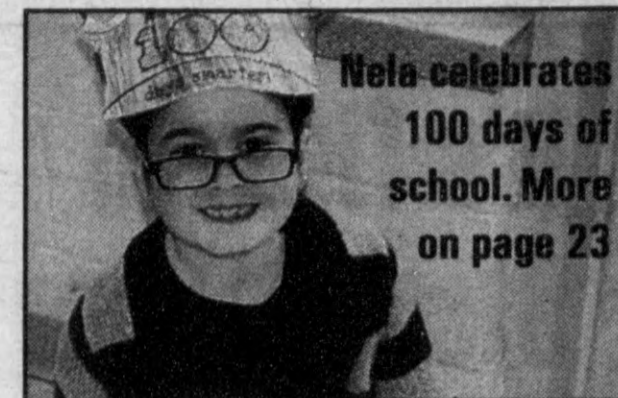


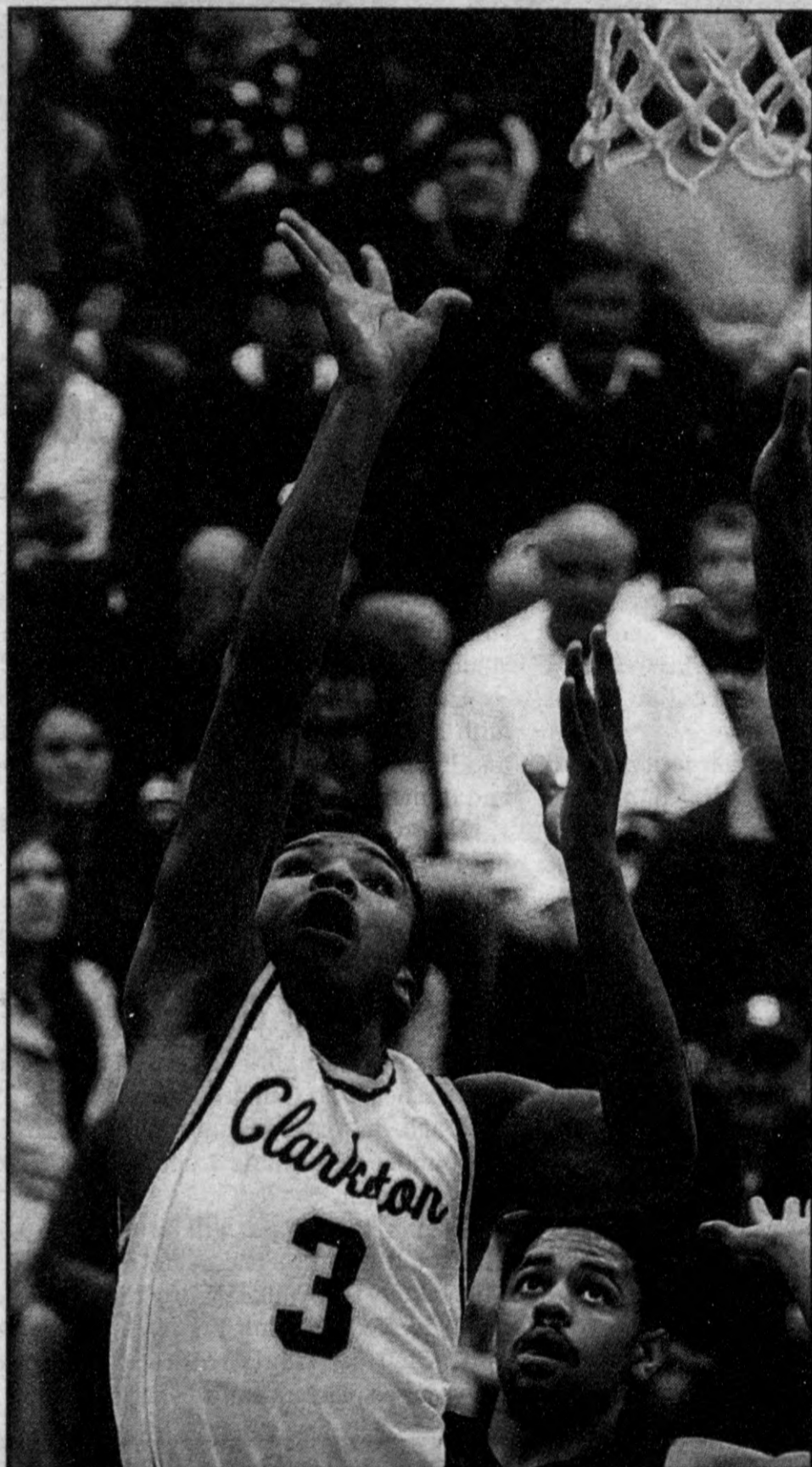
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Vol. 88 No. 22 Wed., March 1, 2017

1 Section, 24 pages \$1.00



TWO POINTS MORE: Junior CJ Robinson scores as the Wolves defeated Bloomfield Hills last Friday, 82-42. Please see page 10 for story. *Photo by Larry Wright*

Legacy of leadership

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

Mikayla Ferer's memory will live on through her family and friends, and for future students at her alma mater, the Mikayla Ferer Memorial Scholarship.

The Clarkston High School LEAD Program created the scholarship program in honor of Ferer, a leader and sports standout who graduated from the high school in 2012. Amy Quayle, assistant principal at Clarkston High School, created a Gofundme page with the goal of raising enough for its first \$1,500 scholarship.

"Mikayla Ferer was a beautiful, vibrant, energetic young woman who was taken from this earth on the early morning of Feb. 13," Quayle said on the www.gofundme.com/MikaylaFererMemorialScholarship page. "Mikayla cherished her friends and family, and was passionate about health, wellness, Mother Earth and giving to those around her."

As of Tuesday morning, 98 people donated \$6,685. "The outpouring of support for Mikayla and the

continuation of her of legacy is both beautiful and amazing," Quayle said. "We are currently crushing the original goal of \$1,500, and if this continues the number of scholarships will continue to increase, and Mikayla's legacy will continue to touch even more people. Thank you for all of the support."

She and four other teachers are also running in the Gazelle Girl race in Grand Rapids on April 23 to raise more funds for scholarships.

"This is where Team Mik was born," Quayle said. "We want to honor Mikayla's legacy and her passion for nutrition, environment, and people, by giving other kids the opportunity to study many of the things that Mikayla loved."

Gazelle Girl is an all female race with 5K, 10K, and half marathon events. Men are also invited to help out through volunteering.

"If you'd be interested in being a part of Team Mik, please feel free to contact me for more information," Quayle said.

Ferer, 22, lost her life in a traffic accident on White Lake Road in White Lake Township on Feb. 13.



Mikayla Ferer

Poets make voices heard

BY JESSICA STEELEY

Clarkston News Staff Writer

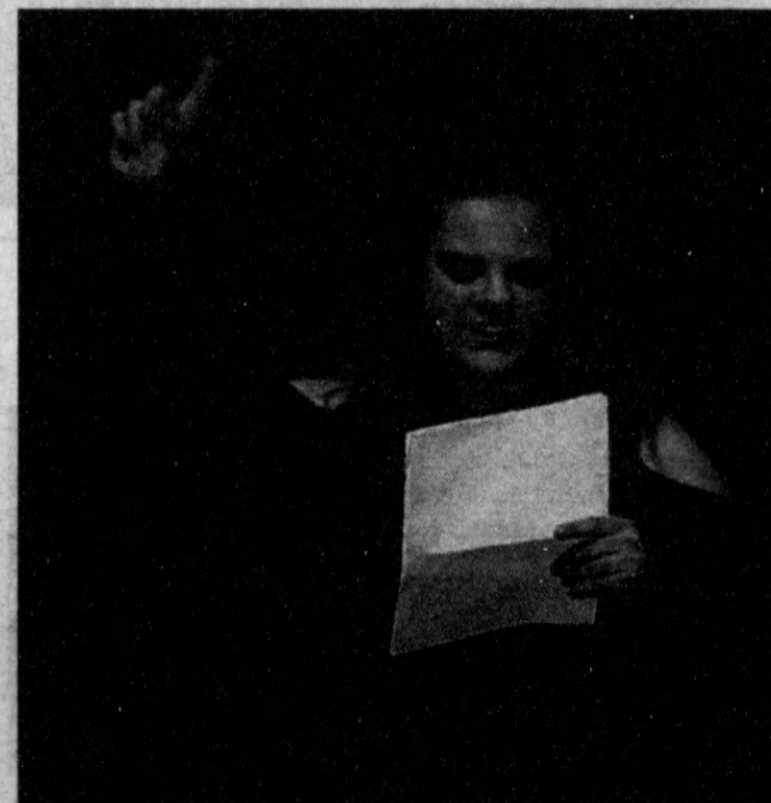
Student poets received snaps and cheers as they performed serious and resounding messages during the Third Annual Voices for Change Poetry Slam on Friday, Feb. 24.

Topics ranged from coping with mental illness to romance to LGBT issues. Many poems were political, all were incredibly personal.

"I was very happy with the turnout and I was super happy with how everyone reacted to the poems," Voices for Change Co-Founder Olivia Maday said. "I think it is really a testament to how well everyone receives the voices of each individual student and how open our community is to understanding everybody's individual voices."

The night began with Maday and fellow Voices for Change Executives Sierra Aguilar and Addison Gale welcoming everyone and explaining all event proceeds and donations go to The Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan.

A representative from the center followed the
Please see Students on page 21



Senior Emily Greatorex makes a point in her poem. *Photo by Jessica Steeley*

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From left, Paul Maxwell, Carole Karbon, and Dave Cushing are helping plan this year's race to benefit Angels' Place. Photo by Phil Custodio

10 years of Angels' Place Race

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Angels' Place Race is celebrating 10 years of running to help people in need.

"We're expecting more runners and more prizes," said organizer Paul Maxwell at a benefit fund raiser for the race, Feb. 23, at Mr. B's Roadhouse.

"It's the 10th anniversary of the 10 kilometer run," Maxwell said. "Runners get a great sense of the village, and the race has the best hills in Clarkston."

The race is very important to Angels' Place, which was founded in 1992 to provide safe, clean housing for persons with developmental disabilities, said Carole Karbon of Angels' Place.

"It's a huge fund raiser for us," Karbon said. "Our funding is going down and costs are going up. Residents are aging and it's more costly to take care of them."

The organization has 20 homes in Oakland, Wayne, and Macomb counties, with 4-6 residents in each home. Individuals live with them for life.

The race is also an important event residents look forward to every year.

"Residents from several homes come out

and participate," said Dave Cushing, a race committee member.

"They love getting the medals to pass out at the end, and they have a lot of fun running and serving water at the water stations," Karbon said. "It's a beautiful race."

The community provides excellent help, with Mr. B's helping out with the benefit, and local businesses providing door prizes and donations at the race.

"The Clarkston Wolfpack running club has been very supportive," Maxwell said.

Usually staying busy behind the scenes, this will be the first time he's actually running the 10K.

"I'm running in memory of my mother, who recently passed away," he said.

