

FOIA submitted for superintendent evaluation info

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

With a delay in renewing Clarkston Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock's contract last February and months of debate over when to schedule the 2014 superintendent evaluation, teachers and parents have been confused all year about where the school chief stands.

To help avoid that in 2015, *The Clarkston News* submitted a Freedom of Information Act request for results of the latest evaluation, and last year's, too.

Clarkston Board of Education met in closed session with the superintendent for the 2014 evaluation on Dec. 8. The FOIA was submitted on Dec. 10. On Dec. 16, the school district requested a 10-day extension.

"This extension is requested, in compliance with the law, so that legal counsel may be consulted regarding the requested information," said Heidi McClain, district FOIA coordinator, in an email. "The FOIA request will be granted on or before Jan. 8, 2015."

The superintendent's 2013 evaluation was in December of that year. The board discussed having the 2014 evaluation in June, but concerns about reevaluating so soon pushed the date back.

The board also discussed having the next evaluation in June 2015 to place it between school years instead of in the middle. According to school attorney George Butler, state law requires evaluation of the superintendent at least once a year, but does not specify when.



CHRISTMAS CHEER: Sydney Rossell is happy with her candy cane at her Independence Elementary holiday party last Thursday. Please see page 26 for more pictures from the festivities. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Final look at 2014

The year 2014 got off to a cold start, with record breaking low temperatures and snowfall creating blackouts and school cancellations all winter long.

It eventually warmed up, though, with road construction up and down M-15 starting in spring and election season heating up the summer.

As the year comes to a close, here's a last look at the first half of 2014.

January 1

Emergency plan update after storm:

After the recent major power outage leaving thousands in the dark without heat or lights, many residents thought more about being prepared for emergencies.

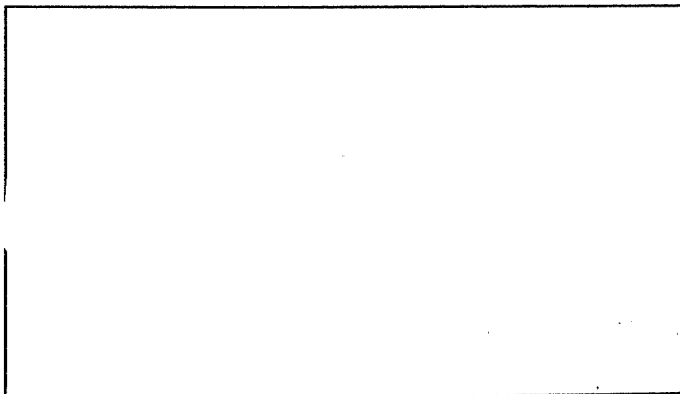
McLaren hospital rejected plans get mixed reviews: Plans to build a hospital in Independence Township were rejected again. Officials said residents should be angered by the decision which came from Judge Colleen O'Brien of Oakland County Circuit Court after McLaren Health Care Corp. sued the Michigan Department of Community Health.

January 8

Slammed by snow: Heavy snowfall and record breaking low temperatures caused hazardous commutes and school cancellations after a winter snowstorm dumped over 12 inches of snow in Clarkston and surrounding communities.

A poem for his birthday: Charles Galbraith celebrated his 93rd birthday on Jan. 2 visiting Clarkston Village Bake Shop with friend Frank Liimatta to have coffee-like he does everyday.

Please see McLaren on page 5



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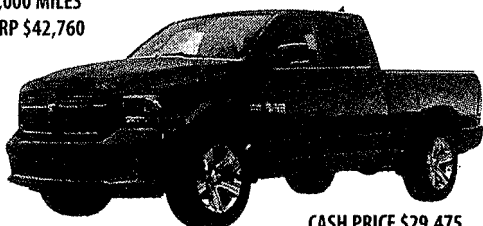
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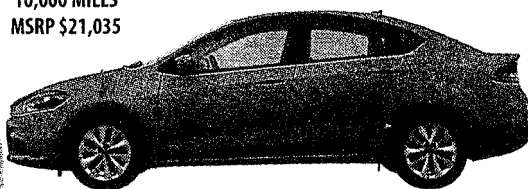
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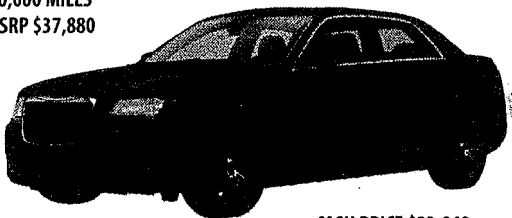
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GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS: Molly Hothem leads her first-grade class's Christmas gift exchange at North Sashabaw Elementary, Dec. 19. Photo by Andrea Beaudoin



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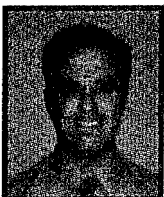
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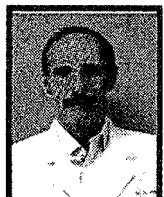
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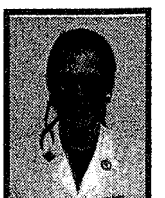
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The new bridge in Depot Park will get more work in the spring, but is ready for walkers to cross. Photo provided



Workers from Faust Corporation install footings for the new bridge earlier this month. Photo by Phil Custodio

New bridge in Depot

Depot Park has a new bridge, thanks to an \$80,000 donation by residents Bart and Diane Clark. The couple donated the bridge in honor of Bart's brother, Jeff.

The bridge, located in the south end of Depot Park, was set in place on Dec. 16.

Approach ramps to both sides of the bridge are temporary, so the bridge is accessible through winter, said Clarkston City Manager Carol Eberhardt.

"We will be changing all this in the spring when the weather breaks," Eberhardt said.

In the spring, workers will put in a new path as well as some landscaping, she said.

"The bridge will be amazing when it is all done," she said.

- Andrea Beadoin

The Clarkston News

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Final stretch for vet's Habitat home

BY ANDREAM BEAUDOIN
Clarkston News Staff Writer

A My Habitat Home in Springfield Township is still about \$25,000 short, but a local donor has stepped up and offered to match donations through the end of December.

Julie Nemeth said the future homeowner, Shannon Chatman, needs a boost to provide her family a home.

"She is doing everything right in her life and she just needs a boost," Nemeth said.

Chatman thanked the community for all they have done for her and her family so far.

"It has just been incredible," she said.

Chatman, a veteran of the United States Army and Army National Guard, earned her bachelor's degree in psychology, and works as a social worker at Bethany Christian Services in Madison Heights. Chatman and her three children will be moving into the home when it is completed.

Chatman said she plans to work towards earning a master's degree and is starting a fund for her children to go to college.

The build is budgeted at \$130,000 for the purchase of the land and all the materials for construction from the ground up.

In October, country superstar duo Brian Kelley and Tyler Hubbard from the band Florida Georgia Line came out in October to help lift the first wall of the home.

For more information, visit www.habitatoakland.org or to donate, call 248-338-1843.



Shannon Chatman, at left, is working with Julie Nemeth and Habitat for Humanity to build a home in Springfield Township. Photo by Andrea Beaudoin

McLaren hospital at issue throughout 2014

Continued from page 1

January 22

Premier for teen filmmaker: Luke Jaden of Independence Township served as writer, producer and director of "Madman of Martyr" as he made a documentary about John Brown, militant abolitionist of the 1850s, along with the Abolitionist Movement, Underground Railroad and Detroit's role in it from 1837-1859.

Parking rules now enforced on city lots: The days of unfettered parking in city lots were in the past and drivers violating city parking rules would be ticketed.

Visitors pack downtown for cocktail party: Downtown was busy as visitors pack businesses to enjoy a Retro Cocktail Stroll to benefit DRAW - Disaster Relief at Work.

January 29

Fees surging for sewer service: Independence Township hiked sewer rates 17 percent, citing aging infrastructure and increased costs from Detroit Water and Sewage Department.

Patterson strikes back: "Sometimes the truth hurts," longtime Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said about remarks he said about Detroit in an article published in *The New Yorker*. The Independence

Township resident admitted comments he has made over the years have gotten him in trouble but he was convinced the reporter from *The New Yorker* had an agenda and he was ambushed and betrayed.

Parking confusion downtown: Local business owners said they were confused why city officials created a Streets, Sidewalks and Parking Committee if they were not willing to hear the committee's suggestions regarding what should be done about parking.

February 5

McLaren fight continues: Local officials and McLaren executives said they would continue fighting to build a hospital in Independence Township despite legal setbacks and a Michigan State University study finding no lack of hospitals in southeast Michigan.

High flying adventure on stage: Actors prepared to take flight in the Clarkston High School Drama Club's presentation of "Peter Pan."

State honor for music teacher: Shelley Roland was selected as the Michigan Band and Orchestra Association's Band Teacher of the Year. Roland directs four bands and a choir at Sashabaw Middle School, serves as assistant director of the Clarkston High

School Marching Band and directs the high school Clarinet Choir.

February 12

Confusion in Clarkston: Dozens of Clarkston teachers, parents and students, some with "Rod Rocks" T-shirts, filled the school board meeting in support of Clarkston Community Schools Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock, Feb. 10. During the last board meeting the board tabled approval of the superintendent evaluation.

Sabol defends sign removals: For City Council member Mike Sabol leadership sometimes means action and fall and summer action led to patrolling Clarkston streets and removing illegal signs.

