

The Clarkston News

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Lots of action at Clarkston High, on page 18.

Vol. 88 No. 9 Wed., November 30, 2016

1 Section, 28 pages \$1.00



BALANCING ACT: Pine Knob Elementary student Alyssa Warren works on her balancing project using her nose as a fulcrum in the school tinkering room. See page 19 for story on the Cultures of Thinking project. *Photo by Jessica Steeley*

Bonuses OK'd for city workers

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Clarkston City Council approved \$300 bonuses for city staff in a split vote, Monday.

"Our city people work an awful lot – they do an awful lot for us," said Mayor Steve Percival, who recommended the bonuses. "They do the heavy lifting around here."

Percival and council members Eric Haven, Sue Wylie, and David Marsh voted in favor of the bonuses. Council members Jason Kneisc, Sharron Cattalo and Richard Detkowski voted "no."

The bonuses will go to the city treasurer, building head, clerk, administrative assistant, DPW supervisor, and DPW fulltime employee – \$1,800 total.

Money is available due to City Manager Carol Eberhardt's resignation earlier this year, and other departments came in under budget, Percival said.

"We are much better off than where we thought we would be," he said.

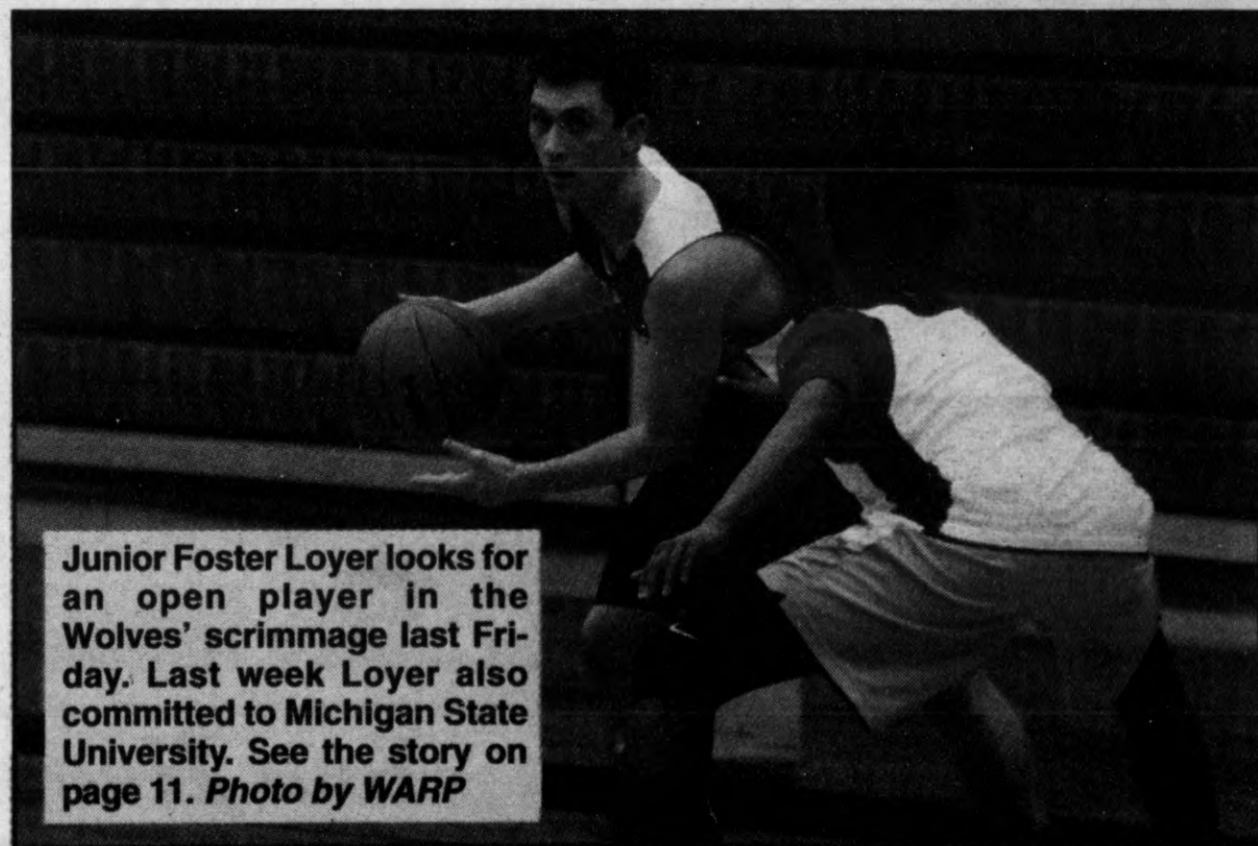
Catallo said she needed more information.

"It's like we have this little pile of money we're trying to get rid of," Catallo said. "I'm just not sure, without having some advice from our accountant, we're doing the right thing."

Haven said the one-time bonuses would send a message to staff the city cares.

"We do have the money – we've been saving it because of what's going on," Haven said. "With the stress level borne

Please see Proposal on page 4



Junior Foster Loyer looks for an open player in the Wolves' scrimmage last Friday. Last week Loyer also committed to Michigan State University. See the story on page 11. *Photo by WARP*

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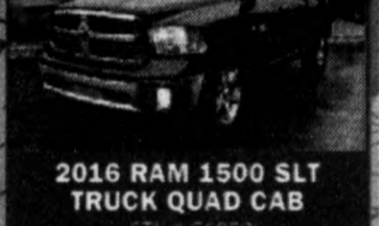
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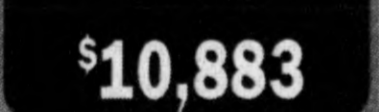
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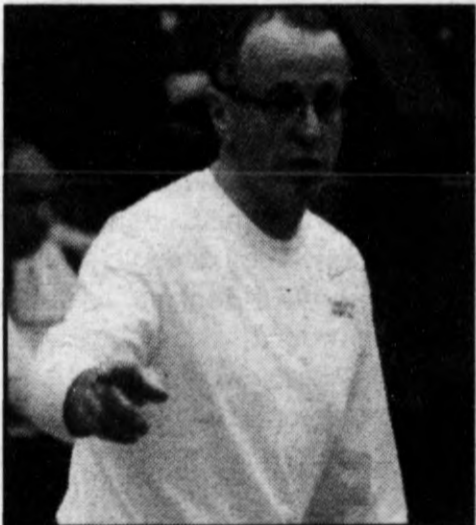


Junior CJ Robinson blocks Southfield Christian from closing in on the net.

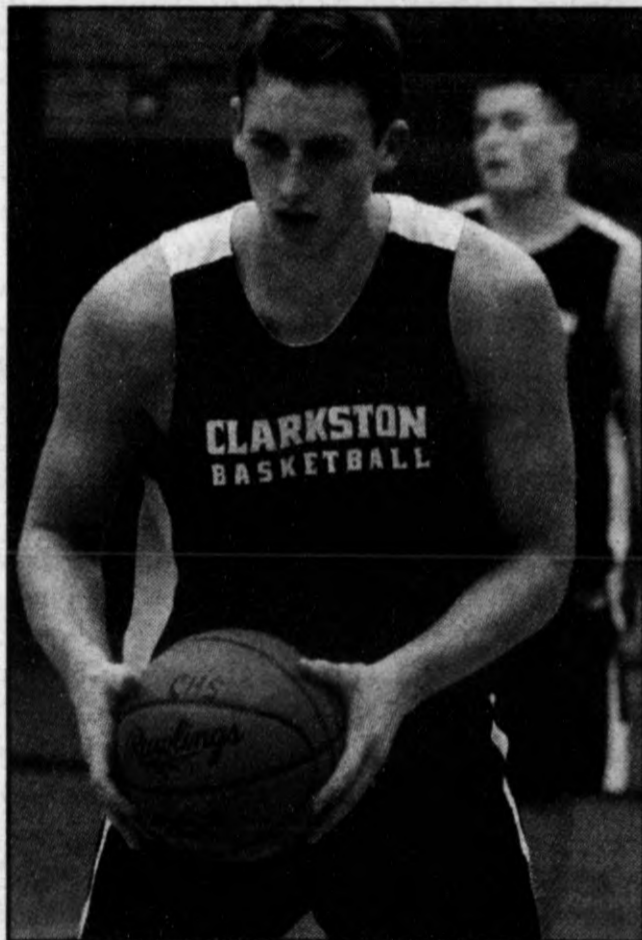
Shooting for the rim

The Clarkston Boys Basketball team worked on their skills as they hosted their annual Black Friday scrimmage after Thanksgiving.

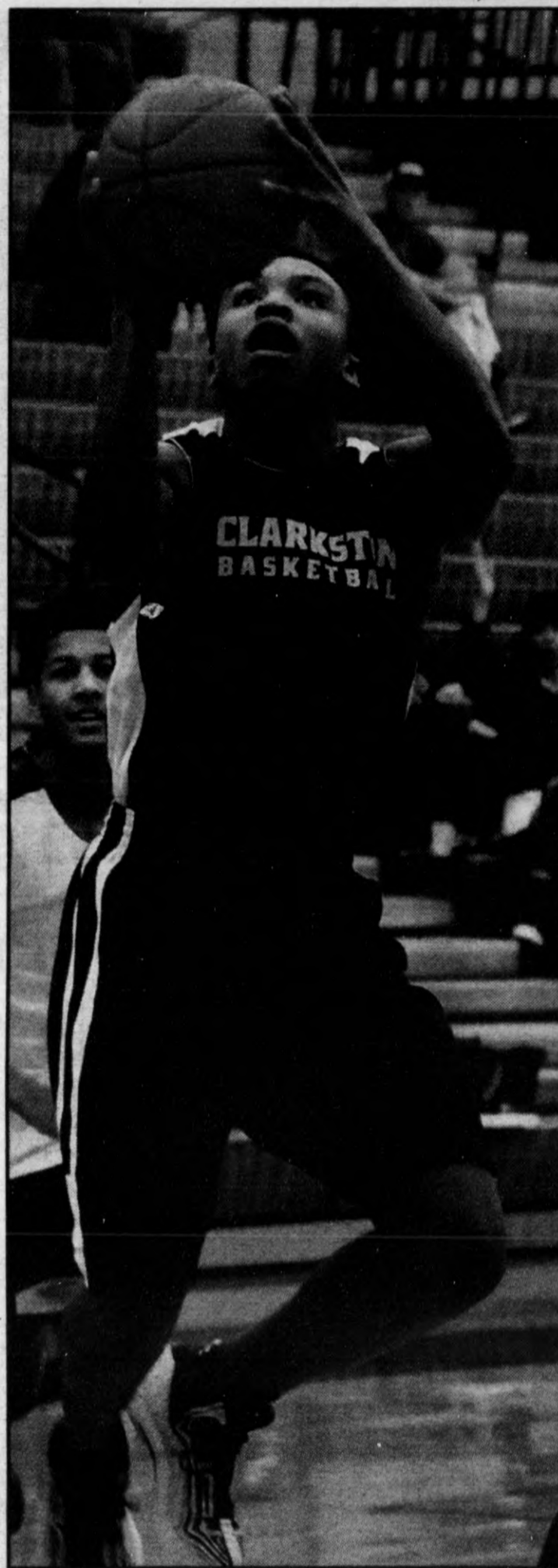
See the boys in action at home next week as they host St. Mary's on Dec. 9.



Dan Fife, head coach for Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball, signals to the boys during a play.



Senior Dylan Alderson takes a moment on the free throw line before making his shot. *Photos by Wendi Reardon Price*



Junior CJ Robinson jumps for a shot against Southfield Christian.

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Varicose Vein treatment covered by insurance?

"Americans who are suffering from unsightly, swollen, painful varicose veins might want to take closer look at their insurance", says Dr. Charles Mok D.O., at Allure Vein Center.

"What most people don't know is that the Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as Obamacare, covers treatment for varicose veins," he adds.

"We're seeing more and more people for this condition. Why wouldn't you have it treated when it's an easy procedure with little to no out-of-pocket costs?"