Margaret Mary Ulrich Maxwell was one of five women who founded Angels' Place, 25 years ago. She passed away on Sept. 16, 2016.

Founder Annemarie Lopez also passed away last year.

Angels' Place Race will be on May 13 at St. Daniel Church. The event includes a 1 Mile Family Fun Walk, 5K Bruce Clifton Run and Walk, and 10K Run. For race information and on-line registration, refer to

www.angelsplacrace.org.

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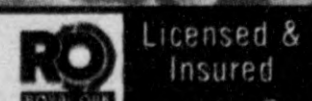
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New play pieces planned for park

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

The days of the woodframed playground equipment at Depot Park may be numbered, based on recommendations of the Friends of Depot Park.

The committee has been reviewing the playground for the past year, said Friends member Ken Ermer to Clarkston City Council, Feb. 27.

"It's time to make a change," Ermer said.

Recommendations include removing the wood and metal playground truck, woodframed swing set, playscape, monkey bars, pull up bars, and tire swing, and the wood platform with slide.

The age of the wood, flat tops, and sharp corners make them unsafe, he said.

"We have to think about investing in equipment for regular kids, and also kids with autism and the SCAMP children," he said.

They recommend keeping the playground train, though it needs a paint job and perhaps replacement of its wooden seats, metal frame swing set, and the merry-go-round. An expert should be hired to check out the remaining pieces for safety, he said.

To replace the wooden pieces, the group recommends a "generation swing," designed for an adult and child to use at the same time, as well as play panels with various activities built in.

"They have multiple activities – they're interesting to kids with wheelchairs who can roll up to it, and other disabilities," Ermer said.

The playground's wood bark surface should be replaced with recycled rubber tiles, which are more durable, reduce impact, do not hide sharp objects, and are replaceable.

Plans for the future include a modern playscape with rounded edges and many activity panels.

Immediate plans would include seeking bids, fund raising, and applying for grants



Emma Albani enjoys the Depot Park tire swing, one of the pieces recommended for replacement. Photo by Jessica Steeley

from local community organizations.

Generation swings cost about \$2,500, and rubber tiles cost about \$15-\$25 per square foot, Ermer said.

"We recommend quotes from three playground equipment suppliers, who would draw up complete playground layout plans," he said.

They will also involve residents and groups that donated the current playground equipment, said council member Eric Haven,

also a member of Friends of Depot Park.

"To raise awareness – it could cause controversy," Haven said. "We need to be careful about how we proceed with this."

Mayor Steven Percival said the city will develop a master plan for the park over the next couple years.

"I'm encouraged by this," Percival said.

The park group will return in March with a plan and recommendations for funding, for possible action by the council.

Safety path extension off Clintonwood

BY JESSICA STEELEY
Clarkston News Staff Writer

Walkers and runners in the southeast township neighborhoods will soon be able to go farther in safety.

The Independence Township Board accepted a proposal from Nowak & Fraus, an engineering firm, for a Clintonville Road Safety Path Project for up to \$88,606.

The new 4,500 feet of pathway will connect with existing safety path on the east side of Clintonville Road, continuing north at Spring Meadow Drive, and ending at the existing safety path on the northeast corner of Waldon Road.

The project will fill in a gap in Independence Township's safety path system and increase overall connectivity between the

paths, said Jeff Huhta of Nowak & Fraus.

Everyone designing the project will be Independence Township residents, Huhta said.

"We're excited to contribute to their community through the Clintonville project," he said.

A new plumbing system is in the works for Bay Court Park's Lakeview Building.

Independence Township Board voted, Feb. 21, to accept the project by S&B Plumbing Sewer and Services, Inc., not to exceed \$9,960.

"It's been a long time since we put any money into them and we're looking forward to making them a lot better," said Parks, Recreation, and Seniors Director Derek

Smith. "It's time for an upgrade and to replace all the rusty fixtures and kind of put our best foot forward."

The building's three restrooms will be renovated first, as they are most in need of repair, Smith said.

Renovations will include new tile floor, toilets, and sinks, along with removal of two sinks from each bathroom, and the addition of cabinets. Renovations of the main hallway, main room floor, and windows will follow.

The Parks, Recreation and Seniors Department is gathering quotes for the tile and main rental room floor.

The Township Board amended the document to allow a 10 percent contingency if any unforeseen problems arise during the restroom renovations.

Briefly

Impact weekend

Planning is underway for Clarkston Davisburg Community Impact Weekend, April 29-30 and Nov. 4-5.

Sponsors Clarkston Community Church, Great Lakes Ace Hardware, My Habitat Clarkston, Neiman's Family Market, Waypoint Church, Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Independence Township Parks and Recreation are searching for projects for qualified low-income families and seniors, local veterans and their families, and non-profit service projects.

For projects, volunteering, or partnership, call 248-625-8055. Check www.impactweekend.org.

Software updates

Clerk Barbara Pallotta is leading an effort to implement a township-wide content management system and transfer of online documents.

The Independence Township Board voted, Feb. 21, to accept a proposal by Hyland Software, Inc. for \$93,360. The company will help the township implement OnBase, which will become the new Enterprise Content Management System for the township.

The board accepted a proposal from Johnston & Anderson for up to \$1,000 to reformat online documents. The project will save the township \$400 a month, which it had been paying to maintain documents in a previous system.

Clarkston Chiefs

The Clarkston Chiefs Youth Football and Cheerleading program invites you to come out and learn about them as they get ready for the 2017 season.

The new parent information meeting will be at The Fountains, 6060 Maybee Road, on March 8 at 7 p.m.

Information about the organization and the new registration process for new players will be provided. For more information visit their website at www.clarkstonchiefs.org

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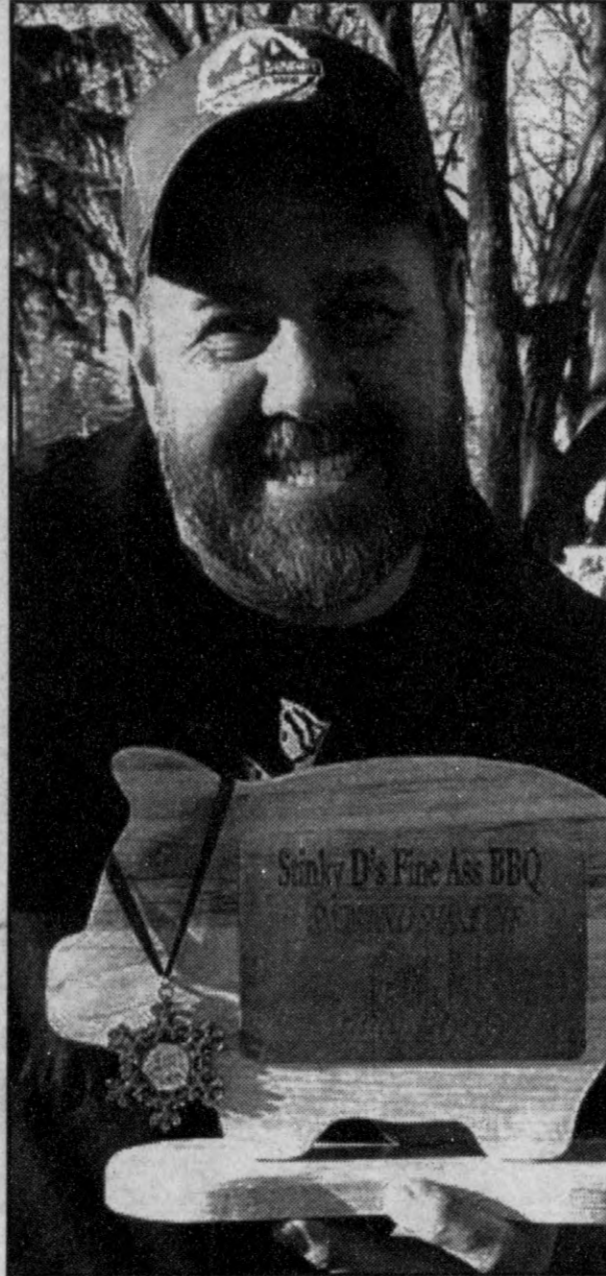
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Clarkston resident Kevin LaRocque's ribs took first place.

Smell what Stinky's a-cookin'?

BY ELISE SHIRE

Special to The Clarkston News

Kevin LaRocque of Clarkston won first place in the "Snowbird Shake Off" barbeque competition.

The event was organized by Dean and Daryn Haist of Oxford, who often take part in barbeque competitions under the name "Stinky D's Fine Ass BBQ."

"We decided to put this event on because we love barbeque," Daryn said. "We don't have any barbeque competitions in the winter and it's nice to get back together with our BBQ family."

Seven local groups of Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS) members and a panel of judges came together in the name of delicious barbeque during the eight hour-long competition. The KCBS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and enjoying barbeque, is the world's largest orga-

nization of barbeque and grilling enthusiasts with over 20,000 members worldwide.

Each team was required to season and cook the ribs on-site, turning in a minimum of six ribs for judges to taste-test.

LaRocque brought his Kevlar BBQ to the competition.

Finishing second was Oxford resident Tom Somers, of Bad Habit BBQ.

Judges included Bob and Joan Westbrook, Bill Gailey, Phillips Kent, and Oxford resident Joe Ferrari.

Also judging was Clawson resident Steve "Bubba" Coddington, the "2013 BBQ Person of the Year" at the National Barbeque Association Conference in Texas and Head Pit Master at The Woodpile BBQ Shack.

The Haists were thankful to Bill and Lynn Steffey, of West Side Brakes & Front End in Oxford, for sponsoring the event.

Singer finds healing in music

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

Rap singer Ryan Scott's latest song "Seattle Sunset" has seen success over the past few months.

"Since its release in January, it has over a million views and has been shared over a thousand times," said Scott, who recently moved back home to Clarkston after a couple years in New York. "I've received messages from all around the world from beautiful courageous people who felt moved by the song and were willing to share their own personal stories with me."

The video is set in St. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church in Detroit.

"I teamed up with Big Foot Media production company and they made all the arrangements with Father Gary," Scott said. "He is a great person with a genuine heart and I couldn't be more appreciative in him grant-

ing us access to use such a beautiful backdrop for the video. The video took a little over three months to produce from start to finish."

The song is from the heart, written during a tough time, he said.

"A few years back I lost both of my grandparents, two people who helped raise me, basically my second mom and dad, within one week of each other," he said. "I then moved out to NY and wrote 'Seattle Sunset' shortly after. Music helped me heal."

His hope is the song, which can be found on Facebook, "RyanScottMusic," helps others heal as well.

"I've been humbled and blown away by how this project is unifying people from all around the world through their own personal stories of loss and hope," he said. "My ultimate goal is to spread my message to the ones who may be in a dark place and in need of inspiration."



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Singer Ryan Scott films his video at St. Peter and Paul's. Photo provided

Students achieve success

Dustin Clarno of Clarkston is in the running for Southwest Baptist University's Mr. and Miss Southwest Pageant.

Eight candidates are nominated from the junior class by SBU faculty and staff and voted upon by the student body. The voting will be by text message during the pageant on March 3, which will include introductory videos, talent presentations and question-and-answer sessions.



