

The Clarkston News

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Vol. 87 No. 44 Wed., December 10, 2014

1 Section, 40 pages \$1.00



NEWS OF THE SEASON: Susan Reddy hurries over for a donation during the holiday season.

Photo by Phil Escalante

Station demolition makes way for redevelopment

BY ANDREAM BEAUDOIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The vacant gas station at Dixie Highway and Ortonville Road is no more, thanks to a grant from Oakland County to Independence Township.

The former BP station at 6756 Dixie Highway was vacant for more than four years. Since the location closed, several business plans for the location have been proposed

and rejected.

In August 2013, a developer proposed several businesses including a Tim Horton's drive through restaurant. Those plans fell through and the developer withdrew his request, unable to satisfy township requirements.

Officials acknowledged several plans for the property had fallen through, and something needed to be done to address chal-

lenges including problems with traffic, safety and soil contamination.

By summer 2014, the township announced it secured special funding under Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, a special financing program through Oakland County created to assist communities in redeveloping and restoring difficult properties.

The \$151,000 in costs to improve the prop-

Please see Value on page 4

Wolves Winter Sports Preview

In next week's edition

State vote goes against McLaren

BY ANDREAM BEAUDOIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Michigan Senate voted last week against changing the state Certificate of Need process, dealing a blow to McLaren's hopes for a new \$300 million hospital on Sashabaw Road.

Local officials are disappointed in the decision.

"Looks like we need to do a better job communicating with the folks in Lansing," said township Supervisor Pat Kittle.

"We wanted similar treatment like in the state legislature in 2002, that allowed two new hospitals to be built by Henry Ford Health System and St. John Providence Health System in Oakland County," said Independence Township Trustee Jose Aliaga. "They were even able to add new beds. McLaren's intention is to transfer 200 beds from Pontiac."

The McLaren hospital project would benefit Clarkston as well as Pontiac, said Gerald Poisson, chief deputy county executive for Oakland County.

Friends of the Certificate of Need said lawmakers made the right decision.

"We thank them for caring about health care cost containment for the state. A ninth hospital in an area with too few of patients would have caused significant financial stress to the healthcare industry," said Bret Jackson, president of the Economic Alliance for Michigan.

The proposed law would authorize a special exemption to state Certificate of Need requirements, allowing construction of the McLaren hospital. The senate voted 26-11, Dec. 4.

McLaren will appeal the decision through the Michigan Supreme Court.

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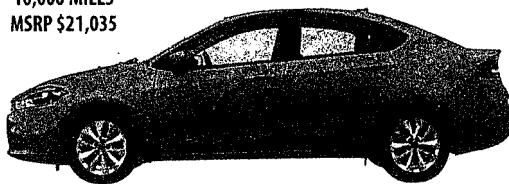
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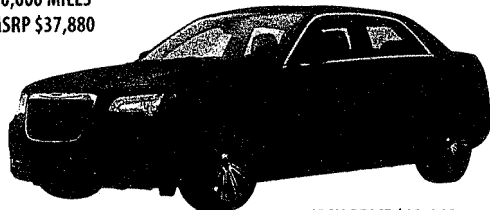
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\$0
Down

\$159

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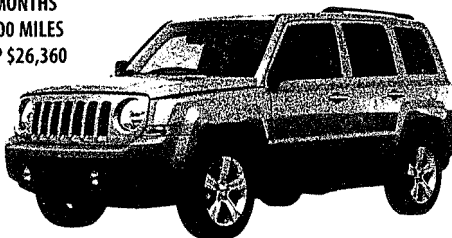
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TROPHY ON PARADE: Bill Popp, father of senior Joe Popp, puts the finishing touches on an oversized state championship trophy for the Wolves' football float just in time for this Saturday's Holiday Lights Parade, downtown. *Photo provided*

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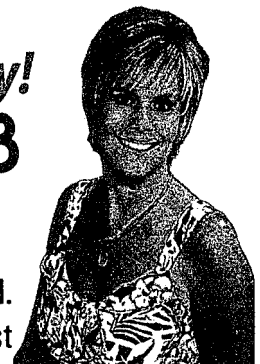
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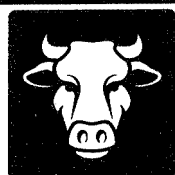


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Stimulus Package All Natural \$489 <small>Price includes cutting, wrapping & freezing</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 Lbs. Beef 2 Porterhouse 2 Pot Roast 4 Rib Steaks 2 T-bone Steaks 2 Sirloin Steaks 2 Round Steaks 2 Lbs. Stewing Beef 2 Boneless Beef Roasts 20-25 Lbs. Ground Beef 25 Lbs. Chicken 15 Lbs. Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast 10 Lbs. Chicken Leg Quarters 25 Lbs. Pork 2 Sirloin Steak 10 Lbs. Country Ribs 5 Lbs. Pork Roast 5 Lbs. Breakfast Sausage
Combo Package total 60 lbs. \$255	Beef Sampler Package total 25 lbs. \$165
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Porterhouse Steak 1 Pot Roast 2 Rib Steaks 1 T-Bone Steak 1 Sirloin Steak 1 Round Steak 1 Stew Beef 1 Boneless Rump or Sirloin Roast 10 Lbs. -15 Lbs. Ground Beef
Chicken Package total 48 lbs. \$139	Pork Package total 30 lbs. \$129
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7-8 lbs. Roasting Chicken 20 Lbs. Frying Chicken, whole or cut 10 Lbs. Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts 10 Lbs. Chicken Leg Quarters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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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FOOD FOR FAMILIES, TOYS FOR KIDS: From left, Denise Cox and Eric Berry collect donations in front of Neiman's Family Market on Saturday for Clarkston Community Schools Transportation Department's annual Stuff-A-Bus. The transportation department collected clothing, toys, non-perishable food items and gift cards on Saturday and Sunday for Lighthouse North of Clarkston to help local families. *Photo by Wendi Reardon*

The Clarkston News

See us or write us at:
5 S. Main Street Clarkston, MI 48346
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Email: shermanpub@aol.com
Visit us on-line at: clarkstonnews.com
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Value increase hoped for after demo

Continued from page 1

The \$151,000 in costs to improve the property will be fronted by Oakland County and repaid over the course of 19 years, via a net increase in property value. Funds will be used to demolish the building, remove contaminated soil and build a new building.

After development, the property, currently valued at \$209,000, will increase to over \$525,000. Under the deal, the township will

receive taxes on the \$209,000 while Oakland County will receive taxes on the difference.

Township Supervisor Pat Kittle said developing the property would have a ricochet effect on the area by encouraging neighbors to upgrade properties and storefronts.

Dixie Highway, the township's oldest main road, is a major area of concern for officials as the master plan is reviewed every five years.



Workers demolish a closed gas station on M-15. *Photo by Andrea Beaudoin*

Briefly

Holiday hours

Offices of *The Clarkston News* will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, as well as New Year's Eve and Day. Deadline for classifieds are the Friday before the holidays.

Call 248-625-3370 for more information.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas day, Oakland County Parks also offers free admission to Independence Oaks, 9501 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston

Visit DestinationOakland.com for more information.

Trustee fixes mistake

When Independence Township Trustee Jose Aliaga requested a review of township utility bills, township Treasurer Paul Brown found thousands in unnecessary tax payments.

Governments are exempt from paying sales tax. Being tax-exempt allows sales tax to be waived for entities that qualify including government entities, and non-profits like churches and schools. Brown said he found the tax, in small print on the back of utility bills.

In addition to watching further bills to ensure no further undue taxes are charged, the township is requesting a refund on taxes paid retroactive over the past three years.

Brown said the township can go back three years, but can only recoup a percentage of taxes incorrectly paid. In total, the township paid about \$18,000 in undue tax over the last three years.

Open auditions

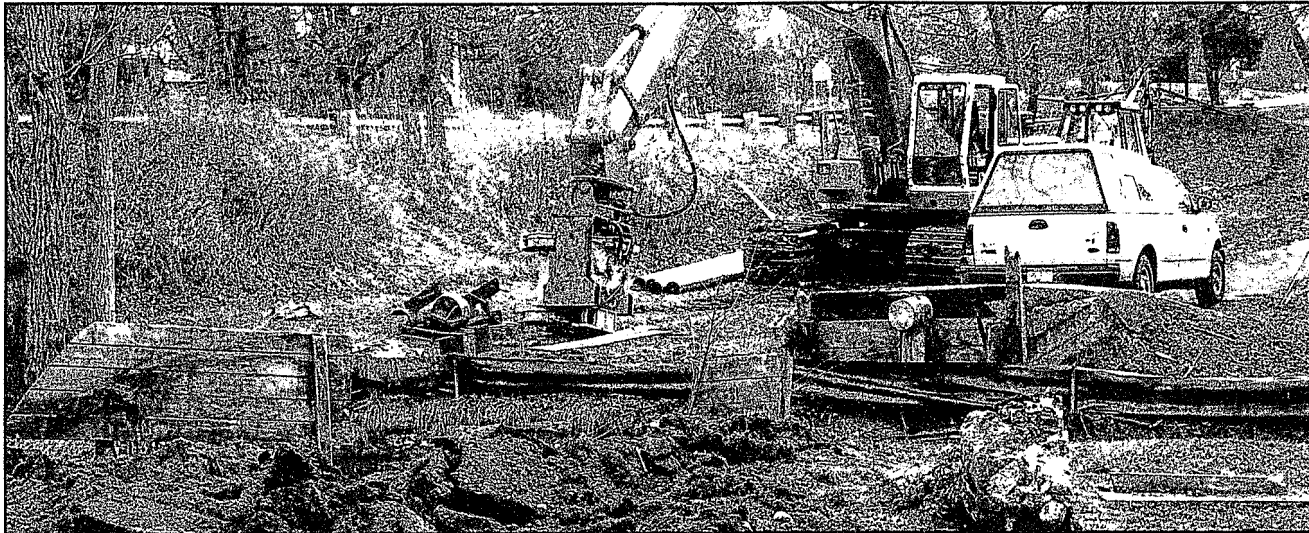
Clarkston Village Players is holding open auditions for its production of Aaron Sorkin's "A Few Good Men," 7 p.m., Dec. 21-22, at Depot Theatre, 4861 White Lake Road.

Large and small roles, speaking and non-speaking parts for men aged 18-50 are available. Auditions include readings from the script, which will be provided at the audition.

Performance dates are in March 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28. CVP is also looking for Marine and Navy uniforms to borrow for the show.

For more information, visit www.clarkstonvillageplayers.org or contact Director Joe Mishler at 810-348-9960.

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Workers remove the old bridge at the south end of Depot Park. Photo by Andrea Beaudoin

New bridge for Depot

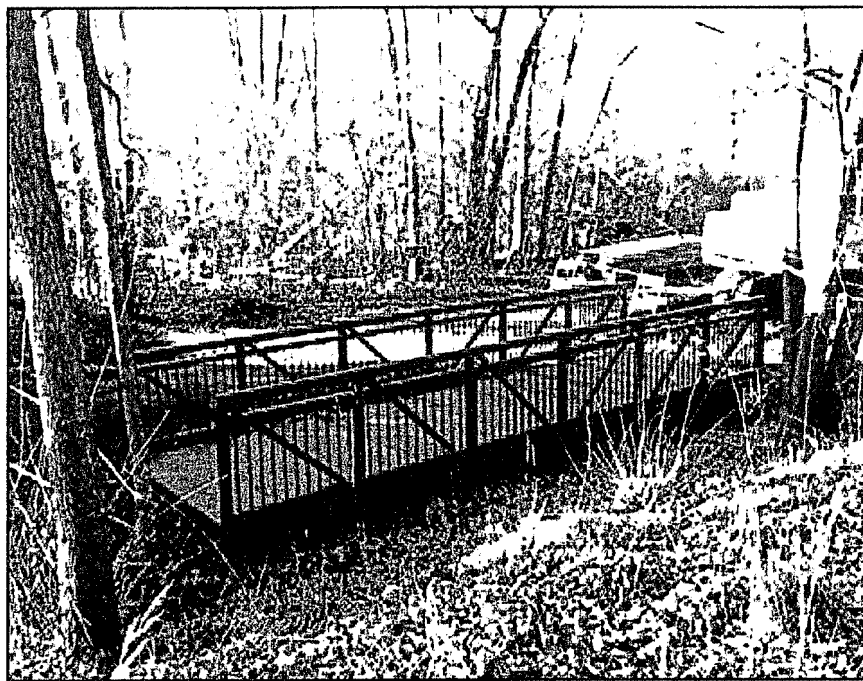
The old Depot Park bridge, worn out by years of travelers crossing the Clinton River in Clarkston's Depot Park, is history.

Last week, workers from Clarkston DPW and contractors removed the bridge to make way for a new structure, which will be installed this week.

Clarkston residents Bart and Diane Clark donated \$80,000 for new bridge. The Clarks said they were looking for a project in town in honor of Bart's brother Jeff, who planned to move to Clarkston from California but passed away before he could make the move.

The bridge, crossing a stream of the Clinton River at the south end of the park, was at the center of controversy since late 2013, after a citizen insisted the bridge was unsafe.

-Andrea Beaudoin



The new bridge was funded through a donation by Bart and Diane Clark. Photo provided



Cedar Masonic Lodge #60 members present a donation to Louise Downs, founder of Desert Angels. Photo provided

Cedar 60 grant to Desert Angel

The Cedar Masonic Lodge #60 recently awarded a Community Charitable Grant in the amount of \$3,000 to the Desert Angels Program. The money awarded will be used to provide gift boxes to active service men and women overseas.

The Community Charitable Grants Program is initiated through local Masonic lodges and provides financial assistance to benefit organizations and programs in the local community, said Thomas A. Braun, Cedar 60 secretary.

The money awarded is provided in part through matching funds from the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation. For more information about the program, call 800-994-7400 or check the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation web site at www.mmcfonline.org.

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Phil in the Blank

A column by Phil Custodio

Holiday help

Christmas season is in full swing, a bit later for me because I spent Thanksgiving with family in Alabama.

But my Christmas tree is up now, to the delight of my cats, particularly the younger one, Lizzie. It's one big cat toy to her, and also a piece of the outdoors brought inside, even though it's artificial.

I caught her napping in the branches the other day, even though the thin metal boughs aren't designed to hold full grown cats. She didn't mind that at all, though.

She's actually settled down from last year - only one ornament destroyed so far.



Clarkston Rotary's Shoes for Kids program is coming up, after a busy weekend raising funds during their *Goodfellows* newspaper drive downtown.

They've been calling for volunteers for the annual program, distributing winter boots, shoes, and other items to kids in need in the Clarkston community.

I signed up for a shoe-runner shift. It will be my first time helping out at the event, at which hundreds of kids are expected, so I figured I should be able to run shoes around without much trouble.

They probably still need volunteers. Check www.clarkstonrotary.org.

I figure regular running season is over for the year.

The weather's been holding out longer than last year, so I'll keep up a training schedule around town, but it's time for something new.

I've been interested in the theater for years. I like plays and movies, but my only experience with them is watching from the audience.

I think it's time to change that. I've thought for a while that if Clarkston Village Players ever produced anything about my speed, I might audition for something.

They're staging "A Few Good Men," with speaking and nonspeaking roles, ages up to 50 years old. A story set on a military base with lots of drama - that's about as much my speed as it gets.

I could be one of those men, preferably one of those non-speaking fellows, but I'll see what I can get.

Opinion Pages

Letters, columns & Editorials

Public notices on notice from Lansing

Both houses of Michigan's lame duck legislature slapped Clarkston's face last week. The State Senate voted against SB 1073, which would have allowed McLaren to build a hospital on Sashabaw Road.

And, here's the worse news for those who desire transparency in government. The State House approved HB 5560 on Thursday, by a vote of 62-47. This bill is the opposite of transparency in government. The bill would phase out publication of public notices in newspapers by 2025, 10 years from now.

Instead, those critical public notices would be moved to websites operated by municipalities posting the notices, which sort of calls to the mind the fox and hen-house scenario. Do you trust government to keep you informed?

It is with sadness we report our local outgoing state reps, **Gail Haines** in the 43rd

District and **Eileen Kowall**, 44th District, both voted "yes" on the bill. We would have thought they would have asked our opinions on this matter. They did not. To say we are disappointed is an understatement.

We hope newly elected **Jim Tedder** will reach out to us on this matter when he takes office (or before).

This bill provides no mechanisms - or funding - for third-party verification of publication, protection against power outages or hackers, or equipment and training for the municipal workers who would be charged with posting and archiving the notices.

Locally, *The Clarkston News* posts all notices on-line, free of charge to the taxpayer.

If you have questions or concerns about this bill, call your state senator; write your governor. -- **DPR**

Clarkston Rotarians say thank you for annual fund raiser

Dear Editor,

The Clarkston Rotary Club would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the Clarkston community and those people who gave so generously this past weekend.

The success of the "Shoes for Kids" is predicated on so many factors including the weather but more directly related to the caring and concern of the Clarkston residents.

A special recognition to following groups, organizations and businesses for their exemplary support and dedication during this year's Clarkston Rotary Goodfellow newspaper sales which leads up to next week's "Shoes for Kids" program.

"Shoes for Kids" has been the Clarkston Rotary's signature community project for the past 36 years. It takes the collaborative efforts of not only club members but the many friends of Rotary from the community to bring each year's project to fruition.

The Clarkston Rotary would like to recognize and thank those individuals, groups, friends of Rotary and family members who spent countless hours this past Friday and Saturday dodging traffic in order to collect the money necessary to provide shoes and boots to 407 Clarkston children this coming Saturday;

The Clarkston News and Sherman Publications for continuing to publish the Rotary Goodfellow newspaper each year;

Don Rush, assistant publisher, and Rotarian Mary Sloan for their efforts in compiling and editing this year's paper;

Boy Scout Troop 199 and their troop leader

for organizing troop members in collecting donations at three different locations. They exemplify everything a community looks for from its future leaders. The troop has provided continuous support to this community service project for the past 16 years;

Cub Scout Pack #499 in their second year of selling newspapers at Neiman's Family Market. The enthusiasm and efforts of the scouts didn't go unnoticed;

Oakland Woods Baptist Church for opening their doors for use of their church annually for the upcoming shoe distribution. Their church members support the endeavors in so many ways;

The Clarkston Area Lions who work each year on our endeavor while allowing the Clarkston Rotary to reciprocate during their White Cane collection;

The Clarkston Optimists who are involved in so many children related programs;

Neiman's Family Market for permitting the Cub Scouts to learn community service by selling newspapers at their Clarkston store;

Tim Horton's on Maybee Road and Neiman's Family Market on Dixie Highway for their support;

To the many volunteers who gave of their time, money and efforts to again make this year's event a complete success; and

Finally to the Clarkston community. Collectively we can make a difference in a child's life. Thankyou, from the Clarkston Rotary Club.