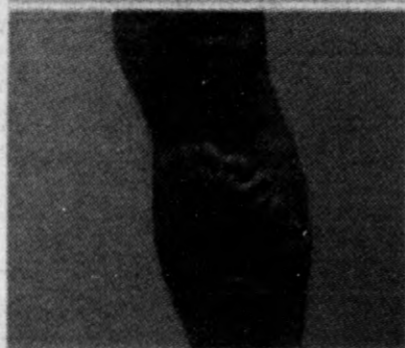
Forty million people suffer from varicose veins, which can result in substantial pain and complications if not treated. Symptoms may include:

- bulging veins
- restless legs
- aching, throbbing, cramping

"Early detection with free vein screening is essential," says Dr. Mok. "Wait too long and you could experience unwanted skin changes including swelling and skin ulcers."



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Charles Mok D.O.

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TREE TIME: Mike Batchik IV and Mike Batchik cut down their Christmas tree, which they picked out at Rattalee Lake Tree Farm last Friday. The day after Thanksgiving is popular for shopping, and putting up decorations for the Christmas season. *Photo by Jessica Steeley*

Proposal for raises not approved

Continued from page 1
by the staff, it's realistic to compensate them."

Kneisc said he would have supported the proposal if it would have been stipulated on review by the city accountant.

Catallo said the issue should go to the city budget committee before being presented to council.

"That's the way it's been always handled," she said. "We didn't budget for any of this, this year - this is odd."

Detkowski agreed.

"I feel we need more information, considering the environment we're in, to make sure it's done with clarity," he said.

Marsh said he was also uncomfortable with the timing, but the employees deserved the bonuses.

"With the extra work the city staff has done with the transition, I have to say, 'yes,'" he said.

Percival also recommended four-percent salary increases for the treasurer, clerk, and administrative assistant, in addition to the bonuses.

Wylie proposed the resolution to provide the bonuses, but not the raises.

"If we give them a raise, we're committed to them in future years," she said. "Incentive bonus only, that's a one-time recognition for everything going on. They deserve a raise. They're underpaid, but I think we're doing things in a wrong order."

Marsh agreed salaries were too low.

"We're going to keep losing people if we don't compete, and right now we don't compete," he said.

A resolution to move the city part-time DPW employee to full time, with pay increase from \$11 to \$12 an hour, was approved unanimously.

The former DPW fulltimer, who had resigned on Nov. 18, had been \$14 an hour.

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New stores for corner

Work continues on a new development at the corner of M-15 and Dixie Highway. The lot, which used to be home to a gas station, has recently been cleared.

Township Supervisor Pat Kittle said the development will be a retail outlet containing four new stores, along with a small park.

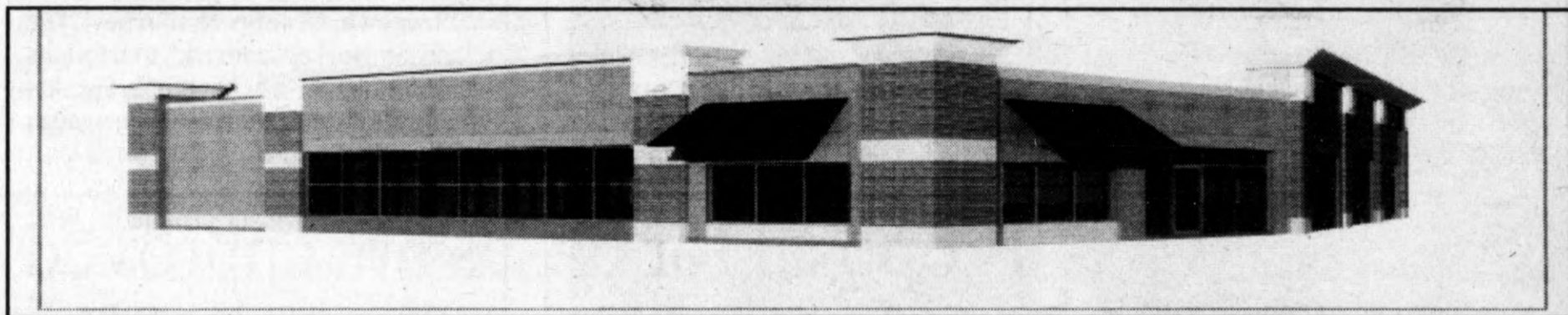
According to the site plan designs, the building will be made of brick with several glass windows on each side. Kittle said it should make the street corner more appealing.

"It's going to look a thousand times better than it ever looked before," he said. "What's unique about this building is it will look good from every side."

— Jessica Steeley



The site plan shows the four-store project at M-15, along the top, and Dixie Highway, with a small park at the point of the corner.



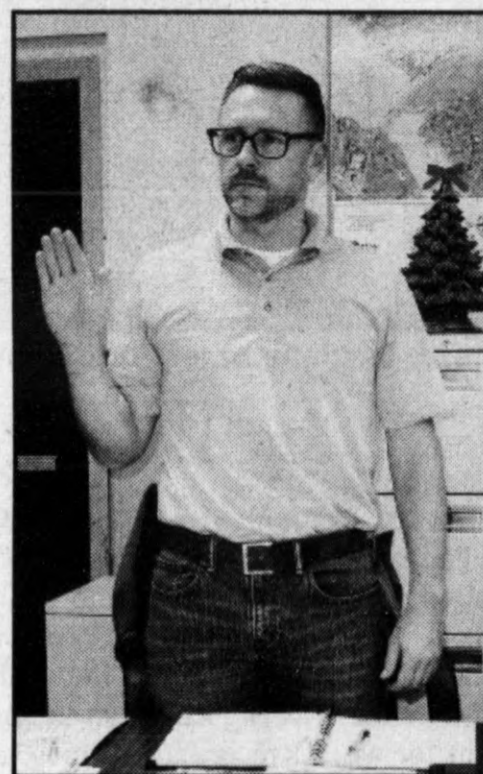
Artist's renderings of the project, in the site plan. Photos provided



New Mayor Steve Percival, at right, presents a plaque honoring former Mayor Joe Luginski's dedication and service to the city. Photos by Phil Custodio



Former Council member Mike Sabol receives his service plaque.



New City Council member Rick Detkowski takes his oath of office.

City honors

Clarkston City Council took some time at the beginning on Monday's meeting to swear in new Council member Rick Detkowski and present service plaques to outgoing Mayor Joe Luginski and Council member Mike Sabol.

Briefly

Tree lighting

Independence Township Parks and Recreation hosts Holiday Nights Light with a tree-lighting ceremony and visit from Santa in Depot Park after the Holiday Lights Parade downtown, Saturday, Dec. 10.

Free activities will also include holiday music, hot cocoa, live reindeer, and letter writing to Santa. The parade on Main Street begins at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call 248-625-8223 or visit www.itprs.org.

Lighting contest

The city is hosting a Residential Holiday Lighting Contest, open to houses within city limits.

Submit votes — one vote per city resident of any age — at city hall in Depot Park by Dec. 20. A tie vote would be settled by a random drawing.

The winner will be announced on Dec. 22. The grand prize is a gift basket donated by Clarkston retailers.

Board of Review

The City of the Village of Clarkston Board of Review meets at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 13, at city hall, 375 Depot Street.

To make an appointment, call the Oakland County Equalization Division, 888-350-0900 ext. 81862.

Live Nativity

Clarkston United Methodist Church's Live Nativity, with camel, donkey, sheep, and goats accompanied by shepherds, angels, Mary, and Joseph, will be on Dec. 7 from 5-8 p.m. at 6600 Waldon Road on the front lawn.

There will also be a petting zoo with an opportunity to feed a variety of animals.

Dinner in the Fellowship Hall, with pasta, salad, and breadsticks, will be from 5:30-7 p.m. Carols led by the children's choirs will be in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m., with Christmas cookies, cocoa, and coffee.

All are welcome and all is free.

For more information, contact Hallie Guzal at hguzal@clarkstonstaff.org or 248-625-1611.

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Jessica's Journal

A column by Jessica Steeley

Most wonderful time

As Thanksgiving wraps up and it finally becomes acceptable to turn up the Christmas music, I'm looking forward to attending some holiday events.

Whether it be with family or friends, holiday events are a great way to get in the season's spirit.

Of course there are the yearly activities: getting a tree, decorating, visiting Santa, but, if you're like me and absolutely love Christmas, the whole month is a celebration of the most wonderful time of the year.

Being in Metro Detroit, I'm interested in about half a dozen holiday festivities, from holiday markets to lighting festivals. For the first time this year I have a house to decorate however I want, tiny four foot Christmas tree and all.

I've already attended the tree-lighting in downtown Detroit and the storefront lighting in Rochester, two events I haven't been able to do in the past having been at school in East Lansing.

I'm excited to be in Clarkston for the holiday season this year. There's always something going on and Christmastime is no exception.

This weekend will be especially Christmassy for me. One of my best friends from Minnesota is visiting. This will only be his second time in Detroit and, in a total reverse from his first summer visit, I'll get to show him some reasons Michigan is known as a winter wonderland.

Our busy weekend includes ice skating at Campus Martius park, going to the Detroit Zoo, shopping at two winter markets and visiting Greenfield Village for their Holiday Nights event.

It's a lot of Yuletide cheer, the only way it could be better is if we're able to enjoy some eggnog and hot chocolate during the festivities.

This weekend may encompass most of my holiday fun, but I encourage everyone to get together and take some time out during the month of December to do a fun holiday activity.

It could be a great way to relieve the stress many people feel during the holidays.

Even if it's just baking Christmas cookies, sledding or building a snowman, there's no better time to have an unabashed good time.



Hirings cause for concern for reader

Dear Editor,

Reading last week's news the Clarkston Community Schools was hiring more techno staff and a publicity flak was dismaying ("New admin hires for schools," Nov. 23).

Progenitors of techno oriented instruction, British firm Pearson PLC, is losing money as their profit dog "Common Core" fails to hunt. Some of their apps more than fill tablet devices and crash systems before Johnnie or Janie could learn their lessons. Then, comes the testing, where the company is paid dearly. Common Core is not just an educational failure, but a money loser as well.

As for public relations, if Clarkston Schools parents, who number in the thousands, aren't enough to tout the district then there indeed is a problem that may remain

unsolved even with spending on a person to manage it. People who populate these positions in public schools push millage increases. Clarkston Schools is awash in money from the most recent windfall, and still in tremendous debt. Hiring more?

In short, let me suggest two courses of study from Clarkston School grads.

Chiropractic for all the stooped posture resulting from bending and staring into computer screens and smart phones. Secondly, psychology holds a future to help all the snowflakes with their addictive dependency on technology.

Many are in need of a check, a reality check. Don't believe me? Try taking a student's smart phone.

Robert Namowicz
Clarkston



Sherry Regiani, at left, and Morgan Hoxsie at The Big Ring.

Bell ringers set record

Sherry Regiani of Clarkston, Judy Mellen, hand bell choir director at Clarkston United Methodist Church, and Morgan Hoxsie, who grew up in Clarkston, joined hundreds of bell ringers at the Mall of America for "The Big Ring," an attempt to break the world's record for the most number of hand bell musician's playing together, Nov 19.

"This was the kickoff for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign - and we did it," Regiani said. "We had to memorize our parts for over six minutes of music, not an easy task. The piece, entitled 'Silver Carol,' was commissioned and arranged by David Hart, who was also the main conductor. There were 664 of us from 32 states and a couple Canadian Provinces. It was amazing!"



Hundreds of bell ringers helped set the record. Photos provided

A Look Back

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 2001

"Festival kicks off holiday season"

The Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce was planning to help spread some holiday cheer as they prepared to host their first Heart of Clarkston Holiday Festival. The chamber had planned the festival for more than a year.

"Theater owner ordered to pay restitution, on probation" Nearly 10 months after the case was first brought to the court system, Larry Sefa, former owner of the Clarkston Cinema and Broadway Real Estate, Inc. on Dixie Highway, was sentenced for embezzling \$2,800 from a Pontiac couple who placed the money on a down payment on a home in 1999.

"Icers win Cranbrook tourney" The Clarkston Hockey team had a victorious week. They won the Cranbrook Thanksgiving tournament with a 1-0 win against Brighton in the finals and defeated University of Detroit Jesuit, 1-0. They also posted a 6-1 win league champions West Bloomfield.

25 years ago - 1991

"Fire, blast destroy repair shop" Fire completely destroyed a building used for heavy equipment repair at Springfield Sand and Gravel in Springfield Township. The building was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived.

"Lighting the town" Brian Miller, a Clarkston High School senior and member of the Interact Club, braved the cold winter winds to place lights around Clarkston's Christmas tree on Main Street.