Clarno

Clarno, son of Liz and Pat Clarno, is an exercise science major.

Grand Valley State University dean's list for the Fall 2016 semester includes Clarkston students Mackenzie R. Aaron, Brandon J. Addis, Morgan N. Addis, Ian R. Arnold, Olivia C. Baker, Kaeleigh A. Baran, Paige C. Bentler, Shannon L. Brisse, Riley K. Budzinski, Gavin W. Butler, Elise M. Cameron, Connor M. Corbin, Briana Crist, Rachel N. Darin, Dana R. Ferrand, Madeline R. Fioroni, Megan J. Genslak, Kathryn M. Gipe, Jennifer L. Godlew, Stacey M. Goebel, Francesca M. Golus, Danielle R. Hart, Matthew T. Hart, Kyle J. Harvey, Johnathon M. Hubert-McLennan,

Sarah L. Hurd, Danielle N. Johnson, Tyler R. Joyce, Loukas N. Kondyles, Olivia C. Lohmeier, Sadie A. Makuch, Alec M. Mark, Shannon D. Napier, Kelsey E. Peterson, Caryann L. Piazza, Jessica N. Poland, Garrett C. Polish, Caroline M. Redman, Breana R. Shanburn, Elizabeth D. Sheill, Nicholas D. Smart, Nicholas A. Surovec, Carly R. Sutkiewicz, Emily P. Tucker, Jake R. Vanderheyden, Brianna M. Vaughn, Darius J. Youngblood, and Kirsten L. Zalobsky, and Davisburg students Jillian S. Clark, Rebecca N. Doran, and Madeline R. Gross.

Thomas Lowe, Clarkston High School Class of 2015 graduate, made the Deans List at University of Michigan Flint for Fall 2016.

He was also awarded most improved player in the Jazz Band at UM Flint. Lowe is a major in Computer Science and a minor in Music.

Alexander Komatz of Clarkston was named to the Provost's List for the fall 2016 semester at Capital University.

Zach Rabideau, 2012 Clarkston graduate, recently graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. He passed his state exam in January and is working as an RN at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Pontiac.

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Wendi's Word

A column by Wendi Reardon

Spring startover

It happened. I had hoped and prayed to the pizza gods someone would drop off a pie topped with the perfect blend of cheese, sauce and pepperoni to our office downtown.

It happened and it occurred one week too late for me. Our Assistant Publisher Don Rush took advantage of the buy one, get one free deal at Rudy's Market last Thursday. (He was offering slices on The Clarkston News Facebook if you missed it. See, keep up on it. You never know when Don will be offering to share his food.)

People came and went taking slices from the four boxes on the counter directly in front of my desk. I was alright with it.



I had already started my next round of Shape ReClaimed with Nuview Nutrition. I had done my gorging and also enjoyed a food tasting for our upcoming wedding which included full entrees. I also had wedding cake samples from a great cake shop which happened to have samples available - truly a bonus in my book when I knew I would be highly limited.

I know the pizza slices would have tasted delicious. I know the leftovers would have tasted great. But it was too late. Plus, five pounds gone feels a lot better than eating five slices. (And Don usually gets onions. Not a fan.)

Since I was already going on the plan I also cut coffee out. It was easier this way. My coffee intake has been getting out of hand, for me. Drinking a pot a day is a bit much.

The holidays weren't too bad. I was in between. I wasn't perfect in my eating, but I didn't go over the deep end either. I did however start drinking Peppermint Mocha from Starbucks. It went downhill from there. Once the season was done, I went on to Peppermint Mocha coffee creamer. Sugar and empty calories, you see where I fell, don't you? Do you also see where the whole pot of coffee per day came from?

One week into the plan I am doing good. My energy level feels like it is up. I am getting more done because can't be a bored eater.

I have been here before. I know what to expect. I also know when I will be off of it - April. Then, it will be maintenance leading up to the June wedding, which is what helps me focus. I can taste the delicious food again. As I think about it we didn't choose horrible food, a mix of good and fattening.

Opinion Pages

Letters, columns & Editorials

A call for coverage of new restaurants

Dear Editor,

I am a junior at Clarkston High School and have lived in Clarkston all my life. I am curious if there have been any articles written in *The Clarkston News* about the new restaurants in the area, Woodshop, Honcho's, Hill top, etc.?

I'm interested in finding out what kind of crowds these new restaurants are bringing into the town, as compared to a few years back.

Are these places bringing people from different areas or are the customers primarily from the local area? Has there been a noticeable economic change to the other area businesses due to these newer restaurants?

I've noticed an increase in foot traffic in town and am encouraged by that.

If you have any articles on this topic, I would appreciate it if you could share those with me, and if there are not, I would suggest this might be a good topic for one of your staff writers to explore.

Thank you very much for your contribution to our community and for any feedback you can give me.

Alec Vinstra
Clarkston

Editor's note: As Clarkston's newspaper of record since 1929, we have published articles on the restaurants. We hope you and your family subscribe! Anyway, the restaurants attract many from all over the area, which is driving much of the parking issue lately. Many consider it a good problem to have, with the increased economic activity.

A few suggestions for parking donors

Dear Editor,

Before philanthropic donors give cash donations so restaurant owners can have free signs to direct customers to parking for their private, profitable businesses, I hope the donors will consider more potentially deserving charities, like disability groups, schools, senior organizations, food banks, etc. ("Parking committee seeks more data," Feb. 22).

Also, it's great to have another parking survey almost a year after the last one was found to be deficient, but perhaps the parking solution should be put off for another

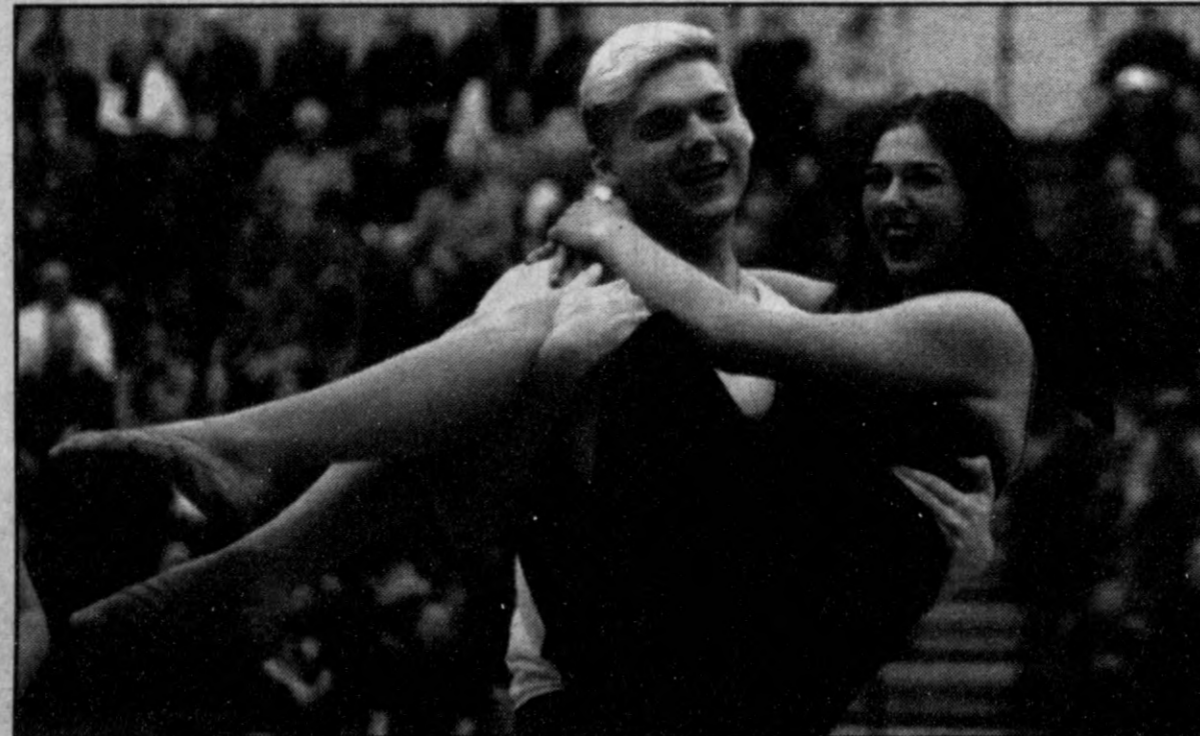
couple years just in case the upcoming survey has flaws, too, and needs to be repeated.

Any philanthropic donors to pay for this?

Repainting parking slots to decrease the size, minimize vehicle maneuverability and increase car door and fender dents sounds like a good idea now that consumers are opting for larger vehicles.

But hopefully any new parking study and solutions will also consider improving vehicle accessibility for seniors and persons with disabilities.

Mike Fetzer
Independence Township



SMILES OF THE WEEK: Stephanie Laing and Ryan Talbot finish the boy/girl dance to a mix of songs from "Grease" at last Friday's basketball game. Join the Clarkston Varsity Dance team this Thursday at home for their last performance. Photo by Wendi Reardon Price

A Look Back

From *The CNews* archives

15 years ago - 2002

"Residents petition to put Sashabaw overlay district on ballot" A neighborhood of residents were not happy with the passing of the Sashabaw Town Overlay District plan, which ran near Sashabaw Road from Maybee Road to I-75. They were trying to get their voices heard.

"Bailey Lake Elementary student feels led to help" Evan Markarian, a fifth grader at Bailey Lake Elementary, held a bake sale to raise money for a local family who lost their Forest Valley Drive home to a fire. He knew bake sales were done in the past and he wanted to get the students involved.

"Icers win regional opener" The Clarkston Varsity Hockey team opened the MHSAA Regional playoffs with a 4-2 win over Waterford Mott with two goals from Eric Hall and one each from Adam Postal and Myles Purdy.

25 years ago - 1992

"Merchants say they won't drop 'village' from business names" Clarkston was close earning the right to cityhood, but three Main Street merchants, Village Bookstore, Village Bakeshop, and Village Muffler and Brake Specialist, were refusing to change their names

"Pupils sing their way to top district ratings" Top vocal students at Clarkston High School showed they were among the best in the area when they earned first- and second-division ratings in the District 4 Solo & Ensemble Festival in Royal Oak.

"Netters second in GOAL, get set for district" The Clarkston Varsity Volleyball team finished its regular season with two wins over league opponents, including a victory over Greater Oakland Athletics League champion Brandon.

50 years ago - 1967

"Clarkston Cafe entered" State Police were investigating a breaking and entering at Clarkston Cafe. The thieves targeted money from jukebox and cigarette machine, which combined for \$60.

"Clarkston scores 100 points" The Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball team scored a huge win over Brighton before they headed into districts, 100-58. Dan Fife broke his previous record of 49 points and scored 52 points in the game.

"Round the town" Jimmy McVicker was a happy boy on his seventh birthday as he received a very lively and loving puppy. The cake and ice cream was forgotten after hearing the puppy.

Label reading, recollections, music etc.