February 19

City manager breaks contact with News: City of the Village of Clarkston Manager Carol Eberhardt said she was done with *The Clarkston News*, feeling threatened after a citizen wrote another Letter to the Editor about the city. "In my opinion he has crossed the line of voicing an opinion and criticism and I am now taking all precautions to protect myself from him...I will not be available for any interviews to *The Clarkston News* whatsoever..."

Please see Controversies on page 14

Briefly

Local teens arraigned

Nicholas Price and Stephon Lester, both of Clarkston, have been arraigned in 52-2 District Court on charges of armed robbery.

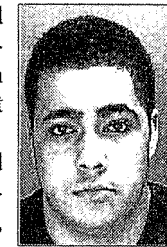
They are accused of robbing a BP gas station in White Lake on Oct. 22.

Price, 19, is charged with armed robbery, punishable by up to life in prison. Bond was set at \$50,000.

Lester, 18, is charged with conspiracy to commit armed robbery, which also carries a penalty of life in prison. His bond was set at \$10,000, 10 percent.



Price



Lester

Holiday hours

The Clarkston News office will be closed on Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 24-25, for Christmas, and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 for New Year's.

Classified deadline for New Year's is Friday, Dec. 26. Call 248-625-3370 for more information.

Volunteer for parks

Oakland County is seeking a volunteer to serve a three-year term on the Parks and Recreation Commission for Oakland County.

The commission is responsible for preserving park land and for creating recreational, leisure, and learning experiences for county residents.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31. Call 248-858-0101.

Volunteer for youth

Clarkston Area Youth Assistance has a need for volunteers to work with youth in its mentor program, said Independence Township Clerk Barb Pallotta.

The program would match youth 8-17 years old in the Clarkston School District with an adult in the community. It gives youth the opportunity to build a trusting relationship with a caring adult, who commits to spending 2-4 hours a week, according to CAYA.

Call CAYA at 248-623-4313 for more information.

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Phil in the Blank

A column by Phil Custodio

Christmas lights

After three weeks in my living room, my Christmas tree is looking a little bare in its lower half.

Only a few ornaments are still hanging on down there. They're the lucky ones, survivors of a near constant onslaught by my younger cat, Lizzie.

She climbs into the tree, even though it's artificial and the branches are thin metal rods. The bottom branches droop now. Turns out they're not designed to hold the weight of a full grown cat.

Shiny or dull, round or spiky, it doesn't matter. That cat wants the ornaments out of the tree and on the floor where she can play with them.

My TV entertainment center, on the other hand, is very well decorated for the Christmas season. That's where I put the casualties after Lizzie the cat takes them out, on the top shelf where she can't reach them.

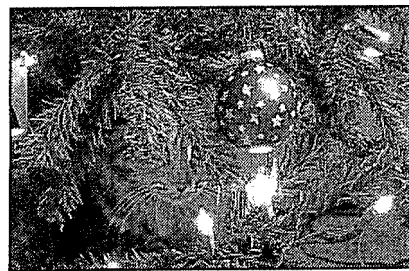
Still, the tree will endure through the season even if every ornament is taken down by their furry nemesis. And they might - she's started climbing to the second shelf of the entertainment center and can now reach the middle part of the tree.

So to is the Christmas season itself under attack. Not by cute furry animals, but by the horrific murders, crime, and cruelty towards others around the world.

But there are ways the season shines on. I saw it at Shoes for Kids last weekend, where I pulled a shift helping to move shoes from the stacks to the kids. I was one of many volunteers giving up part of their weekend to help out local kids in need.

The new Depot Park bridge has been put in place, a gift to the community from Bart and Diane Clark. Just in time for Christmas! They should name the town after them (I saw that one on Facebook).

My Christmas tree will shine on despite efforts against it. So will the spirit of the season if we let it.



Christmas tree climbing cat.



Opinion Pages

Letters, columns & Editorials

Thanks for Holiday Lights Parade help

Dear Editor,

What happens when a whole community comes together? A great evening of family filled fun, celebrating with businesses, friends and neighbors.

On behalf of Independence Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors, thank you to everyone in the Clarkston community for supporting our annual Holiday Lights Night in Depot Park.

Our sincere appreciation to the City of the Village of Clarkston and their staff for allowing us to take over Depot Park; Oakland

County Sheriff's Substation for coordinating all traffic and delivering Santa safely to our event; and Clarkston High School National Honor Society Volunteers for working our event.

A very very special thank you to Santa and Mrs. Claus for stopping by and working with me to respond to all the letters left in our care!

Sincerely,

Amy Laboissonniere
Event Coordinator, Independence
Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors

Reader hopes hospital comes to town

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed to see that our legislators turned down the bill to expand the distance limitation for moving beds within the Certificate of Need regulations. However, I'm still hopeful our Supreme Court will see the benefit of allowing McLaren to move forward with this plan.

I agree with our supervisor, Mr. Kittle's, comments on the use of the Sashabaw corridor. I too, would rather see that corridor develop with high tech and long term businesses and employment opportunities than more strip malls.

A hospital in this area of Oakland County is needed.

This isn't about whether we have quality hospitals not too far from us, its about have a quality hospital close enough when its critical to have one close by.

As one who has been involved with emergency services in this county for 35 years, I

know first hand the importance of having a hospital close enough.

Mortality rates climb with every minute that passes when you are dying from a heart attack, stroke or trauma. All this concern about traffic and "adding beds" (I can't figure that one out - why does everyone keep thinking this is about adding beds?), is misplaced.

This is not about adding beds, it is about "moving" beds. What difference does it make if McLaren puts one on every corner or all in one or two places? And this issue about traffic. The traffic is already there.

My belief is a hospital would bring less traffic than many small developments along that corridor, and if it's a decision between the traffic from a hospital or other types of businesses, I vote for the hospital.

Have a good day, and Happy Holidays...

Bob Cesario
Independence Township

First place in VFW contest

Derek Joslin of Clarkston placed first in the annual VFW Voice of Democracy contest sponsored by VFW Post 334 in Oxford.

This year's theme was "Why Veterans are important to our Nation's History and Future."

Jim and Kathy Hubbard were the emcees of the program held at the VFW Post in Oxford on Dec. 10. Joslin now moves on to the district level in New Baltimore, Mich., on Jan. 4.



Bob Watros and Sue Johnson present the first place award to Derek Joslin. Photo provided

A Look Back

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 1999

"She had a good life, a long life"

The Schwarze family lost a beloved family member when 87-year-old Elsa died in a house fire. Elsa and her late husband Rudy owned Rudy's Quality Market

"Suite' success" Patrons attending the weekend's "Nutcracker" ballet enjoyed sparkling performances by gifted dancers as well as local extras for the opening party scene. The performances at Lakes Area Civic Ballet drew in 800 people.

"Magnificent Marino" Senior guard Ryan Marino was on fire for the Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball team during the 70-35 win over Ferndale. He scored 39 points, the highest point average in a decade.

25 years ago - 1989

"Going up" Springfield Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously for salaries for elected full-time officials to go up five percent from the prior year. Trustees' salaries remained the same and other township employees would receive a 10 percent pay raise.

"The halls are definitely decked at Sames' house" It was hard not to know it was Christmastime at the Sames' house on AutumnGlo Road in Springfield Township. Decorations of all types donned almost every nook and cranny throughout the house. Mary Sames said it took three days to decorate.

"History grows with Clarkston's Christmas tree" Tom Murphy has collected precious pieces of Clarkston history over the years and kept them in a big garbage bag. The bag was filled with Christmas ornaments put on the huge evergreen tree in downtown Clarkston. The Rotary Club puts up the lights and oversees the decoration but Murphy cared for the ornaments.

50 years ago - 1964

"Jaycee Christmas party huge success" The first annual Christmas Party staged by local Jaycees for the children of Clarkston area was considered a success. More than 2,500 children from the local area came to the event.

"Clarkston defeats West Bloomfield by narrow margin" The Wolves Basketball team defeated West Bloomfield 48-44 in the game which was close from the start. Dan Fife led with 16 points.

"Local news" Kathy O'Rourke, who turned eight on Christmas Eve, celebrated her birthday early with friends and her two sisters with games, ice cream and cake.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From the Jotter

When we first started this *Jim's Jottings* holiday tradition, the two grandchildren Dan and Karen Offer (inset picture) were small enough to fit on my knees. It was 1988. Dan was 3-years-old and Karen was four-months-old. In that first picture, Karen had no hair, I had more and I still wore a suit and tie to work every day. Now they are grown and living out west and I only wear a tie if the occasion arises. They are the children of our daughter Luan and her husband, Bob Offer. The Offer children both live in Colorado.

Back then, the three grandchildren standing around me, were only being dreamed of and anxiously waited for. Now, too, they are growing and becoming fine young people. The Speed siblings standing with me, from the left are Haley and then Trevor (both 14) and Savannah, 18. Their proud parents are our daughter Susan and her husband, Tim Speed.



In 1988, I wrote, "From time to time their names appear in *Jottings* and I thought you might like to see who we're writing about." These days, I sometimes mention m'dog Shayna (she didn't make the cut for this year's photo shoot).

While situations, and stations have changed in the 26 years since 1988, some things do not change. We still find more joy in giving than in receiving and me and the grandkids still wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

— Jim Sherman, Sr.



Bummed out because it's the holiday season?