"Wyniemko clutches AP All-State honors" Wide receiver Jon Wyniemko caught 55 passes for 782 yards and had nine touchdowns during the fall season and was selected as an AP Class A All-State end.

50 years ago - 1966

"Snow days" Devon Hartman, 11-years-old, and Frank Hoskins, 13-years-old, took advantage of the packing snow by building a igloo-fort front of the Hartman home on East Washington with their helper, Laddie the dog.

"Firemen go on three calls" One of the three fires in the Clarkston area, which occurred on Shappie Road, was being investigated by the state police. The fire was confined to primarily one bedroom and had a lot of smoke and water damage.

"Round the town" Mr. and Mrs. William Allen and their son, Rod, spent Thanksgiving with Mr. Allen's mother, Mrs. Lyda Allen.

Early mythical Santas were tall and thin

These Jottings ran on Dec. 14, 2011
So, I'm thinking: What can I write for this Christmas season that I haven't covered before?

So, why is Santa fat?

Thin people can be jolly. If you were looking for Santa history you'd probably go on the internet. I went to my World Book Encyclopedia, circa 1960.

It starts, "Santa Claus is a mythical old man who brings gifts to children at Christmas. Today's Santa Claus developed from a real person, Saint Nicholas, who lived in the A.D. 300s."

From then to 1809, Santa was imagined to be tall and thin. Washington Irving changed that look in his Knickerbocker's History of New York. He made Santa look like an early Dutch settler, a jolly fellow wearing a broad-brimmed hat and huge breeches and smoking a long pipe.

Since the whole idea is mythical, other writers added the white beard, shortened the pipe, made him round, put Santa in fur, from head to foot, and put him in a sleigh

with eight reindeer.

Then in 1866, cartoonist Thomas Nast put Santa in a workshop with a pack of toys, stockings hung at a fireplace and a Christmas tree.

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

I can imagine, however, that he would be thin, drawn face, threadbare clothes, hunched, heavy eyebrows, unkempt long hair and an odor. I continue to imagine it being difficult to draw an odor, even for a cartoonist.

The one thing fat Santas have that thin ones don't is jiggle. And, I can't imagine a "Ho-Ho-Ho" without a jiggle.

--- 0 ---

Can't let a Jottings go by this time of

year without a political comment. The last Republican president who was a lawyer was Gerald Ford, who left office 31 years ago. And, he was appointed, not elected.

--- 0 ---

I was having difficulty getting to sleep some months ago. A doctor prescribed Ambien. In one of my hospital overnights an aide gave me an Ambien. Last summer I read in *The Detroit News* of police finding Ambien in a couple crack house raids.

Being curious, I asked my prescribing doctor about this. He said heroin and other drugs sometimes hype users so much they can't get to sleep.

It isn't heroin that keeps me awake, it's my active imagination, like questioning Santa's size.

--- 0 ---

• I can't remember ever riding in a pickup truck.

• By mistake I hit a button on my car's dashboard. Soon my butt was getting hot. So, I turned ma'dog Shayna's seat heater

on.

Pretty soon she dropped her head a little, turned toward me with a twinkle in her eyes and coyly smiled.

• The major airlines are talking of downsizing.

At the same time, plane-minded people are predicting a huge increase in the number of flights in the not too distant future. These people should read each others news releases and settle on one.

• Human Resources people should consider one more thing when hiring spokespersons. They should not put overweight people on camera urging people to cut-back on something.

--- 0 ---

Johnny Carson: Misery is . . . Going to a costume ball as a bubble dancer and finding out your date is going as a porcupine . . . Buying a sports car and discovering your bucket is bigger than the seat bucket . . . Learning the pitter patter of little feet around the house is because your wife is seeing a midget.

'Tis the season to help those you don't even know

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Don't hit the folks standing in the roads selling newspapers!"
* * *

I know it's that holiday time of year because over the past six weeks I have put together area Goodfellow editions for area groups (boy, have I been putting together Goodfellow newspapers -- but, I know, you don't want to feel my pain.)

Each year, community-minded folk hit area streets to hawk their papers. Funds raised help these community-minded groups make the season a little brighter for those in need.

We've put together and printed editions for Goodfellow groups in Ortonville, Orion and Clarkston (in Oxford we just take a picture of the Lions Club, slap it on the front page and give them a couple hundred copies of *The Oxford Leaders* to sell).

In Orion, volunteers from Fire Station #3 sell the papers and help the locals. Both Goodfellow groups in Clarkston and Ortonville are made up of their town's Rotary clubs. The Ortonville and Clarkston Rotary clubs report on what each group has done over the past year -- scholarships given, community events sponsored, etc.

The owners of this newspaper donate my time,

production costs and the thousands of Goodfellow editions to be sold this weekend. We're a community newspaper -- a part of this community and as somebody once said, "sharing is caring."

The Clarkston Rotary Club has sold a Goodfellow edition for, like, 76 years. We know, because up in the *Clarkston News* archives we have a copy of the first edition.

One of the neat things about putting these Goodfellow editions together is reading about the groups and how they have helped their perspective communities over the years.

The volunteers from Orion Fire Station #3 have been Goodfellows since 1966. The group helps needy families in Gingellville (to those new to the area, that's Baldwin Road, south of Clarkston Road). They help out with clothing, shoes and food.

They pay electric bills and gas bills, for folks who need it All the money donated stays in the community.

Clarkston's Goodfellow sales fund the Shoes for Kids program -- over 300 area kids get new winter boots, shoes, hats, mittens or gloves. One hundred percent of donations go directly to provide Clarkston area children needed winter gear.

All the groups look for folks in need and do what they can to help.

And, while Clarkston Rotary has donned the Goodfellow newssacks since the 1940s, the

Goodfellow tradition is a few years older.

As legend has it, the year was 1914 and the *Detroit News* ran a cartoon depicting a wealthy business man, gifts in one hand, while holding the little hand of a poor, young newsboy with the other

That cartoon got Jim Brady (the head tax man for the IRS in these parts) motivated to help poor folks in the city. He got together with *News* managing editor EJ Pipp and they devised a plan . . . to get old newsboys, who grew into successful men, to hawk newspapers at their old haunts. Their motto then, and now is: *No Kiddie Without A Christmas*.

From that grew a movement many communities now emulate. Goodfellows are not just old newsboys these days, obviously. Goodfellows are men and women from all walks of life and from many occupations and professions. And, though geography and backgrounds differ, their missions are really the same. And a noble mission it is.


While driving this weekend, don't be in such a hurry to get to where you are going. If you see somebody hawking newspapers, whether it is ours or a *Detroit News*, *Free Press* or *Oakland Press*, take the time to buy one and be a part of the Goodfellows goodness. If you miss out on the Goodfellows newspaper sales, but still want to help, drop me a line and your Uncle Don will set up you.

E-mail me, DontRushDon@gmail.com

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush



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Michael Clancy Jr. is driving a bigger race car nowadays. Photo by Phil Custodio

Young racer hits the big leagues

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Michael Clancy Jr.'s racing career continues to take off. The 13-year-old is winning trophies at races around the country and recently signed a national contract with Made in Detroit.

"I'll wear Made in Detroit products and they'll help support the team (with race cars, transport truck, and crew)," said Michael Jr.

"NASCAR is southern, and with us from Michigan, we wanted a tie in with our state," said his dad Michael Clancy, Sr. "It's a big honor."

The racer, who started out at the track at Oakland County Sportsmen's Club in

Independence Township and won his first trophies at age 5, is also driving a bigger car, a 450-horsepower Pro Late Model going 140 mph. "They're flying," Michael Sr. said.

The new season of racing in JEGS and other races around the country starts in February.

"I practice a lot at the local track in Owosso to get used to the different size, tires, speed of the car," said Michael Jr. "It feels weird, racing against people two times older than me."

"He's going to be awesome, in the top three for his age in the nation," his father said.

Goals include signing with other national sponsors and racing at the NASCAR level in the next couple years.

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Silver anniversary for Greens Market

Watch for silver bells, bows, garland and glitz along with the traditional wreaths, roping, and fresh arrangements, Saturday, when the Clarkston Farm and Garden Club opens its 25th Anniversary Greens Market.

This year's market, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, returns to Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive, off M-15.

"This year's décor will be striking," said Anita Andes, returning as event chair for the 10th time. "The premier collection features arrangements in actual silver containers. Fun new items include a selection of picket fence motif and holiday art."

The silver lining in this year's preparations has been the long-standing role of the Greens Market in the community.

"When we first started, we stacked boards across the pews at the Baptist Church," said Kay Robertson, a club member since 1967. "We used them as tables to show the greens and arrangements we had assembled in the basement. Now, that church is the Union (restaurant)."

Club members sold greens standing on

the steps of the old Clarkston State Bank building, and later moved to the Masonic Temple, "where parking was the biggest problem," Robinson laughed.

The Episcopal Church across from the library held the Greens Market for several years until the move to Calvary Lutheran Church in 2015.

"We needed the space for the arrangements, wreaths, roping, loose greens, swags, and small gift items," said Andes.

Members have been designing and assembling items for weeks, along with picking and pruning greens to ensure what is offered is the freshest, she said.

The Garden Club, now numbering nearly 75 members and associates, is a 501c3 non-profit group. Profits from the annual sale benefit college scholarships, education, teacher grants, library gardens, Main Street planters, and other programs.

The club will accept Discover, Visa, Mastercard and American Express. Tax deductible contributions can be mailed to the Clarkston Farm and Garden Club, P.O. Box 1011, Clarkston, Michigan 48347.

For more information, check www.clarkstongardenclub.org.

— Susan Sajdak

Public Safety

For Clarkston and Independence Township

Minor in possession

A motorist called 911 to report a possible drunk driver at a gas station on Sashabaw and Waldon roads, 12:52 a.m., Nov. 15. A deputy found a 20-year-old Holly man in an SUV, parked at the gas pumps. Preliminary breath test result was .210. He was cited for minor in possession of alcohol.

Arrest for assault

An Independence Township woman called deputies after her boyfriend locked her out of her house in the 6000 block of Wealthy Street with their baby inside, 9:14 p.m., Nov. 25. She said the man, a 35-year-old Grand Blanc resident, got drunk when they were eating out. When she told him he had too much to drink and shouldn't drive, he took his keys by force and locked her outside. A deputy called the man on his cell phone, and after a couple minutes he opened the door. He refused to get out of the way, chest bumped the deputy, and lifted his arms to push the officer away. The deputy shoved the man back, and he fell down the stairs into the basement. He was arrested for assault and battery, and cleared medically for incarceration.

Hit and run

A resident in the 6000 block of Deer Ridge Drive called the sheriff's office to report a vehicle hit a landscaping rock and damaged the lawn, Nov. 24. The vehicle had been driven away. A deputy followed a trail of leaked oil to a residence in the 8000 block of Hidden Acres Court. The vehicle's owner, a 30-year-old Pontiac woman, denied hitting the rock and said she hit a deer. The vehicle had no deer hair or blood on it, but had chunks of grass in the bumper and fender area. A records' check showed she had four misdemeanor traffic warrants issued by Bloomfield Township and Auburn Hills police, which said to advise and release her on the warrants. She was cited for leaving the scene of an accident, driving with a suspended license, and no proof of insurance.

Expired registration

A deputy on patrol stopped a car with an expired registration tab after it failed to signal prior to a lane change, 9:29 p.m., Nov. 23, on Maybee Road at Dixie Highway. The driver, a 61-year-old Pontiac man, was cited with driving with a suspended license and expired plates, and given a warning for failure to signal.



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Clarkston's Sporting News

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Loyer becomes a Spartan

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Junior point guard Foster Loyer took to social media last week and announced his intentions to play basketball for Michigan State University on Twitter.

"I'm excited," the leading starter for the Wolves told *The Clarkston News* after practicing free throw shots. "I've been able to go up there quite a few times these last couple of years getting to know the coaching staff, the players and the program."

He added playing for Coach Tom Izzo, who was inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame this year, also helped in the decision.

