

Spring forward

Set your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday for Daylight Savings time.

Lost in the mail? Delivery failure doesn't forgive late payment

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

When Michael and Lori Powell of Independence Township received a 3 percent late payment on their winter property taxes, they didn't think that was fair – they mailed their payment a week before it was due.

"We suggest taxpayers save themselves and Independence Township money and hand deliver their tax bills to the township, not doing so could cost you 'interest' if the post office fails to do the simple job you pay them to do, deliver your tax payment," the Powells said in a letter to the editor, page 6.

Please see Taxes on page 30

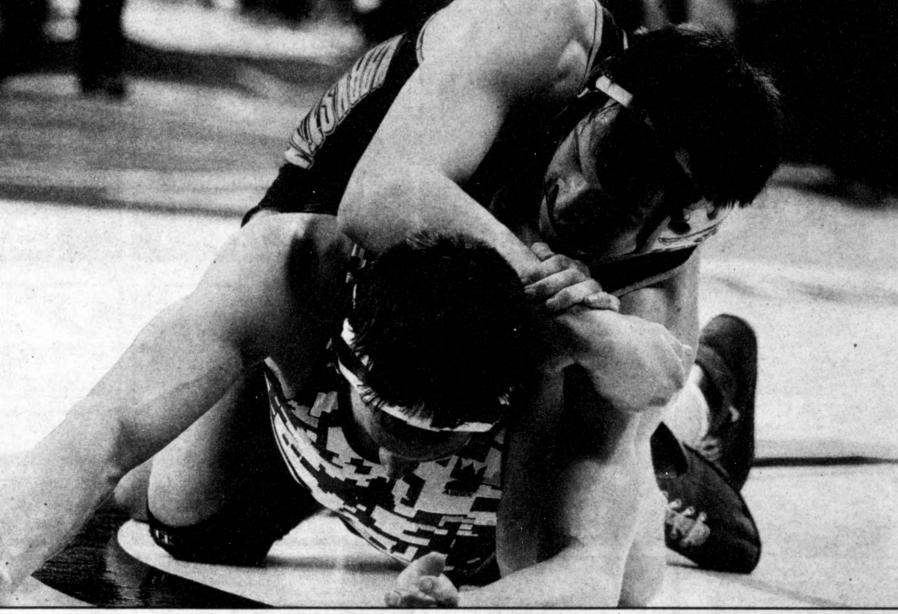
Copter assists in Border Patrol search

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

An Oakland County Sheriff's helicopter and patrol deputies helped the feds track down a suspect in Independence Township last week.

U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Marysville Station were conducting a routine patrol along I-75 when they attempted to make a traffic stop, said Kris Grogan, public affairs officer for the U.S. Customs and *Please see Two on page 9*



Nate Vandermeer works on a take down on Matt Mills from Grand Rapids Forest Hills in the semifinal last Friday. Photo by Wendi Reardon

Vandermeer maintains family mat tradition

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Seniors Nate Vandermeer and Nathan Troutvine proudly stood on the podium at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Saturday after finishing the MHSAA Wrestling Individual Finals in the top six. Vandermeer finished in second place in the 160-pound weight class after his only loss of the tournament to Temperance Bedford's Blake Montrie, 2-0.

He beat Matt Mills from Grand Rapids Forest Hills in the semifinals, 8-2. Mills scored two points at the beginning of the second period before Vandermeer earned a point. He pulled into the lead with two points with seven seconds remaining in the period. "I was a little scared," Vandermeer admitted after Mills had the first take down. He added making it to the championship

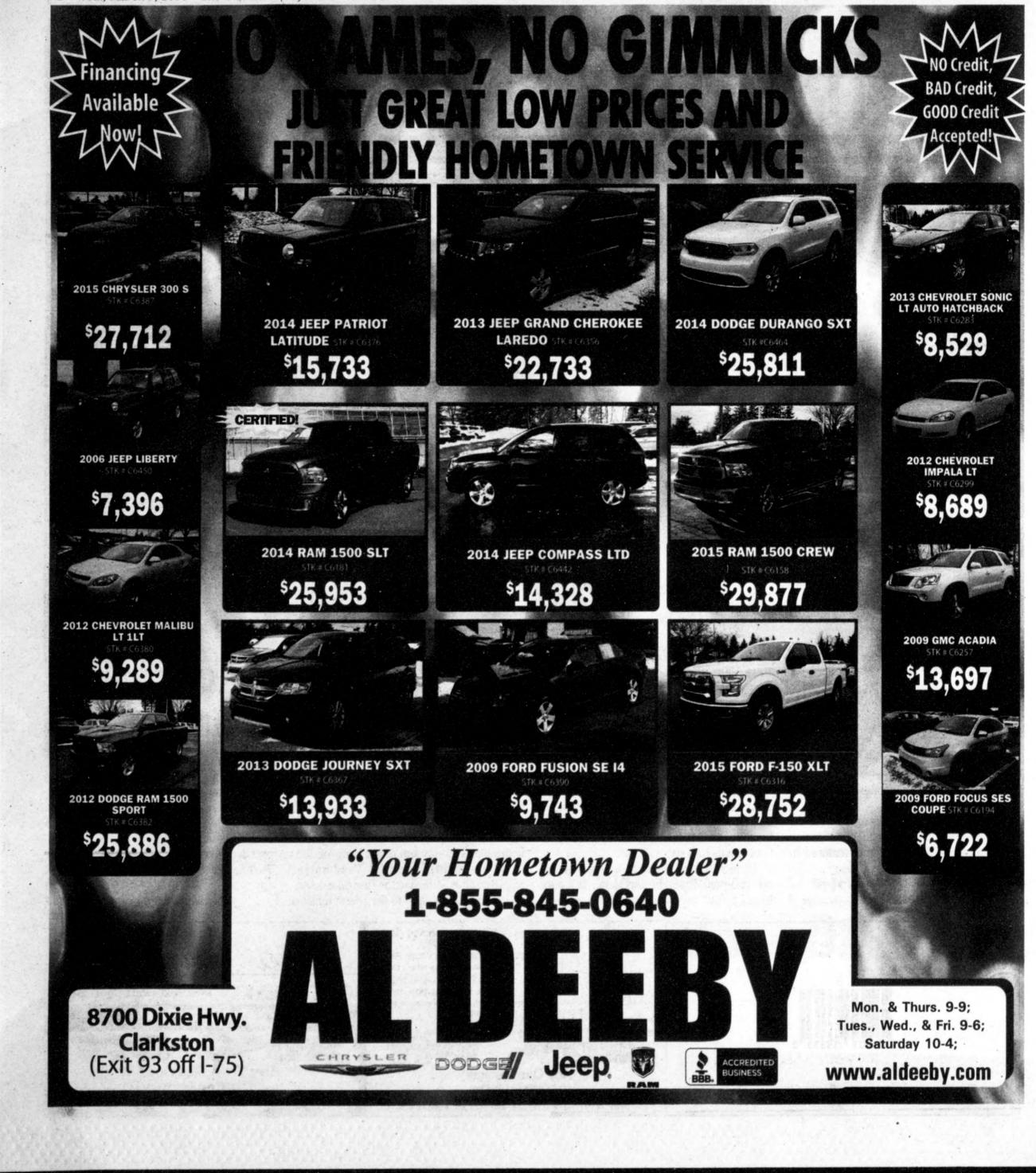
round meant continuing the family tradition. "It's filling my family's shoes," he said. "It's time to wrestle."

He didn't qualify for the state finals in his junior year which only made him hungrier to make it his senior year.

"I don't like losing," Vandermeer admitted. "No one likes losing. This year it was time to win."

Please see Grapplers on page 12









Trisha Carter, CHS SADD club advisor, discusses safe driving with students.

Safe driving campaign

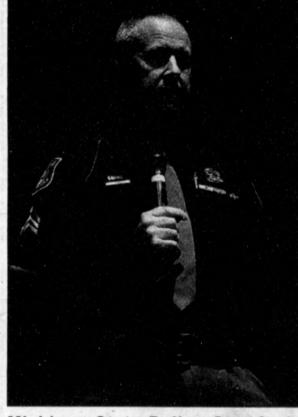
Clarkston High School's Students Against Destructive Decisions organized a week-long Strive for a Safer Drive (S4SD) Be Alert Accidents Hurt Campaign for their classmates, with art contest, class discussions, and presentations by Michigan State Police.

"The members of the CHS SADD Club have been working hard behind the scenes writing the grant proposal and putting all the pieces together to have another fantastic S4SD Campaign," said Trisha Carter, CHS SADD club advisor.

The club earned a Strive for a Safer Drive Grant from Ford Motor and Michigan Office of Highway and Safety for the campaign, which included display of pictures entered in the elementary drawing contest, at the Clarkston Boys Basketball game, Feb. 26.

The club presented survey information, videos and class discussion on March 2. On March 3, Sgt. Andy Douville of the Michigan State Police Precision Driving Unit presented information on how to drive safely on roads covered in snow and ice (slower is better).

MSP also brought driving simulators for students to try, March 4.



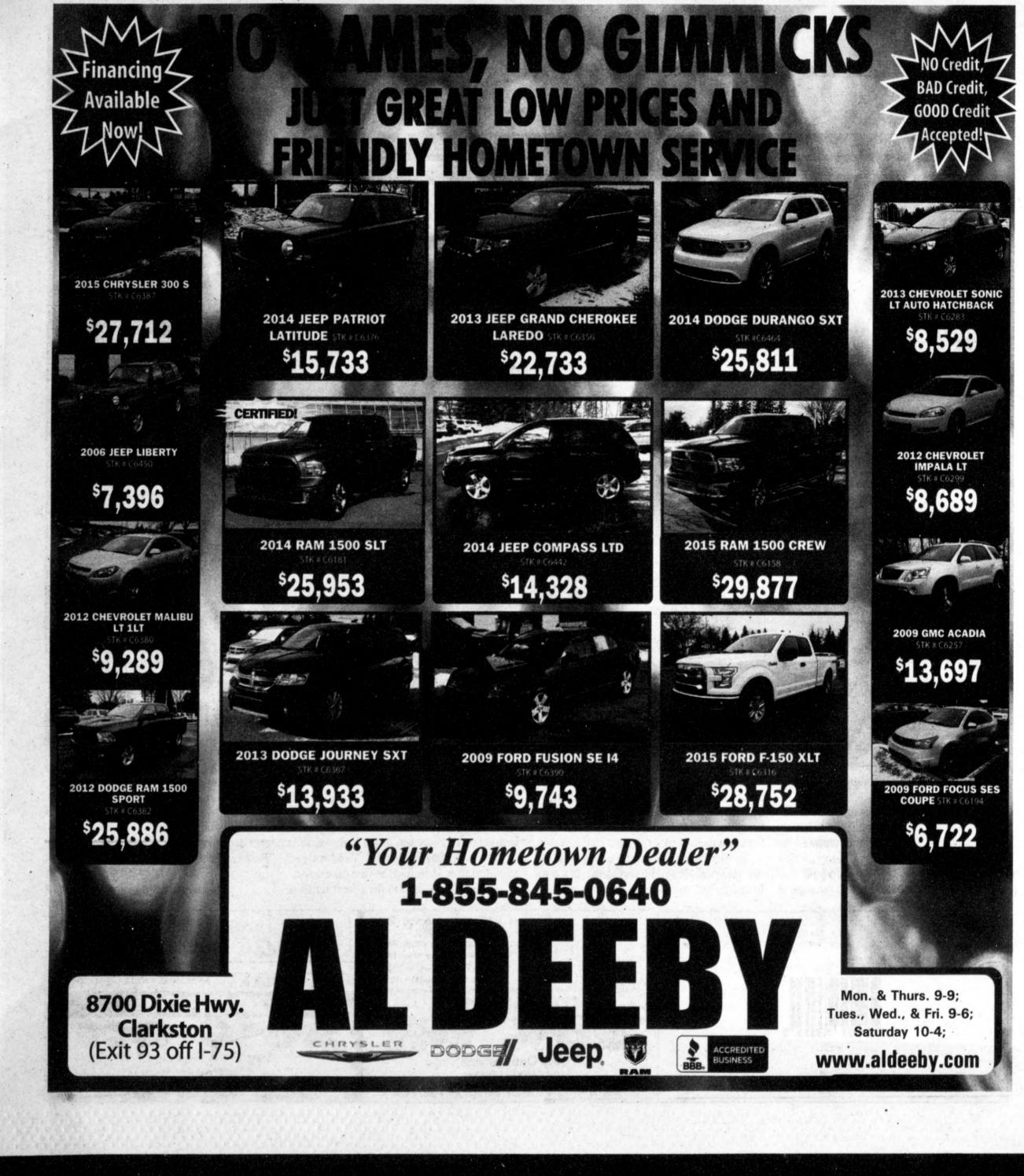
Michigan State Police Sgt. Andy Douville talks about slowing down when roads are icy.

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Safe driving campaign

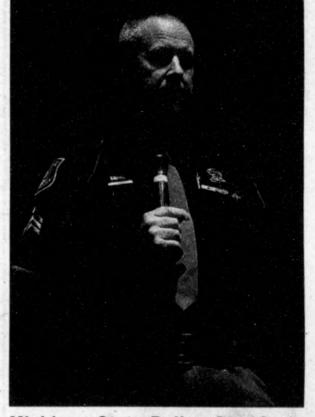
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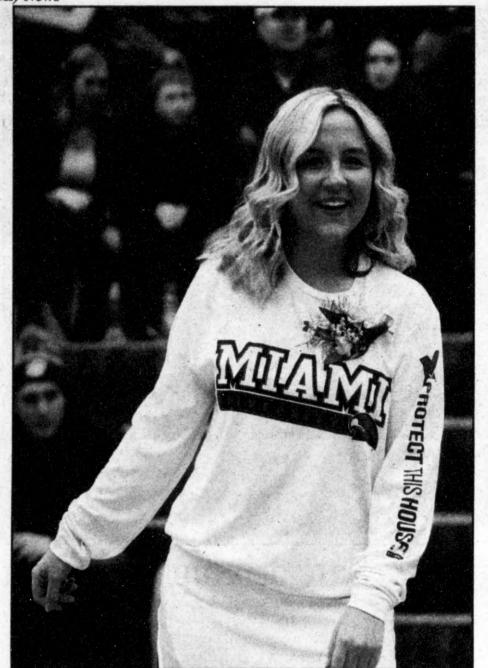
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Emily Comos

Taylor McKay Last dance for seniors

Clarkston Varsity Dance took to the basketball court for team's final performance ended with hugs last Thursday. The senior Lady Wolves lies and Clarkston fans.

the last time and performed their last dance for their friends, fami-

Angelina Torres and Katherine Warner blow a kiss to each other during their final dance at Clarkston High School. Photos by Wendi Reardon





Kevin Bickerstaff greets well-wishers at his retirement party at the Clarkston bus garage. Photos by Phil Custodio

0 years of getting kids to school on time

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

Clarkston bus drivers, family and friends hosted a surprise party for Kevin Bickerstaff, celebrating his retirement after 40 years of service to the school district.

The director of transportation will be hard to replace, they said.

"Kevin is a very special person," said Jan Davis. "He's always been very supportive. He's a team player who gets things done. He'll be sorely missed around here."

Bickerstaff started each day at about 3 a.m., checking roads and starting the school buses.

"You don't find dedication like that too many places anymore," said Nick Kolos.

"He put in a lot of hours of hard work," said Floyd Frick. "He's a great boss - I'm going to miss him dearly."

"I'm happy for him. I hope he enjoys his retirement," said Steve Smith. "He deserves it. He's a great guy. He's always been there for me."

Bickerstaff has been a Clarkston resident ever since his family moved here when he was in second grade. He went to Clarkston Elementary School, and graduated from Clarkston High School in 1975, when he started work as a mechanic, servicing Clarkston school buses.

He became head mechanic for the whole fleet in 1980, and in 1986 he was made supervisor.

"It's been fantastic," he said. "I've very appreciative to the district for the long employment. I'm very grateful. I've met many fantastic leaders and great mentors over the years."

He helped establish procedures when the high school was built on Flemings Lake Road, and got the district through difficult times with its equipment.

"The old equipment was difficult to keep operational," he said. "Now we have a threeyear turnover system. It keeps equipment up to date and provides reliable transportation for students."

He has no specific plans for his retirement. "Now I need to find the lifestyle I had from 40 years ago," he said. "It'll be fun."