I hope this column finds its way into your hands, and before your eyes before December 25, in the year of our Lord, 2014. I hope you have hands to hold the paper and eyes to read.

It is my sincere hope that this holiday season (the one so many folks in the western world celebrate to honor and recognize the birth of one Jesus of Nazareth) finds you in good health and warmly ensconced with the feelings and spirit of your loved ones.

Be you Christian, Jew, Muslim, Wiccan, agnostic or atheist (fill in your own, personal blank), I wish you a Merry Christmas. I do this not to force feed you my own thoughts or beliefs, rather to bestow upon you my most valued of assets, my love and hope. It's yours. Even if you don't want it, accept it and maybe re-gift it as your own and pass it on.

The late singer Elvis Presley had a song on one of his Christmas albums I like. Actually, there are a few, but one kind of stands out. *If Every Day Were Like Christmas*, is a simple song and was actually written by one of his body guards, Red West. Here are the words:

I hear the bells
Saying Christmas is near
They ring out to tell the world
That this is the season of cheer

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

I hear a choir
Singing sweetly somewhere
And a glow fills my heart, I'm at peace with the world
As the sound of their singing fills the air

Oh, why can't every day be like Christmas
Why can't that feeling go on endlessly
For if everyday could be just like Christmas
What a wonderful world this would be

I hear a child
Telling Santa what to bring
And the smile upon his tiny face
Is worth more to me than anything

Oh, why can't everyday be like Christmas
Why can't that feeling go on endlessly
For if everyday could be just like Christmas
What a wonderful world this would be...

For many, many folks this time of year is a time of much sadness and grief. Christmases past, lives past come back to haunt through no fault of your own. You are in my thoughts as I write, today and tomorrow.

There are those whose own life choices have left them alone and less fulfilled. You are in my thoughts now and this I say to you: if you are able, fill the emptiness this season by seeking out and helping those in need *your* help. Be their hero, if only for a few hours or minutes.

If you find the holidays are just too darned stressful and not fun and not joyous any more...

... STOP IT!

Pinch yourself. Maybe you're spending too much time, effort, energy and money on your friends, family and yourself. Maybe you think you *have* to make sure your house is the best decorated; or your kids have the best clothes and coolest toys so they will be envied by their peers.

If you're buying gifts, and doing all holiday stuff, you only have to make sure others think you are amazing, you are buying gifts and doing all the holiday stuff for the wrong reasons. You, my friend, have bought into the mixed messages brought to you by keeping up with the Joneses and your buddies in mass marketing. You are stressed and not happy and you have only yourself to blame.

Luckily, you can breathe a sigh of relief. It is okay. This is the season of miracles! You, me, all of us can find our smiles again. Instead of giving your golden children everything they want (that you bought) give them hugs, laughter and the spirit of togetherness. (Together give those presents to the less fortunate.)

Show empathy. Teach conciliatory lessons. Be the peacemaker. Forgive your boss, your neighbors, the family members you are resentful towards. Forgive yourself. Make this holiday season, this Christmastime a time of doing what is right; not just doing what is best for yourself, but doing what is simply *right*.

Make this Christmas the start of something new, something you can do all the time; something you can do everyday, just like Red West wrote.

To you all I give love. I give peace. I give you hope. Merry Christmas!

Email comments to, Don@ShermanPublications.org

Arrive Alive

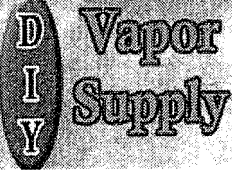
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Public Safety

For Clarkston and Independence Township

School zone speeder

On radar duty, a deputy pulled over a car for passing a yellow flashing school zone light and 25 mph sign at Maybee Road and Mary Sue Avenue at 44 mph, 3:34 p.m., Dec. 8. The driver, a 23-year-old Pontiac man, demanded to know why he was stopped, and argued before handing over his driver's license. The license plate on the car was not registered to the vehicle, and the driver said it belonged to his other one. He also had another unregistered license plate in the vehicle. He was cited for speeding in a school zone, driving an unregistered vehicle, and no proof of insurance. The plates were confiscated and car, impounded.

Credit theft

An Independence Township resident checked her credit card statement, Dec. 9, and found someone used it to buy about \$150 in purchases at party stores in Detroit in Oct. 29-30. She bought sporting event tickets on the phone and gave the operator her credit card number on Oct. 29.

Assault

A 27-year-old Grand Blanc man was cited for assault and battery, 12:22 p.m., Dec. 10, after an argument with a River Birch Drive resident. The Grand Blanc man, who was in the Independence Township man's yard when he drove up, had grabbed him and ripped his shirt. He said he was defending himself.

Speeding and texting

A deputy on radar duty stopped a 28-year-old Independence Township woman for driving 45 mph in a school zone on Maybee Road at Eastview Road, 3:51 p.m., Dec. 11. She was cited for driving with a suspended license, and given warnings for speeding in a school zone and driving while reading a text message.

Home burglary

Someone broke into a home in the 10000 block of Perry Lake Road, breaking a front door window and cracking the door jamb, and went through closets, dresser drawers, and a jewelry chest, Dec. 11.

Crash at home

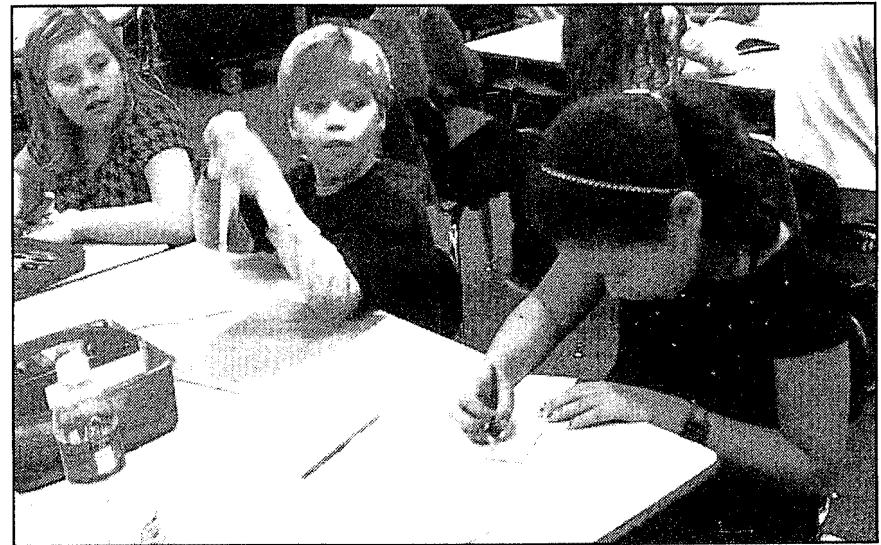
When an SUV owner at a Fay Street home heard a crash from outside, 4:38 p.m., Dec. 12, he went outside to check. He saw his vehicle and a light pole had been hit by a car, with the driver taking bottles from it and walking down the road. When a deputy spoke to the driver, a 55-year-old River Road resident, her preliminary breath test result was zero. She said she was driving and the radio face plate came off. When she tried to fix it, she drove off the road and hit the Jeep and light pole. She was cited for driving with an expired license and no proof of insurance.

Dump truck closes Dixie

Southbound Dixie Highway was closed for about three hours after a dump truck crash, 11:32 a.m., Dec. 19. The driver, a 43-year-old Davisburg man, inadvertently raised the truck bed, which hit a traffic light on Dixie near I-75. The truck then hit the I-75 overpass, ripping the raised bed off the vehicle and blocking the road. The driver reported minor injuries and was taken to Genesys Regional Medical Center for treatment. Oakland County Road Commission workers replaced the damaged traffic signal and inspected the I-75 overpass. No structural damage was found. The driver was cited for failing to use due care and caution and having his load too high.

Windows smashed

Windows on a minivan, pickup and mobile home on Joy Street were hit by BBs, Dec. 14.



Students write letters to troops overseas. Photos provided

Gifts for troops overseas

The third grade students at Andersonville Elementary School recently completed an Academic Service Learning Project they titled Military Giving.

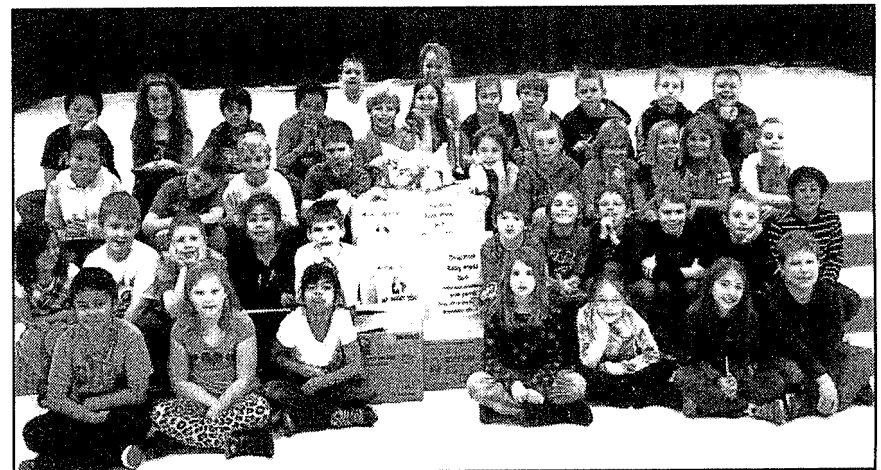
In this project, students researched the most requested items by service men and women, and began a school wide drive to collect those items.