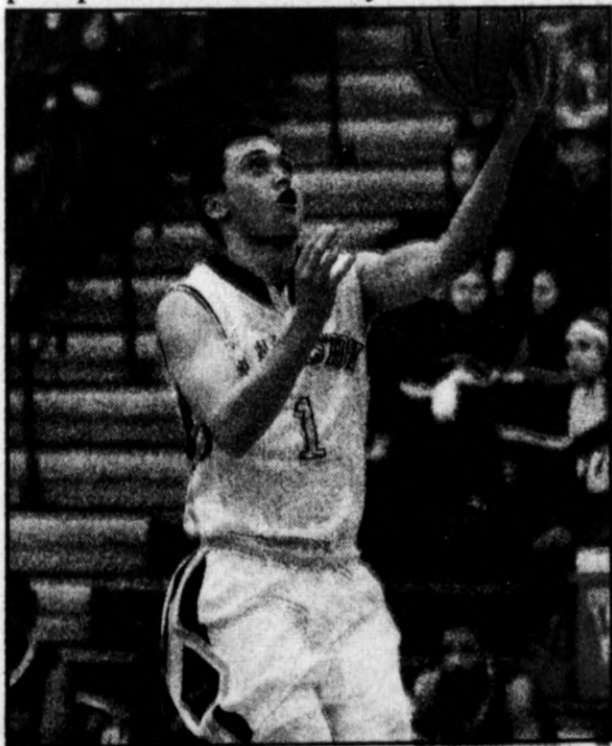
"To be able to play for a coach like that is very hard to turn down," Loyer said.

He added he decided to announce his intentions now instead of waiting so he could focus on his junior and senior seasons.

"You are just playing now for yourself and you are only talking to one school which makes time management easier," he said. "Coming out here and giving it your all every day for Clarkston and focusing on our high school team."

Dan Fife, head coach for the Wolves Varsity Basketball team, added he is happy for Loyer and he is able to commit to a college his junior year.

"He can relax and not have all the pressure," he said. "He can be in his own world, our world. It's a great gesture for him because most kids would let it go out and put up with it for another year."



Foster Loyer jumps for a shot during last year's season. File photo by Larry Wright

Fife noted Loyer will add his understanding of the game and his experiences to the Spartans' program.

"He picks up things extremely quickly," Fife said. "There aren't things they can throw at him he hasn't been involved in or seen. Playing when he was younger, playing up to quicker, stronger, smarter teams he should be able to adapt to that because every level you move up it's quicker and stronger and there's more intensity and more expectations. There's a lot more pressure. He is used to pressure. He is pretty comfortable with it. It's another step for him."

Fife added not only does Loyer understand the game but also understands who he is just as well.

"He is a great worker," he said. "Trying to convince kids how hard you have to play is probably one of the biggest difficulties for coaches in all areas - NBA, college, high school. You have to play hard."

Loyer noted he learned the importance of hard work not only from his parents but also the Clarkston program.

"Every day you need to get better," he said. "Every day you have to focus on getting better. Even now I have decided where I am going to school it should be nothing but a motivator for me to continue to work and continue to get better. My family and my parents have always been hard on me for how hard I am working, what I am doing every day. Just being in the gym everyday and getting better is something I definitely need to keep carrying on."

Fife said Loyer going to MSU is great for the program and the community.

"It's a great thing for kids who are 6-foot tall to see you can make it," he explained. "It's not automatic you can't play at that level. He's proven he can. It's something else really good for everybody to see especially people in Clarkston to see."

Loyer's ultimate goal for his junior year is the same as his teammates - the state championship.

"Obviously there are some small steps before it," he added. "Each game you have to take on by itself, one game at a time. We are just working to the ultimate goal of putting a banner up in our gym."

Watch Loyer and the Wolves in action when they open the season at Lake Orion next Wednesday. They host Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep on Dec. 9. JV begins at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Moreno continues passion

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior Jacob Moreno visited his next school on a recent trip to California.

Next fall he is attending Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego where he will continue playing soccer and plans to study Marine Biology.

"It was a blast," he said, adding the campus drew him in because it was right by the water. "Also, the ability for me to play soccer and also study biology with the focus on marine biology."

He explained ever since he was a kid he was fascinated with marine biology and marine science and continues to feel the same way now.

Moreno finished his final year with the Clarkston Boys Varsity Soccer team in October.

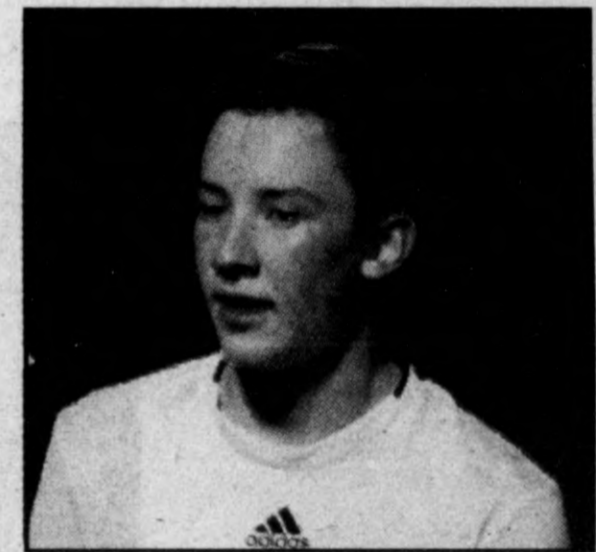
"I really got to live it up with the boys this year," he added. "It was kind of weird being a senior. I have been on the team the last couple of years and it hit me hard this would be my last time playing for Clarkston. I just tried to make it the best season and have fun with all the younger classmen."

"He's a very classy kid," said Curtis Payment, head coach.

Moreno added highlights of the season were against Detroit Catholic Central and playing Rochester Adams in the first round of district playoffs.

"I feel like that's when our team really came together," he said. "We played really well both of those games. It was kind of a rough season with ups and downs but those two games showed what our true potential was."

Moreno began playing soccer when he was younger while living in Mexico



Jacob Moreno

and picked up getting to know the game and having fun with it.

"They love soccer down there," he said. "Being surrounded by the culture of how much they love it, I soaked it all up and started playing down there. When I came back to Michigan I just kept on with it. I began getting really serious about it."

He added soccer brought something out of him.

"The competition is a blast," Moreno explained. "Being out there with ten of your good friends, out on the field working as one to be the best team you can be. It's fun. Also, you get to run. It's a physical game, it's a lot of endurance and very tactical. It incorporates a lot of different skill sets."

His advice to aspiring athletes is don't take for granted the amount of time left on the field or in high school.

"It really does fly by fast," he said. "Just try to make the best of every day as a soccer player and a student."

His parents are Mark and Marcie.



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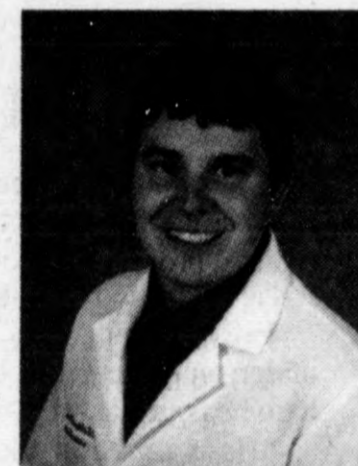
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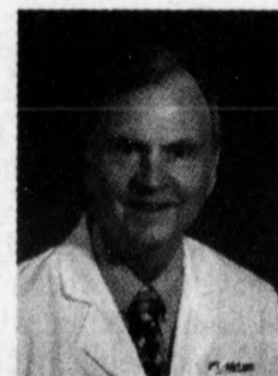
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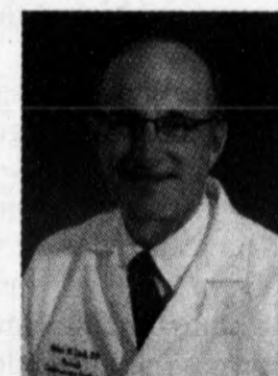
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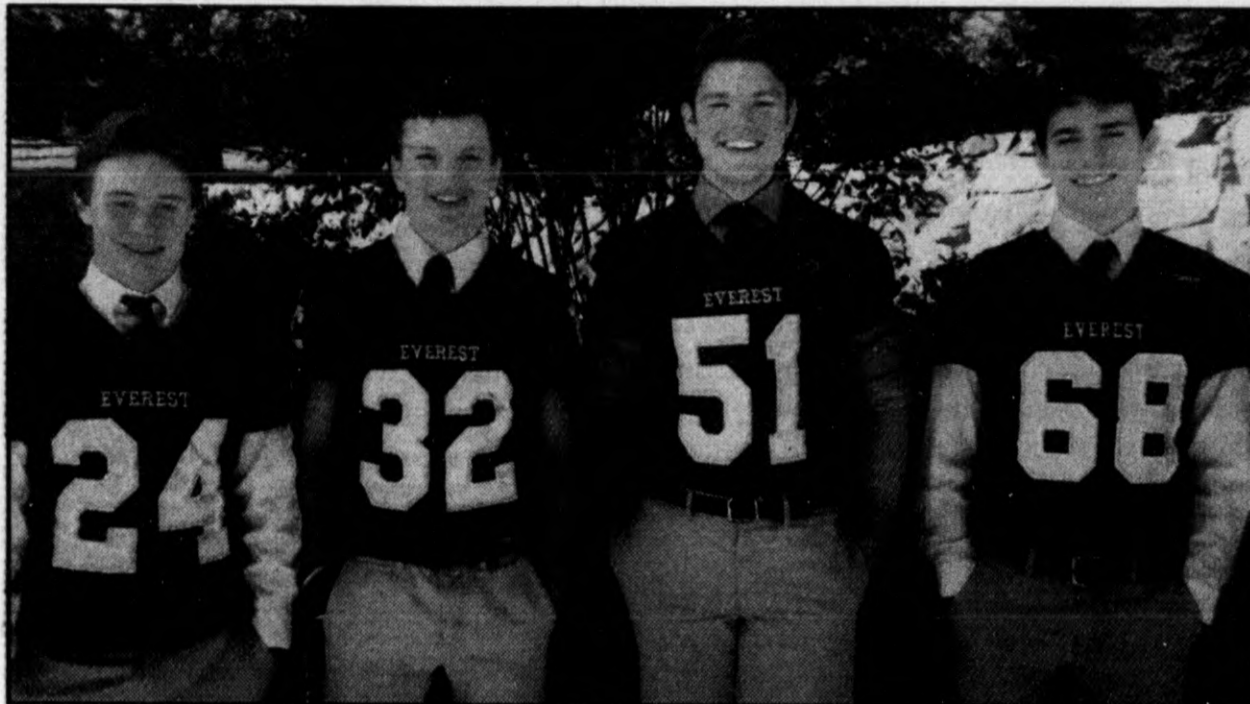


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From left, Alex Legg, Thomas Thibodeau, Gunther Schultz and Paul Bradley. Photo submitted

Football honors for Mountaineers

Everest Collegiate seniors were recipients of the Catholic League Football Honors Awards from the Catholic League Coaches Association.

The seniors include Paul Bradley, Alex Legg, Gunther Schultz and Thomas Thibodeau.

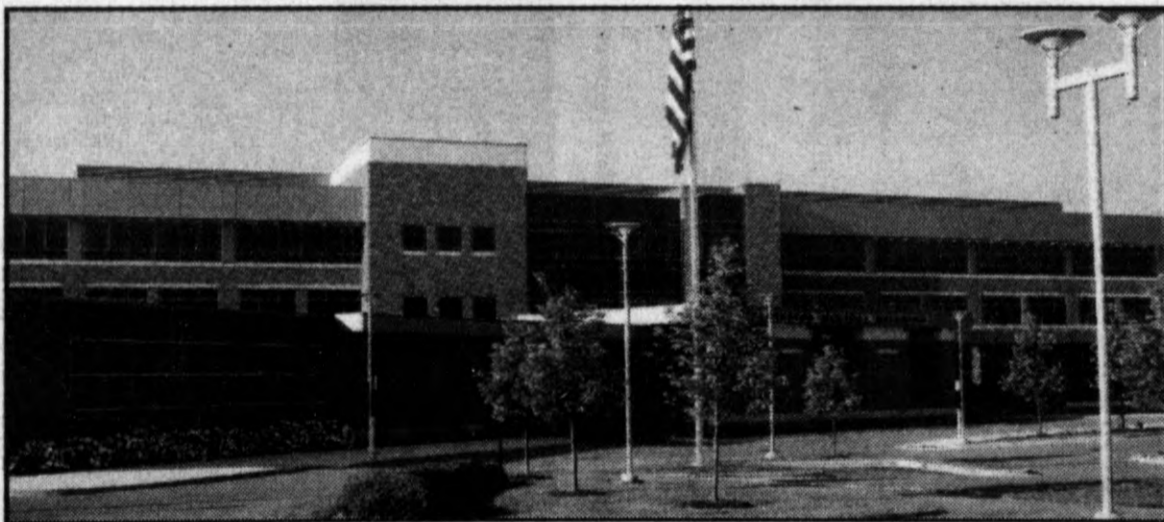
Schultz received All-Academic Honors in the Catholic League; Legg received All-Catholic and Thibodeau and Bradley received All-League.