Briefly

Local man killed in wrong-way crash

Police report an 83-year-old Clarkston man was killed in a crash on I-69 in Port Huron Township, March 6.

The man was reportedly driving the wrong way on the interstate. His passenger, a woman who was in her 80s, was also killed in the crash.

According to police reports, the driver was going westbound in the eastbound lanes on Sunday night when he collided head-on with an eastbound vehicle in Port Huron Township.

Five people in the eastbound vehicle were injured and taken to area hospitals. Names of those involved weren't immediately released.

The freeway was closed for about three hours after the crash, which happened about 70 miles northeast of Clarkston.

Tootsie Roll Drive

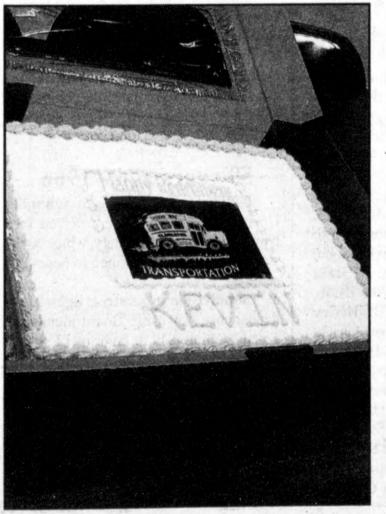
The Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive will be on March 18-19 on the streets and at local businesses in Clarkston, Independence Township, and Waterford.

Last year, Clarkston and Waterford area Knights of Columbus raised nearly \$11,000 to give to local non-profit charities such as Clarkston SCAMP, Angel's Place, Kingsley-Montgomery School, ARC of Oakland County, Coffee House Dance, New Horizons, and New Gateways, as well as the Michigan Special Olympics.

Award for safe driving

UPS driver Brian Breyer of Clarkston was recently inducted into UPS's Circle of Honor for achieving 25 years of accident-free driving.

He along with 65 other elite drivers





Co-workers and friends present the retiring long-time transportation chief with a gift of a new leather jacket.

from Michigan are among 1,613 newly inducted into the company's honorary organization.

"My thanks go to all of them for their dedication and focus and for the countless lives they've saved," said Derick Craft, president, UPS Great Lakes District. "Their attention to detail has kept them safe and has helped improve public safety."

Call us with news at 248-625-3370

Wendi's Word

A column by Wendi Reardon

The art of parenting

I placed Jonathan on his stomach on one of his quilts on Saturday and before I had a chance to sit down, he had rolled over.

It wasn't the first time. He rolled over a month ago when he was two months old. He had been working on it and believe me - he is strong.

I am not just saying it as a proud momhe is strong. He has had a strong grip since he was born. Honestly, I

thought it was normal but everyone has commented on it.

Jonathan turns three months old this week and he is hitting all of the baby milestones he is supposed to be reaching - holding his head up,

reaching for objects and smiling.

He also has a throaty giggle. His smile gets big and wide so you can see his gums and tongue while his eyes light up when he giggles.

He is a goofball - an adorable goofball. When I sing to him he smiles - either because he is being nice to his mom who sings off key or just because he enjoys it. Or both.

No major breakdowns to report from mommyville probably because I had heard so many stories when it comes to Jonathan he isn't the norm. His spit ups are even minor.

When it comes to sleeping, the first couple of weeks at home were the roughest as everyone was getting used to the feeding schedule. It was because we were trying to get him up to birth weight so we could stop the weight check appointments at the doctor's office.

He had just reached sleeping the entire night at seven weeks old when I went into the hospital for gallbladder surgery. It took about a week to get him back to sleeping through the night. Then, we transitioned him from the bassinet to the crib - at his two month old check up he measured 24 and a half inches long. He was getting too long for the bassinet. He only had one night of short sleep and the rest have been decent. Opinion Pages Letters, columns & Editorials

Taxpayers stiffed by misplaced mail

Dear Editor,

We suggest taxpayers save themselves and Independence Township money and hand deliver their tax bills to the township. Not doing so could cost you "interest" if the post office fails to do the simple job you pay them to do, deliver your tax payment.

We mailed our property taxes Feb. 9, a week before they were due, to the company in Detroit the township hired to process township tax payments, and to this day that company still hasn't received our tax payment check. Yet one day after the tax deadline passed the post office did manage to deliver our "past due" tax notice with "interest charges" on a payment that was made well before the deadline.

Complaints to postal officials was met with the reply, "once you put mail into your mailbox the postal service isn't responsible for it."

Seriously? With "customer service" like that it's little wonder why the postal service is a money losing government monopoly people use less of every year. We know we won't be using them to deliver our tax payments again!

Though we were told that mailing our check to Detroit "saves Independence Township taxpayers money," we've found the opposite is true, it could end up costing you money if the post office doesn't do it's job.

Does this sound fair? We don't think so! So when the incompetence of one branch of government (the post office) fails to do it's job, another branch of government (Independence Township) is rewarded?

Quite a racket they have going for themselves isn't it?

Considering this is the first time we've mailed in our tax payment, from here on out we're forced to hand deliver all of our bills to Independence Township. Why risk paying a penalty for the incompetence of the post office? We suggest township taxpayers do the same or it could cost you!

> Michael and Lori Powell Independence Township

> > Mary Troff

Thanks for *CNews* customer service

Dear Editor,

We'd like to thank Don Rush for answering my recent call regarding your story about a local kid who made the Dean's List at Nazareth College. I just wondered where the college is, and Don took the time to find out and call back. Very nice! Also, a very enjoyable columnist.

Carry on with your local news. Clarkston has been dear to our family for over a hundred years, and you are a good source of its information.

Sincerely,

Support appreciated by community

Dear Editor;

The Clarkston Girls Basketball program would like to thank everyone who helped make the 3rd Annual Hoops for the Troops basketball game in honor of Army Specialist Jenna Beno a huge success. In the first two years, we raised \$13,000. All of it was sent to organizations helping military veterans in need. This year, all donations go to Michigan Bikers Helping Veterans. All donations are staying here in Michigan to help veterans with emergency financial needs. Along with sponsors and donations made from the game on Feb. 18, the Clarkston Girls are proud to say this year we have raised \$9,500! Thank you to all of our sponsors, without you this event would not be possible, Custom Threads, Clarkston Girls Basketball, Schaerer Architexural Interiors, AC Tire, Toby and Sue Dill, Goldbergs, Drs. Greg and Becky Ramboer, Clarkston News, RHP Properties, Market Place Pet Supplies, Thomas Sebold and Assoc., Dan and Candy

Sebold, American Legion Post 377, Gma & Gpa Fangel, Mom, Dad & Harli, On The Dunes, Richard J. Baker DDS, Encompass Financial, Vogue Furniture, Brinker's Plumbing, Hodges Supply, Sandora & Fiteny, Village Place, Fireplace Plus, Friday Night Flyers, Dillman & Upton, Michigan Chiropractic Specialists, Peter M. Wilusz DPM, Center Line Heating, Steven Brown, Frateral Order of Eagles Clarkston Aerie 3373, Joe and Linda Langevin, Nicholsons, North Oakland Women's Health, Drayton Plywood, Audrey Storey, AJM Packaging, Bellezza Salon, Lorrie Fiteny, Hills of Pine Knob, Healthquest, Dr. Paul Haduck, ABC Harley Davidson, Pages, Buschers, Sharon Patrick, Dr. Wayne Pickett, Paint Pro's Benjamin Moore, John A. Lazarus, Clarkston Oaks Family Dentistry, Osmans, Parkes, Eagles Auxiliary 3373, Jeanne C. White, Hair Chase Salon, Mehtas, McKillops, Dark Star Bikes, Christina Connor, Luchenbachs, Stillwater Photography, Beys, and the Hartlines. Megan Goldberg

A Look Back From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 2001

"Springfield Plains Elementary a 'Blue Ribbon' school" Springfield Plains Elementary received Blue Ribbon award by the Michigan Department Education which was five years in the making.

"He makes sweet music." The sounds of violin music came through clear as ever from the home of Davisburg resident Tom DeLuca. During the 15 years he spent working on violens he received acclaim for his efforts at hand-crafting violins.

"Falck, Warchuck help netters claim district title" The Clarkston Girls Varsity Volleyball team worked together for a impressive resume during the season - their most recent addition was district champions after beating Waterford Kettering and Holly. Kristen Falck had 46 assists and 12 digs and Mary Warchuck had 13 kills.

25 years ago - 1991

"Three re-elected to village seats" Clarkston Village Council trustees Douglas Roeser, James Schultz and Robert Whitimer, running unopposed, were reelected to the council. Two write-in candidates, Thomas Goldner and Geraldine Hunter, received a combination of 93 votes.

"Wolves win district" The Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball team defeated Lapeer East for the Class A district championship. Dugan Fife led with 27 points and Chris Wasilk added 13 points. The Wolves also defeated Lake Orion, 68-45, en route for the championship.

"Class recognized for stance on stereotyping" A seventh grade reading class at Clarkston Junior High School was given a certificate of achievement from Detroit chapter of Women in Communication, Inc., for its month-long compaign against two stereotyping board games -Girl Talk and Careers for Girls.

50 years ago - 1966 "Clarkston to build new school" Opening bids were being accepted for North Sashabaw Elementary, which construction was being planned to begin in summer. "Subdivision to get street lights" Independence Township Board members voted unanimously in favor of 13 street lights for the Thendara Park Country Club Subdivision.



I am looking forward to spring, not just because 2016 had a rough start, but for warmer weather and take him outside in his stroller.

Though him and I try to walk a few laps around the mall. On some days it's about practicing the art about driving the stroller, which really means passing groups of people and avoiding the kiosk salespeople. "Local news" Mr. and Mrs. Richard Montless joined friends in Detroit for a day in Canada where they enjoyed sightseeing and a dinner with distant relatives.

You're never too old to learn about life

First published ten years ago, March 15, 2006.

I have even more proof that you're never too old to learn, not that any was needed. And it involves my own trade, a preacher and a woman.

It is also an unsavory tale of stealth, smuggling and the King of England.

The first printing press in the United States was financed by the nonconformist clergyman, The Reverend Jose Glover of Sutton, Surry England. He planned to found and control a printery press in New England.

"On a fog-wrapped London night in 1638, after the harbourmaster had checked the passenger list and cargo, cleared the ship and passed down the gangplank into the darkness, hushed voices could be heard from time to time, calling softly from ship to shore. Large

objects were passed into the ship's hold."

All this secrecy was because the King did not encourage enlightenment among the colonists. He prohibited presses, paper and anything connected to the black art from coming here.

With the press was a complete font of type and a large supply of paper. The Rev. died enroute.

but his wife continued his mission.

In on the deed was Stephen Daye, who, thus, became America's number one printer.

The press was set up in Cambridge, Mass. His first sheet was titled, "The Freeman's Oath," which every member of the Massachusetts Colony had taken.

The first book ever printed in the U.S was "The Whole Book of Psalms." Only 11 are said to be in existence. If you've got one, you're rich.

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All anyone wants is a warm bed, kind words and unlimited power.

And: Willpower is the ability to resist temptation until you're sure no-one's looking.

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I've mentioned before that I write a lot of letters. A few years ago I wrote a brewery (I'm not going to mention its

name and give them any publicity) about how the sound of pouring irritates me.

That gurgling sound affects me the way fingernails on blackboards affects others.

There's a too-often-played commercial on now that is nothing but the sight and sound of pouring.

I'm not going to protest in writing to them, knowing I'd get the same answer. Their rep wrote that their survey showed the pouring sound made people thirsty.

If you've ever wondered about subliminal advertising, here it is. Hasn't our gov'ment, or the U.N. passed a law agi'n that?

Remember - if everything is going your way, you're probably in the wrong lane.

Apple, female bodies and delayed gratification, oh my!

Sometime over the weekend I got an e-mail from Michigan Congressman Mike Bishop (R) Rochester. He was polling Michiganians about -- well here is what "he" wrote and e-mailed:

"Friend, America has moved into an age of technology that would have been unimaginable just a few decades ago. The recent dispute between Apple and the FBI reaffirms the need to further address the issue of encryption.

"Just this week I became an original cosponsor of a bill to establish the National Commission on Security and Technology Challenges. The commission would bring together the world's foremost technology and law enforce- A column by ment experts to assist in developing Don Rush the necessary protocols to keep our

nation safe - without sacrificing our privacy or innovation. So I want your input:

those glory years (?) at Sashabaw Junior High School on Maybee Road in Clarkston, I wanted to be a "g-man" -even had a FBI card. "FBI," it stated in big, bold letters and underneath in italics, "Female Body Inspector." God, I am so glad I am no longer a teen. Surprised I wasn't snuffed out by the time I was 14.

A while back I wrote a column headlined, "Midwifery is her lifery," about local midwife Wendy Pinter. This column prompted reader Emma to write: "You were so surprised midwifery is a current occupation ... maybe you should have done a little more research on the correct pronunciation of 'midwifery.' (You wouldn't have had such a catchy title though.)"

Well, thought, I outta' look it up and see what the heck Emma was talking about. I did, and sonofabi -- gun! It is pronounced Midwiffery, not Midwifery. Stupid English language. Thanks, Emma. I love being wrong!

Last week I "unplugged" from social media for a while. "Do you think Apple should assist law enforcement It was excellent! And, I got the following e-mail from Ed astounded as the general rudeness of people in general. in Ortonville.

is X and I am . . . "?

c. People are stealing time for themselves and the receiver. They are at work and two employers (sender and receiver employers) are being stolen from.

2. People are driving poorly and not using turn signals. Why? Because one hand has the phone and they can't or don't care or are not thinking about the turn or traffic shift. BAM!

3. We are more consumed with OURSELVES! We are oblivious to those around us.

I'm truly concerned. I really don't think people are very happy or nearly as happy as this is supposed to make them feel. Have you thought about with all the smart phones, and cable and general electronics how it is a major budget line item for families? I have to think, in general, \$400 monthly is outgoing from the family budget and then there is the breakdown within the four walls.

I see people (mostly women) our age stuck to their phones. We had a small party not long ago and I was Like you, why do I really need to know all the detail? 4. Finally, my wife and I sit and talk about our day over a cup of tea at the end of the day before supper. We do not text at all during the day. Why? Because of the reasons explained but also it is a delayed gratification for us both. I can wait to hear about the day and that makes it all the more special. It works well for us and I would hope more would try it. It bonds us and makes us feel more connected. And by the way. No phones during that time!



Don't

Rush Me



Jim's

Jottings

Jim Sherman

in unlocking the San Bernardino terrorist's iPhone?"

Yes or No. I selected "NO" and was hoping for a place to comment. I have thought about it for a bit and haven't heard folks in Washington, DC comment on this: Why doesn't the FBI seek info from that cell phone's meta data stuff collected as allowed by the Patriot Act?

Or is this another time when differing federal groups (the National Security Agency or Homeland Security or Federal Bureau of Investigations) don't want to play ball with each other and share information?

Or is it more sinister -- have they already shared the information, but want to set a precedent for future government overreach?

Speaking of the FBI, when I was early in my teens,

Hello Don, Amen brother! Can't help but comment. My wife and I are empty nesters. We have never succumbed to FaceBook but I have to tell you, all you talk about is right on.

I certainly understand why someone in your profession would need to be connected . . . I do not judge you. In your shoes I would be doing the same. However, I am truly concerned about what I observe around me.

1. I see ultra-connection becoming an addiction much the same as alcohol.

a. Nothing wrong with moderation

b. People are generally unaware and do not think through to the big picture. Where does all this stop? Will there be cessation classes or media anonymous, "Hello, my name

Ed, excellent letter and what a concept! Sitting down and talking about your day with your loved ones -- is that even possible anymore?

Send comments to: Don@ShermanPublications.org



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Bill Hussong

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A. There is no right time to renovate your kitchen because every situation is unique and has its own set of challenges and circumstances. Before you hire a contractor, I suggest you write down your expectations of what you want accomplished. Whatever you choose for your new kitchen, our goal is for you to enjoy your remodeled kitchen for years to come. Spring is right around the corner. There is no better time than now to rethink your new kitchen.

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Don Short, Jr.

Headaches, and

Q. If my windows are foggy am I losing energy?

Professional Dental of Clarkston

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A. Yes. In most cases the glass is separated from the inside spacer which means the seal is broken. Your heat and a/c temperature are escaping through broken seals. We can replace the insulated unit instead of the whole window assembly at a fraction of the cost and it is guaranteed for 30 years.