These Jottings ran on March 5, 2008

If you're like me, and I hope you're not when it comes to shopping for some things like ointment, you don't read the fine print.

Like too many men, I know ointment is ointment. I know Vaseline, Bag Balm, Suave, etc. They all do the same thing. I know that for a fact.

And, all ointment containers are small and the print is itty bitty. You know, the kind of print you need trifocals to read.

So, I had an itch that needed scratching. But the more I scratched, the more it itched. Give me some ointment, please, and now! Looking over the store's ointment shelf, "Aloe Vesta" seemed like an anti-itch name.

Half a tube later the itch hadn't subsided. Time to read the label with my trifocals: "Apply as needed for diaper rash."

--- 0 ---
 According to Neal Rubin, *Detroit News* columnist, and WXYZ's Bill Proctor (is that evasive enough?), Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's problem stems from "hormones and arrogance."

Jim's Jottings



a column by Jim Sherman

--- 0 ---
 Are we becoming so lazy that we need a power operated charcoal grill brush? They're pushing them on the tube. Of course, they are also pushing products for "best qualified" customers. Are they really saying "richest?" I never see men's neckties advertised on tv. If they did, the neckties would have to be 18 feet long to have them stop above the current belt-line.

I'm at an age when I find myself humming a song recorded by Robert Goulet and Jimmy Durante, others, too, I suppose:

"Beautiful girls, walk a little slower when you walk by me, lingering sunsets stay a little longer with the lonely sea. Wandering rainbows leave a bit of color for my pal to see. Stars in the sky make my wish come true before the night has flown, and let the music play as long as there's a song to sing, and I will stay younger than spring."

Actually, I didn't wait for this older age to hope beautiful girls would walk slower by me.

--- 0 ---
 Today's another great day. I used the last one in a box of store-brand garbage bags. Every time I used one, I recalled the interview with a woman who had won millions in a lottery. When asked what she was going to do first she said, "First

I'm going to pay off our mortgage, then I'm never going to buy store-brand garbage bags again."

--- 0 ---
 "Since I came to the White House I got two hearing aids, a colon operation, skin cancer, prostate operation, and I was shot. The damn thing is I never felt better in my life," *Ronald Reagan*.

You threw away the outside and cooked the inside. Then you ate the outside and threw away the inside.

What did you eat? *An ear of corn.*
 From my bathroom reading book: "If hypocrisy were gold, the Capitol would be Fort Knox," *John McCain*.

"If God wanted us to vote he would have given us candidates," *Jay Leno*.

"Look, half the time when I see the evening news I wouldn't be for me either," *Bill Clinton*.

"An arrogant insect is a cocky roach," *John Patrell*.

Well, rats. I hate when I flip-flop

Oh, since about what, Day One AE (After Election) I have yammered on about all the hubbub taking place in these here un-united states of America.

Fake news, stupid un-presidential "tweets", the unending squawking from anyone and everyone who may or may not have been hurt by said tweets and especially by those elitist Hollywood types who love to lecture about love and compassion for just those things they love and are passionate about . . .

It is so much, so loud and so long, it has only become white noise to me. All I hear is "Wah, wah, wah, wah," just how the Charlie Brown kids heard adults.

Of course when I chime in, folks always write back, "But, Don you said you wanted us to get involved. Now we are involved and you're telling us to shut up an sit down. What gives?"

I guess, to you folks I answer, there are ways to communicate and yelling and name calling and having a tantrum is one way to get any one who disagrees with you to tune you out.

I was trying to think of something, some way to illustrate my point to no good avail. Nothing, Mother Teresa. No. Mahatma Gandhi. No.

And, then it hit me. Young Master Shamus . . . my very own son was a good example of stepping up and being counted.

Don't Rush Me



A column by Don Rush

Let's turn back the hands of time -- 10 years ago to the day -- I opined in these, the hallowed halls of Don't Rush Me-dom, thusly . . .

* * *

A couple of Sundays ago Clan Rush watched an evening newscast. Before the news even started, the station teased the lead story with something like this: "Mayor says Detroit Zoo will have to close. Pink slips to be mailed out Monday."

I shook my head. The boys' mother, Jennie, put her head in her hands and eight-year-old son Shamus got emotional. Five-year-old Sean, still oblivious to the world revolving around him, had a bad gas attack and laughed.

No, this column isn't centered, like the universe, around Sean's status as a very large Stinkasaurus -- but I digress.

It was before dinner and after the completed TV news segment, the emotional Shamus went to his bedroom. "Why would they want to close the zoo?" he said over and over.

God bless Shamus' mother. Jennie comforted her eldest son with words of wisdom only mothers can impart. Dad's say stuff like, "Get over it kid. It's a hard world out there, get used to it, and if you don't stop crying and get out of bed, your brother's gonna' eat your dinner."

As the male parental unit, I don't know what was uttered in Shamus' room. It was all kind of "hush-hush" and secretive. I do know this much, when Shamus came out his eyes were still red-rimmed, but the boy had a plan.

He called his third grade teacher, Ms. Kelly Alford, at home and asked if he could speak to class about the impending zoo closure. It was okay and Shamus got to work.

He and his mother made up a flyer. I worked with him

on organizing his thoughts. We made note cards with *The Problem, The Solution* and *Shamus' Plan* spelled out.

So passionate he was, he didn't even use his note cards. He spoke from his heart and won over his class. With the help of Ms. Alford they e-mailed all the other teachers in the school, enlisting their help in a letter writing campaign. They drew up posters and after lunch, while other students were at recess, Shamus and a couple of his chums plastered the hallways with their posters - the message clear, *Help Save The Detroit Zoo, Write a Letter!*

Within a week over 100 students wrote their thoughts, in letter form, to Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. Some drew pictures and some added hearts. Jennie, Shamus and Sean hand delivered them to city hall earlier this week. And, well, what can I say. I am proud of them and of Shamus.

He saw something wrong, sucked it up and worked to make that something right. (I am smiling as I type). Our boy Shamus is a leader, not a follower. Jennie sure has done well by our boys.

* * *

So, after reading what I wrote and first published on March 1, 2006, I hereby take back all I have said since Day One AE.

Carry on (just tone it down a little bit, add some more compassion to your passion, find some common ground and move from there.)

Peace out.

Comments for the Flip-Flopping Son-of-gun Don Rush can be e-mailed to, DontRushDon@gmail.com

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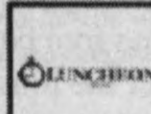
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Five arrested in Paint Creek vandalism

Five Independence Township teenagers admitted to spraypainting Paint Creek Trail after they were caught red handed.

A witness watched the teens enter Paint Creek Trail near E. Clarkston and Kern roads and walk toward the creek with spray paint cans in their hands, and called police, 3:42 p.m., Feb. 22, according to Oakland County Sheriff's Office reports.

Deputies found the suspects, two 17-year-old Independence Township girls, 17-year-old Independence Township boy, and two 18-year-old Independence Township women, in possession of spray paint cans and evidence of fresh spray painting to large rocks

and trees in the area. They admitted they had just spray-painted the rocks and trees.

The subjects were escorted off the trail area, identified, and issued misdemeanor appearance citations for Malicious Destruction of Property and Vandalism.

They were released from custody and must appear in the 52-3 Division Court in Rochester Hills for arraignment.

The sheriff's office is investigating other vandalism incidents on the trail occurring in January and February, with four young people arrested in connection with spraypaint vandalism on Feb. 13.

— Phil Custodio

Public Safety

For Clarkston and Independence Township

Warrant arrest

A deputy was dispatched to Waterford Police Department for a warrant pickup, 8:45 p.m., Feb. 16. The suspect, a 44-year-old Waterford woman, had a warrant out of the Sixth Circuit Court for probation violation.

Stolen vehicle recovered

A youth pastor called police to report a vehicle abandoned in the church parking lot, 9:28 a.m., Feb. 16, in the 4000 block of Clintonville Road. The vehicle, a 2002 Honda Civic, had been reported stolen out of Waterford.

Trespassing

Residents in the 5000 block of Bellshire Lane called police to report neighbors trespassing on their property, to retrieve a basketball, 5:18 p.m., Feb. 19. The issue was ongoing, with the neighbor, a 43-year-old man, being sued over a pool they were putting in. He said the trespassing was not intentional. With surveillance photos of him and his daughter on their neighbor's property, he was cited with trespassing.

Welfare check

An Oakland Township woman called police to check on a 53-year-old Independence Township man in the 4000 block of Menominee Lane, 5:56 p.m., Feb. 20. He had been arrested for drunk driving the day before in Lake Orion, and no one had been able to reach him. The back door was unlocked, and a deputy went inside, finding several liquor bottles left out in the kitchen, and several pills of different variety strewn about the counter and floor. The 53-year-old was found passed out on his bed, wearing a hospital gown and scrub pants. He said he had been drinking and taken a handful of pills. Independence Township paramedics took him to McLaren for treatment.

Loud exhaust

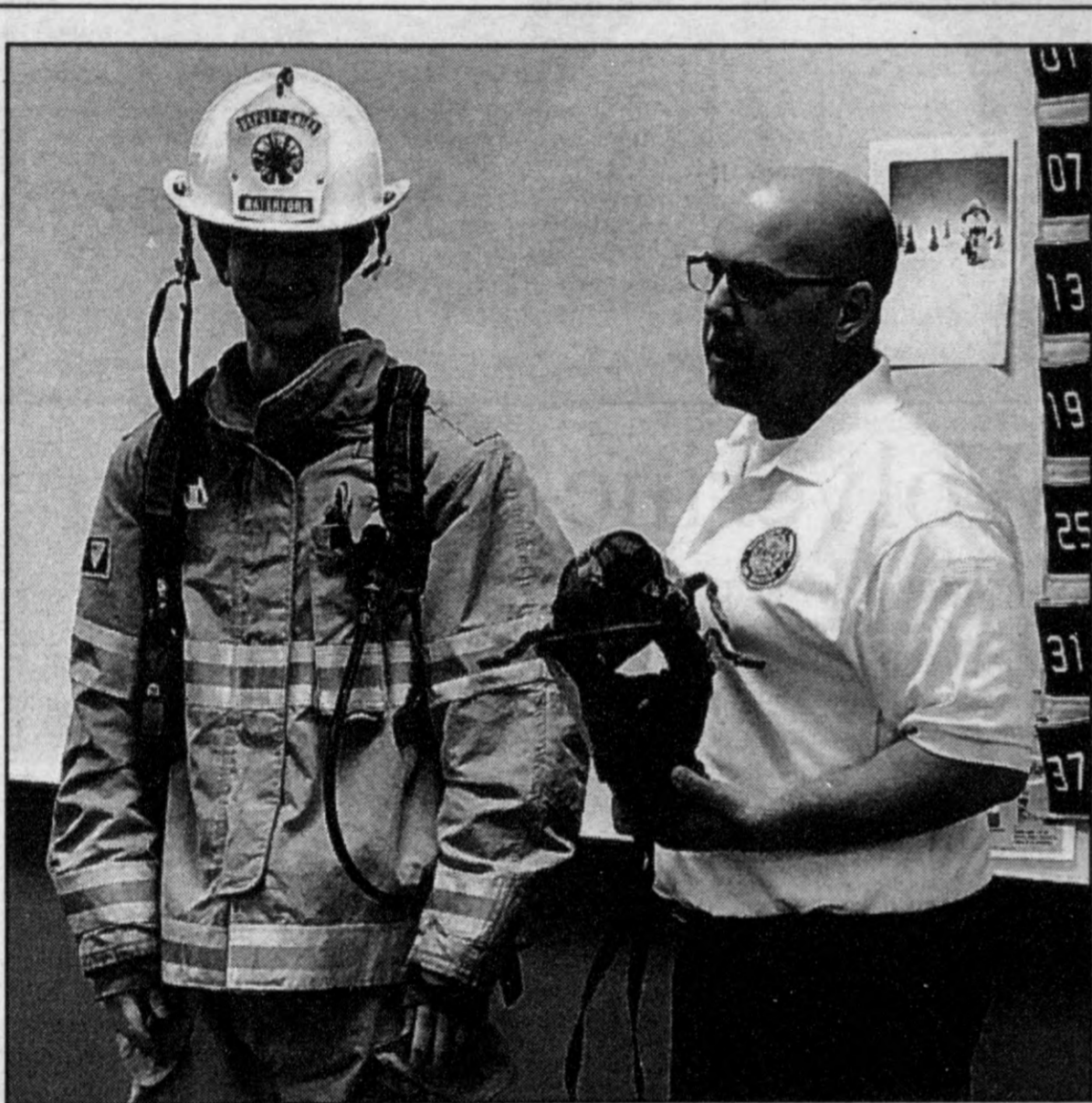
A deputy on patrol turned on his lights and sirens to stop an SUV with a loud exhaust, 10:23 a.m., Feb. 21, on Oak Park Drive at Console Street. The SUV accelerated and passed cars on the shoulder before eventually stopping. The driver, a 23-year-old Independence Township man, said he knew he didn't have taillights on his vehicle and he was stupid for running. He was advised he could have been charged with a felony for Fleeing and Eluding. He was cited for improper plate, no proof of insurance, no outside mirror, and defective equipment, for the broken taillights.