Schultz and Legg are the first two seniors who played for the Mountaineers' varsity football program for four years since it was created in 2013.

Junior quarterback Grant Burgess was named to the First-Team All-State team for Division 7-8 by the Associated Press.

It was a great season for the Mountaineers as they defeated crosstown rival Our Lady of the Lakes, won a MHSAA playoff game for the first time and won eight games.

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New opportunities for new athletic director

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Jeff Kosin can be seen on the sidelines during athletic events through Clarkston in his role as athletic director since August.

He reflected on his first fall season in the role and the success all of the teams had.

"The amount of success all of our coaches and our players had was far beyond my expectations," Kosin said. "I always knew we had a very sound athletic program. My expectations on my end were support my coaches and my student athletes with what they needed and anything throughout the season."

He attributes all the successes to the coaches on every level, from seventh grade up to varsity.

"Our feeder programs are really what makes our varsity sports so successful," Kosin explained.

What he has enjoyed most about his new role is watching the athletes compete and the Clarkston fans coming out to the events.

"We have a very close-knit community," he said. "The support we get from our community members, our fans, our parents, other students who watch our student athletes is top notch. We win and lose with class so the most enjoyment I have gotten so far has been being able to watch our coaches and athletes compete at the highest

level they can."

Kosin was assistant principal at the high school when Dan Fife mentioned he was going to retire from the position.

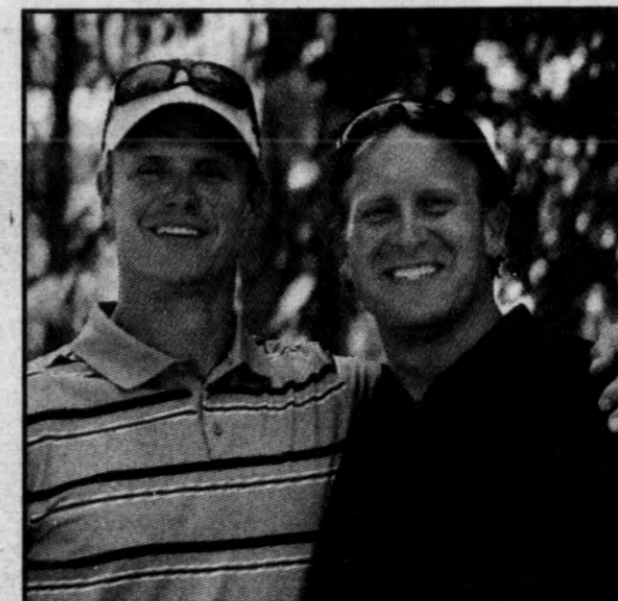
"The position intrigued me," Kosin said. "I love athletics. I love working with our school, working with our community and I thought what better way to join all three and be an athletic director."

Kosin played basketball at Madonna University after graduating from Centerline St. Clement. When he was hired into the district as a teacher he also became a coach. He explained he went into teaching to guide and mentor the youth.

The love for athletics extends into the rest of the Kosin family. His wife, April, also coaches and their three sons play football, basketball and baseball.

He knew filling Fife's shoes in his new role in athletics would be a big task.

"Coach Fife has left quite the legacy with us," Kosin said. "When you think Clarkston Wolves, you think Dan Fife and that's very difficult to step into. You can't replace a Dan Fife at all. The last two years he's been quite a mentor for myself even as assistant principal, showing me what this position is all about, the ins and outs, how to be successful. I take a lot of what he says and what he has done with great strides to continue what we have done here at




Clarkston Athletic Director Jeff Kosin, at right, with John King during the Clarkston Football Program's Golf Outing, Aug. 5. Photo by Wendi Reardon Price

Clarkston."

His biggest goal is to continue the groundwork Fife set in the athletic department.


"I embrace this opportunity. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to work with our youth and our high school athletic programs," he said.

"We have one of the best sports programs in the state and that's because of the commitment our coaches, our athletes and dedication they put forth year after year season after season. I love what I do. I love the kids. I love my coaches."



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Buck Pole winners

Howard Ayers, David Steghner, and Robert Swansey were the top three winners for Springfield Township Parks and Recreation Buck Pole, Nov. 15.

Scores were based on weight, rack spread and number of points for the first day of all-arms deer season.

Ayers finished in first place with an 8-point deer at 121 pounds with an inside spread of 13.75 inches. Steghner took second place with an 8-point deer at 118 pounds with an inside spread of 11.75 inches. Swansey, a 17-year-old, finished in third place with a 2-point deer at 130 pounds with an inside spread 7.25 inches.

Springfield Township Parks and Recreation organizes, advertises and runs the event and Buck Shots Bar and Grill sponsors the event.

Sponsors donating prizes for the winners and those who came out for the night include: A. Purves Excavating, Bottoms Up, Buck Shots Bar and Grill, Bridge Lake Market, Camo Creek Hydrographics, Clarkston Auto Wash, Clyde's Frame & Wheel, Dixie Party Store, Fast Eddie's, Little Caesars of Holly, Letavis Enterprises, Mel's Grill, Mr. G's Hair Care Center, Northern Oak Brewery, Oakland Tactical, Overtyme Grille and Tap Room, Rooster's Men's Grooming and SunRy's Archery and Outdoors.



Howard Ayers and David Steghner finished in the top two places on the first day of all-arms deer season.

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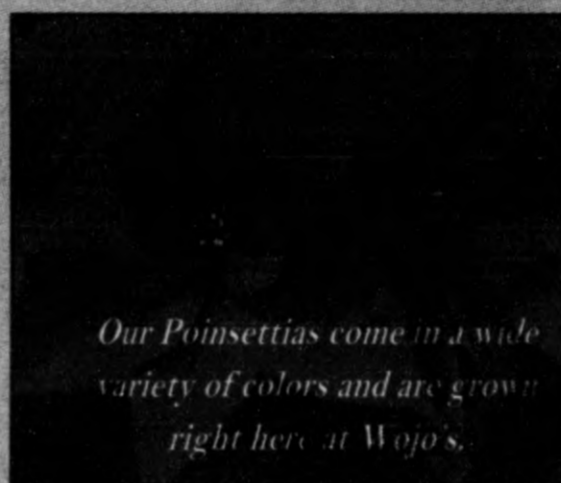


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Please visit us during the week of December 3rd-12th 2016
& receive a FREE Poinsettia (4" pot size)*
*One plant per household, while our supplies last



Our Poinsettias come in a wide variety of colors and are grown right here at Wojo's.



Decorate your home this holiday season with
Fresh Evergreens made daily right here at Wojo's!

Wreaths, Porch Pots, Garlands, Swags,
Holiday Yule Logs, Kissing Balls
& Beautiful Centerpieces.

Holidays Hours



Ortonville: Monday-Sunday 9-5pm
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Wojo's of Lake Orion is closed for the season. We'll see you in April 2017

Join us for Dinner with Santa at Pine Knob

Join Santa for a spectacular Christmas Dinner.
Bring your camera for a photo with Santa, and
kids don't forget to bring your Christmas list!

**Sunday
December 11th, 2016**

Dinner Seating 5:00p.m.
Adults \$49.95,
4-12 years old \$19.95
Children under 3 years - FREE

Reservations Recommended

PINE KNOB CARRIAGE HOUSE

PINE KNOB GOLF CLUB & BANQUET FACILITIES 5580 WALDON ROAD
CLARKSTON, MI 48348 (248) 625-0700 • WWW.PINEKNOBMANSION.COM



Events

Goodfellow newspaper sales, Clarkston Rotary Club, Dec. 2-3, on Clarkston-area streets and Neiman's Family Market. Donations go to Rotary's Shoes for Kids program at Oakland Woods Baptist Church on Maybee Road the next weekend. Clarkston area children in need receive boots, shoes, hats and gloves for the winter. Call Rotarian Joel DeLong, 248-561-8523.

Alternative Christmas Gift Fair, Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Walden Road. Worldwide artisan gifts, donate to humanitarian agency in loved one's name, Christmas cookies by the pound, café.

Rock 'n Roll meets Country concert, Elvis Kelly as Elvis Presley and Mike Carluccio as George Strait, 2 p.m., Dec. 4, The Round Up, 5050 Dixie Highway. \$10. 248-909-4115.

Relay for Life Fundraiser, Dec. 7, Buffalo Wild Wings, 5223 Highland Road. Twenty percent of purchases donated to Relay for Life of Waterford and Clarkston. Flyer required - pick them up at the Waterford Fire Department, 2495 Crescent Lake Road.

Blood drive, American Red Cross, Dec. 8, 9 a.m.-7:45 p.m., Independence Township Fire Department, 6500 Citation. 800-RED CROSS, 800-733-2767.

Rough Night at the North Pole, Children's Theatre/Mime tour with Clarkston Village Players, Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., Depot Theatre, 4861 White Lake Road. \$7. www.centerstageticketing.com/sites/clarkstonhigh.

Christmas Concert, with flute player Alexander Zonjic and Motown Temptation Review Serieux, 4 p.m., Dec. 11, Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. Free. Benefit for Blessings in a Backpack of Clarkston.

Wint's Holiday Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony, 7 p.m., Dec. 13, Clarkston Community Church, 6300 Clarkston Road. 248-625-5231.

Sunday

Donation-only class benefitting O.A.T.S., Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Yoga Oasis, 6160 Dixie Highway behind Pete's Coney. All welcome. 248-770-5388.

Monday

Around Town

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



Clarkston Farm and Garden Club members Anna Thomas, left, and Nancy Wint, with arrangements for the club's Silver Anniversary Greens Market at Calvary Lutheran Church, Dec. 3, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., 6805 Bluegrass Drive. Check clarkstongardenclub.org. Photo provided

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.

Grocery Store Class, Mondays, 6-7 p.m., smart shopping for wallet and diet, at Kroger store, Dixie Highway and Maybee Road. Group tours, \$20. Private classes by appointment, \$80/person. 248-625-5143.

Indoor Pickleball, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 9-11:30 a.m., all skills, \$3 drop in; Tuesdays, 6-9 p.m., experienced and competitive, \$4 drop in, First Congregations Church of Clarkston, 5449 Clarkston Road. Call Mary, 248-625-8231.

Tuesday

Caregiver Support Group, Tuesdays, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, 2 p.m. at the Carriage

House in Clintonwood Park, 6000 Clarkston Road; Dec. 20, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, 7 p.m. at the Senior Center in the park. Vent, share ideas, converse, guided by Dr. Thomas K. Stone, a retired professor and former licensed counselor. Call the senior center, 248-625-8231.

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.

Nuview Nutrition Meet & Greet, 6:30-8 p.m., first Tuesdays, free, 7300 Dixie Highway Suite 500. Pre-register, 248-625-5143.

Mindful-Based Eating, four class series to help establish healthier, more balanced and positive relationship to eating and health, Tuesdays, Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 7300 Dixie Hwy, Suite 500. \$140. RSVP by Jan. 3, 248-625-5143.

Wednesday

Clarkston Optimist Club, 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesdays, American Legion Post 63, 8047

Ortonville Road, north of I-75, www.clarkstonoptimist.org

Thursday

Clarkston News' Coffee Club business networking, 7-9 a.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Free. [Facebook.com/coffeeclubmi](https://www.facebook.com/coffeeclubmi), and www.clarkstoncoffeeclub.com.

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

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

Lunches for 50+, Thursdays, 12 p.m., made-from-scratch. \$7. Independence Township Adult Activities Center, 6000 Clarkston Road. Make reservation by Monday before, 248-625-8231.