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An Oakland County Sheriff's helicopter searches the area for two Border Patrol suspects. Photo by Don Rush

Two arrested after search

Continued from page 1 Border Protection.

They exited at Sashabaw Road, drove north towards Pine Knob Ski Resort, stopped in the 7000 block of Sashabaw Road, then fled on foot, 10:08 a.m., March 3.

"One suspect was caught after a brief foot chase. The second suspect fled into a wooded area near Pine Knob ski resort," Grogan said.

Agents asked ski resort employees to call 911 if they saw a Hispanic male wearing white pants and a blue coat, according to Oakland County Sheriff's reports.

A ski resort employee called 911 after spotting the suspect.

Deputies followed footprints in the snow south along Pine Knob Road, and the man was apprehended by Border Patrol agents behind a residence on Clarkston Road directly south of Eames Street, west of Clintonville Road.

Several patrol deputies, K-9 unit, and helicopter watched the perimeter during the search.

Both subjects are currently being charged with violating U.S. Code 1325, Entry Without Inspection, Grogan said.

Public Safety For Clarkston and Independence Township

Broken windows

Someone used a brick to break the rear window of a car parked in the street in the 5000 block of Woodcreek Trail, Feb. 20.

Someone broke the left rear window of a vehicle parked in the 5000 block of N. Marshbank, Feb. 29. The vehicle's owner said the rear window of the vehicle was broken about a week ago, but wasn't reported.

Drunk driver

A 22-year-old Independence Township woman was driving home when she spun out of control on Dixie Highway and hit a light pole near Waterford Hill Terrace, 2:11 a.m., Feb. 26. She smelled of booze, and she told a deputy she had three drinks at about 7 p.m. Preliminary breath test result was .175. She was arrested for drunk driving.

Garbage spill

A Console Street resident reported on Feb. 23 a garbage truck spilled a green substance all over the road, staining it. The green stain started on Maybee Road, and went through the neighborhood to Mary Sue Street. Residents said they saw the truck spilling the substance on Feb. 4. The truck driver said he believed the green liquid was hidden in garbage bags picked up at a Sashabaw Road business, and leaked out though a hole in the hopper of the truck. Independence Township Fire Department check the substance and said they didn't think it was hazardous. The trash collection company was cited with an improper-load misdemeanor for the road spill.

Car fire

A 43-year-old Holly man was driving on I-75 when his vehicle started to overheat and he noticed smoke, 5:44 p.m., Feb. 29. He pulled over, north of Sashabaw Road, and called 911. When Independence Township

firefighters arrived, the car was fully engulfed in flames. The firefighters extinguished the fire and the vehicle was towed away. The driver was not injured.

Marijuana arrest

A deputy on patrol stopped a commercial truck with an expired registration sticker on Sashabaw Road near Flemings Lake Road, 10:19 a.m., March 2. The driver, a 47-yearold Waterford man, smelled of marijuana, and was found with a small baggie of it. He was cited for possession of marijuana and failure to carry a medical certificate to drive the truck, and given a warning for drug paraphernalia. The company was cited for lack of medical card, no fire extinguisher, no reflective triangles, and cracked windshield, and given a warning for the registration. The truck was impounded.

Friend of the Court warrant

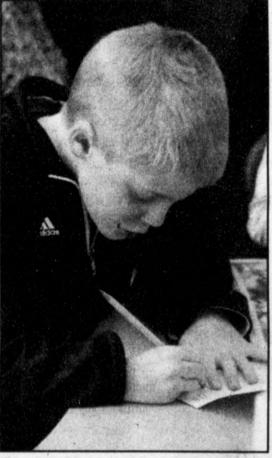
A 44-year-old Independence Township man was stopped for making an illegal turn on red onto eastbound Maybee Road from Dixie Highway, 9:03 p.m., March 2. A records check showed he had a Friend of the Court warrant out of Oakland County. He was arrested on the warrant.

Accidental shooting

A 20-year-old Springfield Township man was shot in his right arm by a 19-year-old Springfield Township man, 11:07 a.m., March 3, in the 17000 block of Sleepy Hollow Boulevard. The teen had his finger on the trigger while attempting to rack a round out of the 12 gauge shotgun, and fired a round in the direction of his friend. The two tried to drive to the hospital, but called the Independence Fire Department near Dixie Highway and M-15. Paramedics treated the victim and transported him to St. Joseph Hospital. Both said the discharge was accidental. The victim did not sustain life threatening injuries.



COMMUNITY HELP: Jack Haase displays a birdfeeder he made for the Independence Township Senior Center, during Independence Elementary's S.O.C.K.S. Day. Photos by Wendi Reardon

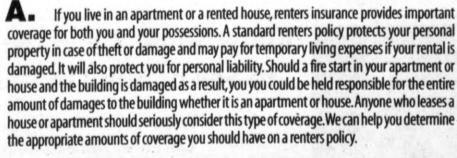


Cooper McNaughton writes a letter to Grace Center for Hope.



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Sporting News

Who is the next AOW?

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Wins before postseason start

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Fans cheered as junior Dylan Alderson dunked his fifth basket against West Bloomfield last Thursday as the Wolves defeated the visiting team, 84-53.

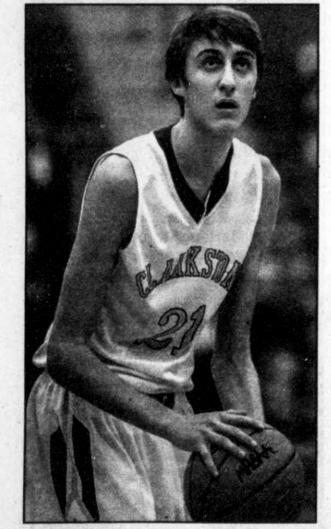
"Our kids defense was better," said Dan Fife, Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball head coach. "West Bloomfield is a good team. They won their division. They caught us ready to play and we played well tonight."

Alderson and sophomore Foster Loyer led the team by contributing a combination of 68 points during the night.

"Dylan was really good tonight and rebounded well," Fife said. "He played the game well."

Alderson scored 36 points during the game with two field goals. Loyer scored 32 points, while going 18-for-18 on the free throw line and one field goal.

"It's awesome," said Fife. "We get that kind of scoring it's hard to defend. In high school there is usually one guy you really have to guard. Maybe two. We have two kids who can shoot like, that – that's pretty



good. It's hard to guard two people in the game because they can use each other."

The game opened with six points from Alderson with two assists from Loyer, starting a 17-2 run for the Wolves before the Lakers scored seven points in the last two minutes.

Loyer, senior Ryan Holmes, sophomore CJ Robinson added to the lead capitalizing . on their chances against the Lakers.

The first quarter closed with Loyer scoring two points on the line to put the score 21-9.

Alderson opened the next quarter with a basket from Alderson and Loyer being sent to the line for four free throw shots. The Wolves boosted the lead to 27-9 after Loyer sank each attempt.

West Bloomfield's Gervon Winn scored a three-pointer which was met with ten points from the Wolves with points from Loyer, Alderson and senior Tabin Throgmorton.

The Lakers battled back to score 11 more points with two points from Davion Johnson with less than a minute to go, putting the score 47-23.

Alderson fought through two blockers for his basket attempt. The ball hit the glass and went down through the rim for two points. Another two points from Foster with five seconds to go ended the first half, 51-23.

Throgmorton scored six points during the game with one field goal.

The boys also marked the end of the regular season with a 72-44 win over Troy Athens for their tenth consecutive OAA Red league championship, ending the regular season 9-1 in the league.

Holmes and Alderson scored 13 points

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



The 2015-2016 Clarkston Boys Freshmen Basketball Team. From left, in back row, Denton Smith, Desmond Mills-Bradley, Matt Baker, Kristoffer Hoffman, Evan Walsh, Ryan Wycoff, Alex Hunt, Asst. Coach Devin Kling; middle row, Head Coach Jack Cunningham, Max Nicklin, Clayton Hall, Joey Steger, Jack Anderson, Joshua Luther, Corey Rogers, Evan Foster, Drew Erskine, Griffin Kacanowski, Nicholas Skorupski, Blake Beedle; front row, Announcer Jack Kuczmanski. *Photo provided*

Young cagers finish in OT thriller

The Clarkston Boys Freshmen Basketball team finished their winter season with a thrilling overtime victory at home against West Bloomfield at Clarkston Junior High School, March 3.

The final score in overtime was 51-48. Lead scorers were Clayton Hall with 25 points, Kristoffer Hoffman with nine points and Joey Steger with four points.

The Freshmen Wolves finished their season with a winning record of 10-8 and

playing hard and smart, and the boys understood how much effort goes into becoming a successful team. I am sorry to see the season end," he added.

The Boy's Freshmen team players are Jack Anderson, Matt Baker, Desmond Mills-Bradley, Drew Erskine, Evan Foster, Clayton Hall, Kristoffer Hoffman, Alex Hunt, Griffin Kacanowski, Joshua Luther, Max Nicklin, Corey Rogers, Nicholas Skorupski, Denton Smith, Joey Steger, and Ryan Wykoff. Team Managers were Evan Walsh and Blake Beedle. The Wolves were lead by Head Coach Jack Cunningham and Assistant Coach Devin Kling.

Senior Tabin Throgmorton stands at the line for free throw shots against West Bloomfield in the second quarter last Thursday. Photo by Larry Wright

each and Loyer added 12 points to the board.

The Wolves (17-2) played on Monday against Waterford Mott in the first round of MHSAA District playoffs, after *The Clarkston News* went to publication.

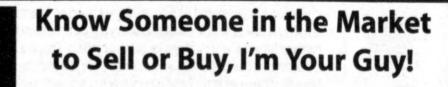
The district round continues Wednesday with the championship on Friday at Waterford Mott, 7 p.m.

"Everyone is 0-0," said Fife, heading into playoffs. "Those games aren't easy to win. You have to make sure you are winning and not losing."

The winner plays in the regional semifinals at Macomb Dakota High School on Monday, 7 p.m. 6-4 in league play.

"It was a pleasure to coach such a great group of young men," said Jack Cunningham, head coach.

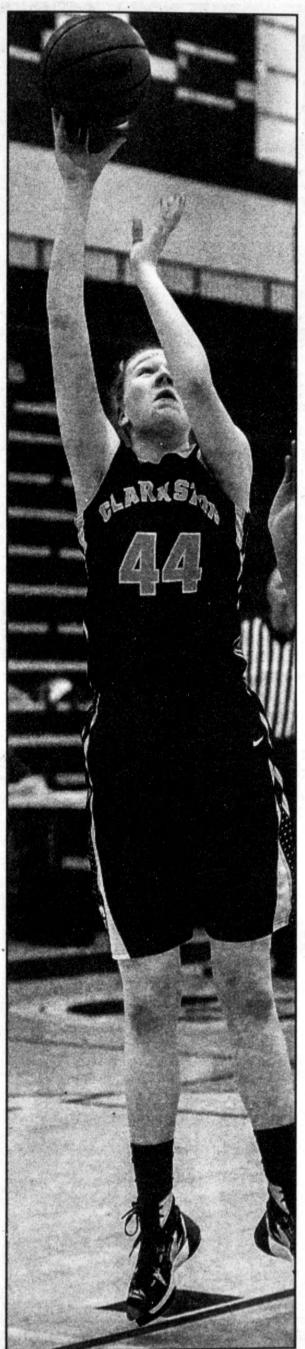
"Clarkston Basketball is all about K



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Lady Wolves season ender

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Sports Writer

It was a heartbreaking finish as Lady Cagers ended their season in the first round of district playoffs, Feb. 29.

They lost to Waterford Kettering, 55-39, who ended up winning the title last Friday.

"We needed to play a very good game in order to beat them," said Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball Head Coach Christine Rogers. "Some people stepped up, like Kayla Russell."

Clarkston ended the first half with a 24-21 lead over Kettering.

But the beginning of the third quarter started to turn around for the Lady Wolves as Kettering opened the third quarter with a 5-1 run and kept Clarkston to four points.

Russell led the team with 14 points, scoring 11 of the points in the first half. Sophomore Kayla Luchenbach scored five points during the game.

The Lady Wolves finished their season with a 15-6 winning record.

"We had a lot of success," said Rogers. "I don't think a lot of people expected this team to have the success and the record we did. It was nice to prove some people wrong."

A highlight to the season was beating Farmington Harrison.

"It was a fun game to coach," Rogers said. "They were excited. It was definitely a highlight."

She added one of the strengths of the team was they were a strong unit - they all supported each other through the season."

"It's good to see strong young ladies can be supportive of each other," Rogers said.

The team graduates four seniors this June - Russell, Alyssa Bey, Kelsey Hunt and Kailan Mehta. Final finish

Senior Vicki Wolfgang tied for 14th place during the qualifying round of the MHSAA Girls Bowling Individual State Finals on Saturday with a 1,168 after six games.

She lost to Davison's Taylor Davis, 384-303. Wolfgang had a high game of 223 for the day.

Senior Tess Horowitz placed in 46th with a score of 980 with a high game of 190.

Senior Jacob Kersten took 19th place during the qualifying round at the boys individual finals as he bowled a 1,237 after six games with a high game of 280.

The Clarkston Boys Varsity Bowling team finished in 14th place in the qualifying round of the team state finals on Friday.

They bowled a 3,349 after eight Baker games and two games - 939 and 1,000.

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Coming up this week:

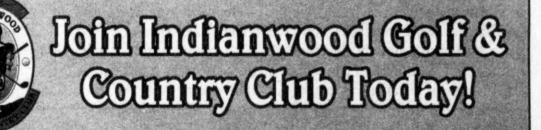
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Molly Nicholson reaches up for a basket. Photo by Larry Wright

Rogers added she hoped the abrupt ending will be motivation for the returning players for next season.

"Everyone was shocked our season ended so abruptly," she said. "It will be a good thing to remind them of next season so if the season seems long and everyone is getting tired we don't want that happening again."

She added Chelsea Kouri, assistant coach, was amazing to have.

"She was amazing to have around the girls," said Rogers. "She is a great role model. She is basketball smart. Our program is really lucky to have her. She is awesome."

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12 Wed., March 9, 2016 The Clarkston (MI) News Grapplers among best in state

Continued from page 1

Troutvine finished in fifth place in the 285-pound weight class with a 4-3 win over Andrew Bowen from Caledonia.

"It's good for them and a good way to go out," said Clarkston Varsity Wrestling Head Coach Freddie DeRamus. "Nathan could have given up after losing his, tournament in the 160-pound weight semifinal match. He could have packed it in and left, but he continued to wrestle.

The Wolves sent five wrestlers to state finals this year - Troutvine, Vandermeer, senior Kyle Masters, junior Jacob Rygielski and freshman Mac Hanselman.

"They did a good job," said DeRamus. "All five showed a lot of heart. Even with losses they stepped up. I was impressed from a coach standpoint and a competitive standpoint. They all wrestled hard."

Vandermeer went 3-1 for the tournament and also defeated Isiah Williams from Lansing, with a fall, 3:26: Jared Roberts from Fraser, 10-2. He finished his season with a 47-6 record.

"He wrestled tough the whole tournament," DeRamus added.

Troutvine went 3-2 for the tournament and marked his win for

defeated Bowen, 4-3. He also beat Lane Potter from Hudsonville, 2-0; and Brandon Krol from Hartland, 7-1. He lost to Ali Wahab from Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 7-4; and Dan Perry from Lapeer, 3-0. He finished his senior year with a 46-6 record.

Masters went 1-2 for the class. He beat Southfield's Jake Brock with a fall, 2:55. He lost to Portage Northern's Cameron Pietrzykowski in the first round, 7-6; and Fraser's Jared Roberts, 5-4, in the blood round. He finished his season with a 41-9 record.

"Kyle lost a tough one (against Roberts)," said DeRamus. "It's not the way you want your seniors to go out. He wrestled tough. It was also his first time at state. He showed up. After his first match, he bounced back and won his second one."

Rygielski also went 1-2 for tournament in the 135-pound weight class. He beat Colin Takata from Birmingham Groves, 8-3. He lost to Westland's John Siemasz, 4-0; and Davison's Ryan Schlak, 7-4. He finished the year with a 23-11 record. He lost to Westland in the first

round, who was ranked No. 1. "He went out there and just

Arbor Pioneer's Rayvon Foley, 16-6; and Battle Creek Lakeview's Bryce Brust in a fall, 1:45. He finished the season 29-20.