Fraud warrant

A deputy on patrol located and stopped a vehicle with a be-on-the-lookout call on it, 9:06 p.m., Feb. 21, on Dixie Highway at Maybee Road. The driver, a 28-year-old Westland man, had a misdemeanor warrant for failure to appear on a fraud charge out of 18th District Court. Westland Police picked him up on the warrant. He was also cited for expired plates.

Woman in crisis


Deputies responded to the 2500 block of Mann Road, Independence Woods Mobile Home Community, to conduct a welfare check on a 21-year-old Independence Township woman, 10:06 p.m., Feb. 24. Common Ground Crisis Center called 911 to report the individual at that location contemplating suicide. Deputies arrived and found the woman in the living room of the residence lying on the couch. She was not conscious and exhibited shallow breathing. Deputies administered a dose of Narcan, and she became alert and responsive. Paramedics from the Independence Township Fire Department continued treatment. The subject was taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Oakland for further treatment, where she was listed in stable condition.



Matt Covey, deputy fire chief for Waterford Regional Fire Department, demonstrates firefighting equipment with the help of a student during the Clarkston High School Career Seminars, Feb. 17. Photo provided

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Wolves shoot big on Hawks

BY WENDIREARDONPRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Cagers bounced back from Southfield Arts & Technology with a shooting spree against Bloomfield Hills last Friday resulting in a 82-42 win for the Wolves.

"That's a good ball club," said Dan Fife, head coach for Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball about the Bloomfield Hills Blackhawks. "We shot well against them each time we have played them. I am happy tonight. I don't get happy often during the season. You get happy for 15 minutes than you have to start thinking about the next game. Then, you start worrying again which is my nature."

Bloomfield Hills opened with a basket after a steal at half court. Less than five seconds later junior Foster Loyer tied the game with two points from the free throw line which started a 10-2 run for the Wolves which included a field goal from Loyer and baskets from junior Nick Wells and senior Dylan Alderson.

The Blackhawks attempted to close the gap with a 3-pointer with 3:17 left in the quarter. The Wolves met the challenge with not only one 3-pointer but three from Alderson and one from Loyer, ending the quarter 22-9.

Junior Demond Mills-Bradley opened the next stanza continuing the field goal streak shooting one and adding another 15 seconds later off a pass from Loyer.

"Two threes then he took a charge - that was what I was really happy with," Fife smiled. "He has been coming in and playing well."

The Wolves kept Bloomfield Hills to nine points during the second quarter as they scored 32 points ending the first half with a basket from junior Stewart Newblatt with seven seconds remaining, 54-19.

"He has been playing better," said Fife.

With the wide lead in the game the Wolves were able to put in substitutes from the bench which helped the team stopping more shots from Bloomfield Hills and getting a few more shots for Clarkston on the board.

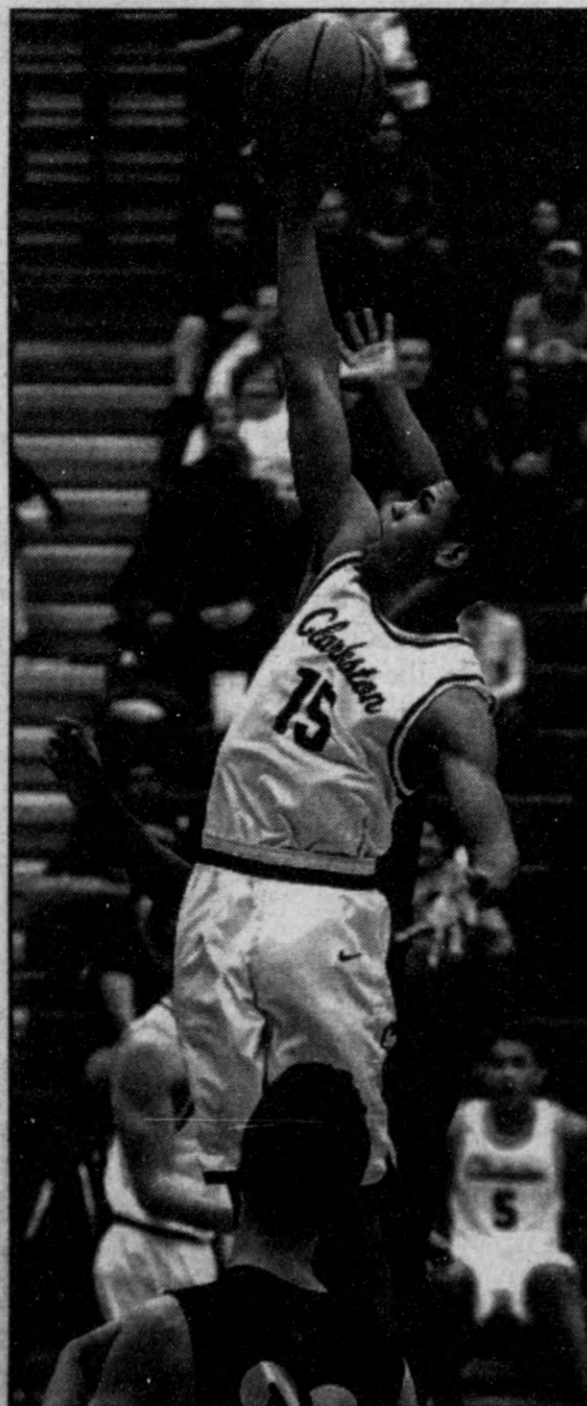
"It adds," Fife said about being able to pull guys off the bench. "Knowing your comfort level - you can go in and make plays without failure. It was good to get other kids in, let them play and see what they are doing. They have been having better practices."

Alderson led the team with 24 points and scored three 3-pointers. Foster scored 20

points and had four 3-pointers. Mills-Bradley scored eight points and junior CJ Robinson and sophomore Taylor Currie scored seven points each.

The Wolves opened the week at West Bloomfield and host their final home game in the regular season on Thursday against Rochester Adams. JV begins at 5:30 p.m., varsity follow.

They open the first round MHSAA District against Waterford Mott on Monday at Lake Orion. The winner moves on to play Orions in the semifinals on Wednesday, March 8 before the championship round on Friday, March 10. All games start at 7 p.m.



Junior Tieler Houston reaches to score a basket in the fourth quarter of last Friday's win. Photo by Larry Wright

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Jake Dolan signs to run for the University of Michigan - Dearborn, Feb. 8. Photo by Wendi Reardon Price

Wolverine on the run

BY WENDIREARDONPRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior Jake Dolan smiled as he penned his name in front of friends and family to continue running cross country at University of Michigan - Dearborn, Feb. 8

"It's exciting," he said about signing. "I am glad I am done with everything. It's exciting I will have a foundation when I go to school, and I will have a team I have already met and know."

He was already looking at University of Michigan - Dearborn because his dad went there. Then, Dolan found out they had a cross country team, and he emailed the coach to see what times he needed to run.

"I was looking at school, but it was one I kept coming back to because my dad went there plus the reputation they had as a good school," she said. "I felt like it was the best decision for me - academically and athletically."

Dolan was participating in track for Clarkston High School when he was

approached to try cross country. Then, two years ago he decided to give it a try.

"I went out and ended up on varsity," he shared. "It was a lot of fun so I came out again my senior year - that's when I really excelled and improved a lot."

He added continuing cross country in college was something he considered for scholarship reasons.

"It was a good thing to do because I really like it and it's something I know I am good at," Dolan said. "I knew it was one of the options to run at the next level."

He plans to major in finance and minor in computer science. When he graduates he would like to study for his masters degree at the Ann Arbor campus before finding a job in finance.

His advice to aspiring athletes is if you enjoy the sport, don't stop.

"You can always continue onto the next level if you are really motivated to keep going and it's something you love," Dolan added.



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Girls basketball to take on Oxford at semifinals

The Clarkston Girls Varsity Basketball team defeated Oxford in their last game of the regular season last Thursday, 46-36. Junior Kayla Luchenbach led the team with 12 points. Junior Maddie Beck had ten points, and senior Mary McKillop scored eight points.

They defeated Pontiac on Monday in the first round of MHSAA Girls Basketball District playoffs, 57-24. They play Oxford in the semifinals on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. The championship is Friday, 7 p.m. All games are at Lake Orion.

The Clarkston Girls JV Basketball team finished their season with a 40-34 win over Oxford on Thursday. Sophomore Lauren Cody led the team with 15 points and went 7-for-7 on the free throw line. Sophomore Sloan Curtis scored 13 points and had 15 rebounds. They opened the week with a win over Cass Tech on Feb. 21, 44-22. Freshman Lexi Linton led the team with 20 points.

The Lady Wolves freshman team also finished their season with a win over Oxford, 48-16. Sierra Waitkus led the team with 15 points and five rebounds and Sarah Bailey scored 13 points. Another highlight was Kendall Hine scoring eight of the Lady Wolves 14 points in the fourth quarter.