Joel DeLong,
"Shoes for Kids" Program Chair

A Look Back

From *The CNews* archives

15 years ago - 1999

"Revitalizing Clarkston" There was a major movement across the country to revitalize its downtowns and Clarkston had at least one key to a successful revitalization - its history. HyattPalma, Inc., a firm the city hired to develop a plan to revitalize Clarkston commented "be true to yourself. History sells like crazy."

"Residents ready for magical 'Nutcracker' ballet" Todd Moss and local residents were preparing to take the stage in Lakes Area Civic Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker (Suite)" sponsored by the Clarkston Foundation and Terri Newman's Dance Shoppe at Clarkston High School.

"Clarkston passes first test" The Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball team got a good test from Oak Park in their season-opener. The Wolves prevailed with a 70-59 win over the Knights.

25 years ago - 1989

"School board approves budget cuts" The Clarkston Board of Education unanimously adopted about \$2 million in budget cuts contingent upon the results of the upcoming millage. During the 2 1/2-hour discussion, board members listened to administrators who put together the lists of possible cuts.

"You can be somebody special" John Gross, WXYZ-TV sports reporter, visited Sashabaw Junior High School to share what he had learned from interviewing lots of successful people and offered advice to not only the students but the teachers as well.

"Brothers share stage in 'A Christmas Carol'" For the second year Chad and Bryan Holmes were appearing in Meadow Brook Theatre's production of "A Christmas Carol." Bryan was set to play Tiny Tim, who Chad played in 1988, and Chad was set to play Matthew Cratchit.

50 years ago - 1964

"Socks donated by Child Study Club" The Child Study Club held its Christmas party and donated ankets to be put in the shoes the rotary club hands out every Christmas.

"Clarkston Area Jaycees to be busy during holidays" The Clarkston Area Jaycees were busy with projects during the holiday season and one of them was making sure every child in Independence Township received toys for Christmas.

"Local news" Kim Beebe recieved an early Christmas present. The fluffy angora kitty couldn't wait for Santa.

Merry Christmas, to all (but it wasn't always so)

I was born August 10, 1926. And, contrary to most American's perceptions of Christmases from the mid part of the last century, it wasn't all like the black and white movies of the time. For my first 10 or more years, no one in our home said, "Merry Christmas."

My father was a Jehovah's Witness.

He respected our Methodist mother to the extent he volunteered to work a job on the Grand Trunk Railroad every Christmas.

We had no Christmas dinner, absolutely no Christmas decorations or music and no exchange of gifts. Dad told us Jesus Christ was born in April, or February (I can't remember) but not in December. Once in a while, Mother would defy Dad. Like one year when I was eight and my sister, was 10. That year Mom bought a sled for the two of us to share.

Now, I'm going to move you through the years, right up to 1990. Of course, we moved with the times, accepting God (at least partially.) On November 16 of that

year, I went to the funeral for Shari Fox. She was the wife of Oxford Savings Bank president, Randall Fox.

The minister awoke in me something about spirituality and religion like no one before, when he asked us, "Where else is there to turn?"

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

• Recently I asked daughter Luan where our political parties found candidates like Terri Lynn Land and Gary Peters. She answered quickly, "In the bowels of the earth."

• News that ain't news: So many people hired by the Veteran's Administration are on administrative leave they can't quit or retire and still draw a pension.

• Ponder this: Life is sexually transmitted.

• Men have two emotions: hungry and horny, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

• Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you take today might burn your ass tomorrow.

• Life is not about surviving the storm. It's learning how to dance in the rain.

What kind of people do the hiring for government jobs, who, seemingly, have as their goal to survive the day until they get to the time clock

People need goals, and reasons to live, not just exist.

I've mentioned it before, but some reporters need to tell the schedulers, particularly for Big 10 schools, to recheck their audiences.

Michigan State played Maryland Saturday at 8 p.m. in Maryland. I was told even Sparty didn't turn it on.

I know it's all about the money, but

who's getting it? Athletic directors? Atheists? East coast alums? Who?

* * *

Remember this age old saying: "Liar, liar pants on fire?"

One of the perks when elected or appointed to serve in Washington is being given fire resistant, asbestos lined underwear. Obama must have a closet full. He met with professor Anthony Gruber about three times to discuss Obamacare, which Gruber was writing.

Obama told his listeners (us) he never heard of the guy. This is the same president who said, "You can keep your doctor." And under Obamacare health costs will go down.

Gruber has more degrees than a thermometer, but don't let your kids quit school based on Gruber or Obama. Gruber used the word stupid several times to describe we citizens, but he told us he lied about the affordable care act just to get it passed.

Obligatory Christmas Column #1,279,538

As I look back upon the thrilling holidays of yesterday, I have come to believe those Christmases Past were, indeed, magical. They were always white with snow. Everything sparkled. No strife. No sadness, only smiles and love.

* * *

One year, maybe nine, 10 years ago, while watching the annual showing of Rankin-Bass' animated "classic," *Santa Claus is Comin' To Town*, I was shocked by the current state of affairs in regards to children, and in particular at my child, then four- or five-year-old Sean.

The Rankin-Bass special is narrated by an animated Fred Astaire. Twinkletoes plays postman SD Kluger who is en route to the North Pole to deliver Santa all the good kiddies' letters.

Sometime within the first five minutes of the show, Astaire is barraged with questions about Santa from faceless children. Why does he live at the North Pole? How do reindeer fly? Why does he wear a red suit?

Astaire's answer to the grilling is something like, "Well gather 'round children, and I'll answer your questions, cause I know all there is to know about Santa."

To which Sean turned to me and said, "No he doesn't -- he's only a puppet."

Kids today are too darned smart for their own good. Or, maybe, kids yesterday were just too gullible.

* * *

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

I was definitely gullible and a child of the Rankin-Bass era. Whenever there was a Christmas TV special, I was always bummed when the voice of Santa wasn't that of Mickey Rooney. Rooney voiced Kris Kringle in the same production Astaire played Postman Kluger.

All right, you got me. I'm still bummed when a Christmas TV special doesn't have Mickey Rooney's voice as Santa.

* * *

Did I tell you I was a gullible child?

The other day I was asked when I started to question the validity of the right jolly old elf. Ever the storer of useless facts, dates and times, I knew the exact date and place: Christmas Day, in the Year of Our Lord Nineteen Hundred Sixty-Nine. Grandma Rush's house on Wisconsin Street in Detroit. I was near the couch in the living room when one-year-old cousin, Sheila Kessler said, "There is no Santa."

I fought that notion. I argued against that idea. I was very sad. I still am sad Sheila doesn't believe in Santa.

I still do.

* * *

Ten years ago, seven-year-old Shamus, then our resident pointdexter, ran all the numbers, consulted his textbooks, calculated with his slide rule and, mathematically speaking, I remember not knowing if he was still in Santa's corner. He didn't come right out and say anything (just to be on the safe side), but when he talked to younger brother Sean, he over-dramatized. Conversations went something like this:

"Sean, you better be good."

Head turn towards parents. Wink wink.

"Or *Santa* won't leave *you* any presents." Head turn, wink wink.

* * *

That year, Shamus was in the holiday spirit, however. After dinner one winter's night we ambled into the living room, to discover . . .

. . . an ottoman covered with little paper airplanes. In the middle of the planes was a small sign, that in Shamus Script read:

**buy one get one free sale
two cents each**

And, on the back of the wee little sign was:
leave money here

Yep, old Shamus was right in the spirit of things: the "let's make a dime during the season" spirit. Think Christmas is overly commercialized?

Nah. I didn't think so, either.

* * *

Speaking of Rankin-Bass, some folks say the little elf who wants to be a dentist in the 1964 *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer* was named Herbie.

Wrong-o.

According to the official Rankin-Bass website, www.rankinbass.com, the elf's name is Hermey. Burl Ives' Snowman was named, Sam. There you go, more useless information brought to you by Don Rush. You can thank me later.

E-mail the ever-gullible Don with your Christmas story, Don@ShermanPublications.org

HomeTown Experts Answer Your Questions Monthly

Nutrition



Cindy Crandell R.N.

Functional Medicine
Nutritionist
Lifestyle Educator

Q. Is sugar the new FAT?

A. Yes - it is everywhere, especially during the holiday season and worse for us than fat! It makes us hungrier and makes us eat more. It will give us a sugar high and then crash us worse than coffee. This is one food that I encourage all clients to limit!! It has terrible health consequences and can be addictive. Once you get used to a diet reduced in sugar - everything tastes better. If there is one thing you can change right now it is to look at the amount of sugar in your diet and try to reduce. Choose whole foods - as unprocessed as possible. You will be surprised at where you find sugar. It is in your healthy looking granola/energy bars, juices, cereals, and instant oatmeal's. If you are drinking sodas or fruit drinks STOP NOW. This holiday season give yourself and your family the gift of health!



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



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Victoria Fleming LLMSW



Clarkston
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Q: How can I regain control when I'm feeling overwhelmed?

A. 1. Be present. What can you smell, hear, taste, see, touch right now? Be in the moment, not in the future. 2. Be thankful. Go through the alphabet and list the reasons you have to be thankful. We often lose sight of the positive when feeling stressed. 3. Ask yourself if "it" will matter two hours, two days, two weeks, or two months from now. This helps us regain perspective when the "it" becomes bigger than it really is. For more help, call Victoria Fleming at Clarkston Lighthouse Counseling. Call today.

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Mortgage



Jason Nolan
Senior Loan Officer



MICHIGAN MORTGAGE

Q: I was unemployed for over a year and had to file bankruptcy back in 2011. I re-established some credit since. How long do I have to wait until I can purchase a home?

A: Different loan types have different "waiting periods" after significant derogatory credit events, like a bankruptcy. FHA and VA loans require that a bankruptcy be discharged 24 months before a borrower is eligible for a new mortgage. Conventional loans require a 4 year waiting period. Contact a local expert, like me, to have them assess your particular circumstance and determine what mortgage options you have.

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Real Estate



Christopher A. Mersino
Broker/Owner

Q: When is the best time of year to list/sell my house?

A. The simple and uncomplicated answer is any time you're ready! Seasonally, at a national level, more homes sell in spring and early summer than fall and winter. Roughly 21 percent of sales occur from January thru March (the lowest quarter) and 35 percent between May and July (the busiest quarter). However, don't let the numbers lead you to believe spring/summer is the best time to sell. It's just the time more people do. There is actually no bad time to sell. Home sales take place every day, 12 months of the year.

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Marketing



Don Rush



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Q: What makes a good print ad?

A: Remember you have a nano second to catch somebody's attention...so with that in mind you need: a strong, headline, catchy graphic, compelling, benefits laden copy, a great offer and a call to action. Also, don't cram a phone book's worth of info onto a postage stamp size. Remember this, *White space Rocks!* 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**

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Public Safety

For Clarkston and Independence Township

Razors taken

The razor blade display at a convenience store in the 7000 block of Dixie Highway was emptied, Nov. 24. Razors were stolen previously in a similar way. Video showed a white woman, about 40-55 years old with sandy blonde hair, wearing glasses, white winter coat, dark colored pants, and gray tennis shoes with white soles and laces, carrying a large, dark shoulder bag. Her vehicle appeared to be an older model Pontiac Firebird.

Fraud attempt

An Independence Township resident received a call from a man saying he was an IRS agent, demanding \$1,465 in prepaid debit cards, 8:16 p.m., Nov. 25. The resident got the cards but didn't send the money to the caller. Her husband called the sheriff's office to report the incident. A deputy answered one of the calls and advised the "agent" not to call again.

Phone taken

Someone took a cell phone from a business in the 5000 block of Bow Pointe Drive, Nov. 26. The owner used a find-a-phone app and got a location in Clarkston, but it turned out to be their son's phone, which was on the same app.

Thefts from vehicles

The license plate tab was taken off a vehicle parked at a N. River residence, Nov. 27.

Four chainsaws were stolen from a work truck parked in the 5000 block of Sashabaw Road, Nov. 29.

A backpack full of tools and case of CDs were taken from an SUV parked unlocked in the 5000 block of Guyette Street, Dec. 3.

Someone took flashlights, sunglasses, gloves, air compressor, and a box of shotgun shells from two unlocked trucks parked in the 6000 block of Almond Lane, Dec. 3.

Felony arrest

Deputies received word a 20-year-old Holly man wanted for felony strangulation assault was at his brother's Joy Street residence, Nov. 28. Four deputies went to the address at 9:53 a.m. that morning. The suspect's brother demanded to see the warrant, but the Holly man walked out of the middle bedroom and was placed under arrest without incident.

Car taken

A 36-year-old Independence Township woman left her car unlocked and running when paying for gas in the 6000 block of Dixie Highway, 8:47 p.m., Nov. 28. When she came back outside, it was gone.

Social network dangers

Clarkston school officials warn that "afterschoolapp.com," a social media app for smartphones, is being used for bullying and harassment.

Described as "an anonymous and private message board for your school," the site has also been posted with graphic and sexually explicit videos.

To check to see if your child has downloaded the app, look for an icon of a tiger wearing yellow striped sunglasses. The app is free and rated for ages 13 and over. It is developed by Ambient, at support@afterschoolapp.com.

Domestic assault

A 48-year-old Independence Township man was arrested for domestic assault in the 8000 block of Hidden Acres Court, 2:45 a.m., Nov. 28. The victim, his ex-girlfriend, said they argued and when she tried to leave, he grabbed her by the hair and threw her onto the driveway.

Tools taken

Someone broke into a storage shed in the 2000 block of Mann Road and took power tools, Nov. 29.

Warrant arrest

A 30-year-old Pontiac man on I-75 north of Ortonville Road passed a deputy at 80 mph and was stopped, 3:25 a.m., Nov. 30. He was jailed on a Friend of the Court warrant out of Genesee County.

School bus runner

A deputy watching a bus stop at Dixie Highway and Maybee Road stopped an SUV for passing a school bus with red lights flashing, 3:29 p.m., Dec. 1. The driver, a 29-year-old Waterford woman, was cited for failure to stop for a school bus, no driver's license, and equipment violation for a broken tail light, and her vehicle was impounded.

Marijuana found

A deputy stopped a vehicle on I-75 at Ortonville Road because of an expired registration sticker and could smell marijuana in it, 9:44 a.m., Dec. 3. The driver, a 37-year-old Burton man, said he smoked some earlier and gave consent to search. The deputy found a bag of marijuana under the front passenger seat and rolling papers under the radio. The Burton man was cited for possession of marijuana, expired plates, and no proof of insurance. He was given a warning for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Community achievements

Andrea Schroeder of Clarkston was reappointed to the Michigan Board of Cosmetology.

The nine-member board advises and assists the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs in overseeing the cosmetology profession.

"Andrea brings valuable experience to the board and I am confident she will continue to do great work in this roles," said Gov. Rick Snyder, who made the appointment.

Appointees serve four-year terms, expiring Dec. 31, 2018. Their appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

Brent O. Bair of Clarkston was inducted into the Michigan Transportation Hall of Honor.

Bair was the managing director of the Road Commission for Oakland County from 1993 to 2011. He was also president and board member of the County Road Association of Michigan, president and board member of the Intelligent Transportation Society of Michigan, and chairman and board member of Intelligent Transportation Society of America.

Bair served on the state's Citizens Ad-

visory Committee to the Transportation Funding Task Force from 2008 to 2009.

Jason Haley of Clarkston was named chief operating officer of Great Lakes Ace Hardware to oversee the organization's 47 newly renovated and rebranded stores.

As COO of the former Aco Hardware, Haley will oversee the store operations and merchandising functions of the company.

Haley joins Great Lakes Ace with 13 years experience working for Ace Hardware. He worked for Ace helping independent retailers grow through his leadership in both store operations and store projects, most recently serving as the national field project manager. He also has an additional 13 years of managerial experience in the hardware industry before joining the Ace team.

"With his extensive hardware and managerial background, Jason is an excellent fit in this position for our company," said Great Lakes Ace Hardware President Mark Vandenberg. "As our company grows in this transition, Jason's expertise and guidance will be instrumental to our continued success."

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Clarkston's Sporting News

Don't miss
next week's
Winter Sports Preview!

Putting the pieces together

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

The Lady Wolves had the pieces they needed on Friday night but the pieces didn't fit together as they faced their first loss in the new season to Waterford Mott, 56-41.

"We were all separated," said Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach Tim Wasilk. "It didn't look like a put together puzzle. I know this team is going to be pretty tough. Great job to Mott. They out toughed us. They played well tonight. They did the right things on both sides of the floor."

Clarkston was the first to score two minutes into the game with a 3-point shot from senior guard Ashley Skaggs. Senior forward Erika Davenport added six more points during the 8-2 run.

The Lady Corsairs closed in on the Wolves and tied the score with two points from the free throw line. A basket with 1:42 minute to go put Mott into the lead.

With three seconds remaining senior forward Jessica Altene scored a basket with an assist from Davenport to tie the game at ten points.

Clarkston began the second quarter pulling into the lead with two baskets from freshman guard Kayla Luchenbach and Davenport.

Mott climbed into the lead and by the end of the first half led 22-18 with five points from the free throw line.

"We played over aggressively with our hands," Wasilk said about the girls' foul trouble during the night. "It put them at the free throw line a lot."

He added another problem during the course of the game was defense.

"We didn't show a lot of toughness on the defensive end," Wasilk said. "We took a lot of what we did defensively on the offensive end. When we took it to the offense end there was no flow offensively."

Davenport led the team with 17 points and Skaggs scored 16 points while contributing four 3-pointers.

The Lady Wolves opened the week and the season with a 62-25 win over West Bloomfield on Dec. 2. Davenport led the team with 19 points and Skaggs had 14 points during the game with four 3-pointers.

The girls are on the road this week. They played Davison on Tuesday and they head to Grosse Pointe South for the Best of Michigan Classic on Saturday.

Wasilk added the practices during the week will help to put the pieces together.

"We have good players," he said. "We just need to get back to the simple things and the basics."

He added most of the team is new.

"When you have new players and lose players you find new pieces," Wasilk said. "We are trying to put the new pieces together."

They play Grosse Pointe South at 9 p.m.



Senior Taylor Mullins blocks Waterford Mott's Amy Cooperrider from closing in on the net. Photo by Wendi Reardon

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK Skaggs shooting high

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Two games into the season and senior guard Ashley Skaggs is already making an impact with the Lady Wolves - on and off of the court.

"Ashley has been doing a nice job this year," said Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach Tim Wasilk. "She made eight 3-pointers in two games. She has stepped up and has been doing a nice job as a leader on our team. She is really confident shooting the basketball and playing very well."

Last year Skaggs came off the bench when she was needed and for her senior year one of her personal goals is to contribute to the team more. One of the ways includes by contributing more during game time.

She has with 14 points in the season opener against West Bloomfield in the 62-25 win. She scored 16 points against Waterford Mott on Friday night in the loss.