"Mac wrestled a kid who was pretty tough from Pioneer," said DeRamus. "He was 54-0 wrestling against a freshman. It was a great match for him to see he has come a long way and can wrestle with these guys."

He added it's not easy to get to the state finals as a freshman.

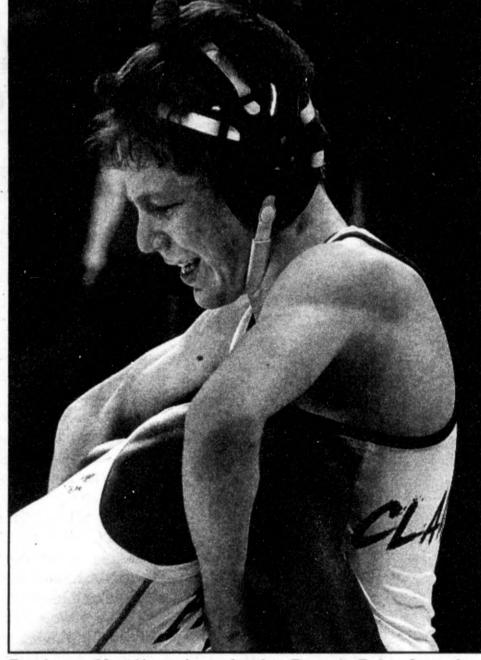
"It was pretty impressive to be down there as a freshman," he said.

Rygielski and Hanselman will be back next year and are ready to go back to state finals.

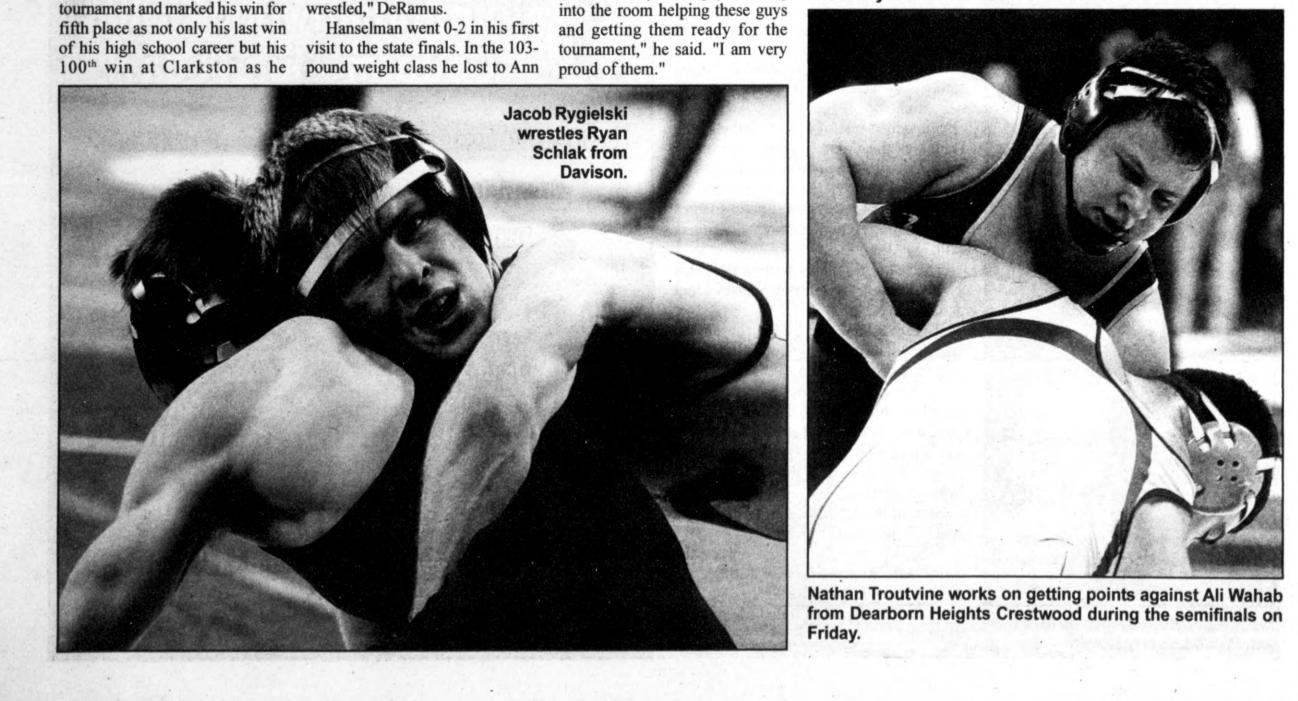
"It has given them the experience," said DeRamus. "They know what it takes, they listened and they kept believing in themselves. They did a great job staying healthy, believing in themselves and believing in the system. They want to not only get back down to the tournament, they want to be on the podium."

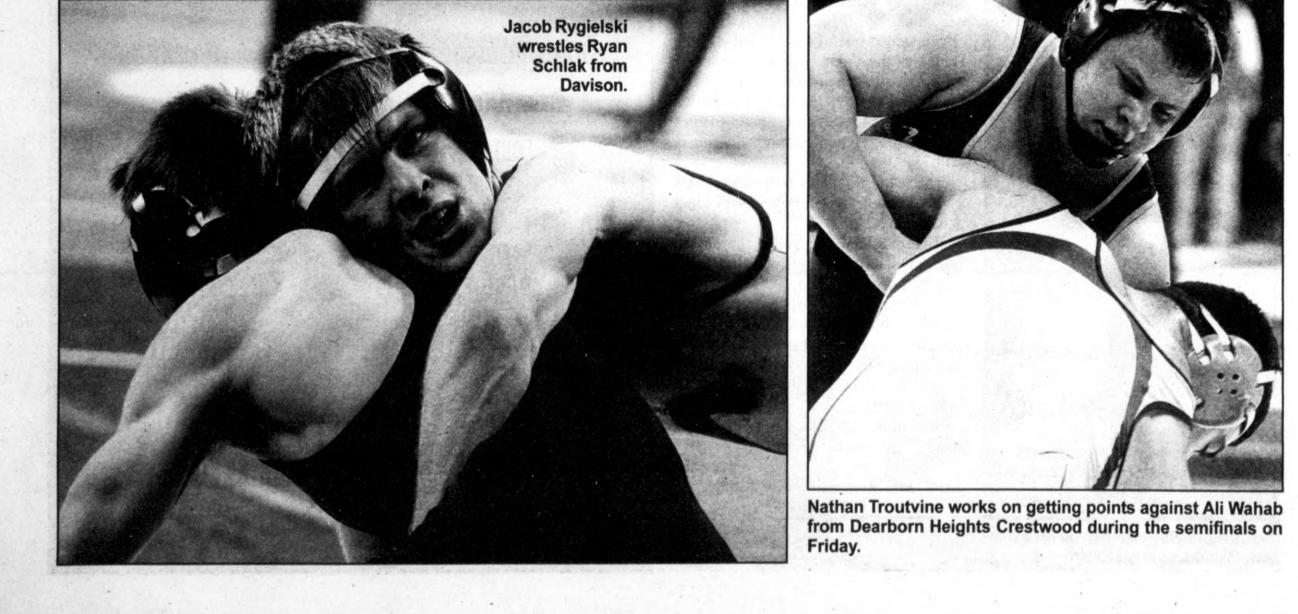
He added it was also good for the program this year to have five guys qualify for the finals after having zero last year.

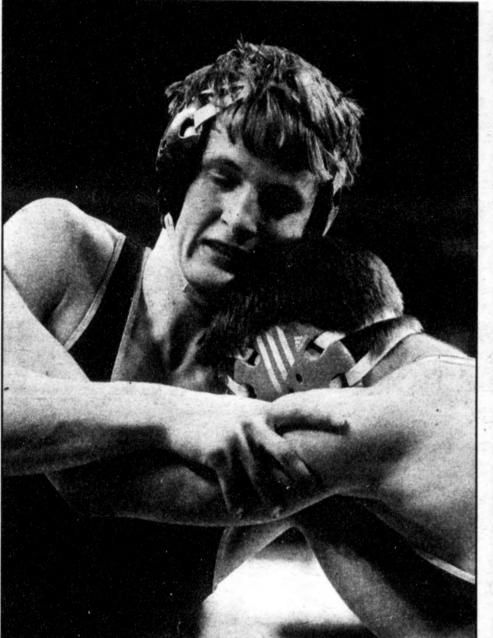
"It says a lot about the program and character of the guys coming into the room helping these guys proud of them."



Freshman Mac Hanselman battles Rayvon Foley from Ann Arbor Pioneer during the first round of the MHSAA Wrestling Individual Finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills last Thursday. Photos by Wendi Reardon







Kyle Masters takes on Cameron Pietrzykowski from Portage Northern. Photos by Wendi Reardon

Clarkston High School graduates Matt and Nick Vandermeer, leaning on the rails, cheer for Nate Vandermeer and Nathan Troutvine during the semifinals on Friday.

Scripture Study

Thursday, March 10 7:00 p.m.

Lenten Lamentations

Friday, March 11

7:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

Sunday, March 13

Fifth Sunday of Lont

Nonday, March 24

7:00 p.m.

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Christian Yoga

Wednesday, March 16 10:00 a.m.

Study of Sunday Scriptures

Wednesday, March 16

6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Wednesday, March 16

6:30 p.m. IS Youth Broup

Nodnosday, March 15

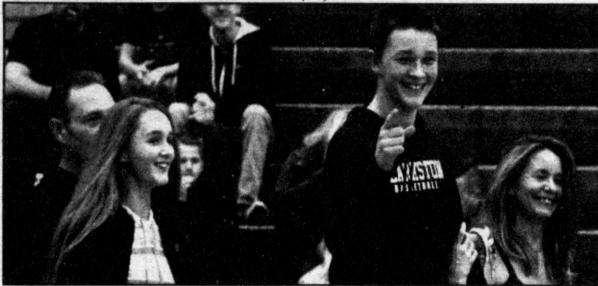
Mass, weekday Masses will be cancelled.

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Rev. Ronald J. Babich, Pastor

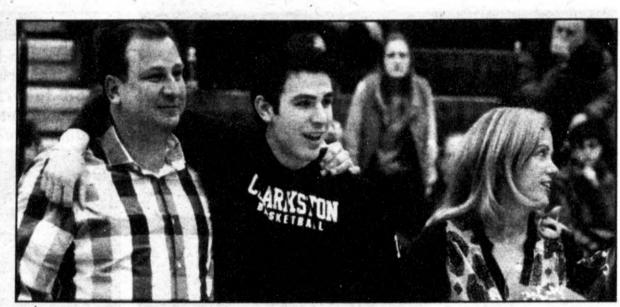
14 Wed., March 9, 2016 The Clarkston (MI) News

SI



Mitch Heaton with parents, Greg and Erika, and siblings, Conner and Taylor.

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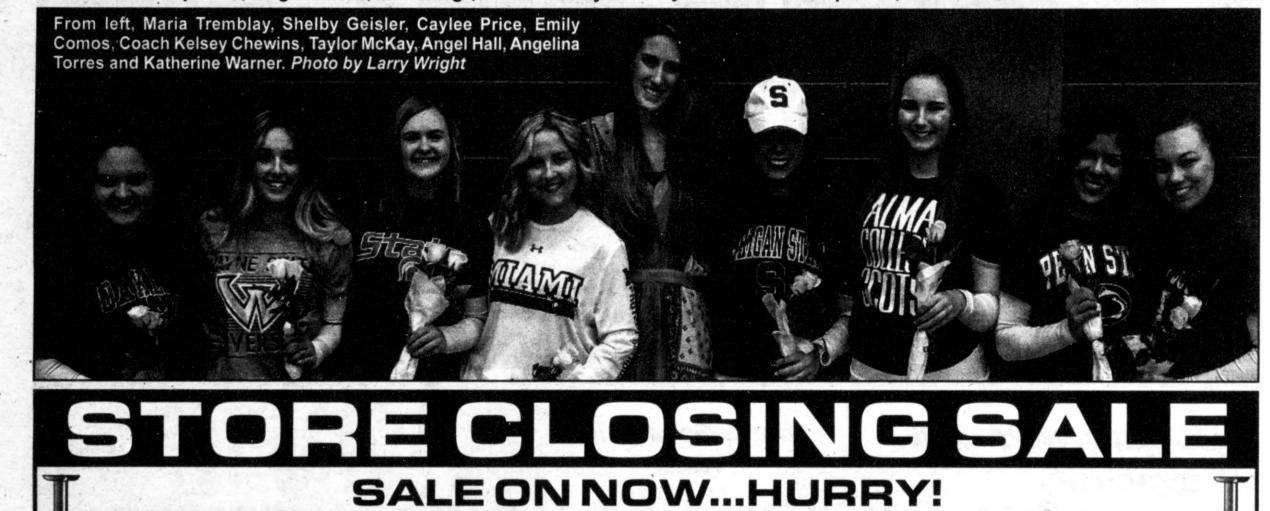
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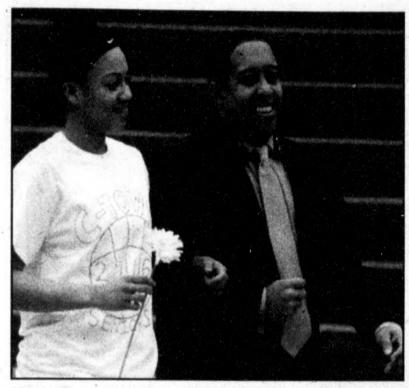
Power Tools

Ryan Holmes with his parents, Chris and Maureen.





6



Kayla Russell with her father, Dan. Not pictured is her mother, Shay.

Farewell to seniors

The last week of February was filled with hugs and sadness as the basketball and dance programs celebrated their seniors and their parents.

The Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball team said goodbye to seniors Alyssa Bey, Kelsey Hunt, Kailan Mehta and Kayla Russell, Feb. 25. The next night Mitch Heaton, Ryan Holmes, Tabin Throgmorton from Boys Varsity Basketball; Emily Comos, Shelby Geisler, Angel Hall, Taylor McKay, Caylee Price, Maria Tremblay, Angelina Torres and Katherine Warner, from Clarkston Varsity Dance were recognized.



Kailan Mehta with her parents Anu and Dinesh. Photos by Wendi Reardon

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16 Wed., March 9, 2016 The Clarkston (MI) News Life as a vegan in Clarkston

I know what you're thinking after reading the title of this column: "Oh great! Another vegan trying to tell me that the cows are crying and that I'm loading my heart up with fat."

Well, I am a vegan, but I'm not going to go off the same ramble on "veganism can easily be done" or the "I'm vegan, so you must be" that is so overused. Rather, I'm going to explain how to be

a vegan, in Clarkston Views from specifically, and encourage Gen Z

you to make the transition. Personally, I am a vegan for ethical reasons and believe animals shouldn't be killed for food (or anything else for the matter), but I can also see why most people don't conform to a vegan diet.



Whether that is because Aalayna Green they believe there aren't

many options in our area or they won't find anything to eat or they'll forever be the odd one out at social events, they find veganism is a tad intimidating. Happily, however, with the right information and someone to help you (as in yours truly) the transition to this lifestyle is possible.

However, I do know that the trek to the nearest Whole Foods isn't realistic for many people who work 9-5 or participate in after school activities.

However, further investigation at Kroger (and an eagerness to try new foods) can suffice. Kroger has recently added vegan items to their shelves such as tempeh, tofu, and various dairy-free products, such as pizza and macaroni and cheese from the Daiya food company. If those names make you apprehensive, there are more mundane steps you can take.

For instance, try replacing your sirloin with grilled portabello mushrooms which can easily take the same spices you use to season the steak, replace the meat in your chili with more beans, stock up on vegetables and fruits and create new salad combinations, or try your hand at vegan baking to get your kids, or your friends, on board with your switch. Now, don't think you are restricted and will always end up eating at home. Just because you're vegan doesn't mean you have to alienate yourself from eating out. You're just going to have to do your research and a little investigating in regards to ingredients. Never fear though, many local restaurants have surprise vegan options or alternatives. Jalapenos, our local Mexican restaurant by DTE and Pine Knob Ski Lodge, is my goto restaurant when I want to get out of the house. Tacos and burritos can easily be veganized by swapping cheese, and sour cream for beans, extra vegetables, and salsa.