They wrote letters to staff and parents, performed a skit at a schoolwide meeting,

and wrote letters to local businesses. They were able to collect over 700 items.

The donations were then sorted, counted, and graphed before being boxed up along with hand written letters to the troops.

They were taken to the American Legion Post who combined the items collected with their care packages and sent them to troops serving all over the world.



The third graders collected more than 700 items for the troops.

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Clarkston's Sporting News

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Win at Christmas tournament

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Clarkston icers held Macomb Dakota off in the last 35 seconds to win the first round of the Clarkston Christmas tournament, 5-4.

The Cougars pulled their goalie in the last 45 seconds of the game to put in a sixth man, putting the pressure on Clarkston Varsity Hockey. They struck with a goal with 37 seconds to go.

"It was nervewrecking," senior captain Drake Gentile. "But goalie Justin Selke played a great game. I was confident in him. The last seconds we played well and they didn't get in our zone. It worked out pretty well."

"I was confident we could hold them," added junior Jagar Smith. "They put up a fight in the third and definitely could hold them."

The Wolves defense knocked the puck back into Cougars' turf for an opportunity to score and to keep their opponents away from their net to tie the score.

Clarkston took the lead in the first period beginning with a goal from junior Kort Highducheck two minutes into the game and another from Smith, with 6:21 remaining to put the score 2-0.

Seven minutes into the second period, the Wolves surrounded the Cougar's net and kept taking shots on it. Smith's shot slipped through to put Clarkston up 3-0, with assists from seniors Brandan Barrow and Matt Johnson.

They scored again with 2:27 remaining in the period this time off a power play goal from junior Riley Peickert with assists from senior Danny Grohs and senior Austin Fullmer.

Twenty-eight seconds later Grohs scored a goal of his own to put the score 5-1. He was assisted by sophomore Nick Grohls and Fullmer.

"We had a really good effort the whole game," said Gentile. "I was happy with our effort. We built up a lead so we were able to hold onto it. We definitely need to buckle down in later periods to make sure the game doesn't come into question."

Gentile added the win against Macomb Dakota gives the Wolves a boost especially after a loss to Lake Orion, Dec. 13.

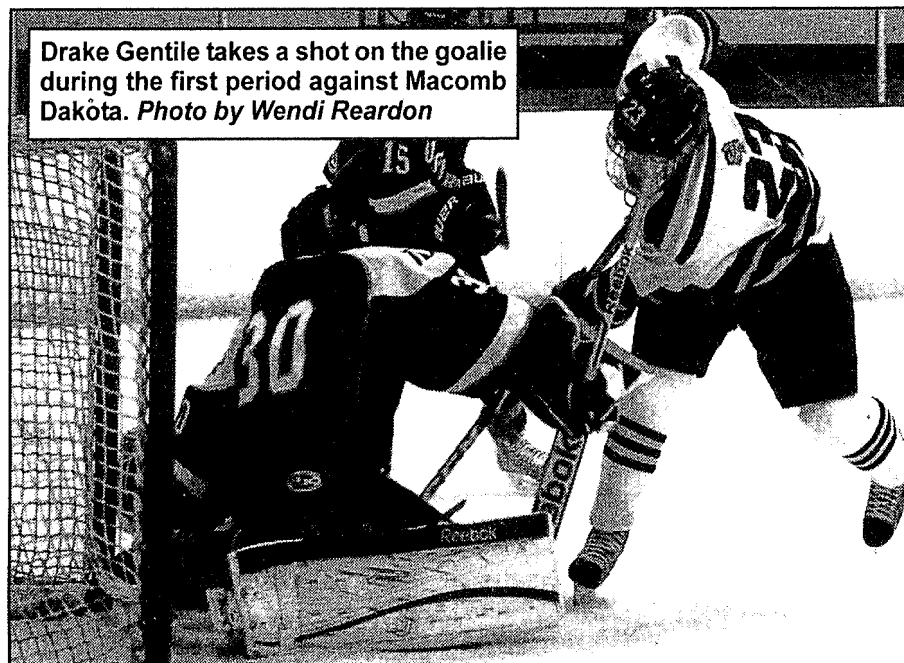
"We know that game wasn't our best," Gentile said. "We hope the game against Macomb is a start to a solid rest of the season."

"It is a huge confidence boost," Smith added. "We played great as a team and definitely utilized our points."

He pointed out the boys will also have to watch their penalties and staying out of the box during future games.

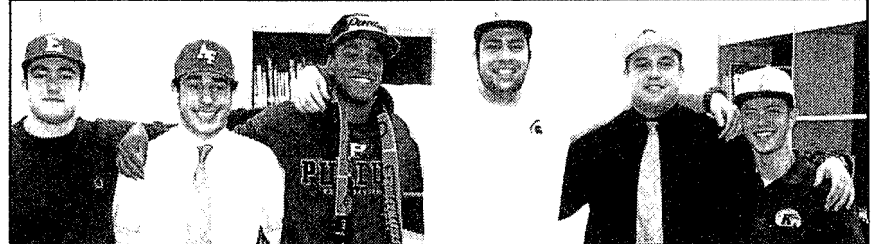
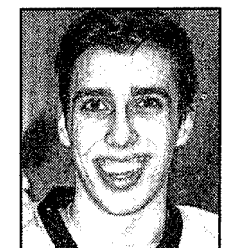
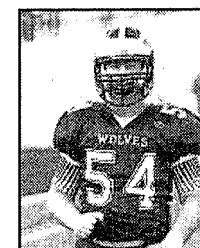
The boys lost to Novi in the championship game, 7-1. Grohs kept the Wildcats from scoring a shutout when he struck at the top of the third period during a power play. Selke had 27 saves.

The Wolves come back from holiday break on Jan. 3 when they host Rochester United at Detroit Skating Club, 8 p.m.



Drake Gentile takes a shot on the goalie during the first period against Macomb Dakota. Photo by Wendi Reardon

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



Congrats Athletes of the Week, Jan. - June

January

Cager Kacy Robinson, Icer Drake Gentile, Gridiron hero Griffin Barta, Hitters Nick Morey, Ryan Rea and David Steward

February

Seventh grade and eighth grade Competitive Cheerleaders, gridiron heroes David Beedle, Tim Cason, Ian Eriksen, Shane Hynes Nick Matich and Caine Watlington; Bowlers Timothy Cuthrell, Jacob Kersten, Sophie Hubble, Chelsea Turk, Eric Wagner, Runner Morgan Martin

March

Cager Erika Davenport, Mountaineer Jeremy Schupbach, Everest Collegiate Varsity Girls Basketball team, Clarkston

Boys Varsity Basketball team

April

Cager Kacy Robinson, Skier Derek VanItallie, Clarkston Varsity Boys and Girls Ski teams; Lacrosser Jake Hendricks, Tennis players Paige and Dana Olsen

May

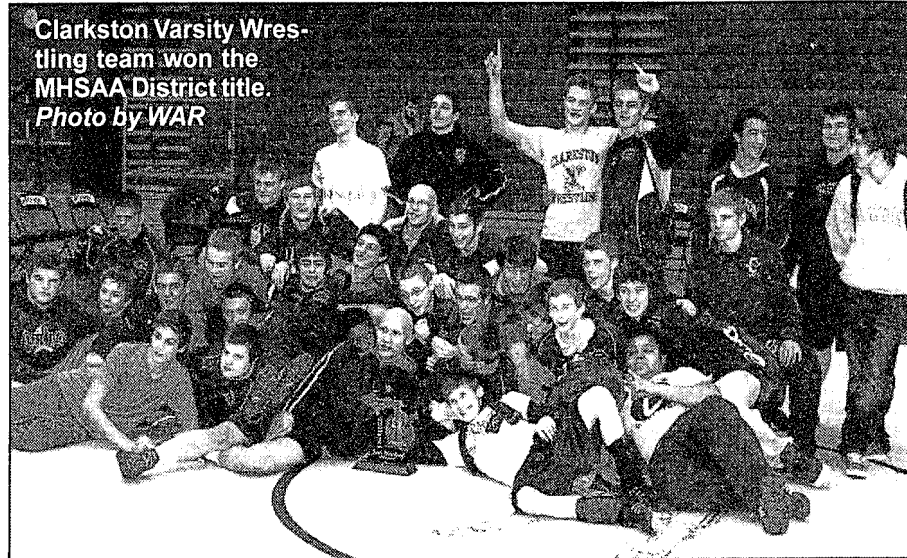
Lacrosser Sierra Pass, Lacrossers Connor Dziewit and Connor Ward, Tennis players Lexi Baylis, Dana Olsen, Paige Olsen and Isabella Spindler, Jumper Caine Watlington

June

Jumper Taylor Mullins, Lacrosser Reid Kaminski, Hitter David Steward, Clarkston Girls Varsity Tennis team

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Clarkston Varsity Wrestling team won the MHSAA District title. Photo by WAR

Sports success in winter, spring 2014

What a year 2014 was for Clarkston athletes as they experienced highs and lows in their sports and with the weather.

Spring athletes found themselves practicing indoors as Mother Nature pushed the cold winter longer. They pushed back going into the post season with success in baseball, girls tennis, boys golf and track and field appeared in the state finals.

There were many highlights from January to June and here are just a few.

