$0 Down
36 Month • 10K Lease



36 MPG

10 Air Bags, A/C, Bluetooth, Antilock Brakes, Driver Information Center, FWD, Stabilitrak, Tire Pressure Monitor, Remote Keyless Entry, 6 Speed Auto Trans. and Much More!

2014 Camaro

6 Speed Trans., A/C, Bluetooth, 4-Wheel Antilock Brakes, Limited Slip Differential, Remote Keyless Entry, Rear Spoiler, Stabilitrak, Sport Suspension, Power Windows and Much More!



24 Month 10K Lease **\$141*** \$0 Down

2014 Traverse

8 passenger, 3.6l, V6, ABS, Tire Pressure Monitor, Traction Control, Stabilitrak, Front Wheel Drive, Rear Vision Camera, Remote Keyless Entry.

\$142*
24 Month 10K Lease \$0 Down



2013 Spark

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37 MPG

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*Lease payment examples for Camaro, Cruze, Equinox, Impala, Malibu, Silverado, Traverse and Volt at GM Employee Discount Price plus tax, title, plate, first month payment (unless noted waived) and doc. fees due at signing with all rebates including GM Targeted Competitive Lease Private Offer assigned to dealer. Lessee responsible for excess wear and tear as well as exceeded contracted mileage. Security deposit may be required by lender. ^ASpark sale price at GM Employee Discount Price plus tax, title, plate and doc. fees due at signing with all rebates including USAA Private Offer assigned to dealer. ^{AA}2012 Camaro sale price plus tax, title, plate and doc fees due at signing with all rebates including USAA Private Offer assigned to dealer. Due to advertising deadlines, prices subject to change.

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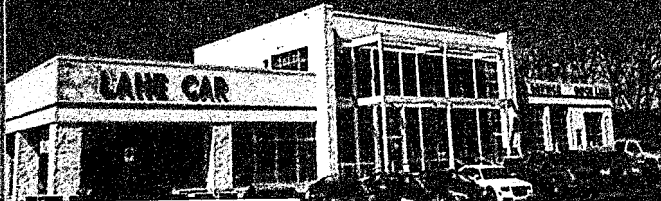


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- 2005 Chevrolet Malibu Maxx..\$9,988
- 2008 Saturn Aura \$10,988
- 2007 Toyota Camry \$11,988
- 2005 Cadillac CTS \$11,988
- 2008 Honda Accord \$13,988
- 2005 Chrysler 300 \$13,988

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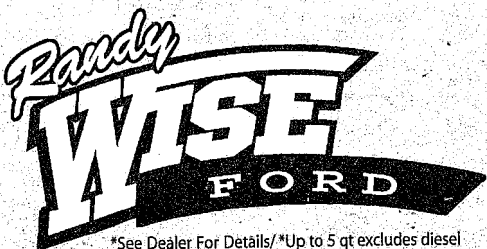
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STATE OF MICHIGAN FILE NO:
PROBATE COURT 2013-353, 750-DE
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CIRCUIT COURT - FAMILY DIVISION
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING

In the matter of Sharon Lee Durk, Deceased
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Unknown Heirs
whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may
be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on January 8, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.
at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, MI 48341 before Judge LINDA S
HALLMARK for the following purpose: Petition for Probate and Appointment
of Personal Representative with a determination of heirs.

11/29/2013
Jon B. Mungler P54736 Jon B. Mungler
4545 Clawson Tank Drive, Suite 100 4545 Clawson Tank Drive, Suite 100
Clarkston, MI 48346 Clarkston, MI 48346
248.618.1203 248.618.1200

Leonard J. McDonald, Jr. (SBN 0124228)
lm@tblaw.com
Natalya Ter-Grigoryan (SBN 0224939)
ntg@tblaw.com
TIFFANY & BOSCO, P.A.
THIRD FLOOR CAMELBACK ESPLANADE II
2525 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85016-9240
TELEPHONE: (602) 255-6007
FACSIMILE: (602) 255-0192
Attorneys for Plaintiff
13-30055

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF
ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PIMA
WELLS FARGO BANK, A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, No. C20134859
ASSOCIATION, as successor by merger
with WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE, INC., SUMMONS
Plaintiff, CARMINE CORNELIO
VS.
JEFFREY C. MYERS AND CYNTHIA L.
JONES; JOHN DOES I-X; JANE DOES I-
X; BLACK CORPORATIONS I-X; WHITE
COMPANIES I-X; BLUE PARTNERSHIPS
I-X; and the UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE
AFORNAMED DEFENDANTS, if
deceased, Defendants.