The Royal Diner can also accommodate to a vegan diet. The vegetable stir fry, french fries, and veggie wrap (swap the cheese for mushroom) along with many other dishes are available.

And you don't have to become a vegan overnight. I didn't. Go at your own pace. First try eating meat or dairy only once a week until you're ready to become vegetarian. From there, start reducing your dairy intake until you decide that you're ready to commit. Yes, Michigan isn't like New York where there are vegan restaurants on every street corner, nor are we blessed with spectacular weather that allows for adequate cultivation of vegetables and fruits. Yet, it is still possible for Clarkston citizens to make the switch to this healthier, ethical, and environmentally friendly diet and I hope that. you'll consider doing so.

Creamy Vegan Mac and Cheese, courtesy of Lindsay Rey

Prep time, 10 minutes; cook time, 10 minutes, serves 4-5.

Ingredients

10 ounces dried macaroni (or about 2 and 2/3 cups);

1 cup peeled/diced yellow potatoes (or russets);

1/4 cup peeled/diced carrots

1/3 cup chopped onion

3/4 cup water (preferably use liquid from pot of boiled veggies)

1/2 cup raw cashews

1/4 cup coconut milk

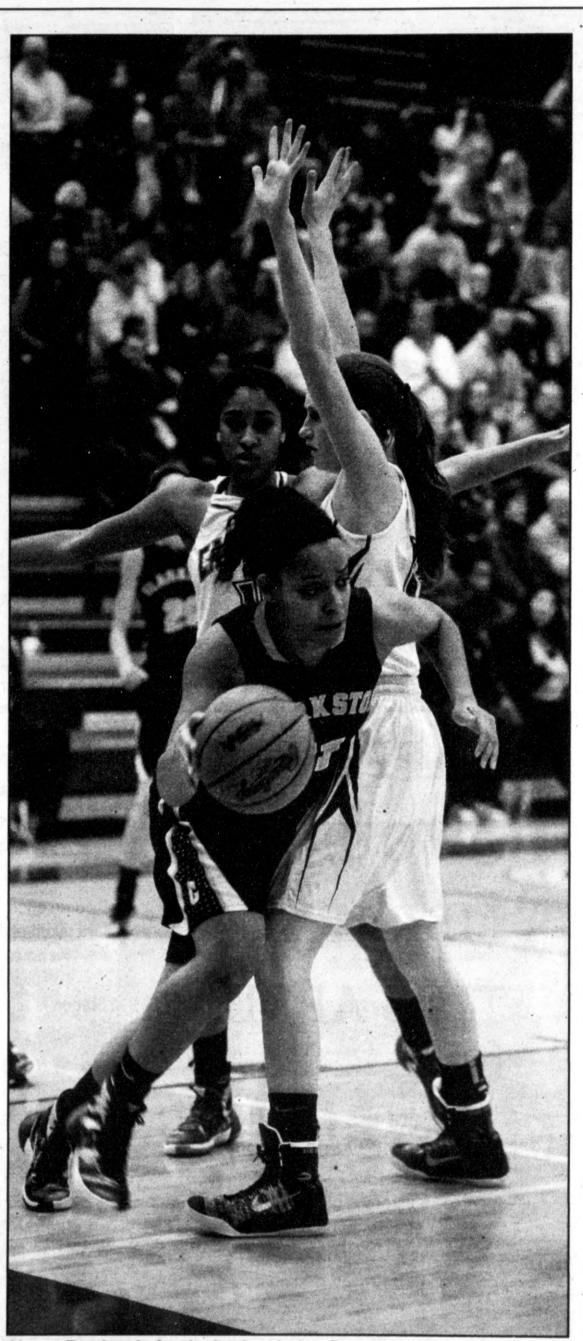
2 tablespoons nutritional yeast flakes

1 tablespoon lemon juice

- 3/4 to 1 teaspoon salt (or more to taste)
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper (optional)
- 1 pinch paprika
- Instructions

Cook macaroni al dente, according to package instructions (usually requires boiling for 6-8 minutes in salted water), drain, and set aside.

Bring several cups of water to boil in a small pot. Place chopped potatoes, carrots, and onion in the boiling water, and cook for about 10 minutes, or until vegetables are tender and soft enough to blend. Cooking time will vary slightly, based on how small you have chopped your veggies.



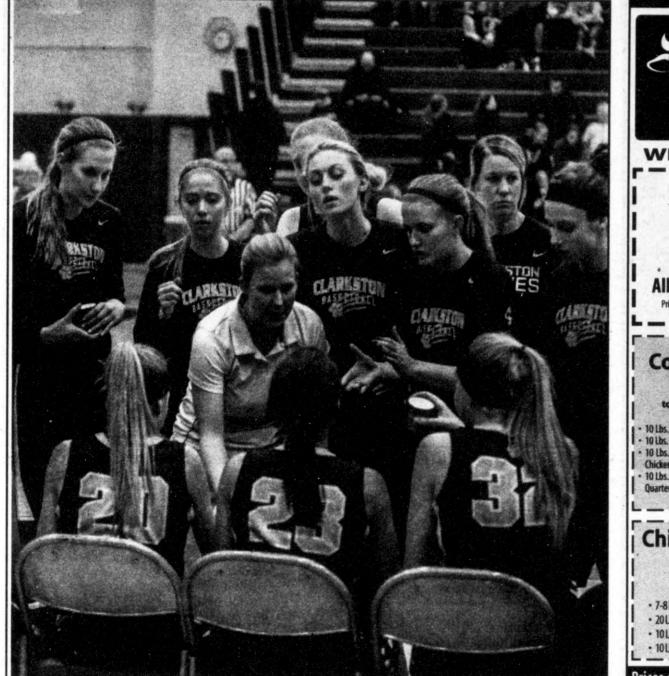
When veggies are soft enough to blend, use a slotted spoon to remove them from cooking water, and place them in your blender. Add ¼ cup of that cooking water to your blender, along with your remaining ingredients.

Blend until smooth.

Pour sauce over your cooked macaroni noodles in a dish of your choice, taste for salt, and serve immediately.

Or, place macaroni mixture in a baking dish, sprinkle with bread crumbs, and bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 minutes, or until crumbs are turning golden brown.

Alyssa Bey heads for the basket during first round of districts against Waterford Kettering, Feb. 29. Photo by Larry Wright



The Lady Wolves discuss strategy during a timeout at Lake Orion High School, Feb. 29. Photo by Larry Wright

Season stands out for players

BY MARY MCKILLOP

Clarkston News Student Writer

The Clarkston High School Girls Varsity Basketball team ended their season, Feb. 29, with a hard fought game against the Waterford Kettering Captains in the first round of district play.

The game ended 55-39 with Waterford Kettering walking away with the win. The Lady Wolves finished with a 15-6 overall record with sophomore Kayla Luchenbach as the leading scorer for the season.

Here's what some of the athletes had

Luchenbach, sophomore. "We even proved some people wrong. We worked very hard and had a lot of fun."

There were five sophomores on the team this season. Sophomore Ali Buscher said she learned a lot this season.

"I learned it's important to have good chemistry with your team because they are the ones you will be on the court with and will have to work well together with," Buscher said. "My goal is to have more confidence in myself, work on attacking the



to say as a reflection on the season.

"I think in the beginning of the season we were nervous because we were young and didn't have much experience, but we learned a lot and grew really close as a team, in all honesty," said Kayla Russell, senior. "We began to trust each other on and off of the court and that made our chemistry better."

"I think we all really pushed each other in practice and in games this season to help us get stronger. It also helped to build our chemistry, which helped us on the court," said sophomore Molly Nicholson.

"I think it was a very enjoyable season. We grew a lot as a team both skill wise and friendship wise," said Kayla

had basket and improve my left hand."

This season was a very memorable one with many great team victories. The Wolves 62-47 win over Farmington Hills Harrison stood out to junior Kristen Page as her favorite game.

"As a team I felt like we really came together and we all clicked that night," Page said. "Every teammate wanted revenge on Harrison because we knew we were better than them. All 11 of us did everything we could to win the game. The crowd was into it too which made us even more excited. After the game, I remember all of us coming together and celebrating and just feeling good. It was nothing but positive energy which was what made it my favorite game."







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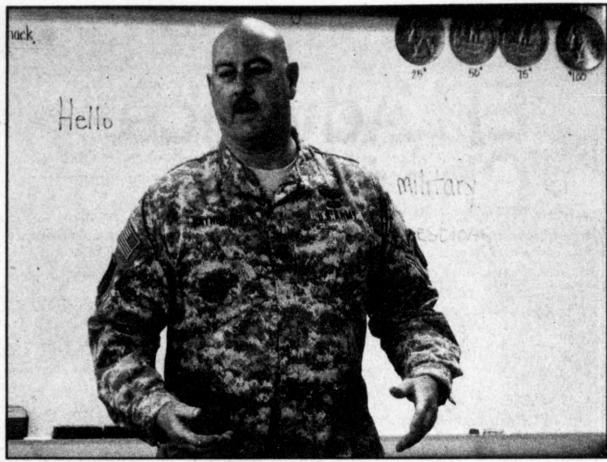
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Dan Rathsburg talks to second graders at Independence Elementary's S.O.C.K.S. Day about their support for soldiers serving overseas. *Photos by Wendi Reardon*

Students impact community

BY WENDI REARDON

Clarkston News Staff Writer

A special guest arrived through the door as second graders in Ms. Zittel's class at Independence Elementary finished their letters to American soldiers stationed in Afghanistan on Friday.

Commander Sgt. Major Dan Rathsburg from the United States Army greeted the students and explained to them how important the care packages and letters they were putting together during the 13th annual S.O.C.K.S. Day were to the soldiers.

"When I was in Afghanistan we had a gate around us and couldn't go anyplace because we had bad guys around us," he said. "We could only go out when we were out on a mission.

"Home is thousands of miles away so when you send us the packages it makes home just a little more closer when you send us chocolate and cupcakes," Rathsburg continued. "When you send us your cards and stories, we like hearing your stories from home, too. We appreciate all you do." One of the areas he dropped packages to

in Afghanistan.

Students in Young Fives through fifth grade helped different organizations during S.O.C.K.S (Serving Our Community Kid Style) their Academic Service Learning Project.

Independence Elementary impacted the community this year in many ways.

Young Fives planted 126 vegetable seedlings for the school's learning garden. They made 126 terrariums and birdfeeders Independence Township Senior Center and the community.

Kindergarten assembled 158 shelter bags with over 900 items, organized a used toy drive and created "Made with Love" soaps for Grace Centers of Hope – Pontiac

First grade created and donated 130 toys for area animals; designed and decorated 70 "Adopt Me" bandanas for the Canine Companions Rescue Center; and donated over \$400 raised through a pop can drive to Paws with a Cause.

Third grade assembled and donated over 215 boxes with over 860 muffins for Meals on Wheels in Clarkston and Waterford. Fourth grade assembled and donated 36 fleece blankets for pediatric cancer patients of the Children's Miracle Network at Beaumont Children's Hospital. Fifth grade played games, entertained and demonstrated technology while getting to know 75 senior citizens from Clarkston and Independence Township. This year Independence Elementary held an all-school Sock Drive in honor of S.O.C.K.S. Day to support Grace Centers of Hope and collected over 600 socks. S.O.C.K.S. Day impacted the lives of over 500 people in the surrounding areas as well as over 200 animal friends.

Open Every Day

www.Independence-UrgentCare.com

 IUC Corner...

 Why Urgent Care Not Emergency Room?

 •Walk-In, no appointment
 •Shorter wait time than ER

 •Lower co-payment then ER
 •Open 7 days/week

 •Lower fee schedule than ER (for insured/uninsured) •Digital X-rays are available

was in a "hot" zone in the mountains in which there were a lot of enemies in the area.

"It was dark so guys came out with their lasers so we could see where they were," Rathsburg said. "Unfortunately there was too much activity and so many bad guys in the area. They didn't care about the bad guys shooting at them. They cared about the packages. It makes a big difference."

The second graders wrote letters of encouragement, made a good luck charm and donated, assembled and shipped over 69 care packages filled with over 1,000 items for friends of a Clarkston Community Schools teacher serving with U.S. Air National Guard

ER Advance Check-in

Introducing a new service that can reduce your ER wait time.

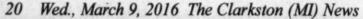
Our new ER Advance Check-in tool allows you to view current ER wait times, and check-in for your ER visit online to let our ER staff know you're on your way. Now, you can spend more time in the comfort of home and get the care you need even quicker once you arrive. It's all part of our plan to make getting better, a whole lot better, for you, your family and the community.

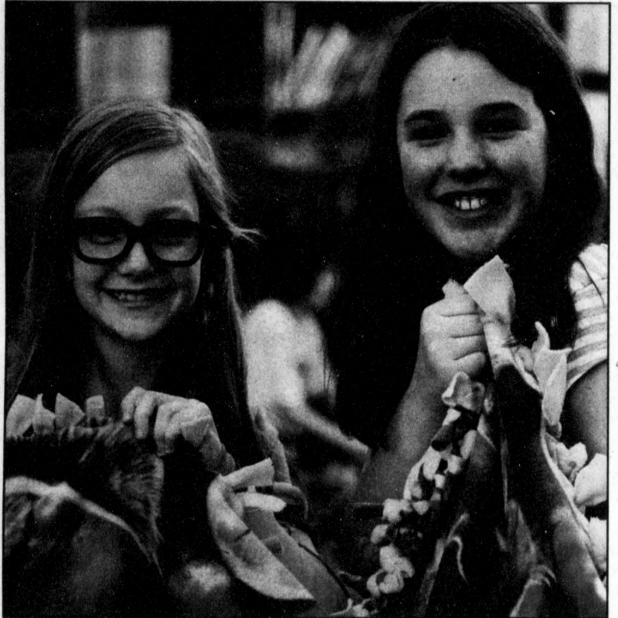
It's easy. Just visit crittenton.com and look for the check-in button at the top of our home page.



ER Advance Check-in Current Wait: 7 minutes







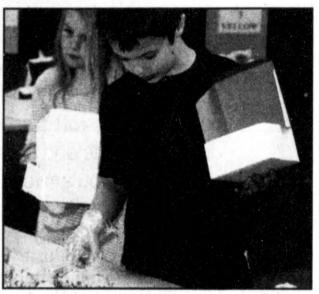
Independence Elementary students helped the community on Friday during the 13th annual S.O.C.K.S day. Fourth graders Megan Wilson and Kate Battishill finish their blanket for pediatric cancer patients. *Photos by Wendi Reardon*



Young Five students put together terrariums.



Carly Cogan puts the final touches on a care package for Grace Centers of Hope.



Conner Everett decides on four different muffins to package for Meals on Wheels.





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March 2016

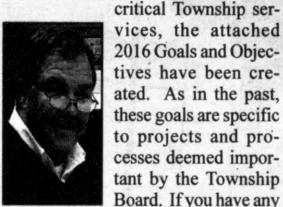
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2016 Goals & Objectives

Township

By Pat Kittle, **Township Supervisor**

To keep this office laser focused on



tives have been created. As in the past, these goals are specific to projects and processes deemed important by the Township

Township Supervisor **Pat Kittle**

Board. If you have any additional topics that you feel should be added to this list, please drop me an email at Supervisor@IndTwp.com and let me

know your thoughts and rationale for the suggestion. The Guiding Principles on which my goals are based are as follow

Communications: Improve communications both within the community and Township personnel.

Fiscal: Manage Township funds in a prudent and conservative manner.

Operations: Ensure Town-ship operations are managed as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Economic Growth: Encour-

2016 SUPERVISOR'S SCORE CARD

Accelerate OPEB Funding

Fire Millage Renewal

Art in the Street

Re-Check Internal Controls

mmunications	
Clarkston News	
D	ļ

Dep't Head Meetings Independence TV Launch Web Survey HOA Townhall Meetings

<u>Co</u>

	Fiscal
	□ IAFF / AFSCME Ratified
ngs	3 Year Budget

Operations

Director Evaluations Compensation Review Hire PRS Director Hire Bldg. Dept. Assistant Re-Bid Services

MISSION STATEMENT

TO PROVIDE THE "BEST SERVICES" AT THE "LOWEST COST" TO ENCOURGE BOTH CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS TO WANT TO LIVE, WORK, PLAY & INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Economic Growth Community Sashabaw Corridor Increase Road SAD's North Dixie Corridor Park Upgrades Medical Expansion Safety Path Expansion Brady Lodge – Phase II

Eagle Ridge Big Lake Traffic Light

Township revenue stream.

dents.

age growth that is consistent with

the Master Plan to diversify the

community based projects to

broaden the appeal of the commu-

nity and enrich the lives of our resi-

Infrastructure: Invest in the

Township infrastructure to ensure

Community: Investigate

- Infrastructure
- Security DPW / Townhall DPW Storage Pole Barn
- SCADA Upgrade
- Pine Knob Well Head
- Community Well Testing

sustainability of the community.