January 1

2013 was year of the Wolf: After winning the first MHSAA Division 1 Football State Championship for Clarkston players shared their thoughts on what winning a championship meant to them and favorite moments during the season.

Nine grapplers finish in top eight: The Clarkston Varsity Wrestling team started the holidays by taking their opponents to the mat and finishing in third place at the Oakland County Wrestling tournament. Nine grapplers finished in the top eight in their respective weight classes.

January 8

Last push for Cagers' win: Clarkston Varsity Girls Basketball players took the lead in the third quarter against Stoney Creek. Kacy Robinson finished the game with three points on the free throw line for a 41-31 win.

Lessons to learn on the court: The Clarkston Varsity Boys Basketball team did not have on their list of goals for 2014 to lose their first game back from break - nor did they plan to lose to St. Mary's Prep, 59-51.

January 15

Second period rally win: A spark in the second period boosted the Clarkston Hockey team to win their road game against Birmingham, 9-4.

Swimmers win first meet: The Clarkston Boys Swim and Dive team won their first meet of 2014 against North Farmington at home, 98-88.

January 22

Third place finish at county meet: The Clarkston Boys Varsity Bowling team finished

in third place at the Oakland County Boys Bowling Tournament.

Three point play makes the win: A 3-point play by Erika Davenport gave the Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball team the boost they needed in the overtime period against Farmington Hills for the win, 46-42.

January 29

Grapplers top Macomb teams: The Clarkston Varsity Wrestling team went 4-1 at the Oakland/Macomb tournament and Bret Foltz helped by remaining undefeated for the day in the 130-pound weight class.

Wolves hot lead leave Dragons cold on ice: The Clarkston Hockey team went out onto the ice to avenge their earlier loss to Lake Orion and make it harder for their opponents to share the OAA Red title. They succeeded with a 4-0 win.

February 5

Shutout on the ice in OAA: Clarkston Hockey took third place in the OAA Red with a shutout against Farmington, 2-0.

Banner year celebration: The gridiron heroes' state championship banner for winning the finals was hung in the Clarkston High School gymnasium. They also received honors from MaxPreps Tour of Champions.

February 12

Cagers climb for victory: If it was up to Southfield they would have gladly finished the game against Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball team in the first quarter when they were up 14 points. But the Wolves prevailed with a 69-52 win.

Grapplers bring home district honors: The Clarkston Varsity Wrestling team was gearing up for their next step in the post season - the MHSAA Regional competitions after winning the team district title and qualifying 10 wrestlers at the individual district meet.

February 19

Victory in overtime: The Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball team let out sighs of relief as North Farmington missed their last four shots in the final 27 seconds in the overtime

Please see Crowns on page 12

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Basketball tryouts

The North Oakland Wolfpack 14U Basketball team is having tryouts for eighth graders this Saturday, Dec. 27, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., at Clarkston Junior High School.

Tour of Champions

Join the Clarkston Varsity Football players on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 7 p.m. when they will celebrate being named to the 10th Annual MaxPreps Football Tour of Champions.

MaxPreps made the announcement Dec. 16 Clarkston received an invitation to the Tour of Champions, presented by the Army National Guard, after beating Saline for the MHSAA Division 1 Football State Championship and finishing a 14-0 season.

This is the second consecutive year the Wolves have received the honor.

The honor is reserved for only 50 of the best teams in the entire country. In order to be eligible the team has to be nationally ranked and win a state championship.

For more information about the Tour of Champions, please visit the MaxPreps Tour of Champions site.

Awards ceremony

The community is invited to the gridiron heroes' end of season awards ceremony on Sunday, Jan. 18.

The Clarkston Varsity Football team will not only their back-to-back championship win but going 14-0 for the fall season.

The awards begin at 4:30 p.m.

Battle of the Fans

How much spirit do you have? Time to show it as the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council hosts its fourth "Battle of the Fans" contest this winter.

Schools are invited to submit a short video, via YouTube, of their cheering sections in action.

Video submissions should be between 90 seconds and three minutes long and explain how that section meets the following contest criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group, student section leadership and fun.

The deadline for student-submitted video applications is Jan. 10 at 12 p.m.

Like us on Facebook for the latest in sports

Crowns, honors for Clarkston sports

Continued from page 11

period. The Lady Wolves won the game 54-50.

Four heading to finals: Tyler Slating, Cameron Wilkie, Jake Dionne and Greg Miller qualified to head to the MHSAA Wrestling Individual State Finals.

Skiers slide to state finals: The Clarkston Boys Varsity Ski team finished as regional champions and the girls team finished in second place as both qualified for the state finals.

Remember the troops: The Clarkston Girls Basketball teams remembered Clarkston High School graduate Army Specialist Jenna Beno during their first annual Hoops for Troops. They raised \$5,000 for Luke's Wings, helped Beno and her family.

February 26

Lady Cagers move past Highlanders in double overtime: With less than three seconds remaining in the second overtime period Erika Davenport caught Rochester Adams' rebound and finished the play scoring for the 69-67 win for the first round of MHSAA Girls Basketball Districts.

Rolling into state finals: The Clarkston Bowling teams prepared for state finals after the boys won regionals and the girls took third place.

March 6

Highlanders shown the low road: A surge in the second quarter booster the Wolves in the first round of the MHSAA Boys Basketball District against Rochester Adams, which the boys won 72-59.

Lady Wolves finish first: For the second consecutive year the Clarkston Varsity Competitive Cheer team won the OAA White title.

March 26

Snow slows spring sports: A slow start to spring sports wasn't unusual but the long snowy winter didn't help as several sports postponed games and track meets due to the

weather and kept practices indoors.

April 2

Home advantage for win: The first minutes set the tone for the Wolves against Northville at Detroit Catholic Central in the Clarkston Boys Varsity Lacrosse team's 14-7 win.

April 23

Powerful swings lead to wins for Clarkston teams: The Clarkston Boys Varsity Golf team scored three points less than Rochester to take first place at the OAA Red No. 1 meet.

April 30

Wolves win in overtime: Connor Dziewit swung the ball to teammate Andrew Williamson as the seconds counted down in the overtime period against St. Michael's College School. He shot it into the net to win the game for the Clarkston Boys Varsity Lacrosse team, 12-11.

May 7

Clarkston holds lead on rival: Lake Orion scored three goals on Clarkston in the last three minutes of the game but it wasn't enough as the Lady Wolves Varsity Lacrosse team won the game, 15-11.

GFC raises \$12,000: The Clarkston Lacrosse Program raised \$12,000 for Game for a Cure for St. Joseph's Cancer Research.

May 14

Victory sweet over Dragons: The Clarkston Boys Varsity Lacrosse team kept the tradition going as they beat crosstown rivals Lake Orion, 21-4.

Second on OAA foes: The Clarkston Track and Field teams both finished in second place in the OAA Red Championship.

May 21

4-peat win at regionals: Clarkston Girls Varsity Tennis finished the MHSAA Regionals with 27 points - one point more than Bloomfield Hills to claim the regional title for the fourth consecutive year.

On track for state finals: Clarkston Track and Field teams qualified seven athletes at the MHSAA Regional meet to send to the state finals.

May 28

Statement made in win: Twelve goals in the first 12 minutes was part of the statement made by the Clarkston Boys Varsity Lacrosse team wanted to make in the playoffs. They won the first round of regionals against Utica Ford, 25-4.

Hitters dominate in tournament play: The Clarkston Varsity Baseball team went undefeated in the 2014 Greater Flint Championships Baseball Tournament.

Leading on the green: Clarkston Boys Varsity Golf qualified for the MHSAA Regional meet after finishing in third place at districts.

June 4

Defeat over Oxford for crown: Players stepped onto the field to accept the MHSAA Baseball District trophy after beating Oxford and Waterford Kettering.

Golfers pack up clubs for states: The Wolves were prepping for the MHSAA Golf State Championship after taking third place at the regional meet.