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANTS:
JEFFREY C. MYERS and CYNTHIA L. JONES
1601 East Hedrick Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85719

You are hereby summoned and required to appear and defend, within
the time applicable, to this action in this Court. If served within Arizona,
you shall appear and defend within 20 days after the service of the Summons
and Complaint upon you, exclusive of the date of service. If served
out of the State of Arizona, whether by direct service, by registered or
certified mail, or by publication, you shall appear and defend within 30
days after the service of the Summons and Complaint upon you is complete,
exclusive of the date of service. Where process is served upon the
Arizona Director of Insurance as an insurer's attorney to receive service of
legal process against it in this state, the insurer shall not be required to
appear, answer or plead until expiration of 40 days after date of such
service upon the Director. Service by registered or certified mail without
the State of Arizona is complete 30 days after the date of filing the receipt
and affidavit of service with the court. Service by publication is complete when
made. Service upon the Arizona Motor Vehicle Superintendent is complete
30 days after filing the Affidavit of Compliance and return receipt or
Officer's Return. Ariz. R. Civ. P. 4, A.R.S. §§ 20-222, 28-502 and 28-503.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that in case of your failure to appear and
defend within the time applicable, judgment by default may be rendered
against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that requests for reasonable accommo-
dation for persons with disabilities must be made to the division as-
signed for the case by parties at least 3 judicial days in advance of a
scheduled court proceeding.

YOU ARE CAUTIONED that in order to appear and defend, you must
file an Answer or proper response in writing with the Clerk of this Court,
accompanied by the necessary filing fee, within the time required, and you
are required to serve a copy of any Answer or response upon the Plaintiff's
attorney, Ariz. R. Civ. P. 5, 10(D); A.R.S. § 12-311.

The name and address of Plaintiff's attorney is:
Leonard J. McDonald, Jr.
Natalya Ter-Grigoryan
TIFFANY & BOSCO, P.A.
Third Floor Camelback Esplanade II
2525 East Camelback Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85016-9240
SIGNED AND SEAL this date: Aug 29, 2013
PIMA SUPERIOR COURT
By SCOTT V. PETERSEN,
Deputy Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN FILE NO:
PROBATE COURT 2013-353, 668-DE
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of Nina Calvert. Date of birth: 1/6/1923
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Nina Calvert, died 11/12/
2013.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate
will be forever barred unless presented to Billy Calvert, personal repre-
sentative or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac,
and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publi-
cation of this notice.

Kathryn M. Caruso (P#4723) 12-4-13
6480 Otisdon Drive Billy Calvert
Clarkston, MI 48346 30895 Cooper Lane
248.625.0600 Nov, MI 48377
248.624.5121

STATE OF MICHIGAN FILE NO:
PROBATE COURT 2013-353, 703-DE
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of ROGER KIM HUNTER, DECEASED. Date of birth: 8/21/1955
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, ROGER KIM HUNTER,
DECEASED, died October 8, 2013.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate
will be forever barred unless presented to TERESA HUNTER, personal
representative or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd.,
Pontiac, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date
of publication of this notice.
ROBERT G. ISGRIGG, JR. P-24924 TERESA HUNTER*
2745 Pontiac Lake Road 2753 Woodbury
Waterford, Michigan 48328 Commerce, Michigan 48390
(248) 682-8800 (231) 433-9063

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
OAKLAND CONSERVATION

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
OAKLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

To all residents of the Oakland Conservation District,
notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of March,
2014 at the Hart Community Center, in the town of
Davisburg, located at 495 Broadway, Mill Pond Park,
Davisburg, Michigan 48350, an annual meeting and
director's election will be held. On the 27th day of Janu-
ary, being 45 days prior to the date of the Annual Meet-
ing, absentee ballots are available for voting in the elec-
tion by writing to or calling the Conservation District
Office located at 7150 Dixie Highway Suite 2, Clarkston,
Michigan 48346, phone number 248-922-7822, during the
regular business hours of the District which are between
the hours of 9:00 am and 4:30 pm. For more information
regarding time and costs, please call the number listed
above. RSVP is required.

Residents are individuals of legal age who can dem-
onstrate residency in the Conservation District via one
piece of identification.