Independence is a great community. Having a great team in place at Township Hall with clear goals and objectives for everyone to stay focused on, hopefully we can make it even better. Our offices are always open. Please stop in to say hi and let us know what's on your mind.

Extra tax notices help hundreds avoid county tax collection process

By Paul Brown, **Township Treasurer**

An added step in the Treasurer's office for tax collection has helped to reduce delinquent taxes from 3% to 2%. A 33% improvement in the past 2 years. The significant decline is directly tied to the mailing of late notices.

Township homeowners know that each year they re-

ceive a summer tax bill in July that is due by September 14 and a winter tax bill in December that is due by February 14. If we do not receive the summer payment timely, 1% interest is added on Sept 15 and

an additional 1%

each month thereaf-



Paul Brown, Township Treasurer

ter. On February 15, a 3% penalty is added to all unpaid winter and summer tax balances. Both the interest and the penalty amounts are authorized by Michigan Law and Township Board resolution. All unpaid taxes as of March 1 each year are turned over to the Oakland County Treasurer for collections where ad-

Cemetery Care Funds to Receive Boost From New Law

By Paul Brown, **Township Treasurer**

Independence Township manages two cemeteries in our community. The perpetual care of these cemeteries is paid for by funds set aside from the sale of burial plots. In theory, the interest earned on the funds is enough to sustain the cemetery many decades into the future. In reality, the amount of interest earned on public

funds is extremely small, generally less than 1%. This is because state law allows public funds to only be invested in a very narrow range of very safe investments. However, recent legislation will soon allow Cemetery money to be invested in mutual funds, an investment not allowed under current laws.

This change in investment allowances will enable us to significantly improve the

return on the cemetery funds and thereby increase the number of years the funds will last into the future. With a sound investment strategy, along with ongoing care to minimize expenses, we hope to position future generations of Township management with enough funding to continue with the upkeep of the final resting places of our loved ones. The new law takes effect May 16, 2016.

ditional penalties and fees are added based on Michigan Law.

Other than the original mailings, the Township is not required to send additional late notices prior to turning over delinquent accounts to the County. Not being required does not mean we shouldn't do it. So the day after the due date in February, my office printed and mailed 1,500 unpaid summer and winter tax bills. As

Please see Tax on Page 2

www.IndTwp.com

248 625-5111

Tree trimming taking place in Township

By Pat Kittle, .

Township Supervisor

Why is it power outages always happen at the worst of times -- right after a thunderstorm on a sweltering summer night or in the dead of winter when you really need your furnace running at full speed ahead?

DTE tells us the #1 reason for over 2/3 of all power outages in Independence Township is due to tree limbs snapping off taking down nearby power lines. As mandated by the State of Michigan to minimize outages or face stiff penalties and fines, DTE Energy has established a program whereby



work crews will be visiting Independence to trim and, if necessary, remove trees growing too close to power lines. In a nutshell, the goal of this initiative is to prevent dangerous situations and ensure electric reliability.

We know Independence residents value trees. These same customers also value reliable power – in both good weather and in bad. That's why under this program, DTE

has hired tree care experts that will work with you to find a balance between reliable power and healthy trees.

Here's what you can expect will happen over the next several weeks.

You may see DTE arborist planners in your yard or neighborhood inspecting the power lines and trees to determine where trimming is needed. Arborist planners will be wearing yellow DTE Energy vests and carrying ID badges.

If tree work is needed on your property, the arborist planner will knock on your door. If you are not home, DTE will leave a "Tree Work Scheduled" door card. If you have questions about the work intended for your property, please call the number on the door card.

If a tree poses a serious hazard to power lines or if trimming will put the tree's health at risk, DTE may need to remove it. DTE will make every effort to work with property owners before remov-



by all industry standards for trimming and/or removal of trees near power lines. DTE will only use tree pro-

work needed. For more information regarding the DTE tree trimming program, visit their web site at

Township Supervisor Pat Kittle

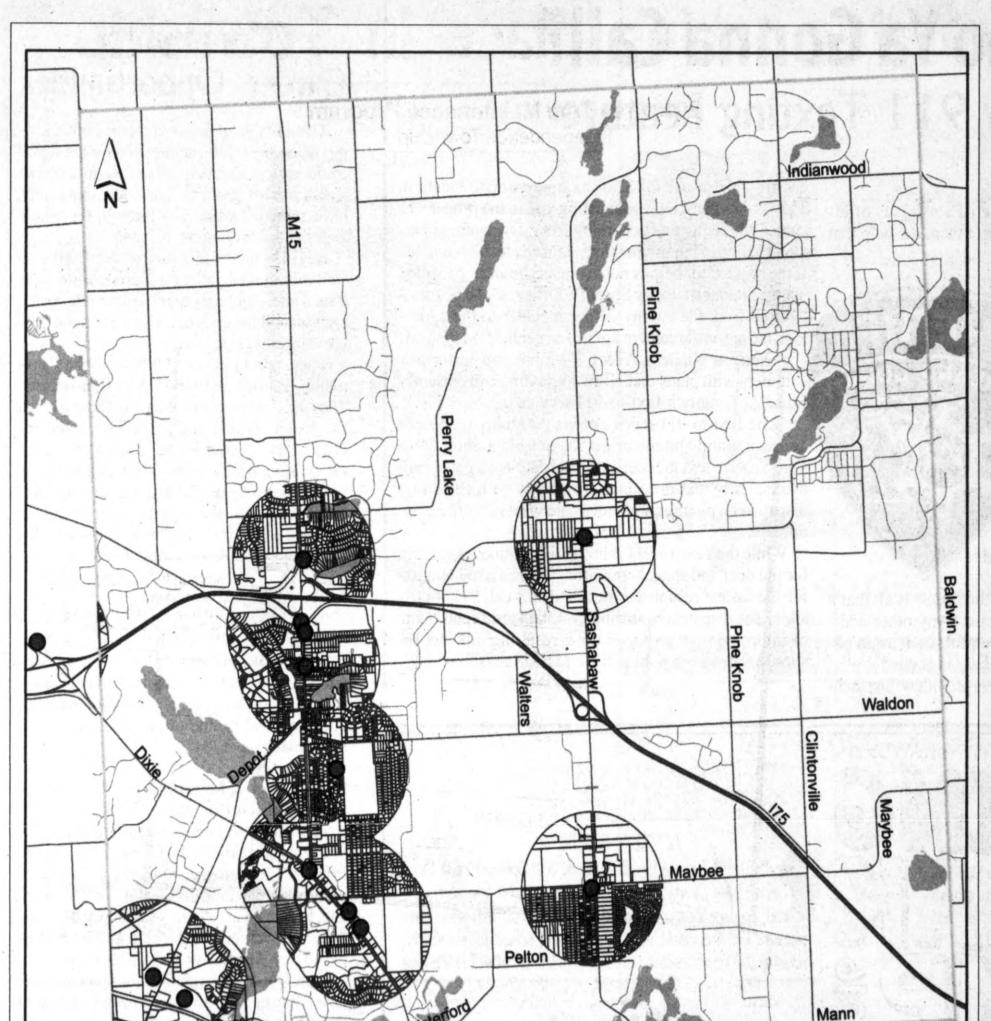
ing any trees. DTE has assured the Township that they will abide fessionals who have been trained on safe, proper and environmentally responsible work practices for the

www.dteenergy.com/treecare.

Tax, continued from Page 1 a percentage, the 1500 is about 5% of all taxable parcels. Historically, we have turned over more than 3% of the taxes to Oakland County as delinguent.

The impact of the second notifications has been significant to our tax collections. Taxpayers flooded our office the last two weeks of February paying their past due taxes. I spoke with many of them and the reasons for the late payments varied. Many had set aside the tax bill in December and then forgotten. Others did not recall receiving the original tax bill. About a dozen had actually mailed their payments, but we never received them. Unfortunately, mail lost in the postal system still results in the 3% penalty. This is why I encourage tax payers to process their payments with enough lead-time so they can verify that we received the payment prior to the due date.

The success of sending the late notices, allowing taxpayers to avoid the increased penalties and fees imposed by the County, means the late notices will become a permanent part of our notification process going forward. We're also looking into developing an email notification process that will remind taxpayers of unpaid taxes prior to the due date.



Water update

By Pat Kittle, **Township Supervisor**

Great News! The first batch of well water results just came back from the State Labs. We're happy to report these first 11 tests came back "squeaky clean" for Volatile Organic Compounds. The 11 houses tested are located on

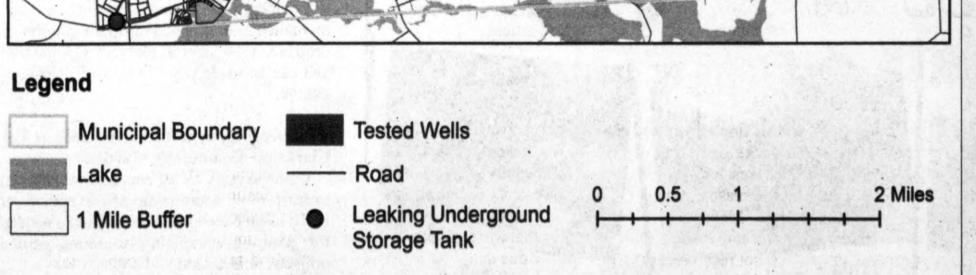
Paramus, Warbler, Squirrel Hill Ct, Curtis Ln., Guyette, Hidden Lane, Hillside Dr., Goldfinch Ln., Greene Haven Dr., Whipple Lake Township Rd., and Allen Supervisor Rd. We will Pat Kittle



add more of

these updates to the Township website as they become available. Data as of March 3.

In further developments with the contaminated wells on Maple Drive, the MDEQ has authorized the release of funds to install a new water main on Maple Drive including actual connections to the homes effected by the gasoline by-product MTBE. Still working out the details, but the State is really stepping up with the funding to get this matter resolved. Costs for the project are being compiled right now. As far as water tests completed to date, we would have bet that we would have been bombarded with requests to get private wells tested after what was found on Maple Drive. As of March 3, only 123 residents have asked to get their private wells tested; 102 residents located inside the one mile LUST site perimeter and 21 outside the one mile LUST perimeter. The chart highlights where the testing has been conducted to date. As promised, we will keep 1 you up to date.



Who Ya Gonna Call? **New 911 Texting Feature**

By Lt. Dirk Feneley, **Oakland County Sheriff**

The Oakland County Sheriff's office is offering citizens another tool to get them the help that they need.

The Text-to-911 pro-

gram is designed to help citizens in Oakland County in emergency situations where they are unable to call 911.

The Text-to-911 works like any text messaging conversation. Once the text is generated and sent to 911. a Dispatch specialist responds using a web based browser.

A simple text of "HELP" or "SOS" is all that's needed to generate a response. Any other additional information is also helpful, such as an address or location where the help is needed.

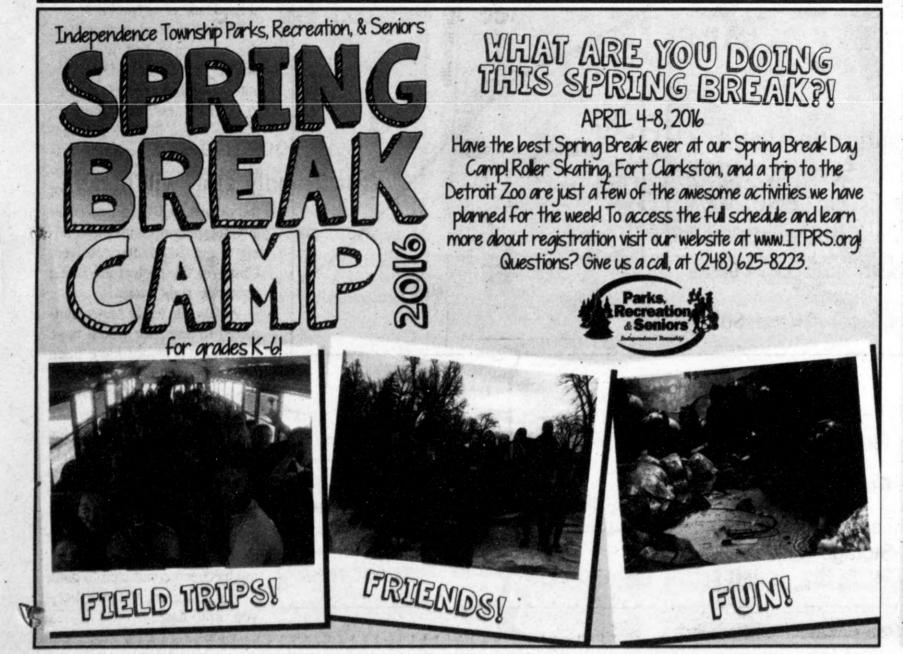
With the help of the wireless providers, dispatch-

ers are able to use GPS for an approximate location. This assists them with connecting you to the proper 911 center where the text is coming from. Dispatch will attempt to obtain important information via text if possible. If the request for help is not in one of the areas patrolled by the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, it will be transferred from the county dispatch center to the appropriate law enforcement agency to get help on the way.

Verizon Wireless, AT&T, T-Mobile and Sprint customers with plans that allow for texting can currently use the County's Text-to-911 service.

The Text-to-911 service offers the ability for people to use a mobile phone or device to send a Short Message Service text message, to reach 911 emergency call takers. Only text messages are able to be received by dispatchers, pictures and videos are currently not an option.

While the Text-to-911 is a valuable option, especially for the deaf and speech impaired, the preferred method for the fastest response times is to still call 911 if possible. The dispatchers are able to obtain greater amounts of information in a shorter time, resulting in faster response times from police, fire and EMS personnel.





Community Garden Opportunities

There is a lot of buzz out there about knowing where your food comes from. What if you could say this summer, "all my produce comes right from my garden!" and at the same time, have someone guide you through the whole experience? Well now you can!

Register now for a plot at the Clarkston Community Garden. Located one mile from Pine Knob, it not only makes gardening easier, but you will have a small village of neighbors growing alongside of you.

There are a total of 100 plots at the Community Garden and all of them will sell out. The 10x10 plot you will receive is yours through December 31, 2016 and you will have first priority to renew your garden plot at the end of the season. Whatever is grown in this space, will belong to you! Make meals for your family, give away fresh veggies to your neighbors and give any extra to the local food banks the Community Garden donates to.

Learn to be self-sustaining!

The Garden is surrounded by an 8-foot tall deer fence and all plots are very close to a water spigot (and some plots are even watered by an irrigation system). Another perk is that a Garden Manager is available to answer questions and is able to provide guidance if requested.

Registration Information for the 2016 Share Garden Program

Gardeners will be required to donate (10) hours of their time to the Community Garden in order to remain in good standing. The Community Garden kick off meeting will be Monday, March 28 at 6-8 pm. Mandatory new gardener orientation will be held at the Gardenpick a day-April 18 or May 15, 6-8 pm.

Don't miss out on getting your plot, register now! Forms can be downloaded online at www.itpr.org

D

Completed registration forms can be brought in, mailed in or dropped off to our afterhours drop box. Cost \$25 res/ plot and \$35 non/plot and can be made payable by cash, check or charge.

Volunteer opportunities also exist at the **Clarkston Community Garden**

Come to our kick off meeting (info above) to learn more about some of the options or LIKE us on Facebook! Volunteers are needed for: planting, harvesting, weeding, garden projects, fundraisers.

For more information, call the Parks, Recreation & Seniors office at 248-625-8223.



Adopt a stream

The Clinton River Watershed Council hosts an Adopt -A-Stream Basic Training program at Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road, 6-9 p.m., April 6.

After attending the training session, volunteers are teamed up and assigned to a site based on participants' preference, where they gather information on physical characteristics and aquatic bug populations.