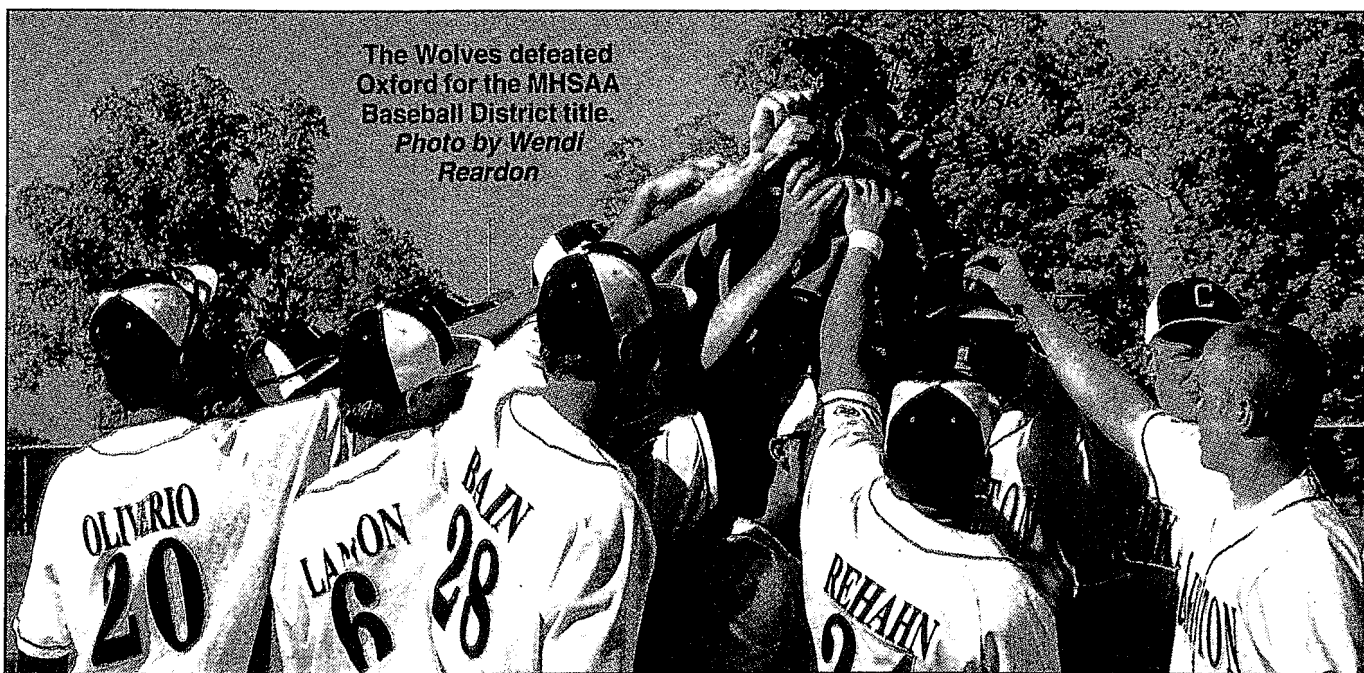
Second place finish for tennis: The Lady Wolves finished the season in second place at the MHSAA Tennis State Finals with 22 points.

June 11

Golfers make state finals: The Clarkston Boys Varsity Golf team finished in 11th place at the state finals. The last time the boys make an appearance at the tournament was 2006.

June 18

'Never gave up' season: Hitters finished their season in the MHSAA Division 1 Baseball Semifinals against defending champion Bay City Western. They finished the season as district and regionals champs before making it to the Final Four.



The Wolves defeated Oxford for the MHSAA Baseball District title.

Photo by Wendi Reardon



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Controversies in city, schools heat up in spring 2014

Continued from page 5

February 26

Township OKs three ambulances: Three new ambulances were ordered for Independence Township after the board approved the purchase for \$550,000.

March 5

Apology sought from city manager: Clarkston resident Cory Johnston wanted a public apology for comments made about him from Clarkston City Manager Carol Eberhardt.

5-year plan for schools: A Strategic Plan set for approval would point the way to 2020 for Clarkston Schools. The plan includes six focus areas for 2014-2019.

March 12

Five-year plan to raise student achievement: Increasing student performance is a top priority for Clarkston School Board members.

Winter's not finished yet: The Detroit-area, including Clarkston, was just 9 1/2 inches away from breaking a record for the all-time snowiest winter as by deadline the area had recorded 84.1 inches of snow.

March 19

Superintendent gets three extra years: Dr. Rod Rock, superintendent of Clarkston schools received a new three-year contract after a contentious school board meeting.

Delayed repair could be costly: Delaying a repair due to the erosion by the Mills Race, a creek behind the Clarkston Mills Mall, could wind up costing Clarkston taxpayer money.

March 19

Ramp riles residents: A suggested traffic "relief valve" off interstate I-75 in Independence Township at Clintonville and Maybee roads had some residents in an uproar. Neighbors formed the group Independence Residents Against Clintonville Expansion in protest.

Volunteers send love to soldiers overseas: Clarkston's American Legion Post 63 Ladies Auxiliary host a packing party to send care packages to American soldiers overseas.

April 2

\$1-million surplus kicks off long-term school finance planning: Clarkston Schools' second amended budget showed a \$1 million surplus. How to use the extra funds was what the Strategic Plan was all about, officials said.

One more chance for library millage: If voters shot down the library millage on Aug. 5 the Clarkston Independence District Library would close.

April 9

Arm wrestling contest draws crowd: An arm wrestling contest at Buckshots Bar and Grill in Clarkston was packed with competitors and fans.

Walk to help neighbor with rare disease: Belinda Belcher, a Clarkston resident was hoping to raise money to fund research to her son, Cameron, and about 60 others with a very rare genetic malfunction called Ring 14.

April 16



Clarkston uses fire to fight phragmites near Deer Lake last May.

Spring wind storm knocks out power to thousands: High winds knocked out power and trees throughout Clarkston and surrounding areas. The wind gusts reached up to 65 miles per hour in Clarkston.

Plan to patch potholes: After a brutal winter, residents were facing potholes galore down Main Street, Parview Drive and other neighborhood roads. To fix the potholes the Oakland County Road Commission planned to hire and retain workers until May and hire a independent contractor specializing in pothole repair.

April 23

RUSH of victory: The stirring chorus of Queen's "We Are the Champions" could be heard through Clarkston High School as the entire school celebrated Team RUSH 27 after they won the state championship.

April 30

School board split after 4.5-hour meeting: Communications was the focus of the Clarkston Schools Board meeting as they discussed board members receiving information in a timely manner prior to the scheduled meetings.

Sewage leak into Spring Lake: Investigation continued into a sewage leak at Spring Lake after someone dumped large rocks and sand into the sewage system.

May 7

Legal opinion sought on meeting tweets: Hashtags like "outofcontrol," "ridiculousness" and "budgetdiscussiongonewrong" tweeted out by Clarkston school board of trustees members during a May meeting were called blunt and disrespectful.

Renaissance High Honored: Renaissance High School received a Green Ribbon Certification from the U.S. Department of Education for years of work incorporating an environmental focus into everything they do at the school.

Fines issued by weighmaster for road improvements: Independence Township amended their budget to allow for the hiring of a weigh master to patrol township streets in search of truckers violating laws. Deputy Jason Koeteles said he is always busy on days the weigh station on I-75 is open. When truckers are pulled over, Koeteles also said he checks to make sure trucks are under the required weight limit. Of the fines collected

70 percent of the money goes into the township fund with the remaining 30 percent going into the state library fund.

Comic creator returns to hometown for tour: Comic creator Shaun Manning returned to his hometown Clarkston as part of his tour for his first hardcover original graphic novel Interesting Drug released in comic retailers, books stores and Amazon. Manning thanked his teachers from Clarkston High School David Bihl and Linda Denstadt. The novel was about a drug that sent its users back in time.

May 14

M-15 road work begins: A \$4.1 million construction project on M-15 to resurface 8.6 miles of M-15 from Wolf Road in Ortonville to Dixie Highway in Independence Township began. During the project crews removed about 1 1/2 inch of pavement from the road surface. Other work included resurfacing and upgrading sidewalk ramps to bring them into American with Disability Act compliance.

Service project to save Earth: About 130 teenagers from Clarkston Junior High School gathered in Depot Park after making a trip to Clarkston Elementary to teach younger students the importance of caring for Earth. CJHS students taught younger students ways to conserve energy and water and helping keep the Earth clean. During the visit at Depot Park CJHS teacher April Kosin said she guides her students to make everyday Earth Day.

May 21

Tweets Continue: A week after receiving the school attorney's legal opinion recommending Board of Education members not post to social media about board business, board Trustee Steve Hyer did just that. Attorney George Butler said board members live tweeting during the meeting was not a violation of the Open Meetings Act, but recommended against it.

\$4,000 for Depot Park Bridge inspection: Clarkston City Council voted in favor of spending up to \$4,000 to have city engineering firm Hubbell, Roth & Clark evaluate the Timber Pedestrian Bridge located on the south end of Depot Park. The evaluation would ensure a qualified engineer would determine if the bridge was safe.

Scores of bus scofflaws: For the third year

in a row Clarkston schools bus drivers counted cars that ignored the flashing red lights on when the bus was stopped. Bus drivers counted 85 cars ignoring the lights, about the same amount as the year before. Drivers caught disregarding bus flashing lights get up to three points on their license and a \$255 fine.

May 28

Awards for local volunteers: Two Clarkston residents earned national recognition with the President's Volunteer Service Award. Mary Sloan and Jeff Lichty were honored for their efforts helping disaster survivors in 2013. Sloan and Lichty are Shelterbox Ambassadors for the organization ShelterBox USA.

School tech grant: Clarkston Schools had a \$60,000 Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant set to expire at the end of June. Administration presented a plan to the Board of Education to use the funds to pay for a new firewall for the district.

Veteran Saluted: Kirk Hobolth of Clarkston, a U.S. Army helicopter pilot from 1963-1967, was recognized along with other local veterans for their service during the Clarkston Memorial Day ceremony at Lakeview Cemetery.

June 4

Kids plant veggies for farmers market: Kids at Cross Hill Community preschool in Davisburg got their hands dirty while planting seeds in a community garden in the back of Davisburg United Methodist Church.

Relay success

A Relay for Life event, held to help raise money for cancer, was a huge success. Recognized as one of the top 10 events of its kind in the nation in 2013, during the summer 2014 fundraiser 199 participants and teams raised \$61,750. Teams camp out overnight and take turns walking or running around the track at Clarkston Junior High School.

June 11

Finding Daisy: Shane and Jennie Kelly of Clarkston were grateful for the help they had finding their dog daisy after the dogsitter accidentally let her out and she wandered out. The 14-year old black-and-white Boston terrier was blind and did not hear well. Neighbors found Daisy and returned her to her family.