"Right now we are starting to gel as a team together and figure out how each other plays because we have a lot of new players," she said.

Skaggs began playing basketball in second grade and her older sister got her started. She added it has helped her through the years.

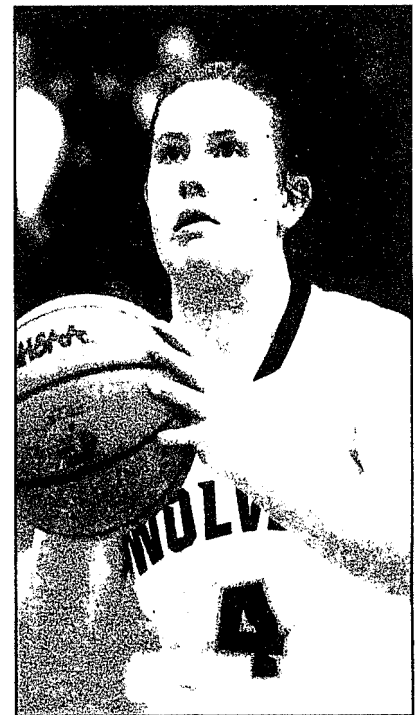
"She's always helping me in the drive way," Skaggs said. "She used to play here and had Wasilk as a coach so she has given me a lot of advice."

She kept with the sport because she found she had the talent in it since she was little.

"I like the intensity of it," Skaggs added. "It's not a slow sport."

She also plays softball during the spring with the Lady Wolves' varsity team.

"Basketball is more of a contact, physical, fast-paced sport," Skaggs said.



Ashley Skaggs aims during a free throw shot against Waterford Mott. Photo by Wendi Reardon

"Softball is a more chill sport and slower paced. You have a lot more time to decide the things you are doing while you are playing."

She is interested in continuing to play sports in college and hasn't made a decision on what college to attend after graduation or which sport.

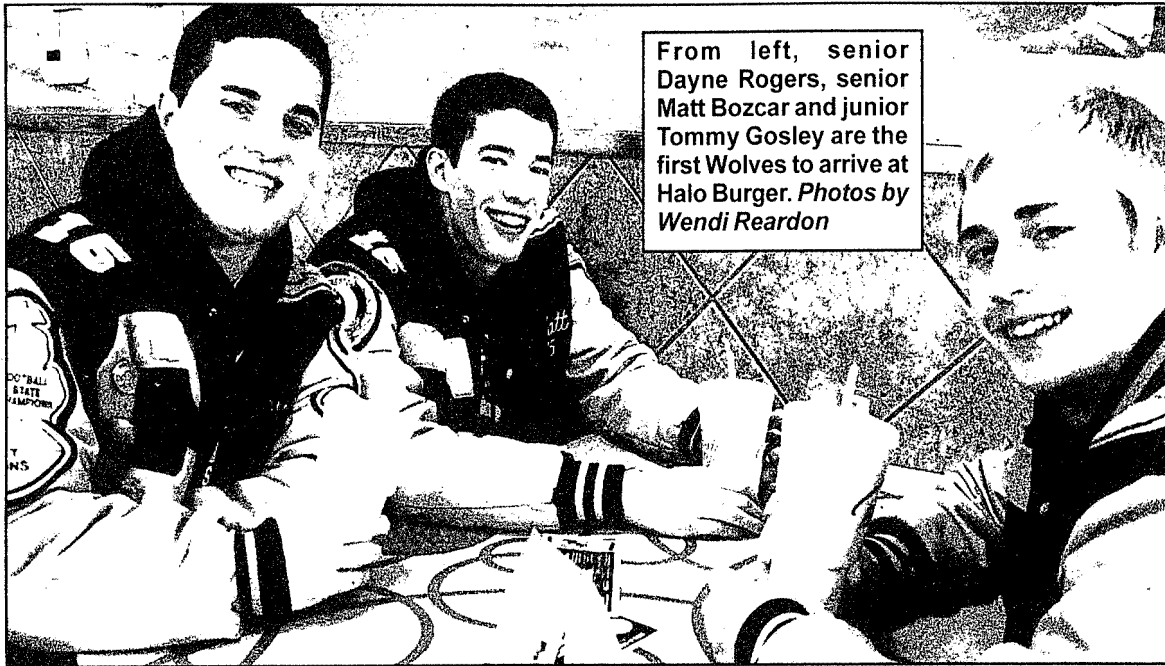
When she isn't playing basketball or softball she is hanging out with family and friends.

Her advice to younger athletes is to stick with their sport.

"Start early because it will help you out a lot," she said. "Don't give up if it gets tough. Just keep going."

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From left, senior Dayne Rogers, senior Matt Bozcar and junior Tommy Gosley are the first Wolves to arrive at Halo Burger. Photos by Wendi Reardon

Champs celebrate with Halo Burger

Gridiron heroes were treated to meals at the newly reopened Halo Burger, located at 6325 Sashabaw Road, on Saturday afternoon one week after becoming MHSAA Division 1 Back-to-Back State Champions.

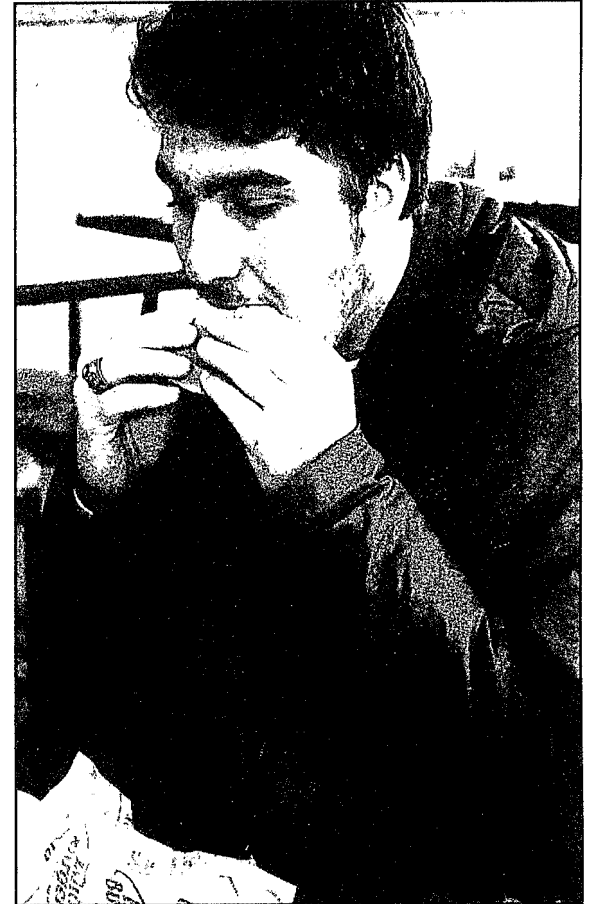
"It is quite an accomplishment. We wanted to honor it in hopes to spread positive reinforcement to them for all of their hard work," said Polly Dortch-Conlan, director of marketing and one of the owners. "As a member of the business community it is important we support these guys

and the community in hopes they support us in return. It is quite an accomplishment for them."

Dortch-Conlan added it was a great opportunity to meet the players.

"They are nice kids," she smiled. "I hope they ride the wave of success and do it again next year."

The players received a combo with a quarter-pound burger, french fries or tots and a drink. They were also introduced to the new Halo Burger Loyalty app. ~WAR



Junior Brandon Moonen bites into his meal from Halo Burger.



From left, birthday boy Jackson Miller enjoys french fries with senior Shane Holler.

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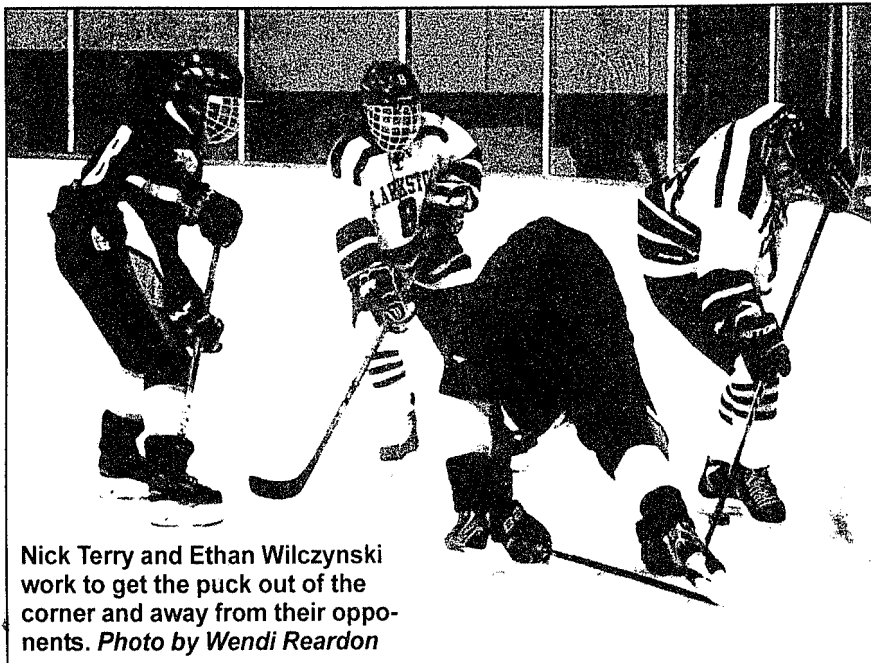
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Nick Terry and Ethan Wilczynski work to get the puck out of the corner and away from their opponents. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Icers struck against Birmingham

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Justin Stasevich and Drake Gentile led the team during the second period with two goals a piece in the Wolves' win over Birmingham Unified in the OAA Crossover game, 6-3.

"We played pretty good," said Bryan Krygier. "We kept them off balance with a steady forecheck and capitalized on our man advantages well. We are starting to work a little bit harder and starting to develop a little bit better work habits at practice and showing it at the games."

Host Birmingham was the first to score during the Thursday game but with 3:22 to go in the first period Danny Grohs tied the game when he scored on a rebound from Shayne Lindquist, off a pass coming from Gentile.

Gentile opened the second period with his first goal of the net with a pass from Grohs. With 11:57 remaining it was Stasevich's turn to score as he capitalized on a power play and an assist from Gentile.

Less than two minutes later Gentile took advantage of a power play when Austin Fullmer passed the puck to Stasevich, who passed it on to Gentile.

Stasevich struck again with 7:03 on the scoreboard, putting the Wolves up by four points, 5-1. Shayne Lindquist assisted on the goal.

The Wolves finished the second period with 17 shots on the net.

Birmingham scored two more goals but it was Wolf Riley Peickert who finished the night with the final goal with 10:16 left in the third period with assists from Stasevich and Matt Johnson.

"We are executing some of the things better," Krygier said about the win. "I think we didn't have very many practices to start the year and we have a lot of new guys. It takes a while to get on the same page and to

work together. As we get more practices we will improve more and more throughout the year and will continue to win games because of the hard work."

Both Stasevich and Gentile scored two goals a piece and had two assists a pieces, giving them four points. For Gentile, it put him at eight points after the win against Lapeer, Nov. 29.

"Drake had a couple of huge wins for us," Krygier said. "He's contributed eight points over two games. He benefits us as a captain and a returning player."

He added it helps the new players as they continue to practice and improve for the season.

"He is doing things right and working hard," Krygier said. "He is getting his breaks. When he gets his breaks he capitalizes on what he is doing. They say hard work is contagious. Hopefully it runs off on the other guys."

Justin Selke made 20 saves in the net. The Wolves lost to Farmington Hills United on Saturday in the away game, 7-3.

Peickert started the scoring for the Wolves in the first period against Farmington Hills United during a power play. Kort Highducheck and Gentile assisted on the goal.

Stasevich added one more goal with 4:12 remaining in the first period with assists from Dylan Smith and Lindquist.

The Flyers struck back, tying the score in the last three minutes of the period and three more goals in the second period.

Grohs scored the last goal for Clarkston as the Wolves made 12 shots on the net. Selke made 28 saves for the night.

The split week put the boys at 2-4 for an overall record and 0-1 in the OAA Red

The Wolves are back home this week as they host Berkley on Thursday at 7:45 p.m. and Lake Orion on Saturday, 8 p.m.

~ Canterbury Village Events ~

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Holiday Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony

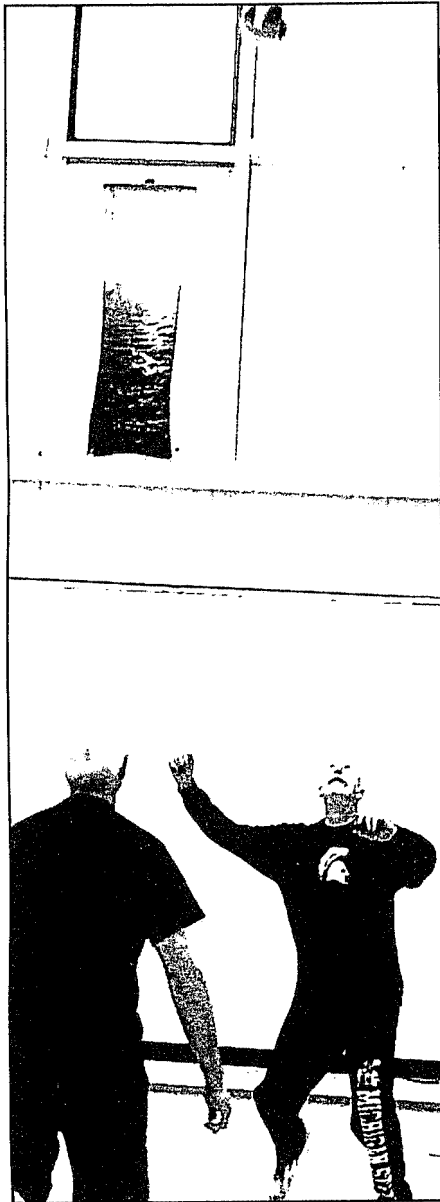
- Step away from the busy activity of the winter holidays to honor a loved one.
- Please be with us for a special time of remembrance and to light a candle.
- Bring friends and family members to pause and think of those special to you who have died.

Light a Candle in Memory of Your Loved One

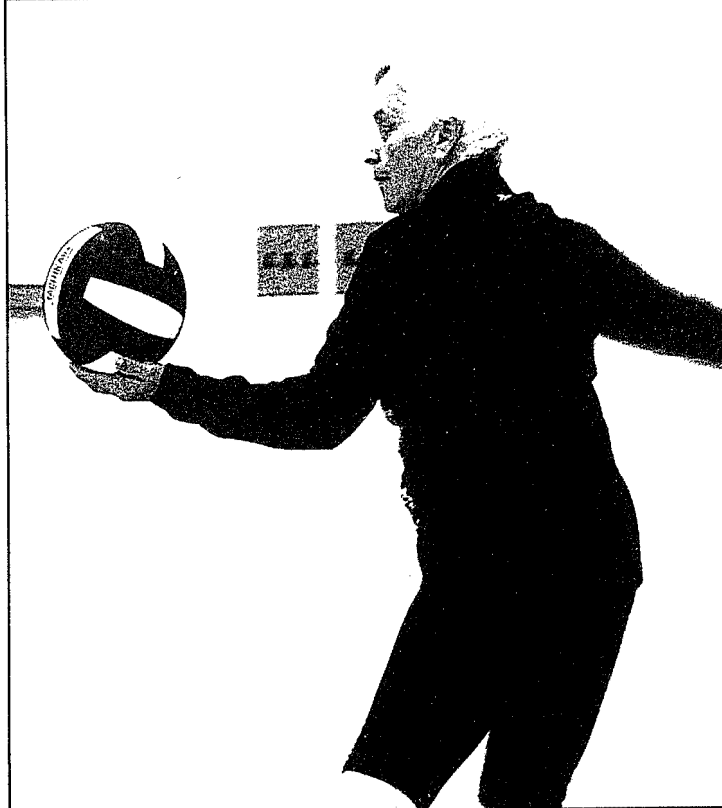
Tuesday, December 16th, 2014
7:00 PM
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Jerry Sams, at right, and Dennis McCarty prepare to return a serve.



Linda King prepares to serve. Photos by Phil Custodio

Snow season for senior spikers

For Clarkston area senior volleyball players, winter is the perfect time for their sport.

"It's good exercise inside, out of the cold weather," said Fred Stark. "Volleyball is a sport you can play at almost any age."

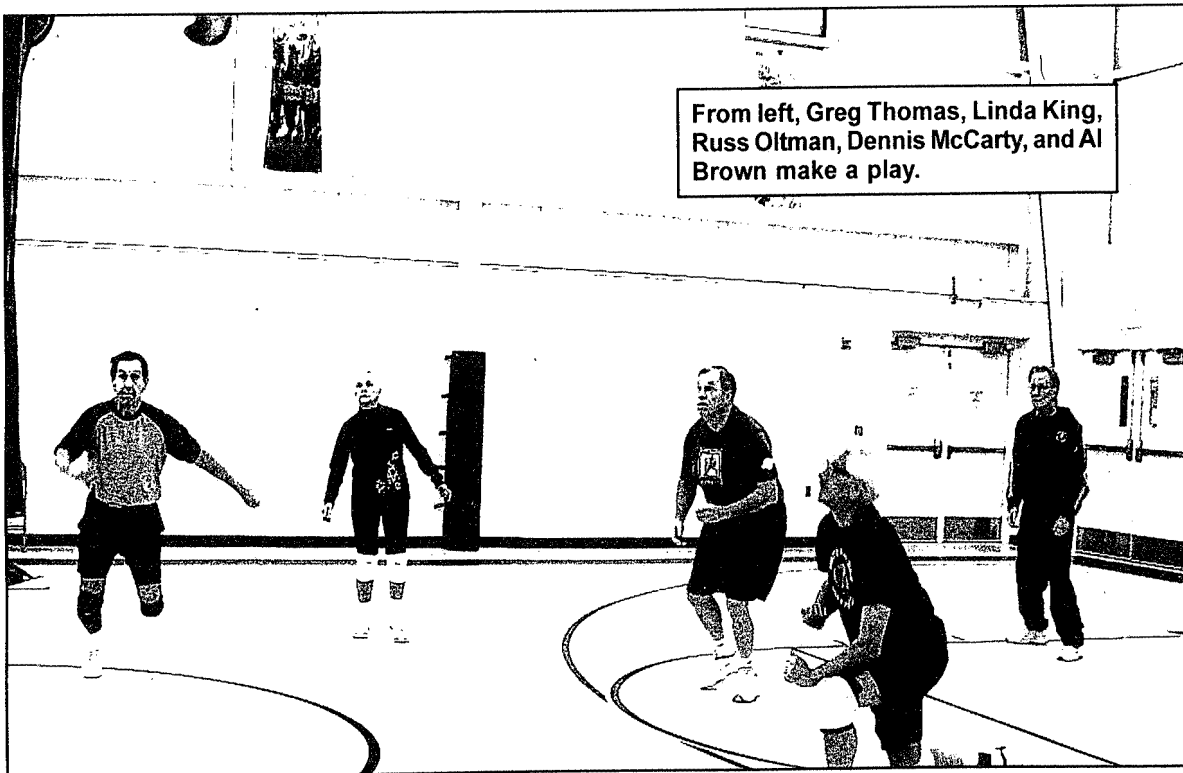
The league is for men and women at least 50 years of age, Stark said.