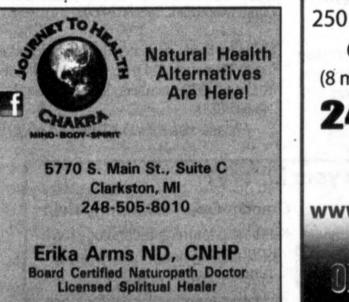
Registration is required. Contact the CRWC office at 248-601-0606 or registration@crwc.org.



25 Wed., March 9, 2016 The Clarkston (MI) News



2



www.journeytohealthchakra.com

Events

C

Simpatico by Sam Shepard, Clarkston Village Players, March 11-26, Depot Theater. 248-425-5842.

St. Patrick's Day Party, 6 p.m., March 12, St. Daniel Parish Social Hall, 7010 Valley Park Drive. Live music, dinner. \$15, benefits St. Daniel Youth Mission Trip. 248-625-4052.

Leaping Leprechaun 5K, 9:30 a.m., March 12, Waterford Oaks County Park, 1702 Scott Lake Road. Benefits Clarkston SCAMP. \$34 pre-reg, \$40 day of. 248-623-8089.

Tootsie Roll Drive, Knights of Columbus, March 18-19, on Clarkston area streets and businesses.

Let's Chat pre-counseling" sessions with retired Dr Thomas K. Stone, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., March 25 and April 26, Independence Townwhip senior center, 6000 Clarkston Road. 248-625-8231.

Spring Beauties: Native Wildflowers for the Woodland Garden, North Oakland Wild Ones, 7:30 p.m., April 6. St. Dan's, 7010 Valley Park Drive. Free, northoakland.wildones.org/events. ***

Downton Abbey Charity Tea, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., May 7, Clarkston United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 6600 Waldon Road, Fellowship Hall. Luncheon with tea specialities, entertainment, raffles, fair trade shopping. \$35, Ponline at www.estherschildren.org or call 248-625-8240.

Monday

Line Dancing, Mondays, Independence Senior Community Center, 6000 Clarkston Road, Beginner, 10-11 a.m.; Intermediate, Advanced, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Country, Salsa, Cha Cha, Rock and Roll with Rosemary Hall. \$3.

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 gregational Church of Clarkston, 5449 Clarkston Gretchen Weger Snell, MS. 248-625-0917. p.m., first and third Mondays, Community Pres-Road. byterian Church, 4301 Monroe Street at Clarkston Area Lions Club, second and fourth Breast Cancer Survivor Group, second Tuesday Sashabaw. 248-623-7232: Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., Carriage House, Tuesday, 7-9 p.m., 21st Century Oncology, 6770 No More Whining! Develop Positive Behavior Clintonwood Park. 248-802-8603. in Children with Jennifer Arkwright, parent Dixie Highway. 248-625-3841. Bingo games, Community Singles, Mondays, *** educator, 7-8:30 p.m., Mondays, March 7-April 5:30-6:30 p.m., Big Boy, 6440 Dixie Highway. Individualized Computer Tutoring, second and 18, Advanced Counseling Services, 7300 Dixie Grief Share, 13-week seminar/support group Dinner, dessert prizes. 248-812-0604. fourth Thursdays, 2-4 p.m., Senior Adult Activfor those suffering loss, 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Hwy#1000.248-922-2300.ext.0. ity Center. \$30/members, \$35/ non-members. The Gathering Place, 9811 Dixie Highway. 248-FOP Post 132, third Monday, 7 p.m., American 248-625-8231. Lifetree Café, Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Old Village 694-9351. Legion Post 63, Ortonville Road. Please see Around Town on page 27 *** Café, 2 S. Main Street. March 15: "How to Live **Hey Clarkston! What's happening at your library?** .ARKSTON **DIA Museum Mysteries** One-On-One Technology Help Tell Us About Your Travels INDEPENDENCE Need help learning technology? We Wednesday, March 16 7:00 pm Tuesday, March 22 7:00 pm Enjoy photos, stories, and Unravel the mysteries behind N can help you learn how to use a DISTRICT LIBRARY more about Cinque Terre, some of the most peculiar art computer, smart phone, tablet, e-248.625.2212 Milan and Florence Italy. pieces at the DIA reader and more. Sign up for a one 3 www.indelib.org on one 45 minute session

Around Jown

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



The young cast rehearses a scene from Into the Woods. Photo provided

Mt. Zion heads 'Into the Woods'

Mt. Zion Youth Theatre students bring the Brothers Grimm fables to life in the award winning musical, Into the Woods.

This humorous and heartfelt musical combines the classic tales of Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, and Snow White along

Fitness 4 You classes, \$5 walk-in, New Hope Bible Church, 8673 Sashabaw Road. Call Patty, 248-520-3297.

50+ Indoor Pickleball, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 9-11:30 a.m., \$3 drop in fee; Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., \$4 drop in fee. First Con-

with an original story of a childless baker and his wife.

Performances are at the Mt. Zion Theatre, 4900 Maybee Road, Friday, March 11 and 18 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 12 and 19 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Call 248-393-1407.

to 100: Advice From Those Who've Done It," short film in which centenarians share their secrets for reaching the century mark. Free. 810-694-9351.

Clarkston Community Women's Club, 7 p.m., March 15, Independence District Library. Program: Natural Homeopathy Health Care, with

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.

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+ Indoor Pickleball, Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., \$4, First Congregational Church of Clarkston, 5449 Clarkston Road.

Big Chief Barbershop Chorus, 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Waterford Oaks, 2800 Watkins Lake Road. Call Eric, 248-224-2214.

Wednesday

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, 6:30 p.m., Independence Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Drive. 248-623-4313.

Thursday

Clarkston News' Coffee Club business networking, 7-9 a.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Free. Facebook.com/coffeeclubmi, and www.clarktoncoffeeclub.com.

Genealogy Society, 10:15 a.m., March 17, Clarkston Independence District Library.

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

Around Town

Continued from page 26

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., madefrom-scratch. \$7. 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.

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

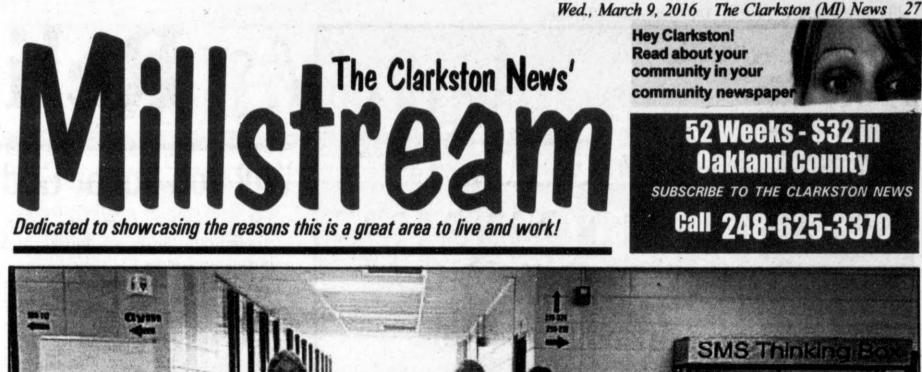
TOPS 1093 Clarkston, Take Off Pounds Sensibly, Thursdays, 6-8 p.m., \$1/week. First Missionary Church, 4832 Clintonville Road. 248-673-5540.

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, free vision screening for children, 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



6



The Sashabaw Junior Optimist Club raised money for the Children's Heart Foundation.

Helping Optimists

The Sasahabaw Junior Optimist Club as Sashabaw Middle School presented \$214 to the Children's Heart Foundation, Michigan Chapter, March 3.



potential vision problems. Immediate results. 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, 248-559-1147. They had a pajama and hat day for \$1 at their school to help kids impacted by congenital heart defects.

The Children's Heart Foundation funds the most promising research to help advance the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of CHD.

The Junior Optimists were also helping out at Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac on Friday, March 4, working in the kitchen. They helped with meal prep and serving dinner.

Photos provided

Junior Optimist Club members worked in the kitchen at Grace Centers of Hope last

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Attend The Church Of Your Choice

ST. TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Jutheran Church stor: Rev. Kendall Schaeffer 925 Sashabaw Road 1/4 mile N. of DTE Music Theater) Clarkston, MI 48348 (248) 625-4644 www.sainttrinitylutheran.com e-mail:sttrinity@comcast.net Broadcast Worship - Clarkston CTV-10/20 Sun 2:00pm,Thus:9:00pm padcast Worship - Waterford CATV-10 Tues. 2:30 pm

Norship: Sunday 8:15 am & 11:00 am Sat. 6:00 pm nday School 9:45 am school: 3-4 years old eschool: 620-6154 th and 8th Grade Confirmation Classes

ndays@6:00-7:30 pm

P

RIDGEWOOD CHURCH urch.con 6765 Rattalee Lake Road arkston, 48348 (248) 625-1344 Indays at 9:15am & 11:00am Adult experi Auture Center (birth-4) Gds Life (K-Sth) Crave Students (6th-8th) uesdays at 7:00pm 501 (College & Twenty-Son Inesday at 6:45pm ImeyON Adult Focus St Center (birth-4) lids Life (K-5th)

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF

THE RESURRECTION 6490 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston Holy Eucharist - 10:00 am 248-625-2325

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

OF CLARKSTON 5972 Paramus, Clariston, MI (248) 625-3380 Located 2 blks. N. of Dixie Hwy. (E.of M-15) Pastor: Russell Reemtsma Sun: 9:30 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Fellowship

CLARKSTON

COMMUNITY CHURCH 6300 Clarkston Road - Clarkston (248) 625-1323 ome of Oakland Christian School Pastor: Greg Henner Sunday Worship: 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. lursery Care at both services hildren's Ministries: September thru pril Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. ent Ministri ber thru April tay, 12:30-2:00 p.m. Tuesday, nesday and Thursday, 3:00-8:00 p.m. unity.con

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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)

CALVARY EVANGELICAL

THE FIRST

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

5449 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston (248) 394-0200 **Rev. Charlie Hall** 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 March - May and Sept. - Nov www.fcclarkston.com

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



Will you honor God with your heart?

Spiritual

Matters

This month, Christians will commemorate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This is a very important event for the Christian faith. We celebrate God's love for us in the offering of His Son for the forgiveness of our sins, and we honor Christ as the resurrected Messiah who ever lives for the

"intercession" of the church. The scripture tells us

Jesus is praying for us eternally in the heavens.

How awesome is that? This intercession, or prayer, on our behalf is also for the fulfillment of His promise "to build the church."

Jesus said, "I will build Covarrubias my church and the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it."

As Christians, we must remind ourselves that no matter what the world situation looks like; God's eternal purpose through Christ will come to pass!

Easter is an amazing time because we are not just called to commemorate a past event; we can experience it today. Have you experienced the resurrection in Christ for yourself?

I am not referencing a theological event, but an actual experience! As a pastor, I have personally experienced and witnessed the power of resurrection in the lives of thousands of people our local church has ministered to.

Jesus did what He did in such a way that His followers could follow in His footsteps and have a life-changing impact on the world. This is as true today as it was in the time of the first disciples.

weren't.

Will You "Just Get Through" or Will You Excel?

We are in the season of Lent (the time of preparation). As Christians, we should be preparing our hearts to experience Easter, not just commemorate it.

Many people will participate in the rituals of the season, but they will not engage their hearts in what is going on. This was the condition of the whole religious establishment in the time of Christ.

In John 1 it tells us, "He came to His own and His own received Him not." God had told the people through the prophets about the coming of the Messiah, but they could not perceive Him because of their own conflicts.

In this Lenten season, I am encouraging our church to engage their hearts to receive something fresh from the Lord and I would like to encourage you to do the same.

We are living in a time of great change and turmoil. Yet, I have found in every difficulty of life, God is willing to prepare us for the time. He also has something prepared for us "in" the time.

The Psalmist said in the 23rd Psalm, "You have a table prepared before me even in the presence of my enemies." The Great Shepherd will always care for His sheep. He will always have something prepared before you. The question is, "Will we see it?"

God is faithful to His work, so the disciples made it through the crucifixion (God will always get us through).

The question we should ask is, "Do we want to just get through?" Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life, and that you may have it more abundantly." The abundant life is a prepared life! Will you prepare yourself for God? Our preparation cannot just be ritual, we must give our heart to the process. In Matthew 15:7-9, Jesus castigated the religious leaders of His time saying, "Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.""

Pastor Loren



1m

	To offer you online at bridgewoodchurch.com	6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston (W. of M-15, just S. of I-75) 248-625-3288	OAKLAND EPC "God's Word; God's Power; Life Worth	Unfort were call
	ST. DANIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH 7010 Valley Park Dr., Clarkston (W. of M-15, S. of I-75) 625-4580 Rev. Ronald J. Babich, Pastor Saturday Masse: 5:00 pm Sunday Masses: 7:30, 900 & 11:00 am Religious Education: 625-1750 Mother's Group, RCIA,	Pastor Jonathan Helerman Sunday Worship: &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 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	spiritual pleasant e For the was one o Why? they were to prepare
C.e	Scripture Study, Youth Group SASHABAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 1st, 3rd and 5th weekends of each month, Sunday at 11:00 am 2nd and 4th weekends of each month, Saturday at 6:00 pm S300 Maybe Road, Clarkston Website: www.sashabawpresbyterian.org Phone (248)673-3469	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	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	going to crucifixio He lite to come th they wer expectation the reality They could

unately, although the disciples ed to experience the greatest event of all time, it was not a experience for, them.

e first disciples, the Easter story of fear, despair, and even failure.

They were not prepared for what going to go through. Jesus tried the disciples for what they were face during the time of the

rally told them what was going heir way. Although they listened, e not perceptive. Their own ons and self-confidence covered of what they were going to face. ld have been prepared, but they

In this Lenten season, let's prepare ourselves by preparing our hearts!

The Rev. Loren Covarrubias is pastor of Mt. Zion Church.

Sherri Arnold, 52

Sherri A. Arnold of Clarkston passed away March 2, 2016, at age 52.

She was the loving wife of George; beloved daughter of Joann VanMeter and the late Dolan T. Sontag; sister of Stacie Sykes.

Funeral Service was March 5 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home. Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Luella K. Casteel, 69

Luella K. Casteel, "Lu," born Aug. 12, 1946, to Donald and Marie Davis, formerly

of Morgantown, West Virginia, left this earthly world to be with her husband Larry and her Holy Father on Feb. 29, 2016.

She was the loving mother of Michael (Melissa) Casteel, Kimberly "Shelly" (Duncan) Moultrup and

Bonnie "Pooh" (Rich) Kieliszewski; proud grandma of Ashley (Eric) Ogg, Amber (Trey) Kettunen, Shelby (Nick) Dudley, Andrea, Alexis, Mike and Matt Moultrup; great grandma of Gunnar, Arianna, Charlotte Rose and Hendrix; sister of Donald (Rebecca) Davis, Terri Davis and Bonnie Harper; sister in law of Eddie and Sandy Casteel; also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Funeral Service was March 4 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Entombment All Saints Cemetery. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Susan L. Hipp, 74

Susan L. Hipp of Waterford passed away March 3, 2016, at age 74.

She was preceded in death by her husband Frederick and daughter Debbie Mankewicz. She was the loving mother of Fred Jr. (Tammy),



Obituaries & .

Bruce Morrison, 89

Bruce R. Morrison, longtime resident of Davisburg, passed away peacefully Feb. 29, 2016, at Drakewood

Manor, at age 89.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Betty Jean, children Bob and Michelle Morrison. He was the dear step-father of Linda Jean (late Joe Don) Yow; dear grandfather of Terri

(Todd) Catchpole, Jim (Lauri) Yow, Debbie (Chris) Hild, Kelly (Kent) Muntz and Marc Morrison; loving great grandfather of Shawn, Joshua, Sarah, Brandon, Sami, Tyler, Tabatha, Jacob and Andrew; loving brother of Nancy Cayo and Martha Gearhart.

Bruce was a proud retiree of Ford Motor.

He loved to drink Milwaukee's Best and burgundy wine every day. He traveled the world with his beloved Betty, taking his final trip to France and England in 2011. He enjoyed reading the Detroit Free Press and Oakland Press daily as well as hundreds of books from useless info to autobiographies. He also held a pilot's license and loved to fly. In his spare time, he built model ships, planes and cars.

He will always be a true blessing to all of us.

Funeral service was March 7 at Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment Roseland Park Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Evelyn J. Pullen, 87

Evelyn J. Pullen of Clarkston passed away Feb. 29, 2016, at age 87.