June 18

Final approval: A coffee shop at the corner of Clarkston Road at 148 N. Main was approved by the Clarkston City Council after attorneys for "Union Joins" owners Curt Catallo and Ann Stevenson agreed on legal language. "Curt and Ann are determined to take the 148 N. Main property and transform it from a flower into a bouquet," said Clarkston based attorney Neil Wallace. The duo proposed a coffee and deli shop at the bustling corner, which had been an automotive business since the 1920s'.

Recognition awards for teachers

Clarkston Board of Education presented Winter 2014 Employee Recognition Awards to teachers and staff, Dec. 15, for service above and beyond.


Receiving awards were **Jeanne Lumm**, Kids Connection and classroom/office aide, Andersonville Elementary; **Laura Cadreau**, media specialist, Bailey Lake Elementary; **Carol Barber**, fifth grade teacher, Bailey Lake Elementary; **Jean Giannaris**, ASD paraeducator, Clarkston Elementary; **Dawn Sharette**, LRC paraeducator, Clarkston Elementary; **Jodee Cobeil-Blaszowski**, second grade teacher, Independence Elementary; **Gwen Stewart**, music teacher, Independence Elementary; **Laurie Qualls**, front office building aide, North Sashabaw Elementary; **Diane Tynan**, **Janice Colella**, and **Janice Daenzer**, paraeducators, Pine Knob Elementary; **Kristen Harris**, building/office/recess aide, Springfield Plains Elementary; **Emily Grammatico**, Spanish teacher, Clarkston Junior High School; **Kim McDaniel**, support counselor, Clarkston High School; and **Barb Larsen**, food services helper, Food Services Department.



Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock congratulates Carol Barber, fifth grade teacher at Bailey Lake Elementary, for earning an Employee Recognition Award.




The superintendent presents a token of his appreciation to outgoing Board of Education President Rosalie Lieblang for her service on the school board. The Dec. 15 meeting was the last one of Lieblang's term in office. Photos by Phil Custodio



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Events

Blood drives, American Red Cross, 10 a.m.-3:45 p.m., Jan. 2, Clarkston Brandon Community Credit Union, 8055 Ortonville Road; 8 a.m. - 1:45 p.m., Jan. 11, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. 800-RED CROSS, 800-733-2767.

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

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

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

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

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

Around Town

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



Neighbor for Neighbor volunteers organized a room full of donations for residents in need. Photo provided

Helping neighbors at Christmas Shoppe

Neighbor for Neighbor's food pantry recipients shopped and took home free gifts on Dec. 18 at "The Christmas Shoppe" in downtown Davisburg.

The room was stocked with new clothing, games, toys, bags stuffed with personal care items, books, bikes, household items, gift cards for gas, and groceries, all donated by local residents, businesses and organizations.

Local students, scout troops, neighborhood groups, churches and civic organizations made items and collected donations throughout the year. Clarkston-based Tree of Dreams donated a truckload of gifts, collected at its annual holiday ball.

"For many of our recipient families the toys and gifts they receive from Neighbor for Neighbor are the only holiday gifts their families will have. We are so grateful to all our patrons that make it possible," said Carolyn McKenzie, Neighbor for Neighbor executive director and volunteer.

Neighbor for Neighbor is an all-volunteer non-profit charitable organization providing food, clothing and financial assistance to low-income families in Springfield, Holly, Groveland, Rose and parts of Independence and White Lake townships. Call 248-634-0900 for information on donation, volunteering, and assistance.

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

Clarkston Area Youth Assistance, second Wednesday, 7 p.m., Independence Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Drive. 248-623-4313.

Thursday

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Friday

Line dance class, Fridays, 2-4 p.m., Waterford Senior Center, 3621 Pontiac Lake Road. \$4, all levels. 248-682-9450.

Saturday

Project Kidsight, Clarkston Area Lions Club, second Saturday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Photos taken of child's eyes to check for potential vision problems. Immediate results. Free. 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.

Volunteer opportunities

Avalon Hospice, sit with patients, hold their hand, listen to stories, personal care, or just be there. Two hours a week or more. 800-664-6334; **McLaren Hospice**, not-for-profit, companionship-type to visit and provide emotional support for patients living with terminal illness, 248-320-0106. **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Oakland County**, 55+, opportunities at hospitals, cultural institutions, food pantries, tutoring. 248-559-1147 ext. 3911. **Service With Love**, RSVP of Oakland County. Older adult volunteers, call seniors regularly to check on health and safety, share friendly conversation. 248-559-1147 Ext. 3937.

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.

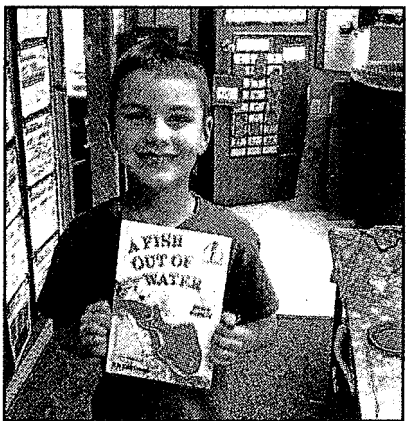
Grief Support Group with Coats Funeral Homes, third Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., Community Presbyterian Church, Fireside Room, 4301 Monroe Ave, Waterford. 248-674-0461.

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

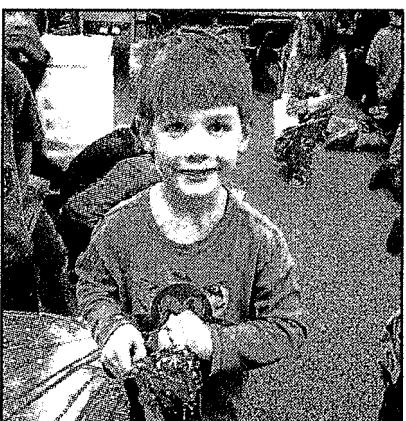
What do you want for Christmas?



"A dolly, a toy train and a girl penguin."
- Allana Davidson



"A 3DS game system, Super Smash Brothers video game and a TV."
- Dane Webb



"Xbox One, a TV to go with it, a phone and an iPad."
- Wesley Zeemer

"Books."
- Lareina Rodriguez

By Andrea Beaudoin

The Clarkston News' Millstream

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 Sunday 8:15 am & 11:00 am
 Sat: 6:00 pm
 Sunday School 9:45 am
 Preschool: 3-4 years old
 Preschool: 6:20-6:54
 6th and 8th Grade Confirmation Classes
 Sundays @ 6:00-7:30 pm

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 - Nurture Center (birth-4)
 - Kids Life (K-5th)
 - Crave Students (6th-8th)
 Sunday at 6:30am
 - Velocity (College & Twenty-Somethings)
 Wednesday at 6:45pm
 - JourneyON Adult Focus Studies
 - Nurture Center (birth-4)
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 Rev. Ronald J. Babich, Pastor
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 Mothers' Group, RCIA,
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 248-625-2325

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 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

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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 6:15-7:35pm
 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: tgpconnection@gmail.com
 www.thinkoutsidethebox.org

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

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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 &
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 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

Christmas lives on

Tomorrow is the big day! We have waited, prepared, decorated, ate (and ate), celebrated and we are ready.

After tomorrow the tree can come down, the decorations boxed for another year, we can go to the stores and return what we don't want or what didn't fit and, maybe, pick up some of the close-outs for next year. Then everything can get back to normal. (At least that is how many view it.)

In the church, however, the celebration is really just beginning.

Yes, we have prepared but now we begin! Christmas Eve worships remind us that we gather to celebrate a birthday—God's Son made flesh, come to dwell amongst us.

Christmas Day we see the Baby rejected by the world, laid in a manger—a feeding trough—proclaimed by angels and welcomed by shepherds. But it is only the beginning of the twelve days of the Christmas season, which continues until January 6, the day of Epiphany (to reveal, show forth, display).

On that day, also known as the Gentile Christmas, we remember the Magi coming from the east and sharing their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh with the Christ-Child.

Three things stand out for me in Luke's birth narrative. In Luke 2 we read about the proclamation of the angels.

Can you imagine the joy of this Child's birth? Not even the bounds of heaven were not able to contain the angels from rejoicing

and announcing His birth!

Second is the reaction of the shepherds. First, they decide to journey into Bethlehem. They want to see this gift of God to the world.

What do they do with this news? Leaving the manger they share what they have heard and seen with everyone they meet. Again, a joy and enthusiasm that cannot be contained.

It is so unlike the gifts many receive at this time of year that draw great excitement one moment, and the next are all but forgotten.

The third thing that stands out is Mary's reaction. She is Jesus' mother and has been told what would happen by the angel Gabriel (Luke 1).

As the account unfolds, we read that Mary treasured up all these things, keeping them in her heart. Mothers probably understand this better than fathers do, but many of us know the joys a new child brings to our lives.

Some of us also face the heartaches of our children. Mary, too, would know that as her own. Her son, Jesus, the Son of God, came to die for our sins. Without that death the birth has no importance.

This Christmas season join with other saints of God—angels, shepherds, Mary and the many others, gathering around the manger.

Worship Christ, the new-born King, come to us. Proclaim the joy of His birth. Share the good news. Ponder it in your heart. And know the fullness of His forgiveness that never ends. A Baby, born for you, Christ, the Lord. Joy to the world, He has come!