The Clarkston Boys JV Basketball team defeated Bloomfield Hills last Friday, 51-29.

Sophomore Jake Jensen led the team with 21 points and had five assists. Sophomore Desmond Mills-Bradley added 12 points in the win. The Wolves host their final game of the season on Thursday against Rochester Adams at 5:30 p.m.

The freshman team defeated Bloomfield Hills last Friday, 34-26. Cole Donchez led the team with 11 points. Jaiden Wasilk scored six points and Nate Sesti had five points in the game. The boys host their final game of the season on Thursday at 5 p.m.

The Clarkston Varsity Competitive Cheer team finished in ninth place at the district meet, Feb. 18. They scored a total of 680.42 points, scoring 212.8 in the first round; 190.02, second round; and 277.6; third round. Lake Orion, Grand Blanc, Davison and Swartz Creek qualified for the regional meet.

The Wolves finished in fifth place during the MHSAA Boys Skiing Regional meet at Mt. Holly, Feb. 15 as they scored a total of 180 points.

They scored 58 points during the Giant Slalom race and finished in fourth place. Jacob McIntosh led the Wolves finishing in second place at 42.75. Scoring points for the boys were Max Weidemann as he finished in sixth place, 43.20; Justin Osborn, 24th place, 45.01; and Cameron Brown, 26th place,

45.12.

Weidemann led the Wolves in the Slalom race finishing in first, 53.99. The boys scored 128 points during the race. Scoring points were McIntosh in 15th place at 1:00.77; Ryan Nicosia, 52nd place, 1:17.18; and Evan Raddatz, 54th place, 1:21.34.

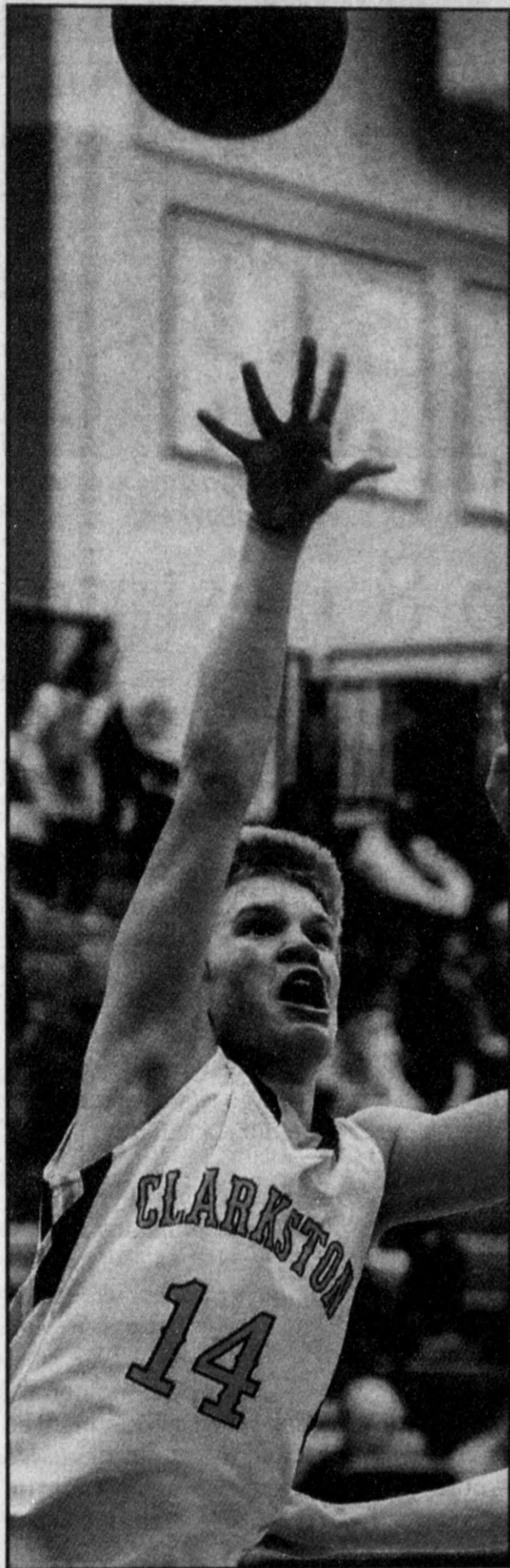
The Lady Wolves finished in seventh place with a total of 247 points.

They finished in seventh in the Slalom race with 128 points. Katie Bayley led the Lady Wolves with a sixth place finish, 59.36. Also, scoring for Clarkston were Annika Karlstrom, 31st place, 1:10.52; Chloe Swanson, 45th place, 1:16.09; and Allison Osborn, 46th place, 1:16.44.

They also finished in seventh in the Giant Slalom race with 119 points. Bayley led as she finished in ninth place at 44.95. Karlstrom finished in 23rd place, 48.33; Swanson, 38th place, 49.91; and Osborn, 49th place, 52.57.

The Clarkston Varsity Hockey team lost to Midland on Feb. 18, 11-3. Daniel Tremblay and Austin James scored one goal each for the Wolves and Brent Bachusz had two assists. Bachusz scored the lone goal during a power play in the 4-1 loss to West Bloomfield, Feb. 11.

They played Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep on Monday in the Pre-Regional game and lost, 9-0, finishing the season 3-18-2.



Jake Jensen adds one more basket as he leads the Clarkston Boys JV Basketball team with 21 points against Bloomfield Hills last Thursday. Photo by Larry Wright

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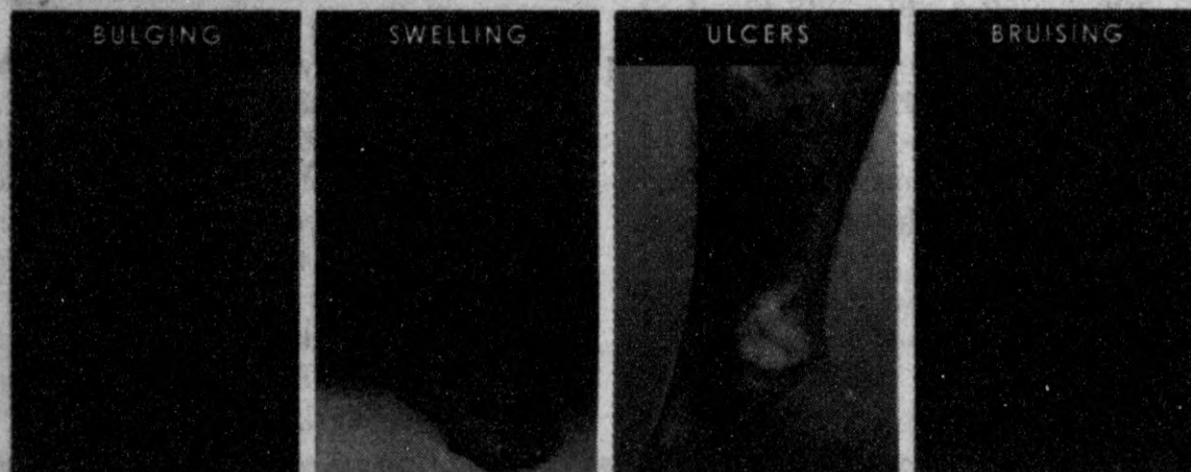
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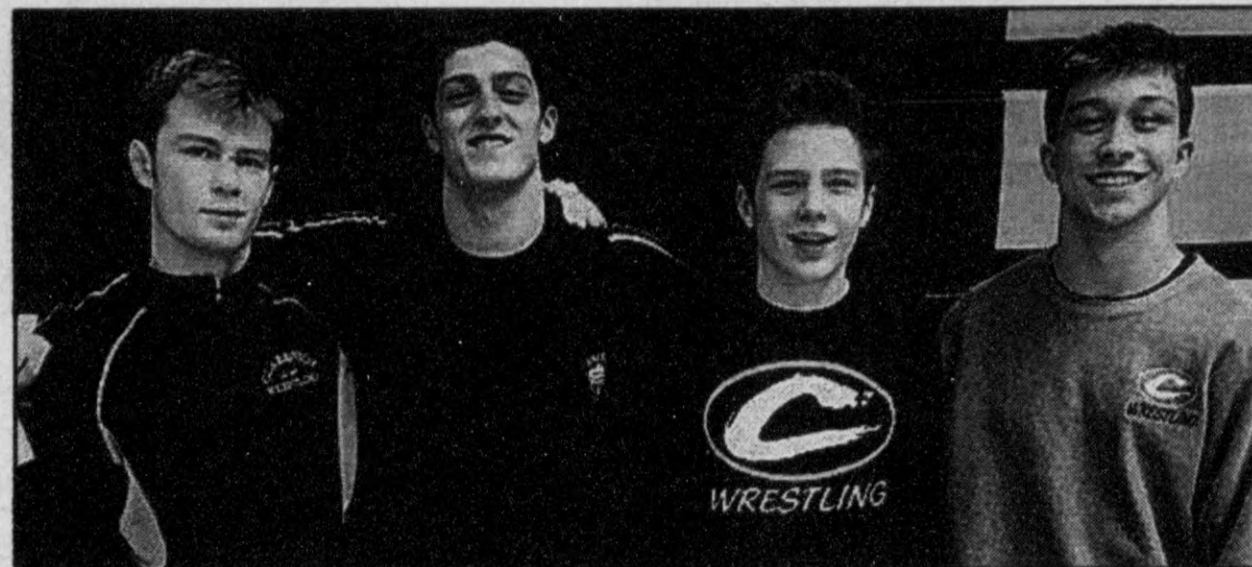
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Jacob Rygielski, Jake Calvano, Mac Hanselman and Conor Donahue are ready to take on the competition at state finals this week. Photo provided

Sights on top 8 in state

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Jake Calvano, Conor Donahue, Mac Hanselman and Jacob Rygielski have sights on the podium as they head into the MHSAA Wrestling Individual State Finals this week at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

"It's pretty exciting," said Calvano, who is in his senior year competing in the 152-pound weight class. "I have never been there before. My goal is to have fun and enjoy the moment of being at states. It's going to be a fun experience."

"The grand march," Rygielski shared with Calvano. "It makes states worth it even if you don't wrestle well. Just walking in the march and all the fans shouting at you, your whole city going crazy."

Hanselman, competing in the 112-pound weight class in his sophomore year, shared the same excitement.

"I have worked really hard this season to get where I am at," he said.

"I can't wait to get out there and test my talents against the best kids in the state," smiled Donahue, competing in the 130-pound weight class in his sophomore year.

"It's my last shot to get on the podium. I am just trying to prepare the best I can," said Rygielski, a senior competing in the 135-pound weight class.

For Hanselman and Rygielski it is their second trip to the state finals and they shared it helps them.

"We know not to be nervous as much being there in the spotlight," Hanselman said, adding they have experienced the environment and the crowd. "We can put it on the side and focus on wrestling instead of everything else - just wrestle."

"It clears your mind of all the distractions because there are a lot of 'oooh' and 'aaaah,'" Rygielski shared.

They added they can also help Calvano and Donahue who are going for the first time.

"We can help them with what to expect, situations before the match and how to prep because you don't get much of environment to prep for your match," said Rygielski.