50 Plus 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. \$8 yearly membership, \$5 lunch. 248-846-6558.

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

McGrath League, with Clarkston High School Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Dan Fife, coaching staff, and players, Saturdays for 11 weeks starting Dec. 3, Clarkston High School, open to boys in grades 3-8. \$115 for first child, \$90 for each additional child from the same family. 248-623-4326.

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 potential vision problems. Immediate results. 248-625-2212, www.clarkstonlions.org.

CIDL

CLARKSTON INDEPENDENCE DISTRICT LIBRARY

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HEY CLARKSTON! WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY?

PJ Storytime

Thursday, Dec. 8 6:30-7:30 pm

Put on your PJ's, bring your favorite stuffed animal and join us for stories, songs, rhymes and more. Ages 0-5



Teen LEAD

Tuesday, Dec. 6 6-7 pm

Are you a teen in grades 9-12 looking for volunteer hours? Join the Teen LEAD and help improve the library's teen dept, mentor patrons of all ages, and gain skills to become community leaders.

Friends of the Library
Holiday Book Sale

Saturday, Dec. 3 10 am - 5:30 pm
Sunday, Dec. 4 1 - 5:30 pm

Nearly New Books Make Great Gifts!





Senior Sebastian Marquez and junior Jeannie Stevens make Random Act of Kindness posters for an upcoming community forum. Photos by Jessica Steeley



Waypoint Church volunteers serve a Thanksgiving meal last week for students and staff at the school.



Students engage in a debate in Ms. Mrozek's Language Arts class.

More than meets the eye at Renaissance High

BY JESSICA STEELEY
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Stereotypes and preconceived notions often shroud the idea of alternative schools, as students are well aware.

"People who have never been here, they're literally like, 'oh, that's for all the bad kids,' but there's great people here, great staff, great teachers," said Renaissance High School junior Lucas Voyles.

Senior Tyler Baldwin said before he came to an alternative school, he heard they were bad solutions and only for kids who don't succeed. He thinks people need to get to know the school to change their opinions.

"Many people say this is a bad school to be at but really it's the best school," said senior Angel Curtis. "Everybody's nice - nobody says rude, inappropriate things."

All of the four students interviewed said they choose to go to the alternative high school over other high schools.

"It's like any other high school, just more unique," Curtis said. "I've been here for two years and I absolutely love it. I wouldn't change my mind to go to any other high school."

She chose to go to Renaissance because the smaller class sizes allow students more one-on-one time with the teachers. Curtis said the school staff is amazing and respectful, they want to see students succeed.

Similar to other high schools, Renaissance serves students in grades 9-12, September through June. Many of the students agree it's the best school they've been to.

"Out of every high school I've ever attended or been through, most of them don't have teachers like they have here," Baldwin said. "Here the teachers are all about you, the teachers are all involved in what you want to learn and what you don't want to learn."

Baldwin has attended high schools all over the state, but has spent two years at Renaissance, where he plans to graduate from.

Senior Devin Cobern said he likes the environment better than other high schools. Cobern transferred from Oxford High School and thinks Renaissance is a better opportunity for him.

Voyles went to Clarkston Junior High and expressed he didn't feel accepted or welcome there and didn't want to go back, so he interviewed at Renaissance.

"They were just really welcoming like they really wanted me here. They wanted me to help, they wanted me to succeed and I felt like I'd get a better learning experience," he said, describing the school population as a family, everyone knows each other and doesn't judge.

Curtis agreed, saying everyone at the school gets along and she's never been more accepted into a school.

"The kids here are amazing," Baldwin said. "When I first started here I actually thought it was overwhelming to see a student playing a guitar in the office and I thought it was amazing that, this being an alternative school, I would never see that anywhere else."

Outside of just a more intimate environment, Baldwin goes to the school for credit recovery. He said he's able to get credits faster and students are also able to receive credits through volunteer work and hours at a part-time job.

Renaissance High School Director Christa Fons said many students come to the school for credit recovery. Unfortunately, if they don't get the credits on time, the students may not be able to finish because they're too old, Fons said.

That's why the school just approved a new program for students 20-22 years old who are still working to get their high school diploma, Fons said. The program starts Jan. 9. These students would take classes at the school under instruction from Renaissance teachers, but they wouldn't be mixed with the 9th-12th grade students.

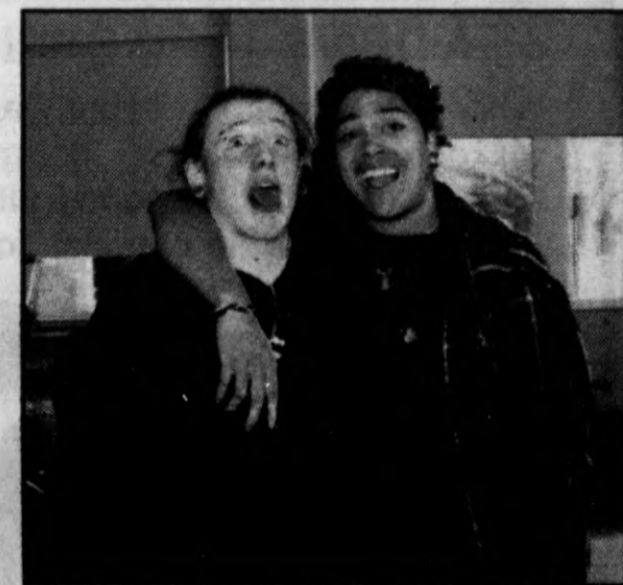
"It's going to be a flexible schedule for these students, because some of them do work and have families and children," Fons said. "We're looking at something that'll be a blended-type instructional, online, possibly cohort group, that's housed here in the school during the day."

Currently the program is taking place with four or five former Renaissance students who weren't able to receive their diploma in their original time at the school, but Fons said it could be a route some current and future students can take.

The program will follow the same school calendar as the high schoolers, though Fons said many of them should be able to complete their diploma in one semester.



From left, Renaissance High School alumni Denise Brenner, Principal Christa Fons, and alumni Cierra Stephens in the cafeteria visiting for Thanksgiving dinner.



From left, Renaissance High School junior Lucas Voyles and senior Jordan Stegeman in the cafeteria.

2016 Alternative Christmas GIFT FAIR



December 3 & 4

Saturday 9-4 Sunday 10-1

**Clarkston United Methodist Church
6600 Waldon Road, Clarkston**

www.clarkstonumc.org/missions

✦ **Fair Trade**

✦ **Donate to a Mission**

✦ **Cookies by the Pound**

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CHRISTMAS STORY EXPRESS

DECEMBER 2-4

6-8:30pm Fri / 5:30-8:30pm Sat / 5:30-8pm Sun

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While in the comfort of your warm vehicle, the story of Christmas will come alive with a narrated soundtrack that guides you through live action scenes filled with colorful lights, animals (including camels) and over 150 characters!



BRIDGEWOODCHURCH.COM



From left are seniors Mark Van Buskirk, Matt DeFinis, and Sydney Jensen, and Principal Gary Kaul in the television studio. Photo by Jessica Steeley

Activities for all at high school

BY JESSICA STEELEY

Clarkston News Staff Writer

A source of pride for Clarkston High School is the ability to provide something for everyone, according to Principal Gary Kaul.

"We've got myriad programs we run and offer at the high school," Kaul said. "With the different academic programs we have here, clubs, activities, sports, if you don't have something you're involved in at the high school, it's probably because you just are not looking for anything to be involved in. There really is something for everybody."

The school has extra amenities such as a television studio students can use and take classes in and a preschool which allows students to work with kids, he said.

Kaul also describes how the school has several academic and artistic programs for students to participate in, from Advanced Placement (AP) classes and the International Baccalaureate (IB) program to athletics and performing arts opportunities.

"We offer a variety of different programs which really meet the needs of all different types of students," said Vicki Potter, French teacher and IB coordinator.

The IB program is a two-year international program students can take in 11th and 12th grade to earn an IB diploma along with their high school diploma, Potter said.

There are also different STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) programs offered, she said.

There's Clarkston's Science, Mathematics and Technology Academy, which is a

technical pathway students can take, and Project Lead The Way, an engineering pathway.

"A lot of different pathways students can take, those are what I would say would be our more advanced type of pathways for students," Potter said. "But in addition to those types of things, students also have the possibility to attend the technical campus and take classes there."

Outside of the curriculum, Clarkston High School has 33 clubs, a number which is constantly growing, Potter said, adding students often come up with ideas for new clubs.

"There's different clubs, there's sports teams, there's things in the school, such as like Leadership or yearbook, you can participate if you don't want to do after school things. There's pretty much enough for everyone," senior Jenna Sommerville said.

As a student who participates in different programs throughout the school, from leadership to lacrosse, Sommerville thinks every student can find something they're interested in, just as long as they're willing to get involved.

Sommerville has also challenged herself academically by taking three years of Spanish and six AP courses.

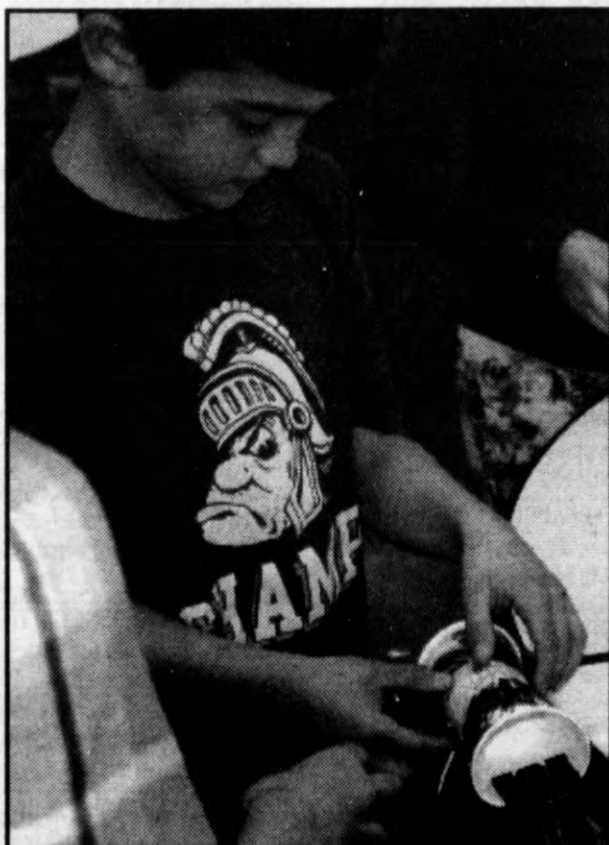
"I definitely think there's a lot of different programs offered for people to challenge themselves and to branch out," she said. "I know people who take Japanese and stuff like that, things normally you wouldn't think of taking, but you just decide to give them a try."



Ella Sinclair displays a project she created in a tinkering assignment given to her class.



Paige Krzciok balances her project on a pom-pom ball.



Luke Toderan attempts to balance his project on popsicle sticks.



Rylan Gardner, Sierra Sievers and Ella Sinclair work on their assignment. Photos by Jessica Steeley

Kids learn by tinkering at Pine Knob

BY JESSICA STEELEY
Clarkston News Staff Writer

A tinkering room is coming to Pine Knob Elementary for student exploration and imagination.

Principal Jodi Yeloushan said teachers do a lot of tinkering in their own classrooms so she wants to provide a space for teachers to bring their classes and allow students to work on projects and hands-on activities.

"It allows students to think outside the box, to work cooperatively with one another, to be able to see that they can have different types of thinking and still solve a problem," Yeloushan said.

She described Janice Driver, a Pine Knob second grade teacher, as having a passion for tinkering. Driver collects broken electronics and has her students open them up and examine how they would work.

"A lot of kids have so much electronics right now they really don't understand the workings of them. It allows them to see inside that kind of thing and put them in a situation where they're creating or exploring how things are created," she said.

The construction of the tinkering room goes along with the Cultures of Thinking being used at schools throughout the Clarkston Community Schools district.

Yeloushan said tinkering is often followed by thinking routines where

students can visibly show their reaction to the activity.

Not many classes currently use the room, as Yeloushan said it's only about 50 percent complete based on what they want to do.

The room is already funded by grants from Clarkston Foundation and Clarkston Optimists. Right now they're working on building everything into the room.

Fourth grade teacher Karen Kumon, another teacher helping to construct the tinkering room along with Driver, said there are plans for several different components in the room including a magnetic wall, a sewing area, water exploration, a tile wall for painting and a green screen.