Patrick Costello, Director
Oakland Conservation District
**OAKLAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S
SPRING TREE SALE**

The Oakland Conservation District's Spring Tree &
Shrub Sale is scheduled for April 26, 2014 at the Waterford
Oaks Greenhouse with pick up between 10:00 am and
2:00 pm. Trees and shrubs offered are bare root. For
more information, please call 248-922-7822 or visit
www.oaklandconservationdistrict.org.

STATE OF MICHIGAN FILE NO:
PROBATE COURT 2013-353, 704-DE
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of SANDRA K. ARMSTRONG, DECEASED. Date of Birth: 8/
29/1967
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, SANDRA K.
ARMSTRONG, died November 13, 2013.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate
will be forever barred unless presented to Glen F. Armstrong, personal
representative or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd.,
Pontiac, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date
of publication of this notice.
ROBERT G. ISGRIGG, JR. P-24924 Glenn F. Armstrong
2745 Pontiac Lake Road 2283 Vooheis
Waterford, Michigan 48328 Waterford, Michigan 48328
(248) 682-8800 (248) 650-8445

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
CLARKSTON

**CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON
ARTEMUS M. PAPPAS VILLAGE HALL
375 DEPOT ROAD
CLARKSTON MI 48346
SUMMARY MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2013**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Luginski
followed by the pledge of allegiance.
Moved by Sabol, supported by Hunter to appoint Jan
Gillespie as the Acting City Clerk of the City of the
Village of Clarkston until a new Clerk is found.
Motion Carried.

Acting City Clerk, Jan Gillespie, was sworn into office by
Mayor Luginski.

New Council member David Marsh was sworn into office
by Acting City Clerk, Jan Gillespie.

New Council Member Sharron Catallo was sworn into
office by Acting City Clerk, Jan Gillespie.

Council member Tom Hunter was sworn into office for
another term by Acting City Clerk, Jan Gillespie.

Roll: Present - Mayor Luginski, Hunter, Sabol, Catallo,
Marsh

Absent - Haven, Roth
Moved by Hunter, supported by Sabol to approve the
agenda as presented.

Motion Carried. Absent - Haven, Roth
Moved by Sabol, supported by Hunter to accept the
Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion Carried. Absent: Haven, Roth
Moved by Sabol, supported by Hunter to allow the Inde-
pendence Township Parks and Recreation Depart-
ment use of Depot Park on December 14th, for their
annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. Insurance
with the City named on the policy required before the
event.

Motion Carried. Absent: Haven, Roth
Public Safety Committee - Mayor Luginski appointed Tom
Hunter - as possible Chairman, Karen Eckert, Gary
Crandall, Richard Bisio, a retailer

Streets/Parking/Sidewalks Committee - Mayor Luginski
appointed David Marsh - Chairman, Peg Roth, a
retailer.

Trees/Gardens Committee - Mayor Luginski appointed
Sharron Catallo-Chairman, Jason Miller (DPW), Steve
Hargis, Carol Eberhardt.

Moved by Hunter, supported by Catallo to set the public
hearing to entertain comments from the public for the
allocation of the CDBG 2014 funds be scheduled for
December 9, 2014 at 7 p.m.

Motion Carried. Absent - Haven, Roth
Resolved by Catallo, supported by Sabol to amend FY14
budget with Federal Revenue Source/Federal Grants
501 increased to \$15,403 and Department 265, build-
ing and grounds increased to \$15,403.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Catallo, Luginski, Sabol, Marsh, Hunter
Nays: None

Absent: Haven, Roth
Resolution Adopted.

Moved by Mayor Luginski, supported by Catallo to ap-
point Tom Hunter as Mayor

Motion Carried. Absent: Haven, Roth
Moved by Sabol, supported by Hunter to adjourn the
meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Motion Carried. Absent: Haven, Roth

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara A. Pallotta, CMC
Township Clerk

Published: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

**SYNOPSIS
TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
DECEMBER 3, 2013**

A. A Regular Meeting of the Charter Township of Inde-
pendence Board was called to order at 7:00 PM at the
Independence Township Hall.