Calvano (25-10) opens his competition against Grand Haven's Brian Batten. If he wins he will go against Livonia Franklin's Nathan Atienza who was state champ in 145-pound last year.

"I am looking forward to it," he smiled. "It will be a good match. I am determined to get on the podium. My expectations are I can get on the podium and I am going to try my best to do so."

Hanselman (32-11) opens against Hartland's Corey Cavanaugh and if he wins his match he will also go against a returning state champ, Benyamin Kamali from Detroit Catholic Central.

"I have never wrestled him before," he said. "I am excited to be competing against someone in that skill level. It will be good for me in the next coming years. I believe I can be on the podium. If you believe it, you achieve it."

Donahue (36-6) faces Wayne Memorial's Nick Daniels his first round and admitted he is nervous but excited to get out there. He would also like a rematch against Kevon Davenport from DCC, also a returning state champ.

"He's a really good wrestler and I feel like wrestling him will make me better," he added.

Rygielski (34-14) opens against John Glenn's Anthony Gibson and looks forward to everyone who comes his way.

"Everyone has their own style," he said. "I am going to keep it basic - nothing fancy. My goal is to make it to the podium and get my picture up on the wall in the wrestling room. I can bring my kids back here one day and say that's me up on the wall. Give them something to work for."

The championship begins on Thursday with the Grand March at 1:45 p.m. and round one of wrestling starts at 2 p.m. Matches continue on Friday and Saturday beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Tickets are \$11 per session for general admission; \$12 per session for reserved session; and \$55 for all sessions. All prices include parking. All sessions begin with the 145-pound weight class.



Students in the Jungle read their community newspaper *The Clarkston News* before the Wolves game last Thursday. Thanks, Jungle. We love you, too! Photo by Larry Wright

JV bowlers win state, varsity head to state

The Clarkston Boys JV Bowling team won the JV state tournament, Feb. 19. Team members Leo Chasse, Kyle Hancsak, Jacob Corey, Josh Morgan, Josh Boyd and Nathan Locher. Chasse was winner of the JV State Singles tournament, Feb. 18.



Chasse

Five of seven the Clarkston bowlers made the cut after the three game qualifying round which included Chasse, Boyd, Morgan, Hancsak and Corey. Chasse won all his matches for

the title.

The Wolves captured their second consecutive regional title taking first place in the MHSAA Boys Bowling regionals on Saturday.

They finished six Baker games and three games with 4,059 for the top spot as Oxford and Davison finished in second and third place out of 16 teams.

Junior Drew Sagowski led the Wolves during the MHSAA Boys Bowling Division 1 Region 3 Singles tournament at 300 Bowl in Waterford on Saturday.

He finished in the top 10 individuals for ninth place, scoring 1,190 after six games.

Finishing in the top 50 were senior Ryan Little in 25th place with 1,117; sophomore Justin Evans, 32nd place, 1,099 and juniors Sean Furness and Jake Phelps tied for 48th place, 1,051.

The varsity team competed in the Regional Tune Up tournament in Flint, Feb. 19 They made the eight team cut out of 20 teams, qualifying seventh. They were eliminated in the first round of match play finishing in a tie for fifth place.

They qualified second in the OAA Team tournament, Feb. 18. They ran into a hot Troy team and finished the tournament in their first round of match play.

Freshman Hannah Turk led the Lady Wolves during the region singles match as she finished in second place with 1,228 after six games.

Senior Kayla Yenshaw finished in the top 50 bowlers as she bowled 929 for 40th place.

The girls finished the team regional meet in 11th place with 3,038 as Davison, Lake Orion and Oxford advanced to the state finals. The finals are this Saturday and Sunday at Sterling Lanes in Sterling Heights.

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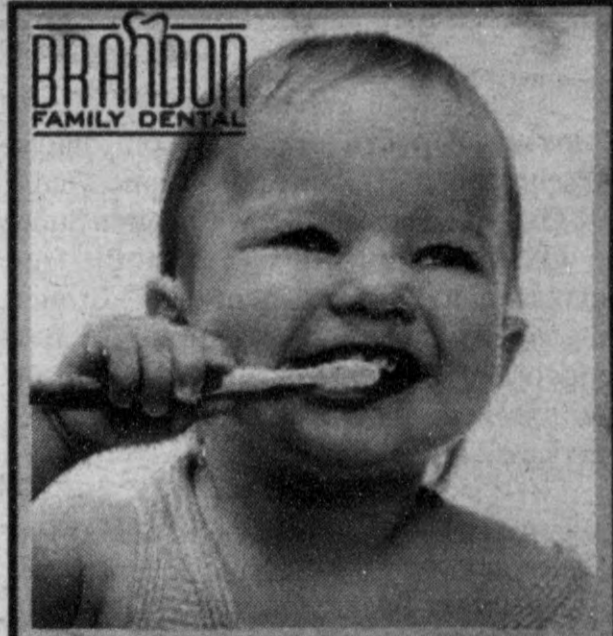
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*Source (American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry). Primary teeth begin to grow at around 6 months of age. AAPD recommends seeing a dentist within 6 months of first tooth.

Events

Pups and Popcorn for Canine Companions Rescue Center of Clarkston, 10 a.m., March 18, Oxford 7 Theater, 48 S Washington Street in Oxford. Puppy kissing booth, free admission to "Secret Life of Pets." Bring a bag of dry dog food, donations for free popcorn. Paws Project will also sign up families in need of low cost spay and neuter services. 248-980-5533.

Inaugural Fundraiser, My Habitat Clarkston, 5-9 p.m., March 25, Bowman Auto Center, 9603 Dixie Highway, Springfield Township. Benefits Community Impact Weekend home repairs for low-income families and vets, and future local home builds through Habitat Oakland County. "MyHabitatClarkston," Facebook.

Community Impact Weekend, April 29-30 and Nov. 4-5, projects for qualified low-income families and seniors, local veterans, non-profit service projects. 248-625-8055.

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

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 p.m., first and third Mondays, Community Presbyterian Church, 4301 Monroe Street at Sashabaw. 248-623-7232.

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

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

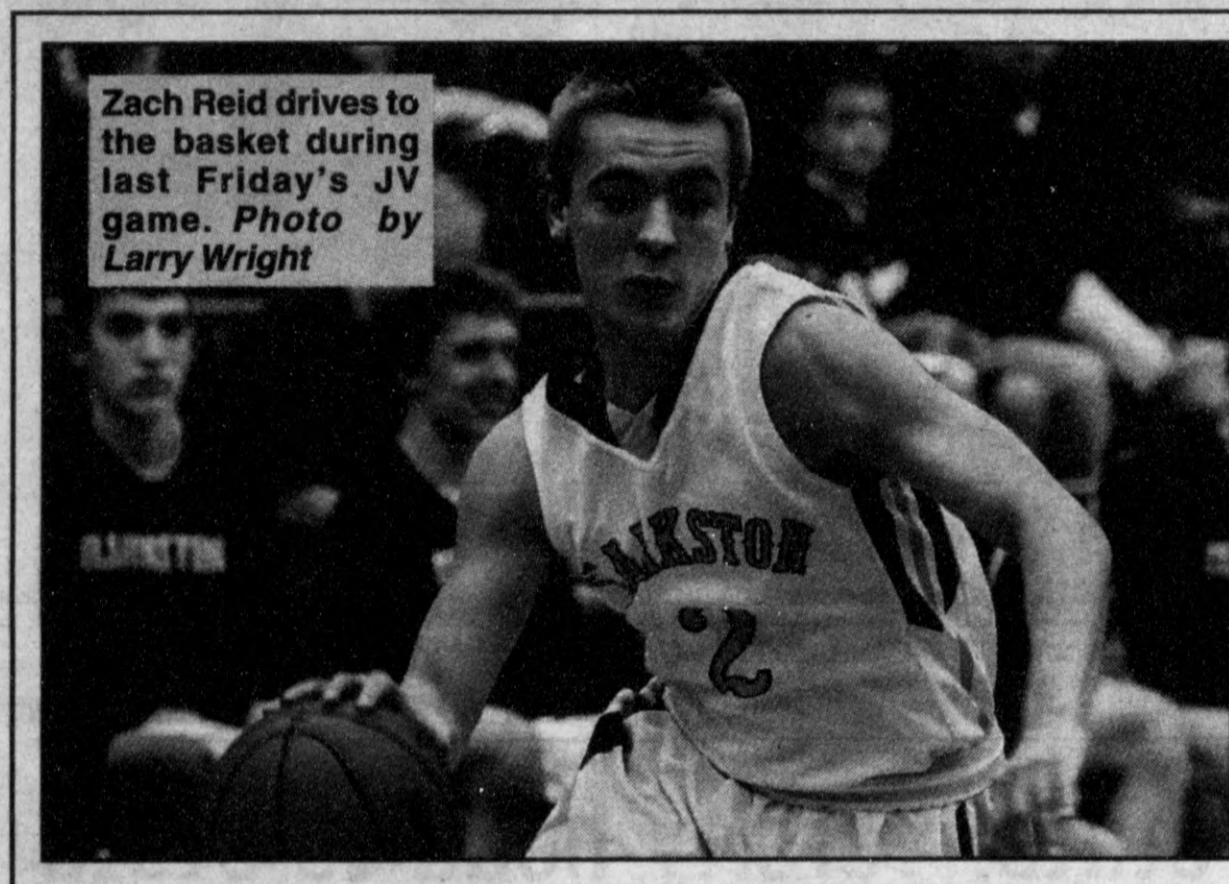
Fitness 4 You classes, \$5 walk-in, New Hope Bible Church, 8673 Sashabaw Road. Call Patty, 248-520-3297.

Grocery Store Class by Nuview Nutrition, 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.

Around Town

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



Zach Reid drives to the basket during last Friday's JV game. Photo by Larry Wright

Tuesday

Clarkston Community Women's Club, third Tuesday, 7 p.m., Clarkston Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. 248-909-3920.

Grief Share, 13-week seminar/support group for those suffering loss, 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesdays, The Gathering Place, 9811 Dixie Highway. 248-694-9351.

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.

Big Chief Barbershop Chorus, 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Waterford Oaks, 2800 Watkins Lake Road. Call Walt, 248-922-9090.

Nuview Nutrition Meet & Greet, 6:30-8 p.m., first Tuesdays, free, 7300 Dixie Highway Suite 500. Pre-register, 248-625-5143; **Health and Healing: the Central Nervous System**, March 14, 6:30-8 p.m. Dr. Bennett from Orion

Family Spinal Center will do risk assessments to determine nervous system health. \$15. RSVP, 248-625-5143.

Wint's Healing Hearts Grief Support Group for all ages, 7 p.m., April 11, Carriage House in Clintonwood Park. Topic: The Seasons Are Changing, But am I? Free, walk-ins welcome, 248-625-5231.

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

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.clarkstoncoffeeclub.com.

Coffee and Conversation, Thursdays quarterly, April 27, July 27, 10:30 a.m., Bartsch Hall, senior center in Clintonwood Park. Moderator, Tom Stone. All invited. \$1 donation for coffee.