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

Would your church like to participate in the weekly Spiritual Matters column?
 Call us at 248-625-3370

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 or check www.calvaryinfo.org

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. Board and video games, snacks for all ages, kids movies. Call 248-625-4644 for more information.

Spiritual Matters



Pastor Kendall Schaeffer

Death notices & Obituaries

Sarah J. Decker, 39

Sarah J. Decker of Waterford passed away unexpectedly, Dec. 15, 2014, at age 39.

She was the wife of Chris; mother of David, Olivia and Sophia; beloved daughter of Margaret (Walter) Bachmann and the late Marvin Littenstein; sister of Jessica Littenstein; daughter in law of David and Sandra Decker.



Funeral Service was Dec. 22 at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to the family at www.gofundme.com/iy2gq8. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Enrico Gualtieri, 78

Enrico V. Gualtieri, "Henry," of Clarkston passed away Dec. 19, 2014, at age 78.

He was the loving husband of Ann for 48 years; father of Jim (Jill) Gualtieri and Courtney (Chris) Edwards; grandfather of Jack, Emerson, Mallory and Jon; brother of Eva Rondina and Lawrence (Judi) Gualtieri; preceded in death by his siblings Clara, George, Lil, Nino, Olga, Joe and Jeanne.



Memorial Mass was Dec. 23 at St. Daniel Catholic Church, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to Tanglewood Assisted Living. Arrangements entrusted to the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com

Raymond Sherman, 79

Raymond E. Sherman, "Ray," of Ortonville passed away Dec. 17, 2014, at age 79.

He was the beloved husband of Berenice; father of Janett (Keith) Ashby, Leslie (Derek) McCracken, and Steven (Jen) Sherman; grandfather of five; great grandfather of two; brother of Joanna (Don) Dahm, Glenn (Johnny) Sherman, Jr., and Robert Sherman.

Ray retired from the U.S. Post Office after 42 years of service.

Funeral Service was Dec. 23 at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Interment at Great Lakes National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or Shults- Lewis Child and Family Services.

Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Ima L. Bratt, 94

Ima L. Bratt (Locke) of Pontiac passed away Dec. 20, 2014, at age 94.

She was preceded in death by her husband Howard. She was the mother of Sharon (Tera) Bratt and Carol (Jaroslaw) Oryszczuk; grandma of Joseph Couture, Michael (Gail) Couture and Jennifer (Ronnie) Turpin; also survived by three great grandchildren; sister of Lila Locke.



Private family services have been held. Inurnment Ottawa Park Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to an organization of your choice. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Michael Hernandez, 70

Michael G. Hernandez, "Mike," of Clarkston passed away Dec. 18, 2014, at age 70.

He was the loving father of Paula Gomez and Arthur Hernandez; grandfather of five and great grandfather of three; also survived by five brothers and one sister; preceded in death by his parents and one brother.



Mike retired from General Motors. He was deeply loved and respected by many.

Funeral Service was Dec. 20 at the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Interment Christian Memorial Cemetery. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Kathleen Standing, 84

Kathleen E. Standing of Clarkston passed away Dec. 17, 2014, at age 84.

She was the loving wife of Sydney; mother of James, Eric, Philip (Leta) and Eileen (Larry) Larson; grandmother of Nicholas, Allison, and Bob; great grandmother of Kaylee and Jessie; preceded in death by her sons Sydney J. and Thomas M. Kathleen was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec Canada.



Memorial service to be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Obituaries posted daily at Clarkstonnews.com

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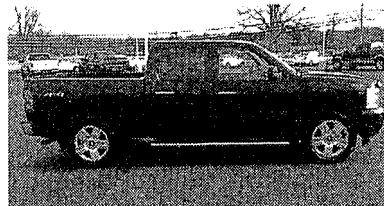
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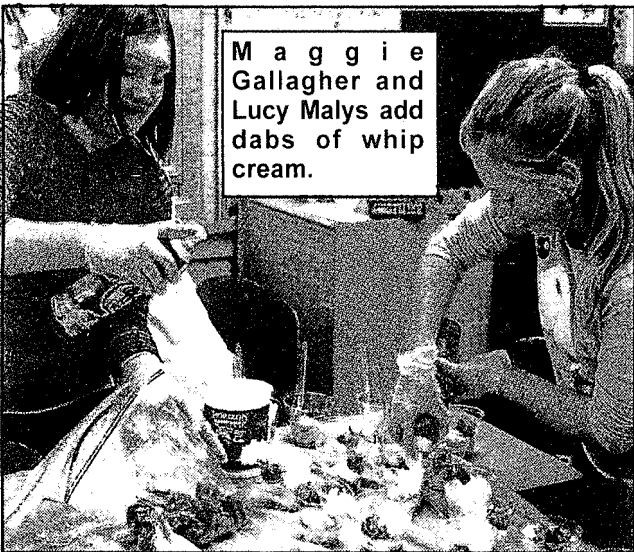
Etienne Mohr smooths more frosting on his gingerbread house.



Olivia Richie slices a banana.



Sydney Rossell works on decorating a side of her house.



Maggie Gallagher and Lucy Malys add dabs of whip cream.

Creative Christmas

Independence Elementary students were getting creative during their holiday parties last Thursday.

The fifth graders in Mrs. Stevenson's class were given ingredients and turned into chefs as they created a healthy snack and a sweet treat.

The first graders were busy in the cafeteria decorating small gingerbread houses and trees made out of a waffle cone.

Photos by Wendi Reardon



From left Carson Keilitz, Andrew Morehead, Elizabeth Adams and Luke Miller prepare their sweet treat.



Taylor Kuhnle places more candy on the waffle cone tree.



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**2015 Dodge Dart
SXT**



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

**2015 Chrysler 200
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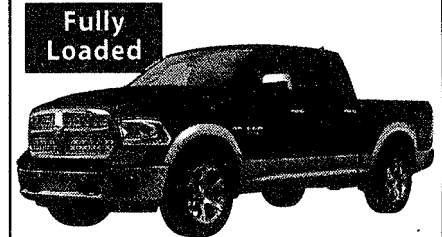
27 mo. Lease Sale Price
\$132* mo. **\$18,927***

**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**



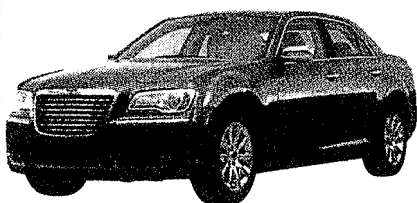
Fully Loaded
27 mo. Lease Employee 1 Pay 27 Month Lease Starting From
\$199* mo. **\$3988***

**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**



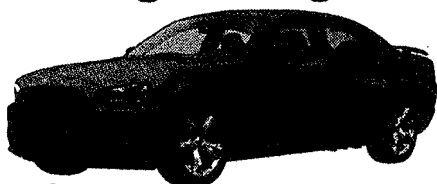
27 mo. Lease Employee 1 Pay 27 Month Lease Starting From
\$109* mo. **\$2988***

**All New 2015 Dodge
Journey RT AWD**



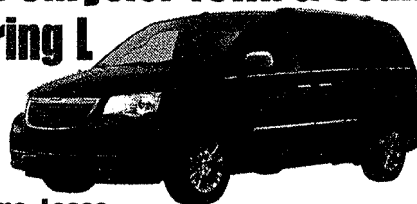
27 mo. Lease
\$179* mo.

2014 Dodge Charger R/T



27 mo. Lease Employee 1 Pay 27 Month Lease Starting From
\$99* mo. **\$2988***

**2014 Chrysler Town & Country
Touring L**



27 mo. Lease Employee 1 Pay 27 Month Lease Starting From
\$169* mo. **\$3987***

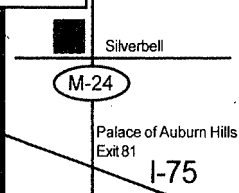
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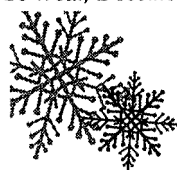
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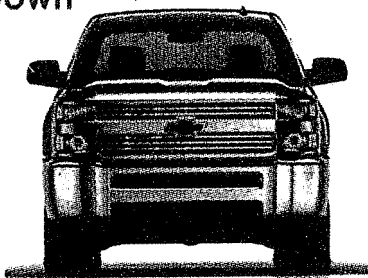
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\$149* 2014 CRUZE 1LT AUTOMATIC
 Per Mo./10k/39 months No Security Deposit
\$0 Down

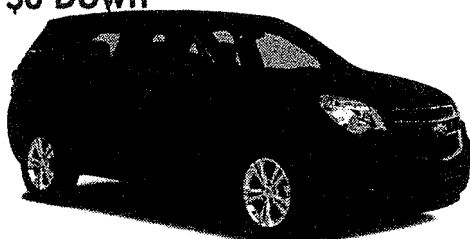


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 Can be used at Bowman Chevrolet or Sellers Bowman Auto Center
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\$0 Down



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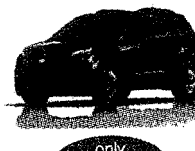
*Must qualify for all rebates. 10,000 miles per year. Plus tax, title, license, doc fee, and acquisition fee. Must qualify for all rebates including GM Employee pricing, Lease Loyalty and trade-in bonus. First month's payment, tax on rebates and license due at signing. Subject to credit approval. \$0 Security Deposit. See dealer for details.



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