B. The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

C. ROLL CALL: Present: Pallotta, Brown, Allaga,
Lohmeier, Ritchie, Schroeder
Absent: Kittle

There was a quorum present.
Also Present: None

Approval to appoint Acting Chair.
D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: As presented

E. CLOSED SESSION: None

F. BOARD/PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS: Trustee
Schroeder, Treasurer Brown, and Trustee Allaga

G. PUBLIC COMMENT: Barbara Taylor/Dean Grubbs of
Chestnut Hill Farms Homeowners Association

H. PUBLIC HEARING: None

I. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS: None

J. CARRYOVER / POSTPONED AGENDA ITEMS:
None

K. CONSENT AGENDA:
1. Adoption of 2014 Board of Trustees Regular Meet-
ing Schedule

2. Acceptance of Quote and Approval of Payment
Exceeding \$5,000.00 for Purchase of Voting
Booths

3. Approval of Budget Amendments:
a. Approval of 2013 Budget Amendment #12
b. Approval of 2014 Budget Amendment #1

4. Approval of Board of Trustee Regular Meeting
Minutes of November 19, 2013

5. Approval of Payroll of November 22, 2013 and
Check Run of November 26, 2013 for a Total
Amount of \$978,730.05

L. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:
None

M. REGULAR BUSINESS: None

N. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Trustee Lohmeier,
Trustee Ritchie, Trustee Allaga

O. COMMUNICATIONS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS /
REPORTS:

1. Minutes: Video Center Administrative Board of
October 16, 2013

P. ADJOURNMENT: The Regular Meeting adjourned at
7:17 PM.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That at a regular meeting
of the Charter Township of Independence Board of Trust-
ees held on March 5, 2013, the Township Board approved
a First Reading of an amendment to the to the Township's
Zoning Ordinance as follows:

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
ORDINANCE NO. TBD

**NOTICE OF ORDINANCE AMENDING
THE MORGAN LAKE PLANNED
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at its regular meeting
at 7:00 p.m., on December 17, 2013, at the Township Hall
located at 6483 Waldon Center Drive, Independence, MI
48346, the Charter Township of Independence Board of
Trustees will hold a second reading and consider adoption
of an amendment to the Township's Zoning Ordinance for
purposes of amending the Morgan Lake Planned Resi-
dential Development situated in Sections 25 and 36 of
the Township. A summary of the ordinance is set forth
below. A true copy of the Ordinance can be inspected or
obtained at the office of the Township Clerk at the above
address.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE,
ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1 OF ORDINANCE: Description and Pur-
pose. Describes the property involved, the prior PRD
approval and amendment, and the purposes of this
amendment.

SECTION 2 OF ORDINANCE: Grant of Amendment
and Conditions. Grants the amendment of the PRD and
describes the amended PRD documents and other condi-
tions related to the amendment.

SECTION 3 OF ORDINANCE: Savings. Provides
that the Township Zoning Ordinance shall remain in full
force and effect, amended only as specified in this
Ordinance.

SECTION 4 OF ORDINANCE: Severability. Pro-
vides that if any part of the ordinance is found to be
void, that part is severed and the rest of the ordinance
remains in place.

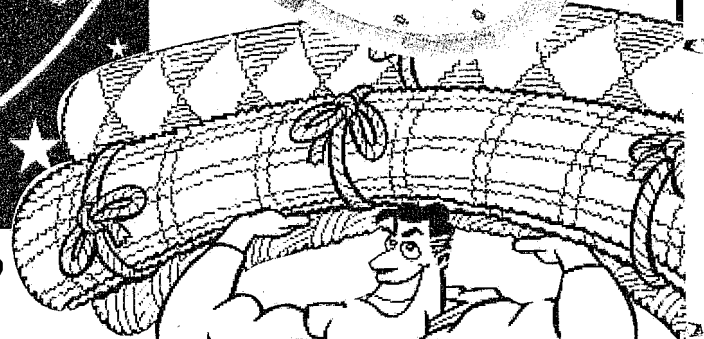
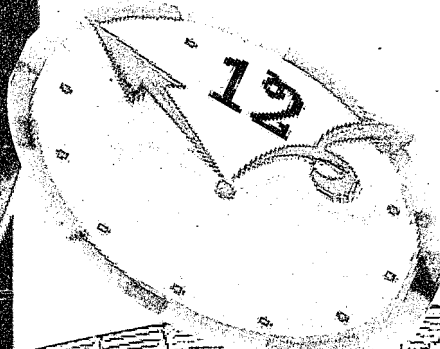
SECTION 5 OF ORDINANCE: Publication and Ef-
fective Date. Requires publication and states that the
effective date of this ordinance is 30 days after publi-
cation.

SECTION 6 OF ORDINANCE: Enactment. Declares
the ordinance enacted and orders publication.
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
Barbara A. Pallotta, Township Clerk

Introduced: March 5, 2013
Adopted: TBD
Published: December 11, 2013
Effective: TBD

IN A WORLD RUN AMOK WITH TOO MUCH INFORMATION

AT A TIME
WHEN HOPE
IS GONE . . .