She was preceded in death by her husband James, daughter Sharon Pullen and siblings Ford Eagle and Wilma Ouitter. She was the loving mother of Linda Donovan, Debra Pullen (Betty Hyttinen) and James (Theresa) Pullen; also survived by four

Bernadette Cox, 100

Bernadette A. Cox of Sears, formerly of Lake Orion, passed away March 3, 2016, at

age 100. She was preceded in

death by her husband Albert and daughter Lorraine Metz-Cox. She was the loving mother of Tom (Pat) Cox, Annette (late James) Carpenter, Judy (late Ed) Swafford, Linda (Marty) Martin and

Kathy (Louis) Schuler; also survived by 19 grandchildren, 39 great grandchildren and several great great grandchildren.

Bernadette was a long time member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Evart, Mich., and St. Benedict Catholic Church.

Visitation was March 7 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home. Clarkston. Funeral Mass was March 8 at St. Benedict Catholic Church, Waterford. Rite of Committal Mt. Hope Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church or St. Benedict Catholic Church. Onlin e guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Janet J. Yelland, 53

Janet J. Yelland, formerly of Swartz Creek,

Mich., and Mesa, Arizona, passed away with her family at her side on March 2, 2016, at age 53.

She was the loving mother of Ashtin Burnett; beloved daughter of John (the late Ginger) Yelland; dear sister of Dennis

(Lori) Yelland; niece of Robert (the late

Wed., March 9, 2016 The Clarkston (MI) News 29 Marian Beardslee Raymond, 102

Marian Beardslee Raymond, daughter of Grant and Blanche

Beardslee, was born on Aug. 5, 1913, in Independence Township, Oakland County, Mich., and passed peacefully at home with family on Feb. 24, 2016 in Dunedin, Fla.



3

She graduated from Pontiac High School and Michigan State

Normal College (Eastern Michigan University) where she was president of the Women's League. She received a master's degree from the University of Michigan.

She married Anson G. Raymond on Sept. 7, 1940. After Anson completed his military service with the Army, they moved to White Plains, NY in 1947, where they lived until 1975, raising their two children.

Marian was active in the White Plains Presbyterian Church and the PTAs at George Washington Elementary School and White Plains High School.

When Anson retired from Exxon in 1975, they moved to Dunedin, Fla., where Marian was involved in the Fairway Estates Women's Club, PEO sisterhood, president of COSOUP and a member of the Dunedin Country Club.

She was an elder at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, manager of the Soul Café, and a member of the Abigail Circle.

She joined the Clearwater Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and served as regent and chapter schools' chairman.

Additionally, she was chairman of the Florida State Schools committee, a life member of the James gang and a member of the Heritage Club, Diamond level.

She and her husband established scholarships at Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan. A."

Marian is survived by a son Anson, Jr and a daughter-in-law Bernice of Arcadia, Fla., a daughter Janice of Coronado, Calif., and her beloved caregiver Diamondra.





Cynthia Block, Ryan Hipp and Rodney (Kelly) Hipp; proud grandma of Brandy Werner, Fred Hipp III,

Tyler Mankewicz, Tyrus and Ryleigh and Hayden Hipp; beloved great grandma of Scottie and Chloe; mother in law of Bill Mankewicz.

Funeral Service, Wednesday, 1 p.m., at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. where friends may visit, Wednesday, 12 p.m. until time of the service.

Memorials may be made to the American Society. Online guest Cancer book www.wintfuneralhome.com.

grandchildren and nine great grandchildren; sister of Donna (Fred) Aiken and Lola Mills. Evelyn retired from William Beaumont Hospital after 25 years of service.

Celebration of Life Service was March 6 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Private Interment Roseland Park Cemetery. Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Darlene) Baird; special cousin of Rhonda and Colleen Baird. She will be missed by many friends, especially Marilyn Allen. Janet will be missed by her beloved cat Moochie.

She was a graduate of Swartz Creek High School, class of 1980, and was a hair stylist for over 30 years, with many regulars that became friends.

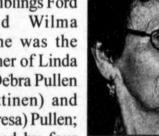
Funeral service was March 5 at Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Interment at Lakeview Cemetery, Clarkston. Donations in Janet's memory may be made to Heavenly Paws Animal Rescue, 2839 Portage Road, Rochester Hills, MI 48309 or for online donations, visit heavenlypawsmi.com. Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Her memorial service will be on April 2, 2016, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 705 Michigan Blvd, Dunedin, Fla.

Her ashes will be buried in the Sashabaw Plains Cemetery in Clarkston, Mich., on April 9, 2016, at 11:30 a.m. with the ashes of her husband of almost 60 years Anson, who predeceased her in 2000. The family requests in lieu of flowers a donation be made in Marian's memory to Suncoast Hospice, 5771 Roosevelt Blvd, Clearwater, FL 33760.

Obituaries posted daily at Clarkstonnews.com

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Taxes due

Continued from page 1

Township Treasurer Paul Brown said the post office losing mail is unfortunate, but does not justify waiving the late fee.

The treasurer's office has no authority to do so anyway, Brown said.

"That would open a Pandora's Box – anyone could say it was lost in the mail," he added.

State law allows for penalties of up to 3 percent, which the Township Board put in place in 1990, he said.

Each year, about 12-15 taxpayers report payments lost in the mail, Brown said.

The treasurer said bills should be mailed in early enough to ensure deposit before the due date.

"People need to make sure payment gets here on time," he said.

Mailed payments go to Chase Bank, the township's financial institution.

"We've had no issues with them – it works really well and saves the township some resources," Brown said.

This is the first year the township has sent out late notices – about 1,500 of them, five percent of township taxpayers. Previously, deliquent bills would be sent to Oakland County for collection without second notice.

"The majority just forget to pay them," Brown said.

The second notices were successful, he said. Typically, about three percent of taxpayers are late. This year, it's about two percent.

The county takes over late payments on March 1, and any payments received by the township after that time are returned to senders, he said.

Michael Powell said there should be a policy in place giving taxpayers refunds of their penalties if checks eventually show up.

"They can bring the returned letter to the township as proof of payment," he said.



FAMILY GAMES: Fifth grader Katrina Massey and her grandmother Betty Jean Barthel play Yahtzee during Independence Elementary's S.O.C.K.S. Day.



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Taxes can be paid online at www.indtwptax.com, or call 888-357-8394 and follow instructions. They can also be paid at Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Drive, which is what the Powells said they will do in the future.

"Considering that this is the first time we've mailed in our tax payment, from here on out we're forced to hand deliver all of our bills to Independence township," they said. "Why risk paying a penalty for the incompetence of the post office? We suggest township taxpayers do the same or it could cost you!"

Summer taxes are due on July 1, payable through Sept. 14 without penalty or interest.

Fourth graders take over the media center as they work on fleece blankets for Children's Miracle Network at Beaumont Children's Hospital. Photos by Wendi Reardon











1ST AND 2ND round and squa bales. 248-431-2403, 248-867-5391. !!ZX313

050 FIREWOOD

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090 AUCTIONS SALE OF DEFAULT UNITS Thursday, March 24, 2016 @ 12:00 NOON STORMAX SELF STORAGE **55 Mill Street** Oxford, MI 48371 248-690-7705 UNIT# A15-Cooper, Ken Misc. Household UNIT #B27- Adekitan, Mary Misc. household L152c

SOMERVILLE FARMS Auction, Thursday, March 17, 2016, 10:00 am 399 E. Cass City Rd., Unionville, MI 48767. Live & Simulcast bidding! Full list and photos at: Sykoraauctions.com 989-386-9694. !!CPM1 !!L19-tfdh

Oxford Leader & Ad-Vertiser 248-628-4801 2401. !!CPM1 **Clarkston News & Penny Stretcher** 248-625-3370 Lk. Orion Review 248-693-8331 (Holiday deadlines may apply) L28-dh ESTATE/ MOVING Sale: 2005 Bald Mountain L.O. Mon thru Fri-10am 2pm. February 29th thru March 11th. Best Offer: Pictures, Bookcases, Large Furniture- For current inventory/ directions call 248-693-9456 !!L142 DO YOU SEE A CO OR A * **NEXT TO AN AD? Check our** classifieds on-line for a photo or a Google map. Oxfordleader.com fice. 248-693-8783. !!L134

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L513c

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perienced cooks, waitstaff, and barmaids. Pay on experience and performance. Apply between 11am & 4pm. 1172 S. Lapeer Rd., Lake Orion !!R154 ATTN: PAINTERS! Used painting equipment for sale. Brushes, ties included. Cable ready. Rent sanders, ladders and tons more! Negotiable! Call Sandy 248-420-Make me an offer. Call Jim

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ist, experience preferred. Fax re-

sume and salary requirements to

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installer/ helper. Must have reli-

able transportation and be de-

pendable. Pay based on experi-

ence. 248-941-9903. !!LZ152

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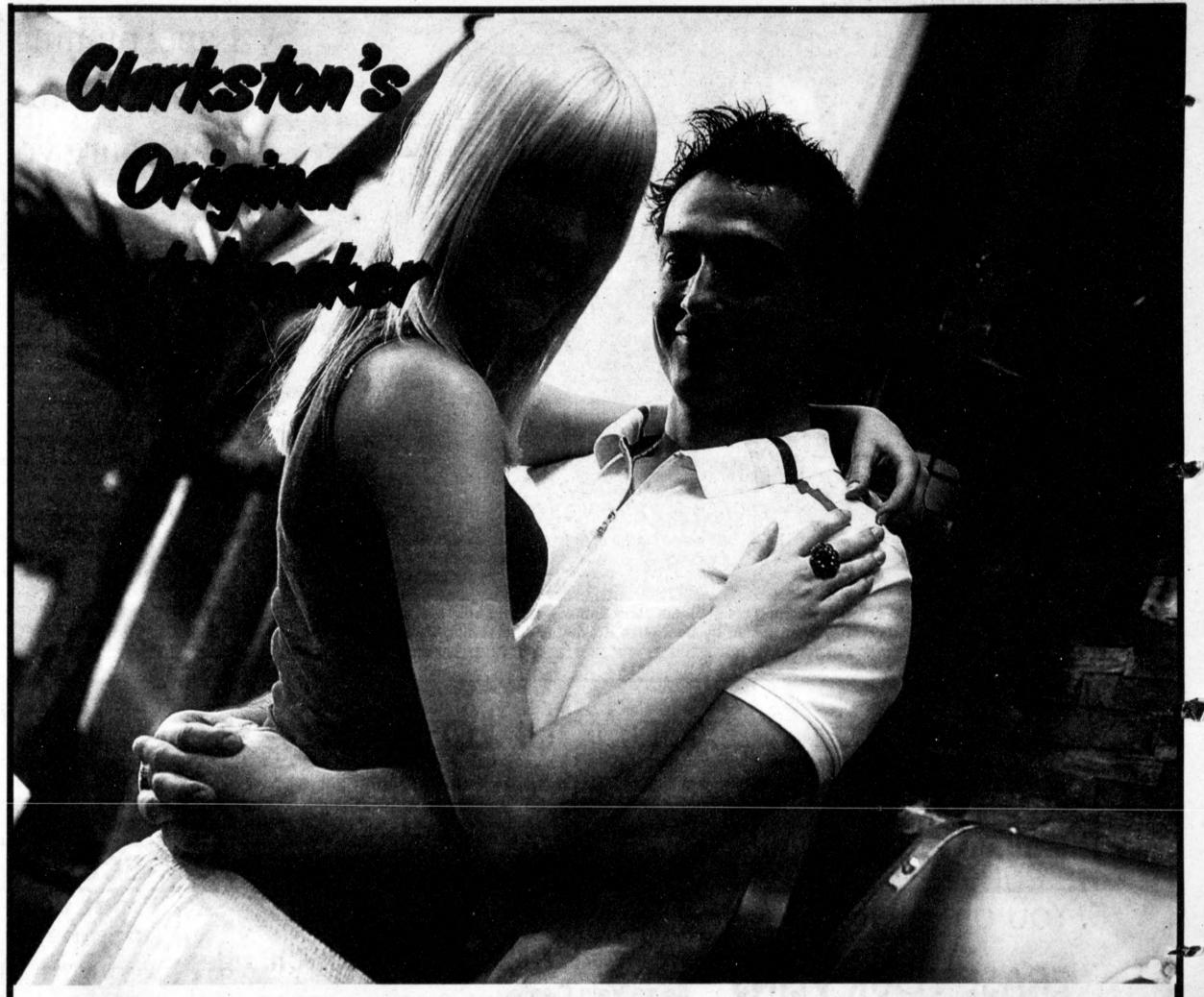
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Sen. Dave Robertson, R-Grand Blanc, at left, welcomed constituents Jerry Sabulej, second from left, and his wife Pauline to the Michigan Capitol on Wednesday. They were joined by Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, for a lapel-pinning ceremony honoring Vietnam veterans. Photo provided SPACE JUNITOON

Lapel pinning at Capitol for Davisburg vet

Jerry Sabulej of Davisburg and his wife Pauline were guests of state Sen. Dave Robertson, R-Grand Blanc, for a lapel-pinning ceremony with other Vietnam veterans at the Michigan Capitol on Wednesday.

Sabulej is a United States Marine Corps veteran.

"Lapel pins are meant to symbolize the honorable service of those who fought in the Vietnam War," Robertson said. "I am honored to present Mr. Sabulej with his lapel pin, and I certainly believe his service is worthy of recognition in this chamber. It was quite a humbling experience to be able to participate in this important event."

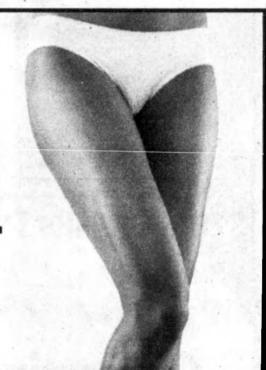
Robertson and Sabulej were joined by state Sen. Mike Kowall, R-White Lake, during Wednesday's ceremony, Kowall is a partner with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner Program and is in charge of pinning ceremonies for the Michigan Senate.

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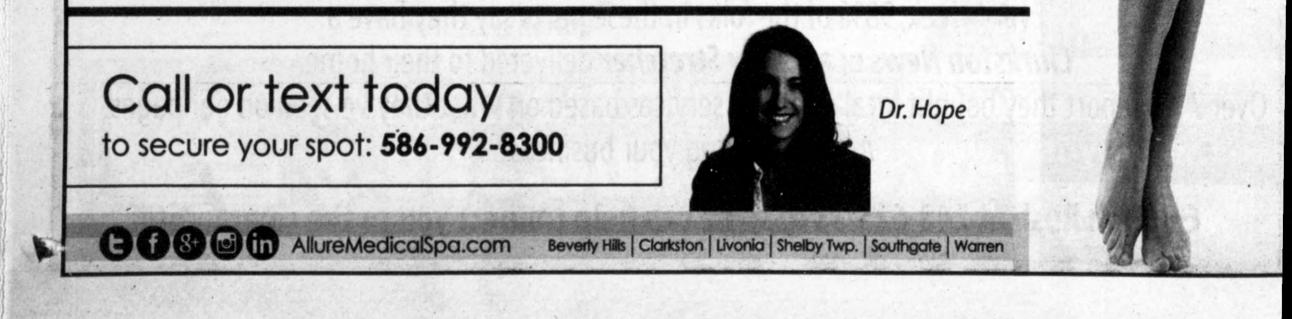
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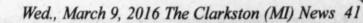
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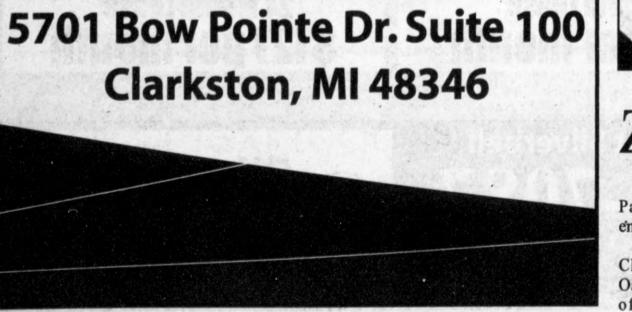


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The bride-to-be is a 2012 graduate of Clarkston High School and a senior at Oakland University. She is the daughter of Donald and Monique Zeder of at Addison Oaks.

Clarkston.

The future groom graduated from Clarkston High School in 2011 and is a student at Oakland University. He is the son of Brian and Annette Parker.

The couple is planning a June wedding t Addison Oaks.





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