"It's strictly recreational, no fixed teams or standings - we call our own

games," he said. "Basic volleyball for fun and exercise, and equal playing time for everybody."

The league runs through the end of March, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8:30-11 a.m., at St. Trinity Lutheran Church, 7925 Sashabaw Road.

Cost is \$40 for the season, which goes to equipment and donation to the church, which provides use of the gym free.



From left, Greg Thomas, Linda King, Russ Oltman, Dennis McCarty, and Al Brown make a play.

Hoops for Troops

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

"Live for what matters" are the words Megan Goldberg shares from her friend Jenna Beno's quotes.

Goldberg is spreading the message while organizing the Lady Wolves Basketball Program's second annual Hoops for Troops set for February 13, 2015 - which is held in honor of Beno, a 2006 Clarkston High School graduate who passed away October 2012 from injuries she sustained in Iraq.

The 2015 event raises funds for Operation Second Chance, which is one of the organization which helped Beno.

Beno was injured in November 2009 in Iraq and spent 2 1/2 years at Walter Reed Medical Hospital. It was there she met Cindy McGraw, the founder of Operation Second Chance, and a special friendship and bond was formed.

Beno attended many of the OSC events such as golf outings, fishing trips, dinners out and a retreat to Montana which changed her life. She began to heal emotionally and physically before she passed away.

Operation Second Chance is a non-profit organization which changes lives by helping heroes move on with dignity and love. They provide emergency financial assistance for a wide range of needs from rent and utility payments to travel and groceries to name a few.

OSC provides retreats and day trips to our veterans to get them out of the hospital atmosphere. They also provide caregiver spa days, family bowling and more.

The community rallied behind the first annual Hoops for Troops with donating \$5,000 in honor of Beno who was part of the basketball family not just as a player but a manager, too.

"It was a shock," Goldberg reflected on the donations. "I was very happy, surprised and grateful from the community coming together."

She added it wasn't just the Clarkston community but the entire basketball community from the referees to North Farmington's players, coaches, families and friends supporting the Lady Raiders.

"Their parents and their fans at the game were putting money in for the raffle," she said. "It's not about Clarkston - it's about the troops."

Her hope for the 2015 Hoops for Troops is to raise as much as they possibly can for Operation Second Chance.

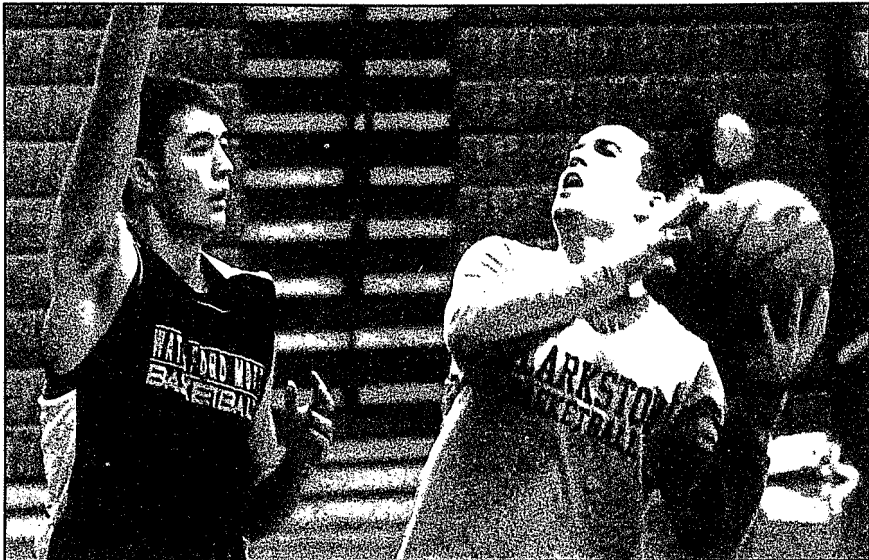
"I don't have a number goal," Goldberg added. "It puts too much pressure on everybody."

The first step for the 2015 Hoops for Troops is sponsorships for the event and to get the community involved.

Sponsorships available include: Buzzer Beater for a donation of \$150 or more the business name is on all promotional materials including on the back of the Hoops for Troops T-shirts, event program and event flyer, mention at halftime of the game and in Letter to the Editor in *The Clarkston News*.

Sponsorships are due January 14, 2015.

For more information or to become a Hoops for Troops sponsor, email Goldberg at HoopsfortheTroops@gmail.com or call 248-496-5226.



Andrew Myers looks for a way past defense during the Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball Thanksgiving scrimmage.

Season beginnings

Clarkston High School was a flurry of activity on Friday afternoon as teams were preparing for their first matchups of the winter season.

The Wolves Varsity Wrestling team was getting ready for their quad at Waterford Kettering on Wednesday and the Rocket Duals on Saturday.

"Last year Kettering beat us so hopefully we don't repeat it," said Derek Moscovic, wrestling head coach. "The guys are ready to go – mentally and physically. We will go in there and have a good dual meet. The first dual meet is always a stepping stone to the end but nice to get off to a good start."

He added the tournament on Saturday has a tradition of having tough competition pointing out Detroit Catholic Central and Livonia Franklin will be there.

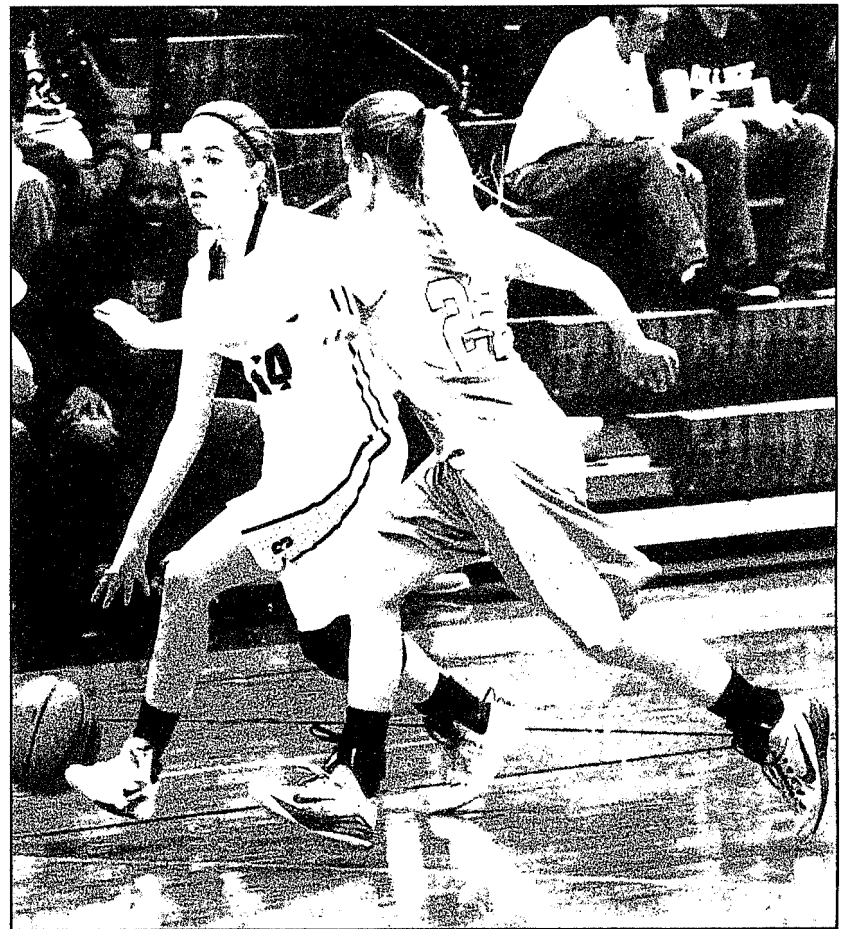
"We go right into the hornet's nest," Moscovic said. "There are good teams there. It is always a tough competition. We will have to prove ourselves there just like we have to do every day."

He added the Wolves are a very young team this season.

"We have a great work ethic in the room so I am very excited about the potential we have," Moscovic said.

The boys varsity basketball team was focused on getting ready for their season opener against St. Mary's Prep on Tuesday as well as Avondale, who they will host on Friday at 7 p.m.

Look in next week's edition to see how both teams fared in the first week. Also, included in next week's edition is the Winter Sports Preview for all varsity teams.



Sophomore Kristen Page closes in on the net in the Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball's game against Waterford Mott. Photos by Wendi Reardon

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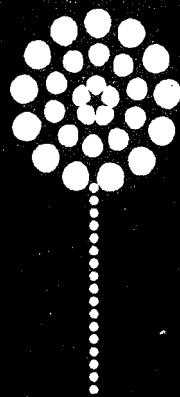
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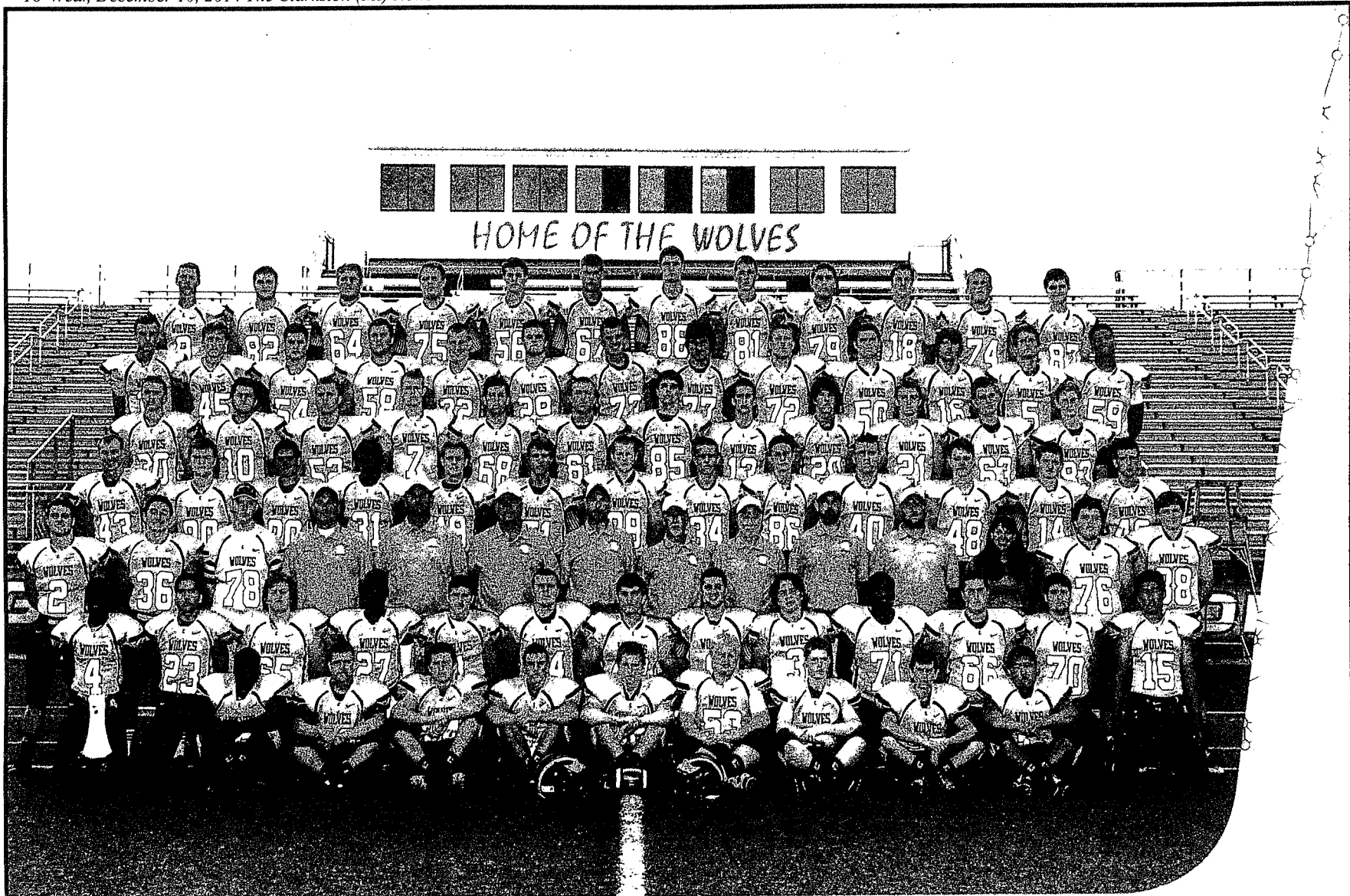
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▶ Congrats to the Clarkston Wolves— Division 1 champions again!

McLaren Health Care is honored to be a part of the Clarkston community and, once again, very proud to acknowledge Clarkston High School's football team—the 2014 MHSAA Division 1 state champions. Congratulations to the players, Coach Richardson and his staff, students, teachers, parents, and all others who helped earn this title for the second consecutive year!

Go Wolves!

 **McLaren**

HEALTH CARE



Fred Sarmiento, center, at the Detroit Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot with daughters Stacy Locher, left, and Rikki Puzzuoli, right. Photos provided

Running's all in the family

The Detroit Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot was a three-generation affair for the Sarmiento family of Clarkston.

Fred Sarmiento, 71, a Clarkston resident for the past 22 years, brought his two daughters, Stacy Locher of Clarkston and Rikki Puzzuoli of Bloomfield Hills, and grandsons Dakota, Stacy's 14-year-old son; and Seth, 16, Rikki's son.

"This race marked our fourth marathon but the first for the boys," Sarmiento said. "My daughters and I did four last year also."

At the Turkey Trot this year, Stacy, Rikki, and Seth ran the 10K, while Dakota and Sarmiento ran the 5K.

"Fantastic times for all, too," Sarmiento said. "The Detroit Marathon and Turkey Trot were both a blast to run and memorable events even though the temps were in the 20's, but what a way to see the beautiful city of Detroit."

At the Detroit Marathon, the family ran a

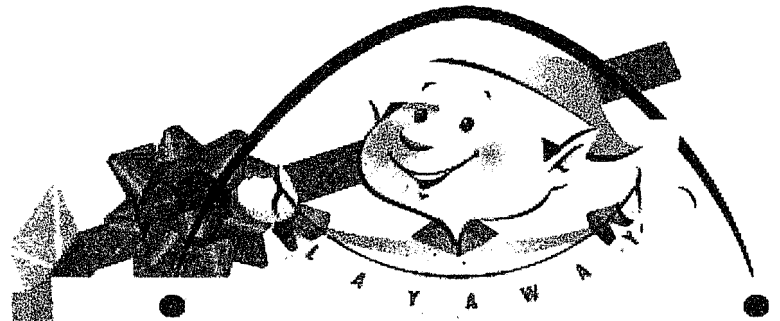
five-person relay for the total 26+-mile course. Stacy ran the Ambassador Bridge and Windsor, and Sarmiento did the Belle Isle Bridge and around Belle Isle. Two other friends were also in the relay, and Rikki ran to the finish line from Belle Isle and Greek Town.

"Just so exciting to participate," Sarmiento said.

"We also ran at the Clarkston Backroads Half Marathon last year and the Independence Oaks half marathon this year, and are looking forward to more marathons next year – as long as this old body holds up," said the runner, who did the 10K at Clarkston Backroads last year.

Stacy, who's a spin instructor at Deer Lake Athletic Club, is the motivator of the group, he said.

"She's done half-marathons, Rikki's done 10K's, while I do 5K's," Sarmiento said. "I'm just proud to have been in one marathon with both daughters and both grandsons."



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Boston - Thomas

Mr. and Mrs. Gregory P. Boston of Clarkston announce the engagement of their son, LTJG Tyler James Boston, to Dr. Suzanne Michelle Thomas, daughter of John and Phyllis Thomas of Greer, SC.

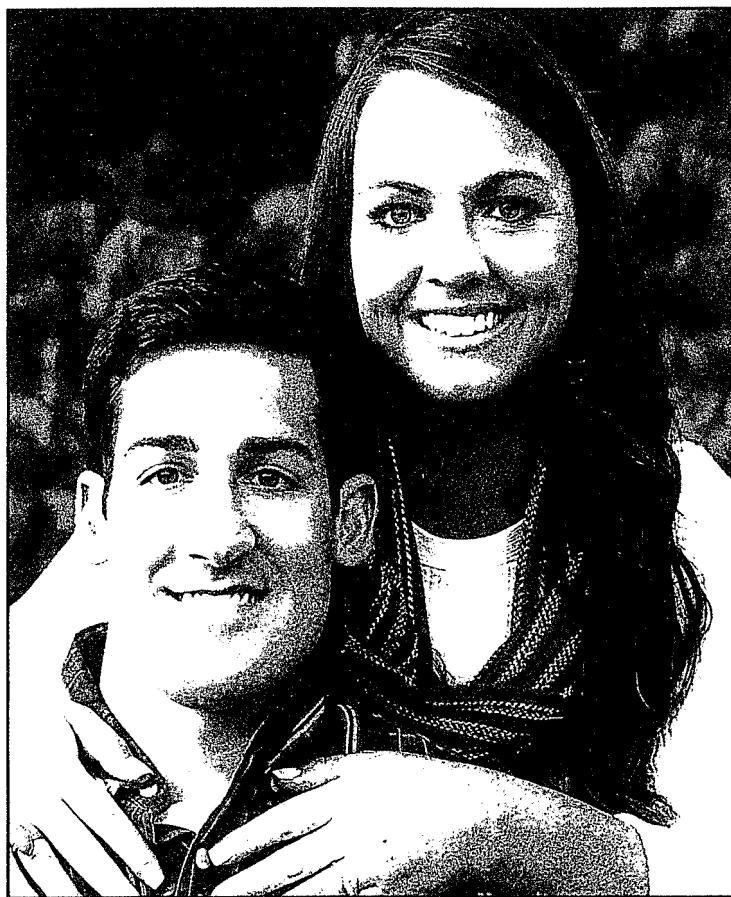
Tyler, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, is a helicopter pilot in the United States Navy.

He is currently stationed at Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida.

Suzanne is a magna cum laude graduate of Clemson University and University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

She is a small animal veterinarian in Jacksonville, Florida.

Their wedding will take place in May 2015 in South Carolina.



Tyler and Suzanne

This time of year is for reflection

In today's day and age, things that mean the most can sometimes be lost in the blink of an eye. We see, hear, or read about tragic stories all over the country.