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FOR CLEAR, CONCISE AND
CONSISTENT COMMUNITY
COMMUNICATION . . .**

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We hope you enjoy this Super edition of The Clarkston News. For regular home delivery please call 248-625-3370.



Family, friends, and fans of DJ Zezula bundled up and made signs to support the Wolves at the championship game.

The BLUE BUTTON on our website links YOU to all of our PICTURES
 Now you can easily see and purchase the photographs that featured you or someone you know in The Clarkston News!
 Go To clarkstonnews.com



Community support for Wolves

The community did its part in the Clarkston High School Wolves' victory at Ford Field. They filled the stands, waved signs, and made sure the grid iron heroes were properly nourished with a steak dinner the night before the big game.



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Avg. wt. 175 lbs.

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WHOLE PIGS - \$2.09 lb.

Hanging weight price includes all processing
 except smoking avg. Wt. 200 lbs.



From left, Nick Matich, DJ Zezula and Ian Eriksen fill their plates during the team dinner on Nov. 29, where the gridiron heroes feasted on steak. Several local businesses including Nieman's, Mesquite Creek, Union Woodshop, Mr. B's and Outback Steakhouse donated to the dinner. Photos by Larry Wright

Meat

Stimulus Package

All Natural **\$410**

Price includes cutting, wrapping & freezing

Combo Package

total 60 lbs. **\$225**

- 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

total 25 lbs. **\$145**

- 1 Porterhouse Steak
- 1 Pot Roast
- 2 Rib Steaks
- 1 T-Bone Steak
- 1 Sirloin Steak
- 1 Round Steak
- 1 Slow Beef
- 1 Boneless Pump or Sirloin Roast
- 10 Lbs. - 15 Lbs. Ground Beef

Chicken Package

total 48 lbs. **\$125**

- 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

total 30 lbs. **\$115**

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

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Keyless Entry With Panic Alarm, Manual 6-Way Driver seat, Touring Suspension, Uconnect 200, AM/FM/CD/MP3, 17" Aluminum Wheels, Sirius Satellite Radio, 2.0L Engine

MSRP \$20,830

Stk. #T131169

SALE PRICE

\$15,866*

2014 Journey LIMITED



FWD, 3.6L V6 24 Valve WT Engine, 6 Speed Auto. Trans., Customer Preferred 28M Pkg.

MSRP \$29,390

Stk. #142082

Employee 27 Mo. Lease	Friends & Family 36 Mo. Lease
\$235** Mo.	\$235* Mo.

2014 Ram 1500 Crew Cab SLT 4x4



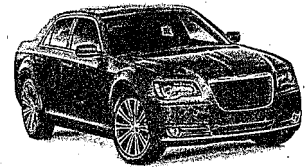
5.7L V8 HEMI, 6 Speed Auto. Trans, 25C Express Pkg., Popular Equipment Group, 20" x 9" Alum Chrome Clad Wheels, Class IV Receiver Hitch

MSRP \$39,305

Stk. #141362

Employee 27 Mo. Lease	Friends & Family 36 Mo. Lease
\$269** Mo.	\$239** Mo.

2013 Chrysler 300S AWD



Customer Preferred 22T Pkg., 3.7 L V6 24 Valve WT Engine Dual Pane Panoramic Sunroof.

MSRP \$41,785

Stk. #141697

Employee 27 Mo. Lease	Friends & Family 36 Mo. Lease
\$312** Mo.	\$339* Mo.

2014 Chrysler 200 Limited



Customer Preferred 27V Pkg., 3.6L V6 24 Valve VVT Engine, 6 Speed Auto., Trans, Wheel Locks.

MSRP \$26,350

Stk. #T141202

Employee 27 Mo. Lease	Friends & Family 36 Mo. Lease
\$188** Mo.	\$199* Mo.

2014 Dodge Charger R/T AWD



Customer Preferred 29N Pkg., 5 Speed Auto. Trans., 5.7L V8 HEMI MDS Engine, Rear Body Color Spoiler

MSRP \$32,040

Stk. #141272

Employee 27 Mo. Lease	Friends & Family 36 Mo. Lease
\$236** Mo.	\$252* Mo.