"Our vision here is we create a room and an environment people can start projects, leave projects, put projects on display once they've been created," Kumon said.

"You have a much different way your brain processes and a very different method when you are hands-on with something than when you're just being told that this is a fact."

But tinkering is more than just purposeful play. Kumon said it allows kids to take learning into their own hands and apply the scientific method and math equations in real-life situations. It ties in academic subjects with life skills, such as

problem solving, teamwork and perseverance.

Driver views tinkering as a way for students to build and explore, all the while being able to fail and try again, there's more time for them to discover and figure out what does and doesn't work.

"In second grade we do a lot with measurement, so I gave the kids a challenge to create some type of catapult and solve the problem, does the weight or the mass of an object affect how far it will fly," Driver said.

"They had to build a catapult and they had to catapult four or five different things made of different materials and measure each one and then come up with a claim as to what they found out," she explained.

Kumon said such activities allow students to take a deeper look into what they're learning rather than just believing information is true because the teacher says so.

Children make connections at a higher level and retain information better when learning through hands-on instruction.

"It's unstructured learning within a structured environment," Yeloushan said. "You definitely see kids come alive in those type of learning environments - where they can explore and they can break things apart without getting in trouble, and working with their hands, working with their friends."

The Oxford Leader - The Clarkston News - The Lake Orion Review - Ad-Vertiser - Penny Stretcher

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CORRECTIONS: Liability for any error may not exceed the cost of the space occupied by such an error. Correction deadline: Monday noon.

HOURS: Oxford: Monday through Friday 8-5
Lake Orion & Clarkston: Monday through Friday 9-5

010 HOLIDAY ITEMS

U-CUT CHRISTMAS TREES, Colorado Blue Spruce, 5-12 ft, all trees are \$30. Hours are Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-5, starting Nov. 26th until Dec. 18th. Wagon rides provided. 1210 N. Coats Rd., Oxford, between Granger Rd. and Hummer Lake Rd. !1LZ522

TAKING ORDERS FOR beautiful grave blankets, grave wreaths, decorated wreaths & cedar roping. Sharon: 810-245-2088; 248-249-6988 !1L488

030 WANTED

WANTED swords, rifles, knives, helmets, metals, etc. Collector, cash. 248-634-4362. !1ZX192

LOOKING TO BUY 'Magic the Gathering' trading cards. 313-706-9667. !1L522

LOOKING FOR Repairable cars/ trucks. Up to \$5,000 cash paid. Quick pick up. 810-724-7647, 810-338-7770. !1LZ504

040 PRODUCE

STRAW STRAW STRAW, \$4.00/ bale and shell, corn 50lb bags. Oxford area. 810-441-3888. !1L12

050 FIREWOOD

LOG SPLITTER \$600; all hardwood firewood, \$55 per cord. 248-391-2110. !1L522

ALL OAK firewood. 248-628-9372 !1LZ11

CURED HARDWOOD oak, cherry, maple, free delivery. \$55.00/ face cord. 248-678-3745. !1C214

OAK, CHERRY Some Maple. \$70/ face cord. 248-625-8426 or 248-342-0621. !1C203

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090 AUCTIONS

SNOWMOBILE AND Motorsports Auction Sat., December 3 and December 17, 2016. Buy or sell! Information at www.snowmobileaucton.com 517-369-1153 White Star Motorsports Auction US 12 Bronson, MI. !1CPM1

110 GARAGE SALE

MULTI-FAMILY ESTATE Sale- Everything must go! Thurs.-Sat., 10am-6pm thru Dec. 23rd. 5489 Perry Dr., Ste. A, Waterford MI 48329. !1ZX182

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L28-dh

120 CRAFT SHOWS

JINGLE & MINGLE Craft Show and Vendor Boutique. Where: Carpenter Elementary School, 2290 Flintridge, Lake Orion. When: December 1, 5pm-8pm. Price: Free. Why: Support your local small businesses and entrepreneurs this holiday season! Over 25 vendors! !1L11

DAVISON H.S. Dec. 3-4, Goodrich H.S. Dec. 10. Vendors call (810) 658-0440, smetankacraftshows.com !1ZX154

MULTI VENDOR December 2-3, 9am-4pm, 345 Ball Street, Ortonville. Table rental available (248)627-6447 !1ZX181

CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW

December 10th - 10 to 3pm
Christ the King Church
1550 W. Draher Rd. Oxford
50+ VENDORS- CONCESSIONS
RAFFLES- \$1 ADMISSION

LZ514

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*THE AD-VERTISER 248-628-9750

*THE LAKE ORION REVIEW 248-693-5712

*THE CLARKSTON NEWS & PENNY STRETCHER 248-625-0706

For additional cost add THE CITIZEN 248-627-4408

LZ8tf

\$500 REWARD for information leading to identification of person(s) who vandalized and stole portions of a lighted holiday display on Bluegrass Drive sometime Friday night 10pm to 6am Saturday. Contact Mike 248-922-7138 or Oakland Deputy Flowers 248-620-4869. !1L12

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HOLIDAY

Shopping Bazaar

Dec. 10, 10am-4pm
Unity of Lake Orion
3070 S. Baldwin Road near Waldon Rd. Stop in and find unique items for gift giving

R12

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From left, Austin Davis, Haley Raupp, Reagan Vaughn, and Cassidy Carene from Dr. Gretka's fifth grade class work around the hoop house.

Hoop house at Independence

BY JESSICA STEELEY
Clarkston News Staff Writer

The children at Independence Elementary are building a hoop house to grow fresh produce and create an outdoor space for hands-on learning experiences.

"In Michigan we are constrained with trying to provide these kind of nature based activities because it just gets really cold six months out of the year," said Chelsea O'Brien, CEO of Clarkston Family Farm. "Building this hoop house was something integral to making sure we can provide outdoor education activities throughout the school year."

O'Brien partnered with Clarkston Community Schools to work on creating nature based activities and outdoor education spaces. The school board recently approved the building of the hoop house. She said since Independence Elementary is within walking distance, they offered to pilot a lot of the programs for the first year of the hoop house.

Fifth grade teacher Dr. Kristen Gretka was eager to pair with O'Brien and the hoop house initiative because she could use the space to align with the teaching of next generation science standards.

"We're looking at solar energy, renewable energy, that's our solar greenhouse. We're looking at plant-based activities and photosynthesis and chlorophyll, that's our growing space," O'Brien said, pointing out different areas in the newly constructed hoop house.

Lauren Sielinski, a fifth grader, said she and her peers are hoping to serve some of the food in the cafeteria.

"Their goal is to grow enough plants to be able to sustain our school cafeteria, we're

going to start with one day a week, possibly to grow to more than that, and then also to provide for Blessings in a Backpack," Gretka said.

The students are excited to help grow vegetables and fruit in the hoop house, O'Brien said. Strawberries, blackberries and raspberries are some of the possible produce they hope to grow.

"We've been building and planting," fifth grader Macy McNaughton said. "It's really nice and before, this was just a big field and we didn't have anything."

McNaughton said they've been working on raised beds and they had to build a trench. Another fifth grader, Isabella Lebert, chipped in, saying they've also built compost bins and spray painted.

The students said they enjoyed working on the hoop house, it was a new experience for them.

"I've never really built anything like this before. I build a lot of things, but never anything like this," Sielinski said.

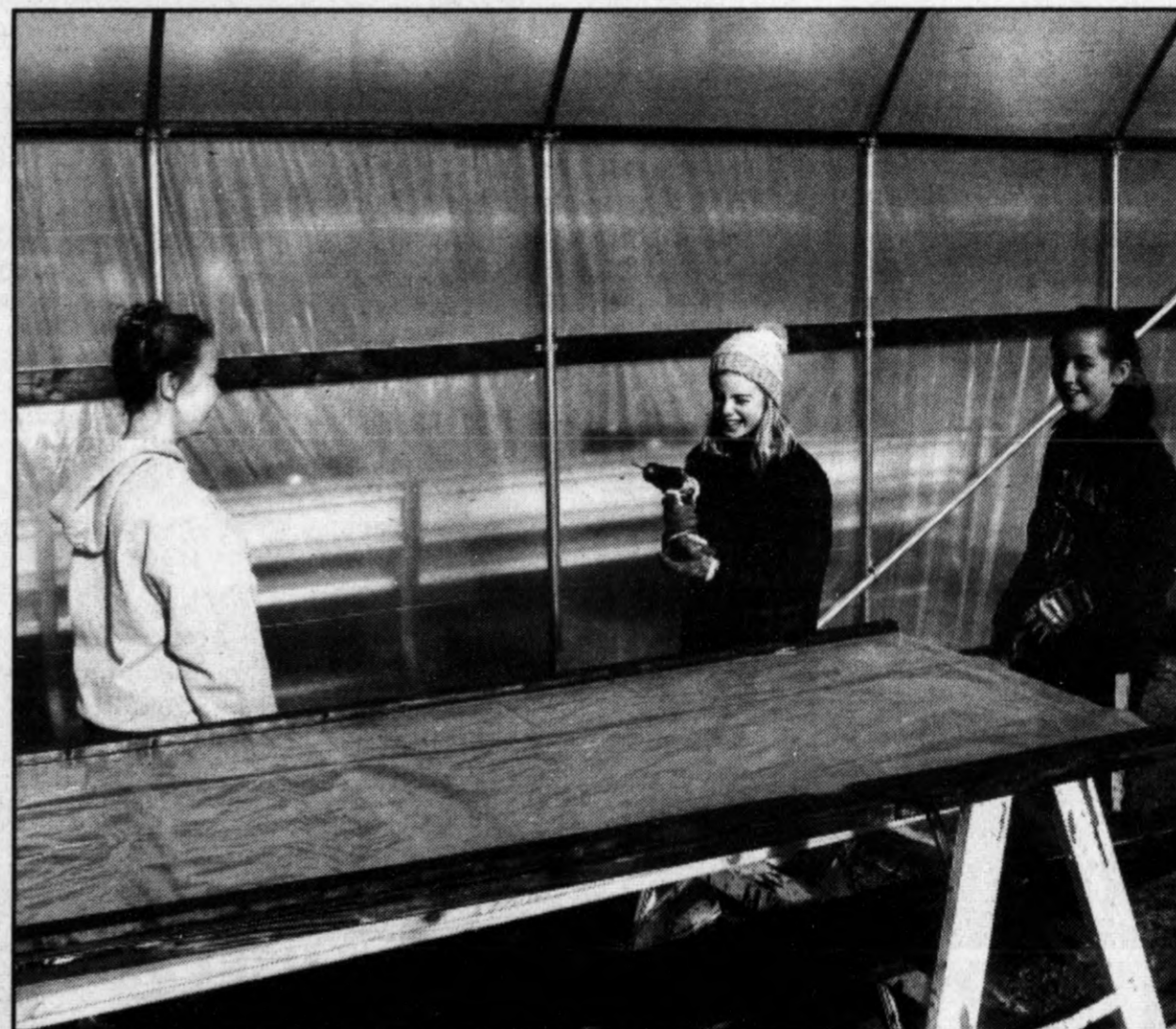
Principal Nate Fuller said working in the hoop house helps the kids build perseverance and allows them to see that their work pays off.

Independence already has a learning garden where teachers and parents can take kids to work and grow food, Fuller said, and now the hoop house is a chance for the school to provide students with a hands-on learning experience.

"I love the idea of kids getting a real experience, providing some opportunities for kids who love hands-on. They love to work in gardens, they love that type of thing, that they're just not seeing it in a textbook," Fuller said. "They're being able to use their hands to create greatness out there and to



Dr. Kristen Gretka and her fifth grade Global Thinking class, with Clarkston Family Farm CEO Chelsea O'Brien, work on the hoop house outside Independence Elementary. Photos by Jessica Steeley



From left, fifth graders Lauren Sielinski, Macy McNaughton, and Isabella Lebert, from Mrs. Hilger's class, work on the community project.

create the raised beds, the gardens and so forth."

Fuller wants to involve the community more in the school systems and thinks the hoop house has already proven to be a way for the community to interact with Independence Elementary.