These stories range from the loss of homes due to a horrific storm to the loss of a close relative or friend. Things like this always happen and people are blindsided because no one ever sees it coming.

People today really take most things for granted. We don't understand the true meaning of something's importance until it is gone. We must show our gratitude towards the things we have. That is why, especially during this time of the year, we should be thankful.

We should be grateful for all the things in our lives that we might not appreciate as much on a day to day basis. Everyone has something to be thankful for; family, friends, health, or anything else you are happy to have in your life. The list of goodness in our lives is endless if you put your mind to it.


This season is a great time to look back and reflect on what you might be grateful for, and to express that gratitude to your family, friends, the people around you, and your community.

Michael Fluegel is a ninth grade student at Clarkston Junior High School

Guest viewpoint



Michael Fluegel



Clarkston Medical Group
Pediatrics • Internal Medicine • Urgent Care

Diabetes Awareness: What you should know!

Nearly 24 million American adults are living with diabetes, according to figures released last month by the International Diabetes Federation. What may be even more alarming is that there are also about 79 million Americans with a condition known as pre-diabetes and many aren't aware of it.

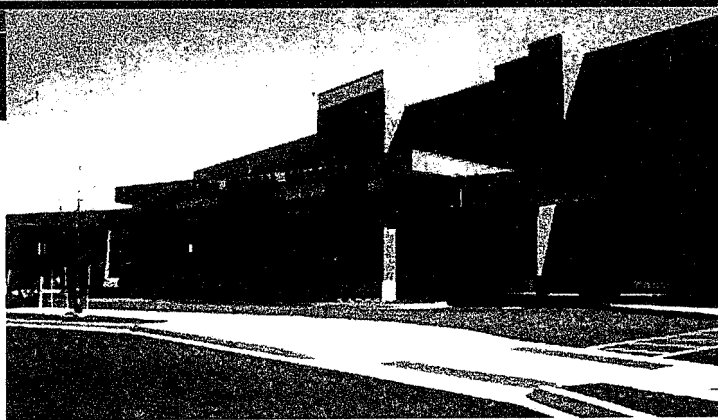
Pre-diabetes means that while your blood sugar levels are higher than normal, that level isn't high enough to warrant a diabetes diagnosis. However, a pre-diabetes diagnosis means it is time for action to prevent diabetes. "In simple terms, there is a gap between what we call diabetes, which is a fasting blood sugar of 126 and above, and normal, which is less than 100 fasting," explains Vivian Fonseca, MD, a Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology and Chief of Endocrinology at Tulane University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. "In between, you have impaired fasting glucose.

If you do a glucose tolerance test, and you are in the gap, you have prediabetes. You are at risk for getting diabetes in the future and you are also at risk for heart disease." Research has also found that pre-diabetes may be more common in men than in women. If you are told your blood sugar is abnormally high, you've just had a red flag waved in front of you. You're being warned that unless you make some changes in your life today, your future will probably include a diabetes diagnosis.

"Walking 30 minutes a day and reducing weight by 5 percent can decrease the risk (of getting type 2 diabetes) by 60 percent over three years," says Dr. Fonseca. While there are medications that have the same effect, lifestyle change is less expensive and has fewer side effects, Fonseca says.

Cutting your weight is crucial. "One of the links with obesity is that fat induces a mild lowgrade inflammation throughout the body that contributes to heart disease and diabetes," Fonseca explains. Without making any changes, you could develop type 2 diabetes within 10 years of first developing pre-diabetes. Pre-diabetes is a "silent" condition, says Fonseca. While some people may experience symptoms of diabetes such as fatigue or increased urination, most people's blood sugar rises without any outward signs at all. This means you might not know you need to be tested for pre-diabetes and even if you are screened, your doctor might not give you all the information you need to prevent it. For these reasons, diabetes experts developed criteria for those who should be tested. The American Diabetic Association recommends that any adult age 45 or older should be tested for diabetes and pre-diabetes.

The ADA also recommends that any adult under age 45 who is overweight and has at least one of the following risk factors should be tested:



- Family history (especially parent or sibling with diabetes)
- Physically inactive lifestyle
- Native American, African-American, or Hispanic heritage
- Prior gestational diabetes diagnosis
- Birth of a baby over nine pounds in weight
- High blood pressure or treatment for high blood pressure
- Polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) diagnosis
- Dark, velvety rash around the armpits or neck
- History of heart disease

If you fit the screening criteria listed above, make an appointment at Clarkston Medical Group to get tested as soon as possible. It could be the first step toward preventing the development of type 2 diabetes.

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Independence Township Times

December 2014

From the Township's Corner Office

With this being the last edition of the Township Times for 2014, we wanted to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Independence Township a great holiday season. Although the recent



Township Supervisor Pat Kittle

cold and snow caught all of us off-guard, thank goodness we don't live in Buffalo. I just can't even imagine what it would be like trying to survive with 7 feet of snow. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the Buffalo residents who are really struggling right now.

Emergency Operations: Speaking of cold weather, the Township has been working very closely with the Fire and Police Departments, Clarkston Schools and local churches to firm up our Emergency Operations Plan. If the Township experiences the kind of weather we did last year with ice storms, power outages and severe cold, remember the Fire Stations are open 24/7 if you need water or to charge your phone. The Township Hall is being fitted with an emergency backup generator to also serve as a warming center. If things get really bad, the schools have resources to house residents if needed and the local churches can rally their members on a moment's notice to help with transportation and logistical help as well. Emergency notifications will be made via internet, email, text and radio if and when warranted to activate.

McLaren Update: The legislative changes to amend the State Certificate of Need requirements were voted on December 4. The Senate voted NO 26-11. I had been out pounding the pavement getting resolutions and letters of support for the McLaren medical center which was presented to all mem-

bers of the State House and Senate from those groups responsible for the health, safety and welfare of our residents including the: Oakland County Association of Township Supervisors, Charter Township of Independence Board of Trustees, City of the Village of Clarkston Council, Oakland County Fire Chiefs Mutual Aid Association, the Waterford Police and Fire Chiefs, Independence Township Fire Chiefs, the Clarkston Chamber of Commerce and the Clarkston School Board. Unfortunately, it was not enough. **BOTTOM LINE:** The Township has 200+ acres of undeveloped commercial property along the Sashabaw Corridor. This development has been in our Master Plan for years. This land will eventually be developed by someone, adding to the density and traffic in our community. If given the choice, I would rather have the property be developed with medical and knowledge based facilities that create good paying, long-term jobs and the corresponding tax revenue such businesses generate vs. another strip mall. I'm not giving up on the hospital yet.

Sashabaw / I-75 Road Project: The Sashabaw / I-75 road project is expected to start in the spring of 2015. If you would like to see a detailed presentation describing the Sashabaw I-75 / Waldon construction plan, click the link that reads "Click here to watch Independence Television's New On-Demand program" from the Township website and catch the November 25 Board meeting. Representatives from HRC will showcase the different construction phases and timing to the Township Board. This is going to be a big construction project that will tie up traffic for the summer. We will do everything possible to keep you in the know.

Incremental \$91,000: The Township is now eligible to receive an additional \$91,000 in state-shared revenue for complying with the revised incentive program established by the State of Michigan, known as "CVTRS" (Cities, Villages,

Townships Revenue Sharing). In order to receive these funds, the Township must comply with accountability and transparency requirements. These requirements are an effort to make our financial statements available to residents in easy to read charts and graphs.

Check it out on our website. From our homepage, select "Our Government" - "Accountability and Transparency" - and then select the Munetrix link. Residents can compare annual financial data, compare our performance against other municipalities and more. The charts and trend lines make understanding the data a whole lot easier. And as an aside, the 2015 budget the Board just approved earned the Township the best Fiscal Indicator Score possible from the State. We have a pretty simple philosophy when it comes to spending your tax dollars in Independence ... if it was my money, would I make this purchase? We will continue to provide financial updates throughout the year.

Police Fund - 2012 Accounting Error: Our new Finance Director discovered an accounting error while reconciling the Police Fund trial balance. In 2012, there was a shift in the periods in which the Oakland County Sheriff Department expense was recognized compared to how it was done starting in the 2006 / 7 timeframe. This shift should have required the Township to recognize an additional month of expense, however this did not happen. As a result, the December 2012 invoice was never recognized as a 2012 expense within the Fund. This finding was researched internally and the actual payment verified by the Sheriff's department. The good news ... no funds were misappropriated. The bad news is because the expense was not properly applied to 2012, the Police Fund fund-balance is overstated by \$300,000. Actions taken to ensure this matter will not be repeated include: recognizing expen-

Continued on Page 3

Don't let the Grinch steal your Christmas!

By Lt. Dirk Feneley,
OCSD Station Commander

With the holidays fast approaching, the Sheriff's Office would like to offer a few reminders to help prevent theft:

Remember that thieves look for the easiest opportunity to get what they want. They are looking for the path of least resistance. When you're out shopping for those special gifts for your friends, loved ones, or your favorite Sheriff Deputy, there may be others looking to see what you have bought and waiting for the opportunity to take what you have. Upon placing items in your car, make sure you lock your car doors. Always lock your doors, and never leave your items in plain sight. Thieves' are known to smash windows to get what they want.

Another popular theft is delivered packages being stolen from your porch, front or back door. If possible, have someone home if you are expecting a package. If that's not possible, arrange to have your items delivered to a trusting neighbor, loved one, or your work location if allowed.

Ladies, please keep an eye on your purse when shopping. It is best to keep your purse over your shoulder or around your body. Always be aware of your surroundings so people take notice. Remember there is safety in numbers...shop with a friend or two.

Of course we are not trying to frighten anyone. We are trying to prevent someone from taking advantage of you. If you follow these practices, you may prevent yourself from becoming a victim of the Grinch himself. And should you have the unfortunate experience of becoming a victim, do not hesitate to report the crime to the police agency where the crime was committed.

On behalf of the Independence Township Substation, we would like to thank you for your support, and we wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season!

Property values, property taxes and more!

By Kristen Sieloff,
Director of Assessing

New Construction and Recent Sales Activity. As the southeast region of Michigan continues to experience an improvement in its overall economy, evidence of a change in the local market can be seen by reviewing building permit activity and property sales. As illustrated in the charts to the right, these two activities indicate growth within the community, which will have a positive effect on property values within the Township.

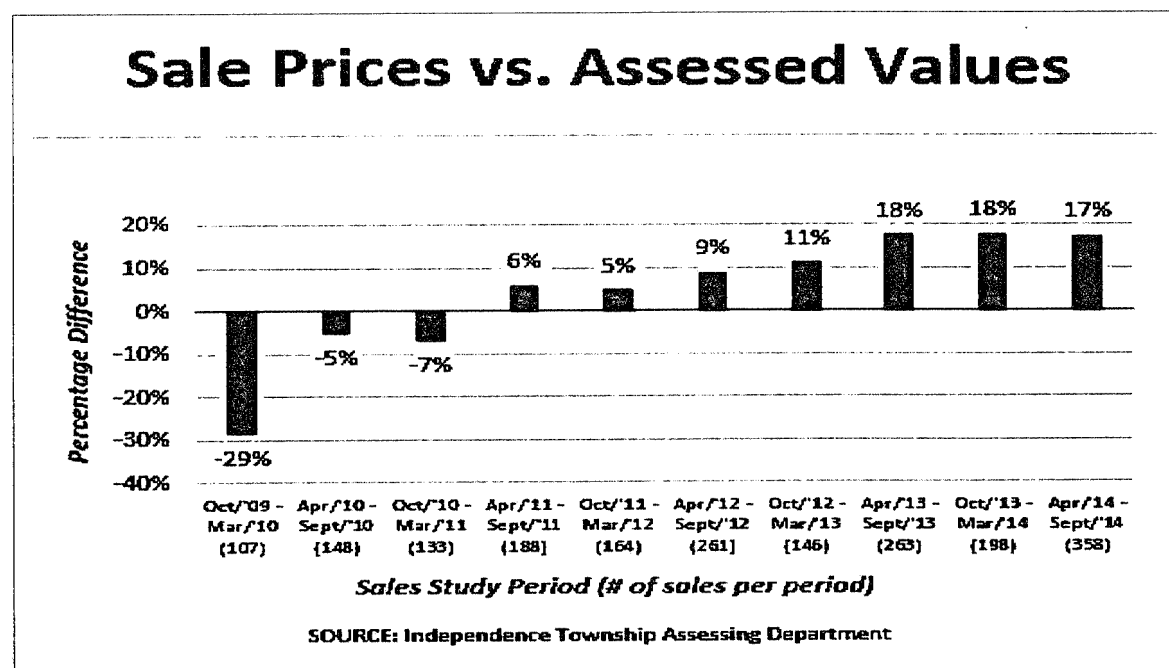
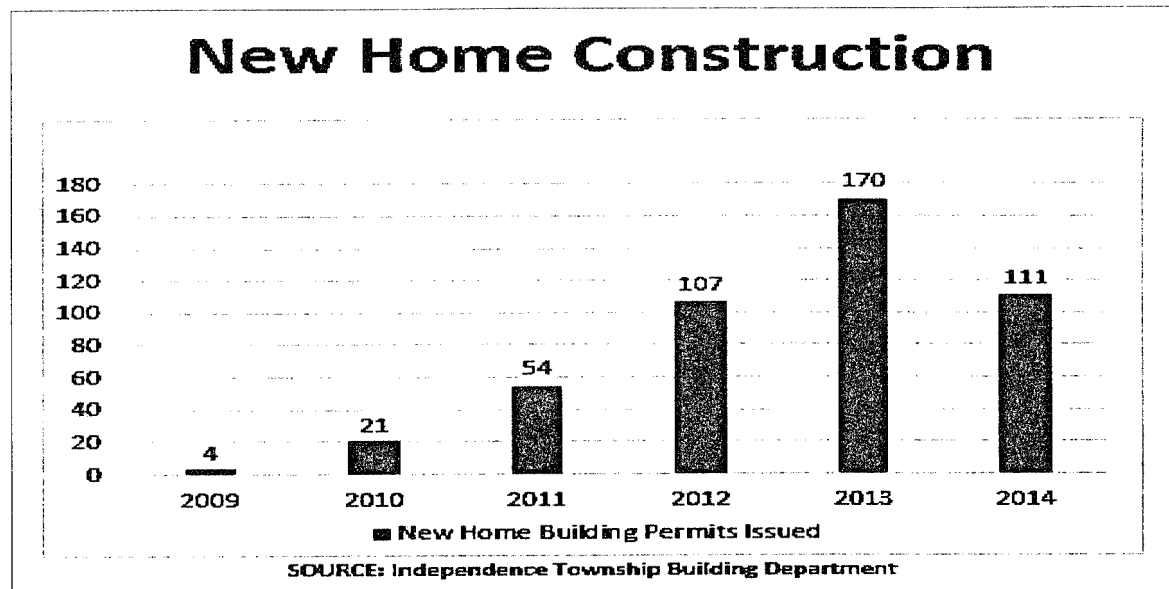
Property Values. Each year, Oakland County Equalization is charged with the duty of conducting a sales study to determine the ratio of current sales to assessments for each jurisdiction within the county. Sales are analyzed over a two-year time period. As an example, the 2014 sales study is conducted over the period beginning on October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014. All sales determined to be "valid" for the Equalization study according to State Tax Commission guidelines are included in the analysis and determination of final ratios, and the ratios must be published no later than December 31st of each year. These ratios give the direction of property values for the following year.

Once the study has been concluded, the ratios for each class are determined and provided to the local jurisdiction, and assessments within each class (i.e. commercial, industrial, residential) are raised or lowered depending upon their distance from the required level of assessment for the State of Michigan by statute, which is 50%. For example, if the ratio of sales to assessments during the sales study period is greater than 50%, assessments overall within that property class need to be reduced down to 50%. If the determined ratio is less than 50%, the assessments need to be increased up to 50%.

The second chart illustrates that sales during the 2015 sales study period appear to be exceeding their corresponding assessment levels on average by 16%. Accordingly, the 2014 tentative ratio determined by Oakland County Equalization to be used for the 2015 values in the residential class is 44.77%. What does this mean for residential values for 2015? Overall, the residential property class will need to be increased by approximately 10% in order to be at the statutory required 50%. Should every residential property owner expect a 10% increase in their assessment?

No.

The results of this study are used only to determine the overall increase by property class. Areas of the Township are categorized into "neighborhoods" of like properties, and each neighborhood is then further studied and analyzed separately using sales within the sales study period to determine which direction their assessments will move. Not all neighborhoods will move up or down by the same amounts, but the cumulative change in values for 2015 within the residential class as a whole will be an increase of approximately 10%. Tentative ratios for commercial and industrial properties are 48.6% and 48.54%, which equates to an increase of approximately 2.5% within those classes of



property as a whole, but not each individual property. They also are studied separately by "neighborhood."

Property Taxes. How will these ratios affect property taxes? The consumer price index (CPI) calculated by the State of Michigan to be used for determining 2015 capped 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 calculated capped value is then compared to the assessed value -- as long as a qualified transfer has not occurred, whichever is the lessor of the two values (assessed to capped) becomes the current year's taxable value.

As an example, assume the following information is for a property located within the township:

2014 Assessed Value: \$100,000

2014 Taxable Value: \$100,000

2015 Assessed Value: \$110,000 (10% market increase)

CPI to be used for 2015 capped values: 1.6 (1.016 as a multiplier)

There were no changes or transfers (qualified change in ownership) to property during 2014

For this example, there wasn't a transfer or any changes to the property during 2014. The current year's assessment has been set at \$110,000, and the prior year taxable value was set at \$100,000. The current year's capped value would be \$101,600 (prior year 100,000 x 1.016). A comparison of the assessed value to capped value indicates that the capped value is the lessor of the two, so the current year's taxable value would be set at \$101,600. Even though the property's assessment in-

Continued on next page

Property taxes, continued from previous page

creased by 10%, the taxable value is still limited to the "capped" increase of the CPI. If there had been a transfer of the property during 2014, the taxable value would not be subject to the limitations of the capped value, and the 2015 Taxable Value would be set at the 2015 Assessed Value of \$110,000, or "uncapped".

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 goal of this task is to ensure the accuracy of property appraisal records, providing for uniform and equitable assessments. During 2014, our appraisal staff visited various residential neighborhoods within the Township which were randomly chosen to have a reappraisal conducted, primarily based on the last time our department had the opportunity to visit the property:

- Section 20: Steeple Ridge
- Sections 19, 20 & 30: Deer Lake Area
- Sections 21 & 28: properties on Waldon, between Sashabaw and Main Street
- Sections 22 & 23: Pine Knob Enclaves, Bristol Parke
- Section 28: Spring Lake, Sheringham Woods
- Sections 33 & 34: Woodhull Lake, Lake Oakland

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. 2015 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 2015.

■ **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, 2015*. 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 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:

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

Upcoming Important Dates!