2014 Chrysler Town & Country Touring



Customer Preferred 29K Pkg., 3.6L V6 VVT Engine, 6 Speed Auto. Trans, Wheel Locks

MSRP \$31,760

Stk. #141243

Employee 27 Mo. Lease	Friends & Family 36 Mo. Lease
\$298** Mo.	\$312* Mo.

2014 Jeep Cherokee Latitude 4x4



Customer Preferred 26J Pkg., 3.2 L V6 Engine, Uconnect

MSRP \$27,680

Stk. #141716

Employee 27 Mo. Lease	Friends & Family 36 Mo. Lease
\$297** Mo.	\$297* Mo.

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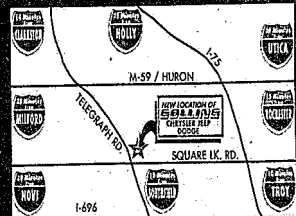
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Amy and Robert Opie enjoy some snacks.



From left, Rachel and Jason Tague, and James and Jessica Tippin cheer on the holidays.



From left are Ann-Marie Hiner, Sue Welker, and Dawn Horner.



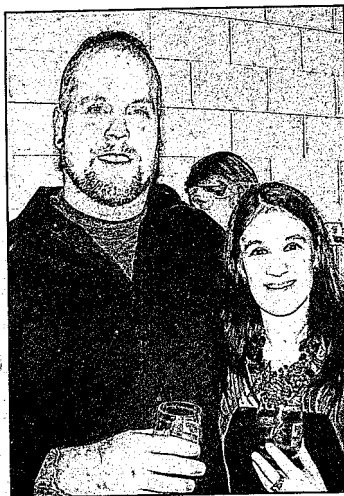
The crowd checks out the silent auction table at Bowman Chevrolet during Cheers to the Holidays.



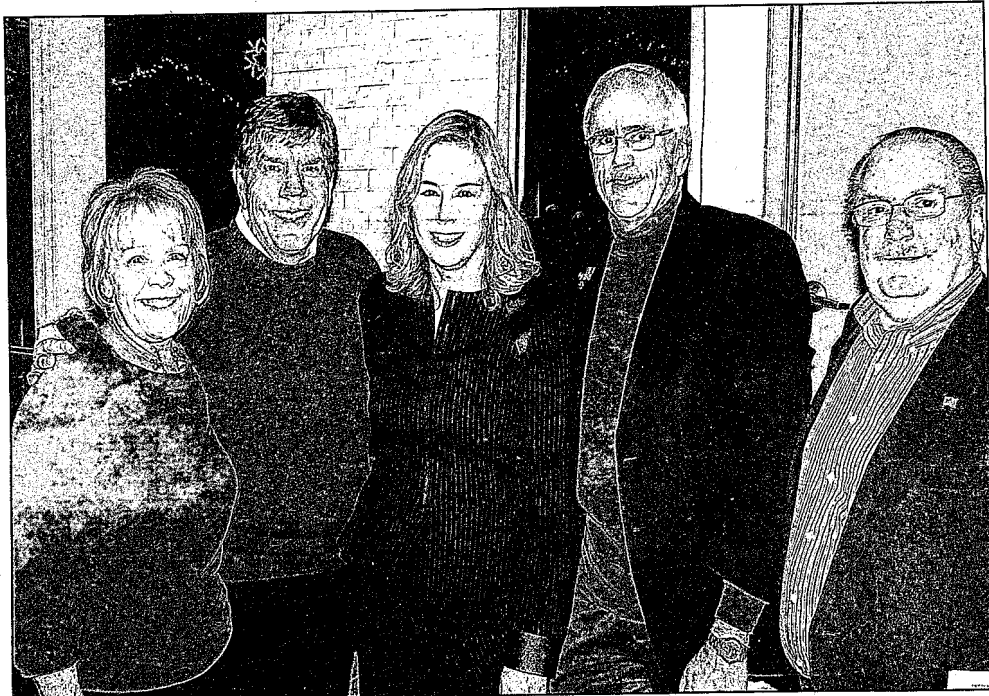
From left, Mike Hycik, Gil Toth, and Scott Hooper.

Holiday cheer

Folks filled the showroom and service center of Bowman Chevrolet in Clarkston for Cheers to the Holidays, Dec. 6. They sampled fine wine, beer, and food during the event for Easter Seals Michigan.



James Roy and Melissa Cassiday enjoy the wine tasting.



From left, Sheila and Fred Ritter, Katie Bowman Coleman, Jeff Lichty, and Ron Hutchinson enjoy the Easter Seals event. Photos by Phil Custodio.