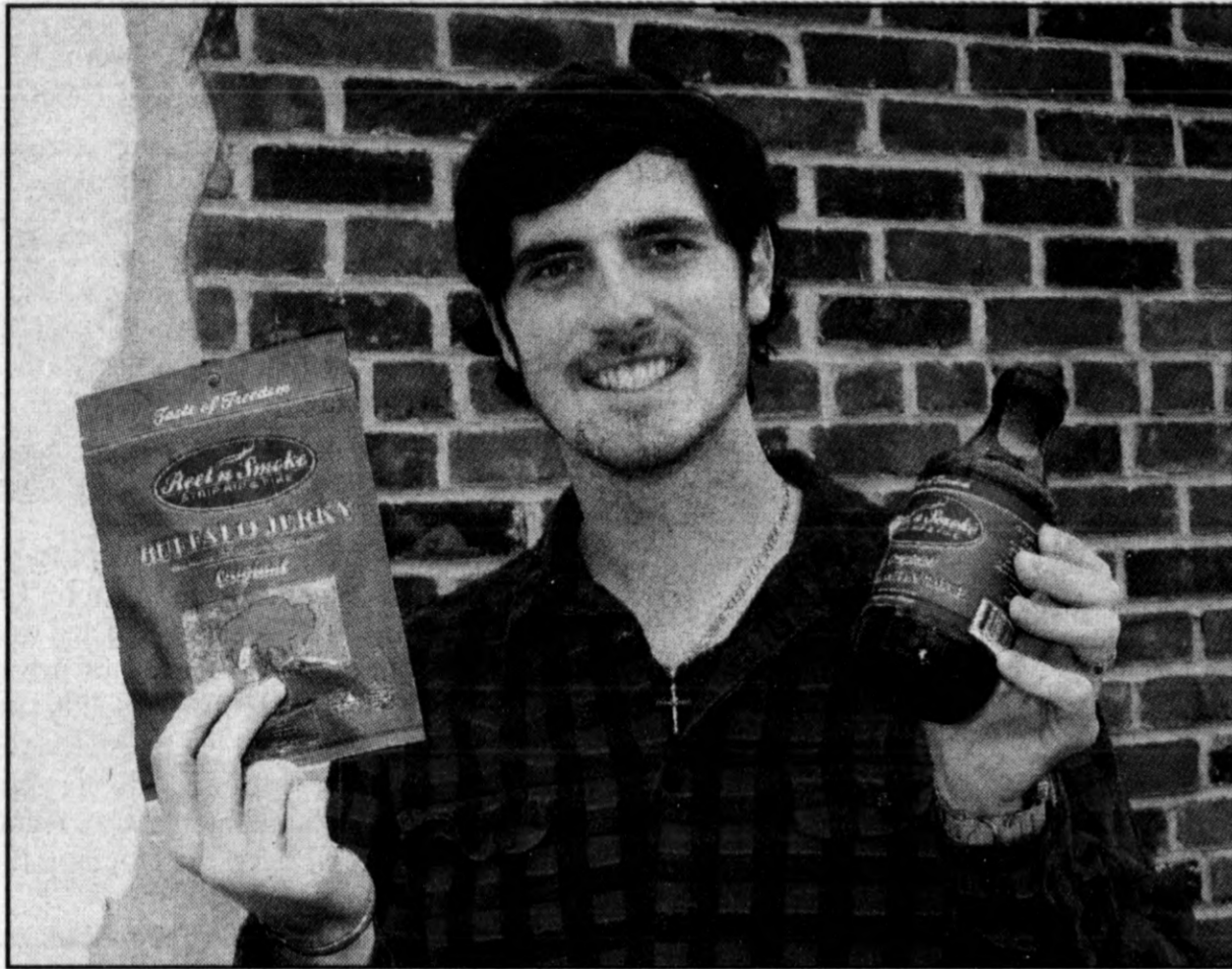
Bordine's of Clarkston partnered with the hoop house initiative and donated materials as well as time to the effort.

"The more the community sees what the

school district is doing, the more powerful we're going to become as a Clarkston district," Fuller said.

The whole school is putting effort into completing the hoop house, including the kids, he said.

"They're amazing, the hard work they do and they don't complain," Gretka said. "They come out and they're excited. They know they're doing something that's going to be good for our school."



Billy Morrison of Clarkston, with some of his family business Reel and Smoke's latest barbecue offerings. Photo by Phil Custodio

BBQ specialists help troops

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Billy and Kati Morrison moved up north to Clarkston from Novi two years ago and started an outdoorsy company, Reel and Smoke.

"Our company was founded on a lifelong passion for the outdoors, a commitment to growing the local economy and a dedication to the military," said Billy Morrison, 29. "We have recently launched our specialty food lineup and are grateful for the support we have received from local Clarkston stores stocking the Reel 'n Smoke lineup - Rudy's Market, Neiman's Family Market, and Pine Knob Wine Shoppe."

The family business includes a clothing line, sportsmen's gear, and now jerky, barbecue sauce, and seasoning, which they introduced to the community at this year's Taste of Clarkston.

"It was crowded - good to see everyone rally around Clarkston," he said.

"It's neat to see the new restaurants coming in, and what Curt (Catallo) is doing. We're happy to make a home here in Clarkston as well."

Helping veterans is the company's mission, and includes their Taste of Freedom campaign.

"With every purchase, Reel 'n Smoke donates a meat snack stick to the men and women serving in the United States Military," Billy said.

They also help out at Desert Angel packing parties, donate to Operation Troop Aid, and host charity clay-shooting events for The Bob Woodruff Foundation.

"We've always supported the military. I have buddies in the military," he said. "We need to give back to the troops."

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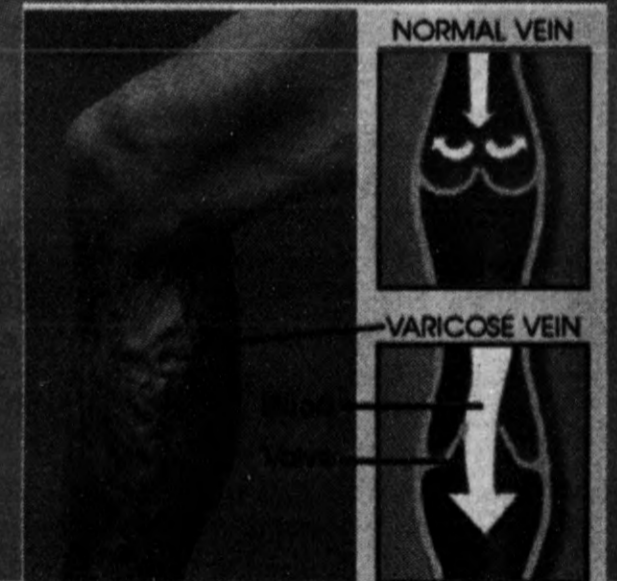
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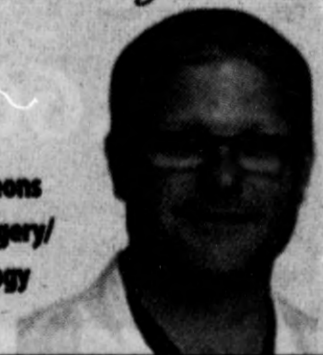
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George DePillo, 86

George DePillo of Clarkston, formerly of Flint, passed away Nov. 26, 2016, at age 86.

He was the husband of Florence for 57 years; father of Marisa (Marc) Reinhardt, Damien DiPillo, Bernadette DePillo, John (Jackie) DiPillo, Teresa (Antonio) Rodriguez and Paul (Lisa) DePillo; also survived by 22 grandchildren and four great grandchildren; brother of the late Norman (Hai) DePillo.

George served in the U.S. Marines and played Minor League baseball.

He retired from Chippewa Valley Schools and Warren Consolidated Schools as Superintendent and taught post graduate classes at many universities.

Friends may visit at **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, Wednesday, 4-9 p.m. with a family led rosary at 7:30 p.m.

Funeral Mass Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016, at 1 a.m. at Columbiere Retreat & Conference Center, Clarkston, with visiting at the church at 10 a.m. Rite of Committal All Saints Cemetery. Online Guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



• Death notices & • Obituaries

Sharon Hopson, 77

Sharon L. Hopson of St. Helen, formerly of Clarkston, passed away Nov. 26, 2016, at age 77.

She was preceded in death by her husband Donald and daughter Connie Coppersmith. She was the mother of Brenda Hopson and Annette (Michael) Metrick; grandma of Rob (Erin), Crystal, Jeremy (Allison) and Michael III; great grandma of Natalie; sister of Kathy (late David) Dunlop and Diana (late Sherm) Lucas; mother in law of Bob Coppersmith.

Friends may visit at **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, Wednesday, 4-9 p.m.

Funeral service Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016, at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to PANCAN.

Online Guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Luana F. Hunt, 85

Luana F. Hunt (Mansfield) of Clarkston passed away Nov. 23, 2016, at age 85.

She was preceded in death by her husband Forrest, D.D.S. She was the mother of Dalana Weil, Becky (Dan) Tatu, Adele (Bobby) Clemons, Doc (Debbie Walton) Hunt and Jeanie (Tim) Lamreaux; grandma of Tina (Pat) Moore, Amy (Chris) Music, Melissa (John) Foster, Carly (Scott) Edgemon, Dalanie Clemons and Wyatt Lamreaux; great grandma of Prescott, Connor, Hannah, Sarah, Jack, Cole, Charli and Vance. Luana will be remembered as loving, generous and kind. She was known as "Grandma" to many.

Visitation was Nov. 29 at **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Funeral service, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2016, at 11 a.m. at Community Bible Church, 1888 Crescent Lake Road, Waterford.

Interment Lakeview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Autism Speaks.

Online Guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Alan Zsido, 66

Alan Zsido of Groveland Township, formerly of Wyandotte and Sterling Heights, passed away at age 66 on Nov. 23, 2016, after a courageous battle with cancer.

He was the husband of Leanne; father of Kelsey; brother of Art (Ann) Zsido; brother in law of Bethany (Louis) Robinson-Calvisi and Kurt (Kimberly) Robinson; also many nieces and nephews.

Alan's passion was helping people. He retired as Pontiac Fire Deputy Chief and was instrumental in the development of urban search and rescue capabilities in southeastern Michigan and throughout the state. Additionally, he developed and taught Firefighter Safety, Rapid Intervention Team, Survival and Technical Rescue programs for over 30 years.

Alan served as a Rescue Team Manager in the early stages of the Michigan Urban Search and Rescue Task Force and also as a Search Team Manager when Michigan -Task Force 1 started.

He lived life to the fullest every day. Alan enjoyed mountain biking, wind surfing, hiking, skiing and scuba diving. He will be remembered for encouraging people in seeking knowledge and understanding.

Friends visited at **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, on Sunday. The Celebration of Life service was Monday. Memorials may be made to Hospice of Michigan. Online Guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



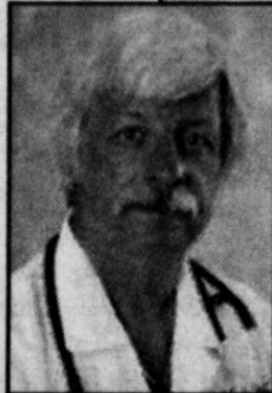
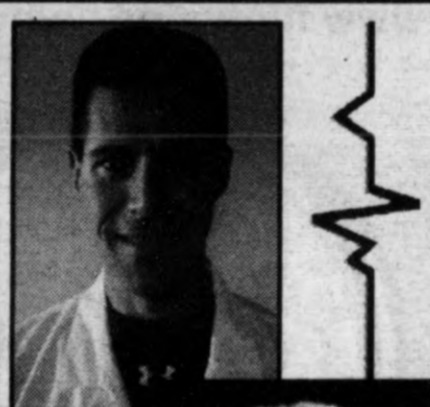
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Wednesday Evening Feast, 6 p.m., dinner; classes for all ages, 7-8 p.m. Free nursery. Calvary Lutheran Church, 6805 Bluegrass Drive. Call 248-625-3288 or check www.calvaryinfo.org

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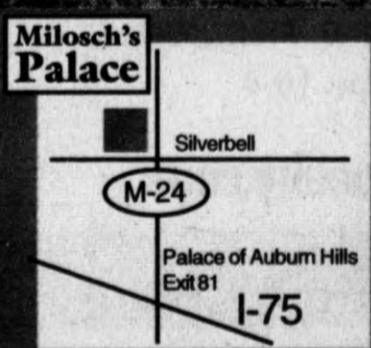
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