2015 Personal Property Statements: Mailed to property owners by the end of December, 2014

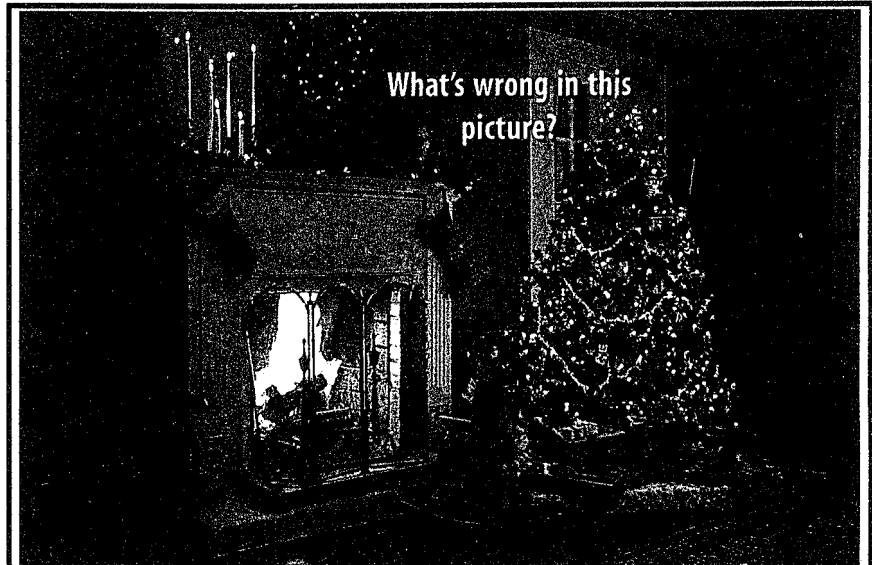
(Note: these forms must be completed and returned to the assessing department no later than February 20, 2015; please note Recent Legislative Changes affecting filing deadlines for small business owners above)

2015 Assessment Change Notices: Mailed to property owners by the end of February, 2015

2015 March Board of Review: Appeal meetings begin on Wednesday, March 4, 2015

(Note: This is the only opportunity for residential property owners to protest their 2015 assessments; meeting dates, times, and instructions to make an appeal can be found on the Assessment Change Notice)

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 website: www.indetwp.com



Holiday Fire Safety

By Lt. Don Herbert,
Independence Fire

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 1 and January 15, 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 com-

pared 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 di-

Continued on next page

From the Corner Office, continued from Page 1

ditures within the proper period in accordance with GASB Interpretation No. 6 and limiting manual journal entries.

Dixie Highway – Corridor Improvement Organization (CIO): A team of business owners and commercial developers has been assembled to put a revitalization plan together for Dixie Highway. While much of the corridor looks great, there are multiple areas that are getting a little "long in the tooth" and could use some creative thinking and financing to put the Pride back into Dixie. Action items from the first meeting include: formalize the CIO, communicate with all business owners, investigate tax incentives or tax increment funding models, establish landscaping and signage standards are but a few of the points discussed.

Meetings will be held quarterly or more if warranted. More to come.

Wrapping Up: Based on the positive feedback we have been receiving, the Township is planning on continuing the monthly *Township Times* insert in *The Clarkston News*.

Short of e-mail, we believe this to be most cost effective means available to communicate with every household in the Township.

Would you please drop us a note at TownshipTimes@IndeTwp.com and let us know what you think. We would be interested if you think the monthly newsletter has any value to you and what other types of articles you would like to read about.

Thanks again and have a great holiday season.

Fire Safety, continued

rect property damage. Electrical failures or malfunctions were factors in two-thirds (69%) of the fires involving holiday or decorative lights.

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.

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 Year's 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.

Consider the safe alternative; Flameless Candles. A safe alternative to traditional wax candles are battery-powered LED candles. They come in a wide variety of shapes, colors, and scents and have a simulated flame in the shape of LED lights. Besides the safety factor of having no flame, they only cost marginally more than a traditional wax candle, and many have timers that will automatically shut off after a defined period of time.

Santa's Comin' To Town on Dec. 13!

A letter was recently sent to our friend in the North Pole, check out this exchange!

* * *

Dear Santa,

Just a quick reminder to you and Mrs. Claus about stopping by Clarkston on Saturday, December 13. First there's the Holiday Lights Night Parade beginning at 6 p.m., sponsored by Team RUSH. We know kids of all ages are excited to see your float in the parade. Afterwards, we'll be waiting for you in Depot Park for a great family holiday celebration, Holiday Lights Night. During the evening, we'll have our own elves to assist you with greeting children, getting some free Kona Kocoa provided by Kona Ice, purchasing a baked good from Boy

Scout Troop #133, and of course, the official lighting of our Christmas Tree, which is then available as a backdrop for a family Holiday Photo. Throughout the evening you'll see familiar faces, as there will be live reindeer, a few friends from FROZEN and other holiday characters in attendance. Bring your smile muscles as we're sure that a picture with Santa will be at the top of everyone's wish list!

You had asked earlier if everyone would be able to get a snack while at our event and thanks to the Clarkston Area Optimists, you can get a \$2 hot dog, \$3 brat or a meal combo with chips and a drink. We know you're busy so we'll only keep you until about 9 and then you'll be able to head back home. We know you're a world traveler, but Santa, please be sure to dress warm, our Michigan

winters tend to be cold!!! Thanks Santa, see you on Saturday, Dec.13!

*Amy L, Event Coordinator
Independence Township Parks,
Recreation & Seniors*

Dear Amy L,

Santa and I are very excited to meet you and of course we're excited to meet all the lovely children attending your Holiday Lights Night on Saturday, December 13. I have Santa's warmest suit ready because we've already heard about the cold weather you're getting. See you then and Merry Christmas!

*Sincerely,
Mrs. Claus and Santa*

Remember: The Ice Rink at Bay Court Park should be open by mid-December, weather permitting!

JOB FAIR

December 19, 2014

10am-4pm

Independence Township Offices, 6483 Waldon Center Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346



Explore 2015 jobs!

Explore job opportunities with Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors. Over 150 positions will be available in 2015. The hiring team for Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors will be available for you to personally hand in your resume and application. Complete job descriptions will also be available. Come see if you have what it takes to be part of a team that consistently delivers outstanding services year after year, making Independence Township a great place to live, work and play! Here is what people are saying about working for Parks, Recreation & Seniors!

"Working for ITPRS has been such an incredible experience! I had the opportunity to grow both personally and professionally with a group of enthusiastic, passionate and supportive people." Anne Marie Hart, Day Camp

"Working at ITPRS is more than a job, it's an opportunity to enhance and give back to the local community." Dean Martin, Day Camp, Park Ranger, and Referee

For more information visit our website at www.itpr.org or call 248-625-8223.





From left are Sashabaw Middle School students Gracie Sielinski and Nathan Dimmer, and Pine Knob Elementary students Trent Schmeling and Abigail Kurniawan. Photo provided

Kids demo coding at Capitol

Coding Club students from Clarkston Community Schools were among nearly 30 schools in Michigan participating in the 14th annual Student Technology Showcase on Dec. 3 at the State Capitol Building in Lansing.

Students used computers and other electronic devices to show elected members of the Michigan State Senate and the House of Representatives how technology is being used in the classroom to facilitate learning. Projects covered a wide variety of learning areas including science, mathematics, social studies and language arts.

Taking part in the demonstrations locally were Pine Knob Elementary students Abigail Kurniawan and Trent Schmeling, and Sashabaw Middle School students Gracie Sielinski and Nathan Dimmer. Lori Banaszak, technology integration specialist, Lisa Drew,

Pine Knob Elementary teacher, and Dennis Klenow, Independence Elementary teacher, led the group to Lansing to highlight the importance of elementary coding clubs and showcase their coding projects.

The showcase was sponsored by AT&T, TRIG, Michigan Department of Education, and the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL), an organization bringing educators from all levels together to share knowledge and concerns regarding educational uses of computers and technology.

"Surveys show students enjoy using computers so they tend to get more involved with their projects and often do much better in school as a result," said Mark Smith, MACUL executive director.

For more information about the event, visit the MACUL website at www.macul.org.

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Events

Alexander Zonjic's Jazzy Christmas Concert, with special guest Thornetta Davis, 4 p.m., Dec. 14, Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. Free-will offering for Blessings in a Backpack of Clarkston.

Holiday Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony, sponsored by Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, 7 p.m., Dec. 16, at Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Road. RSVP at 248-625-5231.

Blood drive, American Red Cross, 7 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Dec. 18, Independence Township Fire Department, 6500 Citation Drive. 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767).

Open auditions for Clarkston Village Players' "A Few Good Men," 7 p.m., Dec. 21-22, Depot Theatre, 4861 White Lake Road. Large and small roles, speaking and non-speaking parts for men aged 18-50. Performance is in March. 810-348-9960.

Monday

Line Dancing, Mondays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Country, salsa, cha-cha, rock and roll with Rosemary Hall. All welcome. \$3/ drop in.

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

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

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

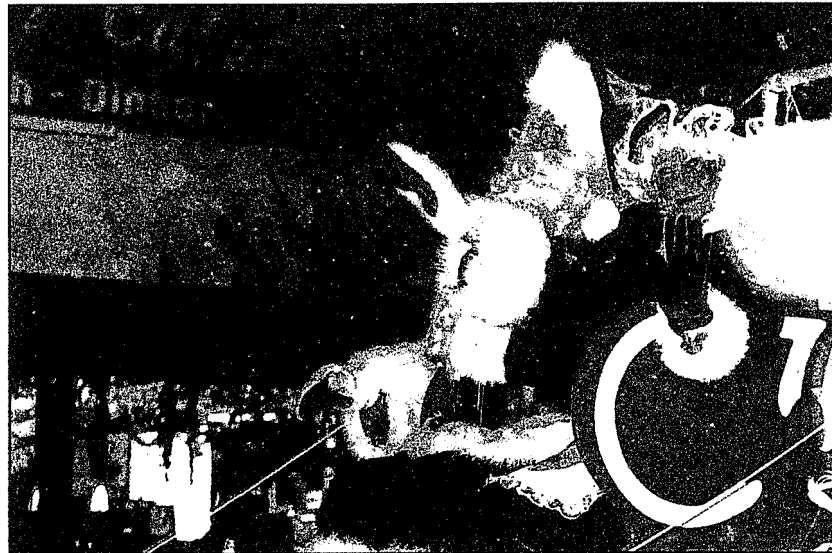
FOP Post 132, third Monday, 7 p.m., American Legion Post 63, Ortonville Road.

Tuesday

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,

Around Town

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



IT'S SANTA! Join Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus for the Holiday Lights Parade this Saturday in Downtown Clarkston, beginning at 6 p.m. Following the parade, head to Depot Park for the tree lighting ceremony and a special message from Santa. Stay for live reindeer, holiday music, free coffee and hot cocoa and writing a letter to Santa. For more information, please call Parks, Recreation & Seniors at 248-625-8223 or visit www.itpr.org.

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.

Clarkston Community Women's Club, third Tuesday, 7 p.m., Clarkston Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Community service group for all ages. 248-421-7699.

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.

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

50+ Pickleball, Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m., \$3; Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., \$4; Saturdays, 9-11 a.m., \$3. All welcome.

LegalShield and Identity Theft Shield information sessions with Carol Compagnoni, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., Colombiere Center, 9075 Big Lake Road. 248-420-3126.

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

Support group on "language" of memory loss, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease, 1-2 p.m., every other Thursday through March 5, Mendelson Home for assisted living, 2450 Watkins Lake Road. 248-674-2241.

Grief Support Group with Coats Funeral Homes, third Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., Community Presbyterian Church, Fireside Room, 4301 Monroe Ave, Waterford. 248-674-0461.

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

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 membership, \$5 lunch. 248-846-6558.

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.

TOPS 1093 Clarkston, Take Off Pounds Sensibly, Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., \$1/week. First Missionary Church, 4832 Clintonville Road. 248-673-5540.

Saturday

Project Kidsight, Clarkston Area Lions Club, second Saturday, 10 a.m. -12 p.m., Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. 248-625-2212, www.clarkstonlions.org.

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



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Michigan Senate voted down a bill to allow McLaren to build a hospital on Sashabaw

Should McLaren keep trying, or give it up?

"The question is, what does the Senate have to do with them determining that there's a need for a hospital, and wanting to build one?"



- Ron Kerns

"Keep trying."



- Steven C. Percival

"Give it up. There's better quality hospitals close enough, in either direction. Oakland County has plenty of hospital beds. How much more time and money are we going to waste? There are bigger issues to solve."



- Bradley Neideck

"Keep trying."



- Chris Higginbotham

"Keep trying. It would be an asset in the community and bring quality jobs."

- Jason Nolan

"Give it up-we don't need anymore traffic around here!"

- JoAnne Broda

"Keep trying! The total drive time to and from St. Joe's or Genesys is long and tiring, especially for a person who is ill, when one has a family member who needs frequent hospitalizations, tests, ER visits, and other hospital based services. We have thousands of residents who deserve an excellent, convenient hospital in our own community."

- Andrea Hirsch

"Give up - too many beds now."

- Mark Edward

By Phil Custodio

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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Jessica Hall reimagined the painting "Birth of Venus" with a Christmas tree theme. Photo by Phil Custodio



Artist helps bring Christmas to classics

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Clarkston art teacher Jessica Hall was one of 30 art teachers from around the world illustrating the new children's book, "If Picasso Had a Christmas Tree."

Her piece emulates the classic painting "Birth of Venus" by Sandro Botticelli, with a Christmas tree in place of the newborn Venus.

"I chose Botticelli as a challenge," Hall said. "My painting is acrylic on canvas, and the original is in oil. Matching the colors was very interesting."

Author Eric Gibbons began the project several years ago, and collaborates with art teachers from elementary to high school with the help of social media. His poems accompanies and reflects each artist's work and style, from the Renaissance to modern genres.

Firehouse Publications also includes a link in the book to a webpage where teachers and parents can download and print lesson plans to extend learning in the classroom or home school.

Lessons include study, observation, experimentation, revision, internalization, syntheses, problem solving, and creation, crossing curricular boundaries into history, science, literature, and engineering.

"The link to lesson plans is cool," Hall said. "It's great for kids, parents, grandparents, families, all ages."

Hall grew up in Rochester, earning her undergraduate degree at Western Michigan University and Master's degree in art education from Wayne State University.

She is in her 11th year teaching at Renaissance High School.

"I student taught at Clarkston High School

and taught summer school at Renaissance—they contacted me about starting an art program there," she said. "I really like the district."

She is the Fine Arts Subject Area coordinator for Clarkston Community Schools, working to align art curriculum with state Common Core standards and the district's Culture of Thinking.

"Art is where it all starts," she said.

She lives in Oakland Township with her husband Billy and their kids, Hendrix and Lawson.

"If Picasso Had a Christmas Tree" is featured at the Detroit Institute of Arts museum shop, www.dishop.org/servlet/the-Holiday/Categories, and can be purchased on Amazon.

For more information visit www.firehousepublications.com.

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 Sat. 6:00 pm
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 - Crave Students (6th-8th)
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 (E. of M-15)
 Pastor: Russell Reemtsma
Sun: 9:30 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship
 10:30 am Worship Service
 6:00 pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
Wed: 6:15-8:00 pm AWANA (Pre-school-Gr.6) Semper Fi (Teens, Gr. 7-12)

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

6300 Clarkston Road • Clarkston
 (248) 625-1323
 Home of Oakland Christian School
 Pastor: Greg Henneman
Sunday Worship:
 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.
 Nursery Care at both services
Children's Ministries: September thru April Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Youth Ministries:
 September thru April
 Sunday, 12:30-2:00 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 3:00-8:00 p.m.
 www.clarkstoncommunity.com

CALVARY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

THE GATHERING PLACE

9811 Dixie Hwy., Clarkston
 248-620-5301
 Corner of Dixie Hwy & Davisburg Rd.
Sunday Evening Worship 5-6pm
Fellowship Dinner, Bible Study & Sunday School 6:15-7:15pm
Men's Group, 3rd Sat. of Month 9-10:30am
Women's Group, 2nd & 4th Fridays 6:30-8:00pm
 Financial Peace University Classes ongoing
 Email: topconnection@gmail.com
 www.thinkoutsidethepew.org

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH

8585 Dixie Highway, Clarkston, MI
 (248) 625-2311
 website: www.dixiebaptist.org
 Home of Springfield Christian Academy & Children's Ark Preschool
 Pastor: J. Todd Vanaman
 Sun: 9:45 am Worship Service
 11:00 am Sunday School for all ages
 6:00 pm Worship Service
 Wed: 7:00 pm Children and Teen Clubs & Adult Bible Study
 Nursery available for all services.

OAKLAND EPC

"God's Word; God's Power; Life Worth the Living"
 Here to help those concerned about life and curious about the God who made us. Currently meeting at Mt. Zion Center 4453 Clintonville Road at Mann Rd., Waterford, MI 48329
 Worship Service each Sunday @ 10:30 am
 Children's Worship @ 10:30 am
 Other Opportunities:
 Call Church for times of following Meetings:
 Men's Bible Study
 Women's Bible Study
 Mid Week Bible Study
 Adult Sunday Morning Bible Studies
 Oakland EPC is an Evangelical Presbyterian Church with offices located at 7205 Clintonville Rd., Clarkston, MI 48348
 Phone (248) 858-2577

WAYPOINT CHURCH

8400 Dixie Hwy, Clarkston
 Website - www.waypoint.org
 Phone 248-623-1224
Sunday Worship:
 9:45 am & 11:00 am
Mom Squad:
 Tues. 9:30-11:30 am Childcare provided
Wednesday:
 Family Life Group 6:30 pm Youth 6:30 pm

Religion

Events Preaching

Find hope in Christmas story

Cleveland, Phoenix, Las Vegas, West Virginia, New York, Ferguson, and the list goes on. Grief, outrage, sympathy, media circus, concern, everyone is affected by these events. We open our hearts and minds in prayer for all of us to realize a greater level of peace, wholeness and abundance in divine order and divine timing.

The truth is that historically speaking, the incidence of violent crime is down. Every day around our planet billions of parents love, care and nurture their children. Every day billions of children go to school and learn. Every day billions of people go to their market and purchase what they need and want. Every day billions of people go about their lives in relative peace and harmony. This is the truth.

This does not mean we don't do anything about these events. What we do we do with love remembering that the news is news because it is the exception; it is the unusual not the norm.

For me, the news is a source for my prayer list. When something in the news stirs a reaction within me, anytime I realize I am mentally or emotionally affected by outer events, I know it is time to pray and once again consciously realize the presence and power of good, of God, active in my life and in the lives of all those with whom I pray.

In Unity, we have a Prayer for Protection that serves as a general purpose prayer and in times when words fail us. 'The light of God surrounds you, the love of God enfolds you, the power of God protects you and the presence of God watches over you. Wherever you are God is!' We know this truth for ourselves and for all those with whom we pray.

In the midst of current events, life goes on. We are half way through our Advent Season, two weeks before the celebration of the Christ Mass. Everywhere people are preparing for their celebrations honoring the return

of the light on the Winter Solstice. In the midst of the darkness is the seed of new light. This is the promise of Christmas.

This can be a time of our awakening to the Spirit of Christ within. It can be a time of turning our minds and hearts to be the light of spiritual awareness that Jesus spoke about, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14.) "God is Spirit" (John 4:24) and we are made in the image and after the likeness of God (Genesis 1:26). We are inherently spiritual.

The Christmas story is our story. Joseph and Mary represent our thoughts and feelings who have had a spiritual awakening, they were visited by angels. This awakening is bringing forth a new level of awareness within us, this is the Christ child, the progressive growth in awareness of our unity in Spirit. There was no room for them at the inn, this symbolizes our intellect which is full of preconceived ideas and beliefs of what is real. So the birth, the coming forth into conscious awareness, happens in a manger: this is our heart center which is opened to give and receive.

Life is calling for us to awaken to our divinity. Night will pass and day will surely come. Now is the time for our awakening. Now we are called upon to 'be the change you want to see in the world' (Ghandi.)

A story is told of a man who dreamed he had died and, standing before his creator, was given a choice between heaven or hell. First, he was shown a room labeled Hell, where miserable people sat around a bountiful banquet table with all the delicacies a person could desire. Tied to their hands were spoons and forks that were three feet long, so despite the abundance they could not feed themselves. Next, he was shown a room labeled Heaven. Here was the same scene, same bountiful table, same three foot long spoons and forks. The only difference was that the people were joyously feeding each other. It's our choice.

Blessings of peace, joy & love
 The Rev. Matthew E. Long is pastor of Peace Unity Community

Spiritual Matters



Pastor Matthew Long

In our local churches...

Wednesday Evening Feast, 6 p.m., dinner; classes for all ages, 7-8 p.m. Free nursery. Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. Call 248-625-3288.

DivorceCare 13-weekly seminars, Thursdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., Clarkston United

Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. For more information, call 248-625-1611.

First Friday Family Fun, 7 p.m., St. Trinity Lutheran Church, 7925 Sashabaw Road. Call 248-625-4644 for more information.



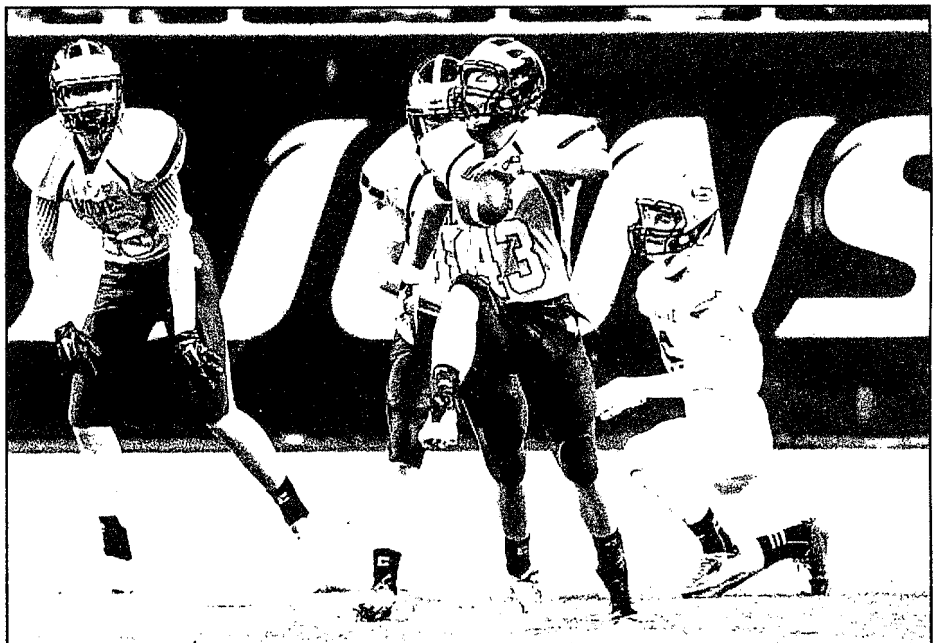
The Clarkston Wolves - 2014 MHSAA Division 1 Football State Champions.

State champion Wolves

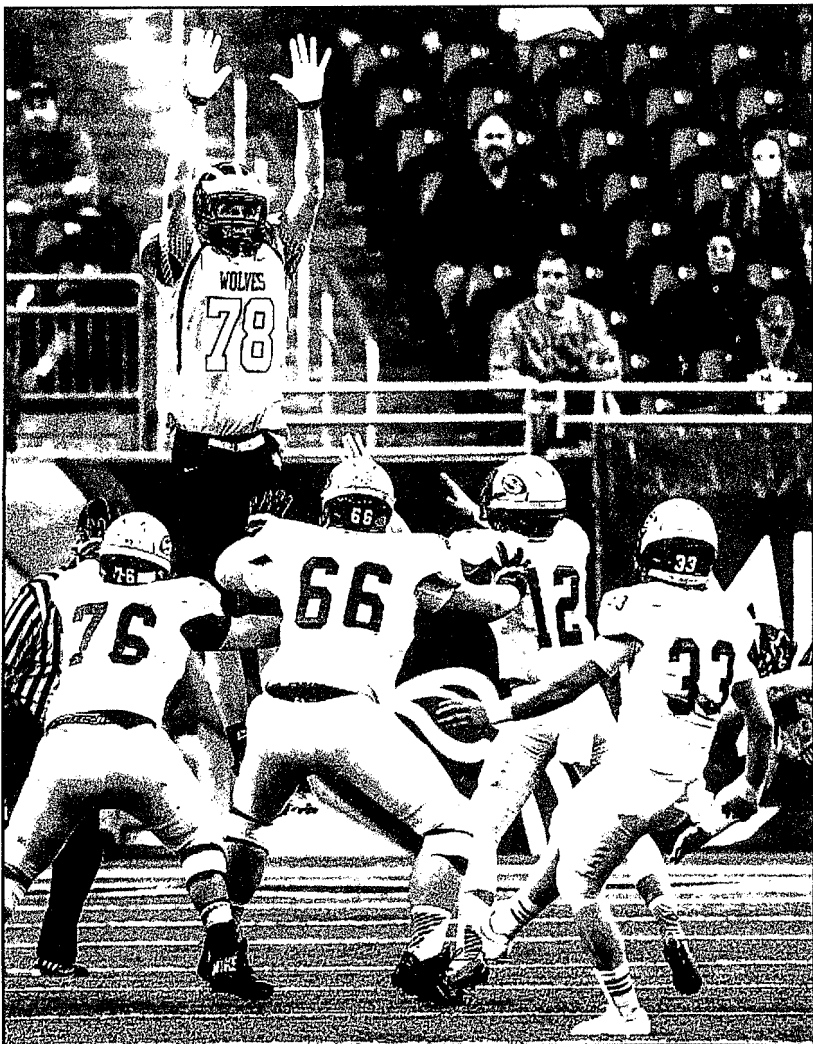
Dreams and goals were conquered at Ford Field on November 29 as the Wolves won the MHSAA Division 1 Football State Championship game, beating Saline 33-25.

Clarkston rewrote the history books not only going to the championship game for two consecutive years but becoming back-to-back champs for the Wolves' program. Congrats guys! You deserved it!

Photos by Larry Wright



Joe Popp celebrates a successful catch.



Cole Chewins jumps to block Saline's field goal attempt.



Adam Matich and Will Scarlett hug after the game ends.



Who To Call

\$8⁹⁵/Week*

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

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

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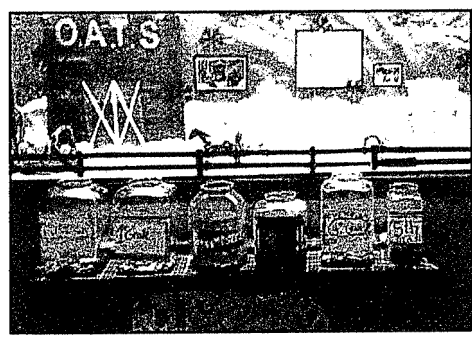
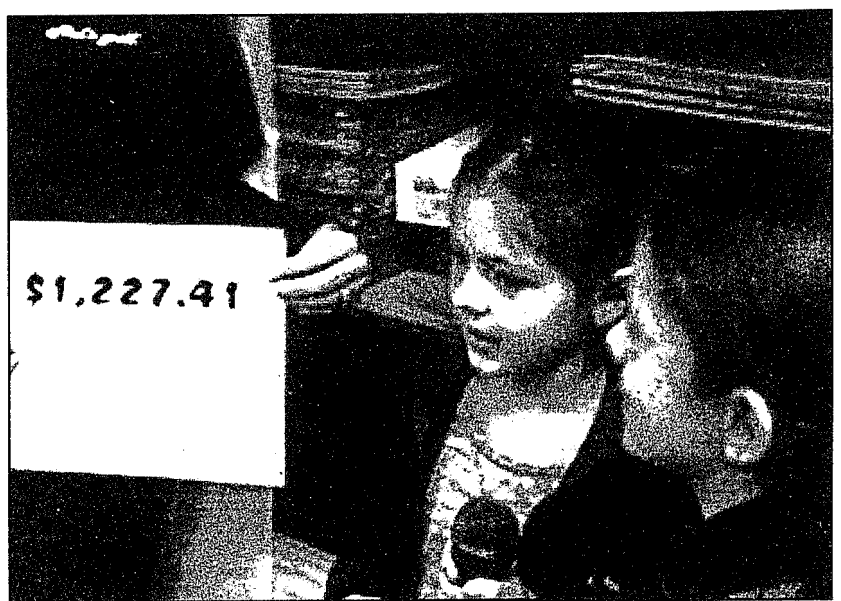
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Helping out, one penny at a time

Pine Knob Elementary students, families, and friends celebrated a successful Penny Drive for O.A.T.S. They raised \$1,227.41 in the first three days of the donation drive. Photo provided

INDEPENDENCE TELEVISION
Coming up this week:
Independence Update
Wednesdays at Noon & 6pm
Weekends at 7am & 5pm
The latest news from our community, plus updates from School Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock and Township Supervisor Pat Kittle.
Under the Checkered Flag
Fridays at 7:30
Saturdays at 4:40
Mondays at 9:00
A look at the world of classic cars and other auto-related features.
For a complete schedule, visit our web site:
www.independencetelevision.com
or find us on Facebook.

Jazzy Christmas

Jazz star Alexander Zonjic will host a Jazzy Christmas Concert featuring special guest, Detroit's "Queen of the Blues" Thornetta Davis.

The musical celebration will be at 4 p.m., on Sunday, Dec. 14 at the Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive.

The concert is free, with free-will contribution to Blessings in a Backpack of Clarkston, helping hungry kids in Clarkston Community Schools.

Zonjic won the 2010 Album of the Year and Broadcaster of the Year at the Canadian Smooth Jazz Awards. In addition to performing in 100 concerts a year, he is the artistic director of numerous music festivals.

Davis is known for her legendary big, soulful voice and breathtaking interpretations of blues, soul, R & B and pop classics. She has opened for blues and R & B greats including Ray Charles, Gladys Knight, Etta James, Buddy Guy and Bonnie Raitt.

For information, call 248-625-3288.



Zonjic



Davis

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38 MPG

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\$115* 36 MO. · 10K LEASE
\$999 DOWN

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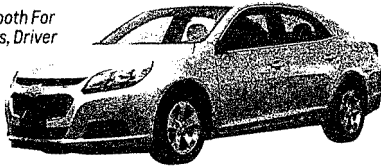
6 Speed Auto. Trans., A/C, Antilock Brakes, Power Locks, Front Wheel Drive, StabiliTrak, Power Windows, 10 Air Bags, Traction Control, Oil Life Monitor, Remote Keyless Entry And More.



\$159* 36 MO. · 10K LEASE
\$999 DOWN

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



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2015 IMPALA

FWD, 6 Speed Auto. Trans., 10 Air Bags, 4 Wheel Antilock Brakes, Cruise Control, Power Locks, Driver Info. Center, Remote Keyless Entry, Tire Pressure Monitor, Power Windows, Bluetooth For Phone, 8 Way Power Driver Seat And More.



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2015 TRAVERSE

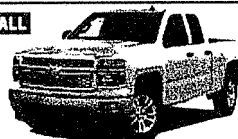
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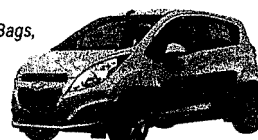


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3 BEDROOM, 1 bath, 744 Mariday, Lake Orion, 248-379-3272 or www.zillow.com for details. !!L2.1

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LAKE ORION LAKEFRONT 1 Bedroom apartment. No Pets. Heat furnished. 248-693-6063. !!R21

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Dec. 12 & 13

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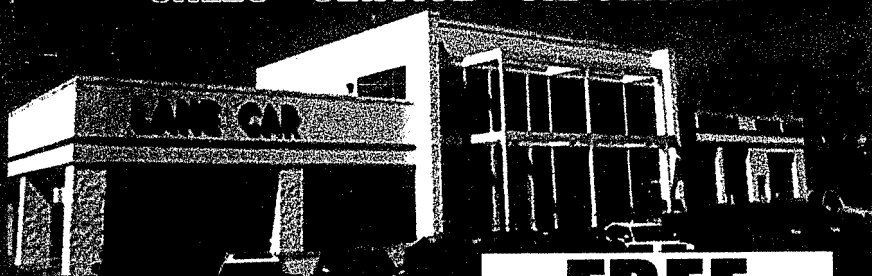
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2007 Dodge Ram 2500 Mega Cab Laramie 4X4 leather interior, center console, only 44K miles,.....	\$24,988
2006 Ford F150 Lariat Supercab 4X4 88k miles, fully loaded with every option,.....	\$15,377
2004 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE Ext. Cab 4X4 Low miles, all power options, extra clean,.....	\$13,988
2002 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD Ext. Cab 4X4 Duramax Diesel, long bed, beautiful inside and out,.....	\$15,377
2002 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab SLT 4X4 Hemi V8, long bed, new tires, clean,.....	\$7,988

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Death notices & Obituaries

David W. Duncan, 71

David W. Duncan of Clarkston passed away unexpectedly Dec. 4, 2014, at age 71.

He was the husband of Lynette; father of Matthew (fiance' Joslyn Pierce) Duncan; David will be missed by many other family members and friends.

He co-owned and operated Diversified Custom Molding, Lake Orion.

Memorial Service was Dec. 14 at **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Ruth M. Bartley, 84

Ruth M. Bartley of Goodrich passed away Dec. 5, 2014, at age 84.

She was the wife of Charles for 63 years; mother of Susan Galford, Cynthia (Fred) Rexius and Karen (David) Storey; grandma of Michelle (Brian) Kelm, James (Nina) Galford IV, Pamela (Anthony) Swope, Paige (John) Pryor and Matthew



Storey; great grandma of eight; sister of Michael Maas; preceded in death by her sister Barbara (Roger) Olney.

Ruth retired from Mitzelfeld's, Rochester, and was a talented musician/church organist.

Memorial Service, Saturday, Dec. 13, at 12:30 p.m. at the **Lewis E. Wint and Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, where friends may visit at 11:30 a.m. Memorials may be made to National Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

Obituaries posted daily at Clarkstonnews.com

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND FILE NO: 2014-359, 767-DE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of E. JACQUELINE BODMER, deceased. Date of birth: 9-29-1919

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, E. Jacqueline Bodmer, died 8-10-2014.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Chris G. Bodmer, 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.

11-7-2014
Kathryn M. Caruso (P44723) Chris G. Bodmer
6480 Citation Drive 3210 Whitefield Drive
Clarkston, MI 48346 Waterford, MI 48329
248/625-0600 248.496.6128

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND FILE NO: 2014-359, 912-DE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of CHARLES J. SHARRARD, deceased. Date of birth: 12-11-54

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Charles J. Sharrard, died 10-1-14.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to James Sharrard or Cori Sharrard, 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.

Kathryn M. Caruso (P44723) James Sharrard/Cori Sharrard
6480 Citation Drive 7632 Vamoco
Clarkston, MI 48346 Waterford, MI 48327
248/625-0600 248.738.9851

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF LAPEER FILE NO: 2014-037, 641-DE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of Virgie Suedell Humphrey. Date of birth: 10-19-1933

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Virgie Suedell Humphrey, died 8-18-2014.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to James D. Humphrey, personal representative or to both the probate court at 255 Clay Street, Lapeer, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Kathryn M. Caruso (P44723) James D. Humphrey
6480 Citation Drive 3660 S. Lapeer Road, Lot 91
Clarkston, MI 48346 Metamora, MI 48455
248/625-0600

NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS
The Surviving Grantor, SALLY I. CHASTAIN, (date of birth May 19, 1931), who lived at 3790 Allen Road, Brandon Township, Michigan 48462, died November 3, 2014. There is no personal representative of the Grantor's estate to whom Letters of Administration have been issued. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Robert D. Chastain and Sally I. Chastain Revocable Living Trust dated November 7, 2007, will be forever barred unless presented to Linda J. Bartle, Trustee, within four months after the date of this publication. Notice is further given that the Trust assets will thereafter be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled to them.

Date: November 24, 2014
William G. Zabel (P22671) Linda J. Bartle, Trustee
6480 Citation Drive, Suite A 1480 Westbrooke Dr.
Clarkston, MI 48346 Lapeer, Michigan 48446
248/620-3330 (810) 664-7435

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND FILE NO: 14-360330-DE
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING

In the matter of LEMONA CARABAS, deceased
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including:
HEIDI CARABAS
whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following: Daughter of Richard Carabas who is the deceased son of Lemona Carabas.

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on 12-17-14 at 10 a.m. at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, MI 48341 before Judge Kathleen A. Ryan for the following purpose: Petition for Probate and/or Appointment of Personal Representative Intestate.

Kathryn M. Caruso (P44723) Michael Carabas
6480 Citation Drive 96 Pearl Street
Clarkston, MI 48346 Sparta, MI 49345
248/625-0600 616.887.8949

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND FILE NO: 2014-360, 300-DE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

Estate of Julia N. Hoskins f/k/a Waugh Date of birth: 07/30/1935

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Julia N. Hoskins f/k/a Waugh, died 10/29/2014

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Debbie Sweany & Lloyd Brown, 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.

11-24-14
Kathryn M. Caruso (P44723) Debbie Sweany & Lloyd Brown
6480 Citation Drive 3657 South SR 135 Vallonia 47281
Clarkston, MI 48346 745 Daphne Ave, Umatilla, FL 32784
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

INDEPENDENCE TWP.

SYNOPSIS

TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOVEMBER 25, 2014

- A. A Regular Meeting of the Charter Township of Independence Board was called to order at 7:00 PM at Independence Township Hall.
- B. The Pledge of Allegiance was given. Supervisor Kittle moved to Appoint Treasurer Brown as Acting Clerk for the November 25, 2014 Regular Meeting.
- C. ROLL CALL: Present: Kittle, Brown, Aliaga, Lohmeier, Ritchie, Schroeder
Absent: Pallotta

There was a quorum present.
Also Present: Ken Elwert, Parks, Recreation and Seniors, Director; Linda Richardson, DPW Director; Wendy Thomas, Finance Director; Randal Ford, Hubble Roth & Clark, Inc.; Colleen Hill-Stramsak, Hubble Roth & Clark, Inc.; Steven P. Joppich, Johnson, Rosati, Schultz & Joppich, P.C.; John DeLisle, Natural Community Services, Inc.

- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: As amended; Removed Regular Business Item M-03 from agenda
- E. CLOSED SESSION: None scheduled
- F. BOARD/PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS: Trustee Schroeder; Trustee Aliaga
- G. PUBLIC COMMENT: None
- H. PUBLIC HEARING: None
- I. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS:

- 1. Report: Update - I-75 Sashabaw Road Construction Project (Patrick J. Kittle, Supervisor; Randal Ford, Hubble Roth & Clark Inc.; Colleen Hill-Stramsak, Hubble Roth & Clark, Inc.)
- 2. Report: Update - Police Fund (Wendy Thomas, Finance Director)
- 3. Report: Update - Financial Transparency Tool (Wendy Thomas, Finance Director)

- J. CARRYOVER / POSTPONED AGENDA ITEMS: None
- K. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Approval of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2014 (Barbara A. Pallotta, Clerk)
- 2. Approval of the Payroll of November 21, 2014 and Check Run of November 19, 2014 for a Total Amount of \$634,797.39 (Barbara A. Pallotta, Clerk)
- 3. Approval to Renew RCOC (Road Commission of Oakland County) Municipality Community Event Permit (Patrick J. Kittle, Supervisor)
- 4. Approval to Renew RCOC (Road Commission of Oakland County) Municipality Maintenance Permit (Patrick J. Kittle, Supervisor)

- L. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None
- M. REGULAR BUSINESS:

- 1. Approval of Contract with Clarkston Community Schools for Registration Services and Associated Budget Adjustment (Ken Elwert, Parks, Recreation & Seniors, Director)
- 2. Authorized the purchase of a 1996 GMC Top Kick 5 Yard Diesel Dump Truck and Disposal of a 1993 GMT-400 / Dump Truck - Parks, Recreation & Seniors (Ken Elwert, Parks, Recreation & Seniors, Director)
- 3. Amendment to Previously Adopted Motion #2014-10-206 - DPW (Linda L. Richardson, DPW Director) *Removed from Agenda*
- 4. Approved and Authorized the Letter of Commitment for the OCCISMA Project Grant - Invasive Species Management (Linda L. Richardson, DPW Director)
- 5. Approval of the Agreement Regarding Conveyance of Property Owned by the Township (Paul A. Brown, Treasurer)

- N. COMMUNICATIONS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / REPORTS:

- 1. Report: CAPRA Status Report (Ken Elwert, Parks, Recreation & Seniors Director)
- 2. Report: Oakland County Sheriff's Department Monthly Report, October, 2014
- O. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Supervisor Kittle; Trustee Schroeder; Trustee Aliaga
- P. ADJOURNMENT: The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara A. Pallotta, CMC
Township Clerk

Published: Wednesday, December 10, 2014

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

MINUTES CITY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 27, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Tom Hunter, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll: Present-Hunter, Sabol, Haven, Catallo, Absent Luginski, Marsh Roth.

Approval of agenda moved by Sabol Supported by Haven to approve the Agenda with the removal of City Sidewalk Snow Removal. Motion Carried Motion by Catallo Supported by Sabol to approve the Consent Agenda Motion Carried.

Removed City Sidewalk Snow Removal until November 10, 2014 meeting.

Resolution by Haven Supported by Sabol to approve JFR Architects, PC to move forward with planning the Capital Projects Fund FY 2015 will be amended to increase revenue account 699 (Transfer In) by \$2,936, and increase expenditure account 721 (Planning) by \$2,936. For consultation for new DPW Facility. Resolution is Adopted.

Motion by Sabol Supported by Haven to amend the agenda for the additional 2 items. Adoption in support of McLaren Health Care Center and Facility and Bids for sidewalk repair. Haven, Hunter, Catallo, Sabol Motion Carried.

Resolution by Catallo Supported by Hunter to approve the Adoption of Resolution in support of McLaren Health Care of Michigan's request to construct a new Level II Trauma Center and In-Patient facility in Independence Township. Resolution is Adopted.

Motion by Catallo Supported by Sabol to approve the bid approval of \$15,000.00 for sidewalk repair. The approved contractor is Carlo Construction, Inc. Motion Carried.

Moved by Sabol, supported by Haven to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Miller
City Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

CLARKSTON

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON
375 DEPOT RD.
CLARKSTON, MI 48346
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Second Read of the Rezoning change for 55 S Main RM (Residential Multiple) to VC (Village Commercial) took place Monday November 24, 2014 this amendment will become final on December 15, 2014. The New Zoning map is available for viewing at the City Office.

City Clerk
Sandy Miller

PUBLIC NOTICE

Because the People Want to Know

CLARKSTON

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON
ARTEMUS M PAPPAS VILLAGE HALL
375 DEPOT RD.
CLARKSTON, MI 48346
PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING **ON MONDAY JANUARY 05, 2015 7 P.M.**

The Planning Commission will be having a public hearing on the Draft of the Zoning Ordinance, which has been codified.

Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-625-1559 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Staff will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements.

City Clerk
Sandy Miller



Breanna Richards shows her locker to her dad, Scott.



Kathleen Turner gives a tour of her classroom to her dad, Stacy Turner.



Andrew Zielke enjoys a donut with his daughters Delaney and Anabelle.

Breakfast with dad

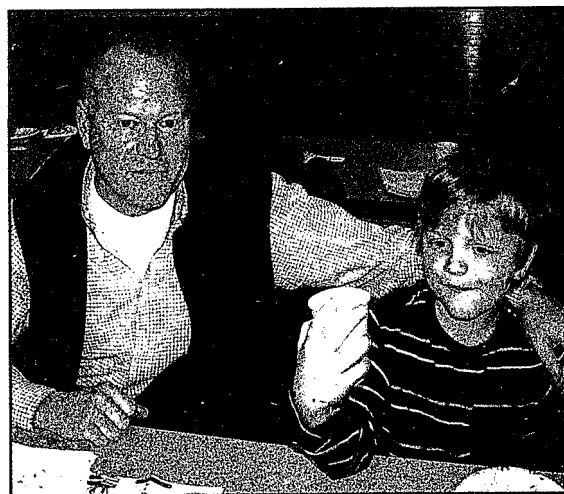
Fathers, friends, and other family members filled Bailey Lake Elementary's cafeteria for Donuts with Dad, Dec. 5.

The annual PTA event takes two days to fit in everyone, and is scheduled with the school book fair every year, said Andrea Beauchamp, chair along with Christy Kreucher.

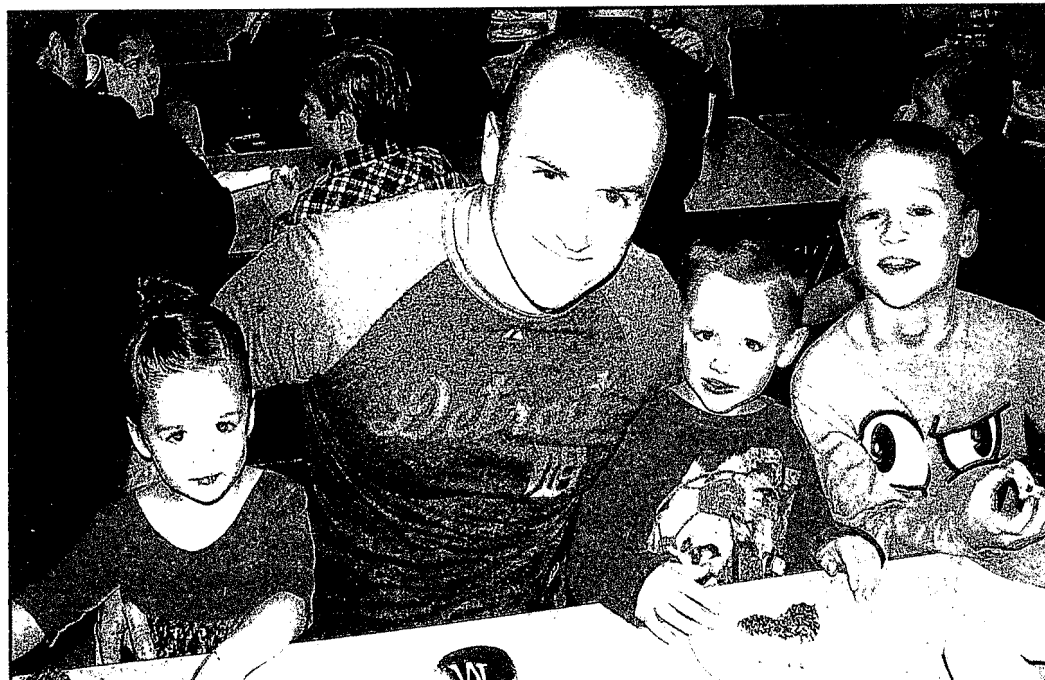
"It's a way for dads or someone special to come to school early for a cup of coffee and a donut with their child," Beauchamp said.

"Tim Horton's donates the coffee - a special thank you to Bob Mantha and Abby Forbes, who volunteered her time to serve it."

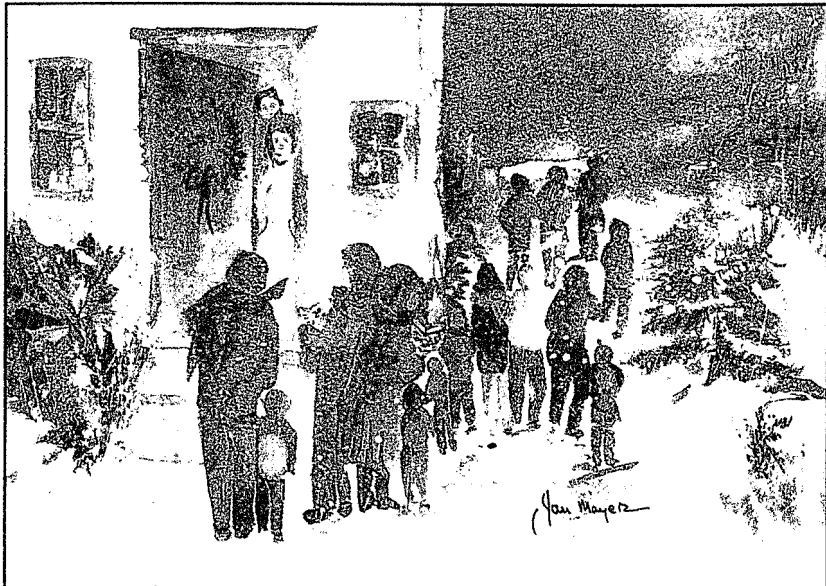
Photos by Phil Custodio



Lee and Jack Vitous at Donuts with Dad.



Ryan Minot, with his kids Leela, Micah, and Colton.



Christmas cards for 2015

Clarkston artist Jan Mayer's Christmas cards for 2015, featuring a snowy caroling scene, are available at Clarkston United Methodist Church office, 6600 Waldon Road.

Packets of 10 cards are \$15; signed and numbered, limited edition 11-by-14 prints are \$35 each.

All proceeds from the sale of the cards and prints will be used by the church to

provide food, utility, housing, and other types of assistance to people in the community. The artist has designed the church Christmas card for the past six years to give back to the community through her painting.

Clarkston United Methodist Church office is open Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. For more information, call 248-625-1611.



GOODFELLOWS: Jeff and Susan Reddy sell *Goodfellows* newspapers on Main Street for Rotary's Shoes for Kids program. Photo by Phil Custodio

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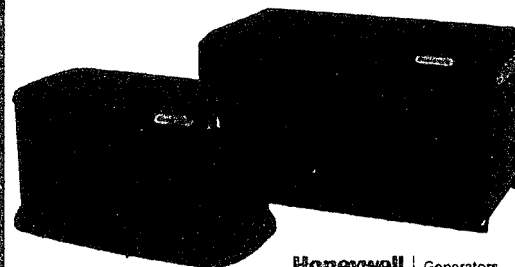
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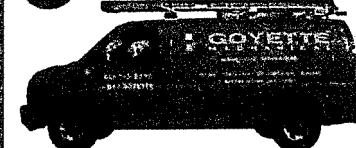
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Clarkston art student showcased

The University Art Gallery at Saginaw Valley State University will showcase the drawings and paintings of student artist **Eileen Gemborys** of Clarkston through Friday, Dec. 12.

"Without the art department's faculty my artwork would not be nearly as successful," said Gemborys, who will graduate this month with a bachelor's degree in fine arts.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. The University Art Gallery is opened from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

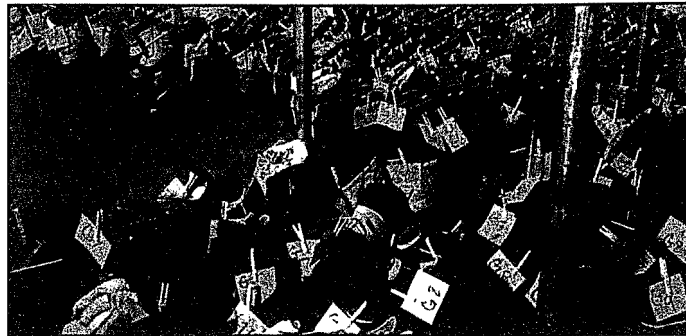
For more information on this exhibition or the artist, go to <http://www.svsu.edu/artgallery/> or call 989-964-4159.

Boots for Kids

Prudential Great Lakes Realty of Clarkston is collecting new boots and donations for Health Alliance Plan's Boots for Kids Campaign.

Boots and donations will be collected at Prudential Great Lakes Realty, 20 W. Washington, Suite 5C, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., until March 1, 2015.

"Last year alone, we collected more than 1,000 pairs of boots for local children. If this winter is anything like last year in Michigan, we



know these boots will be put to good use," said DeAndre Lipscomb, vice president for HAP's Marketing and Community Out-

reach.

For more information about HAP's Boots for Kids program, visit <http://hap.org/bootsforkids>.

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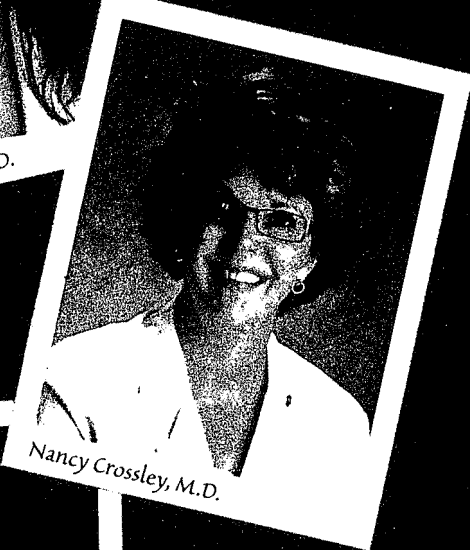
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New Saturday Hours: Sales 10 am-3pm & Service 8 am-2 pm

2015 Dodge Dart SXT



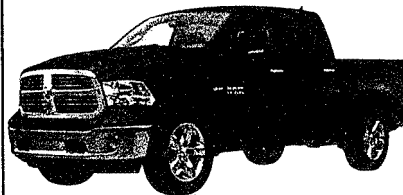
27 mo. Lease Employee 1 Pay 27 Month Lease Starting From
\$99* mo. **\$3326***

2015 Chrysler 200 Limited



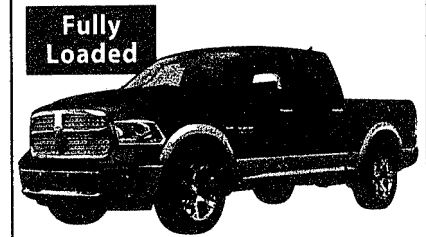
27 mo. Lease Sale Price
\$132* mo. **\$18,927**

2014 Ram Crew Cab 4X4 Big Horn



27 mo. Lease Employee 1 Pay 27 Month Lease Starting From
\$149* mo. **\$3587***

2014 Ram 1500 Laramie Crew Cab 4X4



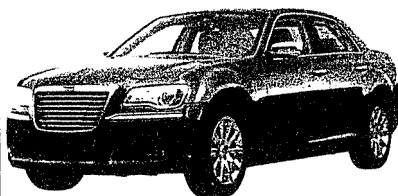
27 mo. Lease Employee 1 Pay 27 Month Lease Starting From
\$199* mo. **\$3988***

2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 4X4



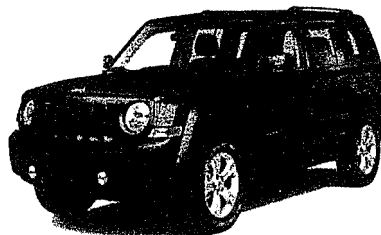
27 mo. Lease Sale Price
\$259* mo. **\$27,760***

2014 Chrysler 300 S



27 mo. Lease Employee 1 Pay 27 Month Lease Starting From
\$89* mo. **\$3987***

2015 Jeep Patriot Latitude FWD



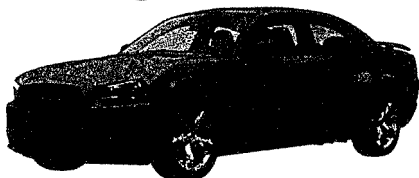
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27 mo. Lease
\$179* mo.

2014 Dodge Charger R/T



27 mo. Lease Employee 1 Pay 27 Month Lease Starting From
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2014 Chrysler Town & Country Touring L



27 mo. Lease Employee 1 Pay 27 Month Lease Starting From
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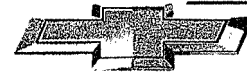
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Service:
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Tue, Wed, Fri 7:30am-6pm
Sat 9am-2pm, Sun Closed

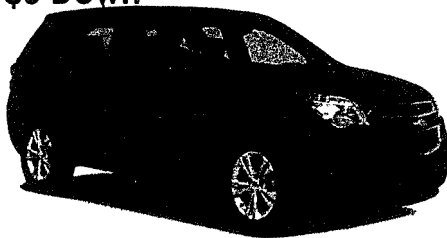
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2008 Chevrolet Avalanche *\$22,300
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2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee *\$20,300
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2004 Chevrolet Silverado *\$20,700
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