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., Big Boy restaurant, 6644 Dixie Highway. 248-802-8603.

Individualized Computer Tutoring, fourth Thursday, 2-4 p.m., Senior Adult Activity Center. \$30/members, \$35/non-members. 248-625-8231.

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.

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.

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 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 for patients living with terminal illness, 248-320-0106. **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Oakland County**, 55+, opportunities at hospitals, cultural institutions, food pantries, tutoring. 248-559-1147 ext. 3911; **Homebound Meals on Wheels**, for adults 60+ and people with short or long term disabilities in Independence Township and Clarkston. Older Persons Commission, 248-608-0264, or 248-625-8231 Ext 11.

Religion

Events Preaching

Do you see candidates for Kingdom?

Once, as I was researching youth behavior, I came across a term called "cognitive dissonance."

When the human mind has conflicting thoughts, or information, we have a human tendency to resolve our conflict by eliminating one or the other so we can formulate an opinion.

Cognitive dissonance is when we are not able to do this, so our cognitive thoughts create dissonance (conflict or clash).

In child development, we begin life with simple interpretations, assuming what we have been told by our parents and authority figures is true.

Our confidence in our caregivers gives us a sense of peace that comes from the inner assurance that they know what they are talking about.

As we grow, and begin to have a desire to formulate our own opinions, we can have conflict if those opinions are contrary to what we once believed to be true.

Oftentimes, for teenagers, this leads to open rebellion or living a double life. We live our own life; then have this other life we live for the benefit of our parents.

The word hypocrisy means to have a double life.

This is something we learn at an early age, so hypocrisy is normal in the human condition.

We do this so we can choose a side, and be comfortable in our minds, as we do not want to deal with opposing thoughts.

After a while, your brain will make you see what you want to see based on your choice.

This has created an enigma in our present society. The people in our society, who claim to be open-minded and accepting, are very angry and militant against people who disagree with them.

Their minds tell them that this is the way it should be, because there can be no openness when so-called closed-minded people are around.

This has led to a very closed-minded attitude in our world, but the people cannot reconcile the conflict in their mind; so in reality, they are acting out the actions they despise in other people.

The mind has a way of playing tricks on us. This is the reason our mind cannot be

the ultimate place of choice.

Our mindsets are more powerful than our ability for free choice. The end result is bondage...where the things we want to do, or even be, are impossible.

The Burden and Victory Belong to God!

As Christians, we must understand God's way.

The scripture tells us that there is a spirit in man, the "God Breath," that gives us understanding.

We should realize that we have been given the ability for understanding deeper than human, or natural, thought.

Our spirit should give us the capacity to be inspired for behavior even when our mind is in "cognitive dissonance."

In our present time, our society needs Christian engagement. We are called to be *salt and light* in our world.

America needs an awakening, and it must come from the people of God.

In Isaiah 52 it says, "*Shake yourself from the dust, arise; Sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion!*"

Note: "Arise and Sit down." That is an oxymoron. Talk about cognitive dissonance!

This means that at the time we are called to arise and take action, we must do this from a position of rest. This is possible if we fully believe God sits on the throne of heaven, and rules in both heaven and earth.

Faith says that although I must do my part, the one who makes it happen is God.

My involvement in the affairs of the world is not personal; so let's stop taking everything personally!

I am involved for Christ because He has called me to do so; the burden and the victory belong to God.

I don't look at the other side as my opponent or the enemy.

Through my spiritual understanding, I see them as candidates for the kingdom of God. I am not trying to beat them, but rescue them. I am not fighting for my life; I am giving my life.

Does this sound like somebody you know? It reminds me of my Savior, Jesus Christ.

In Psalm 17 it says, "*As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.*" My end game is not to win, but to be like Jesus!

Will you join me?

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

Spiritual Matters



Pastor Loren Covarrubias

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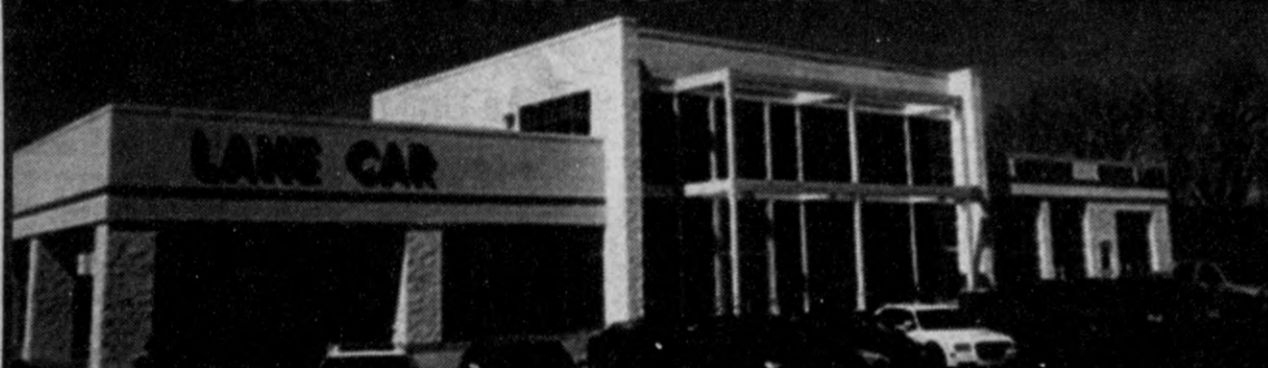
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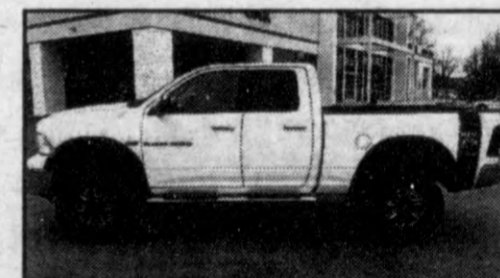


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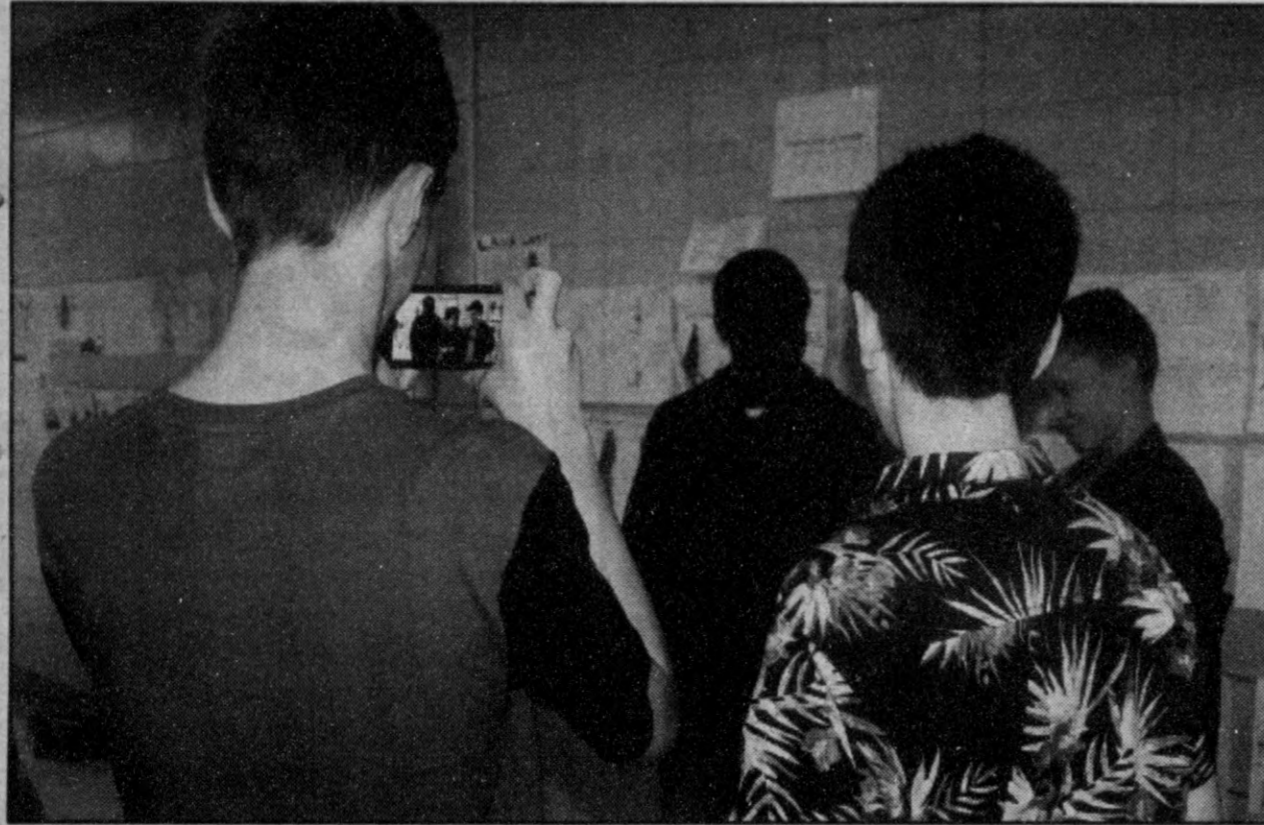
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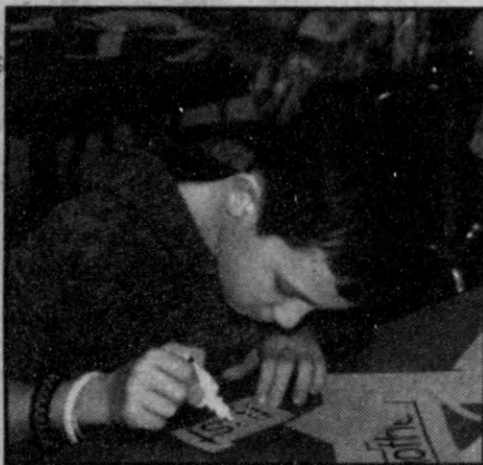
Students from Mrs Ortel's Wolf-Time class make a video about empathy



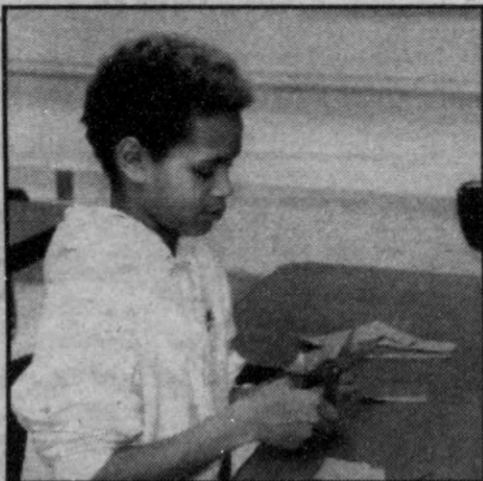
Tyler Voepe focuses on his work.



Logan Strong starts adding puffy paint.



Logan Dunn makes tactile words.



Nathen Hutchons cuts out his set of words.

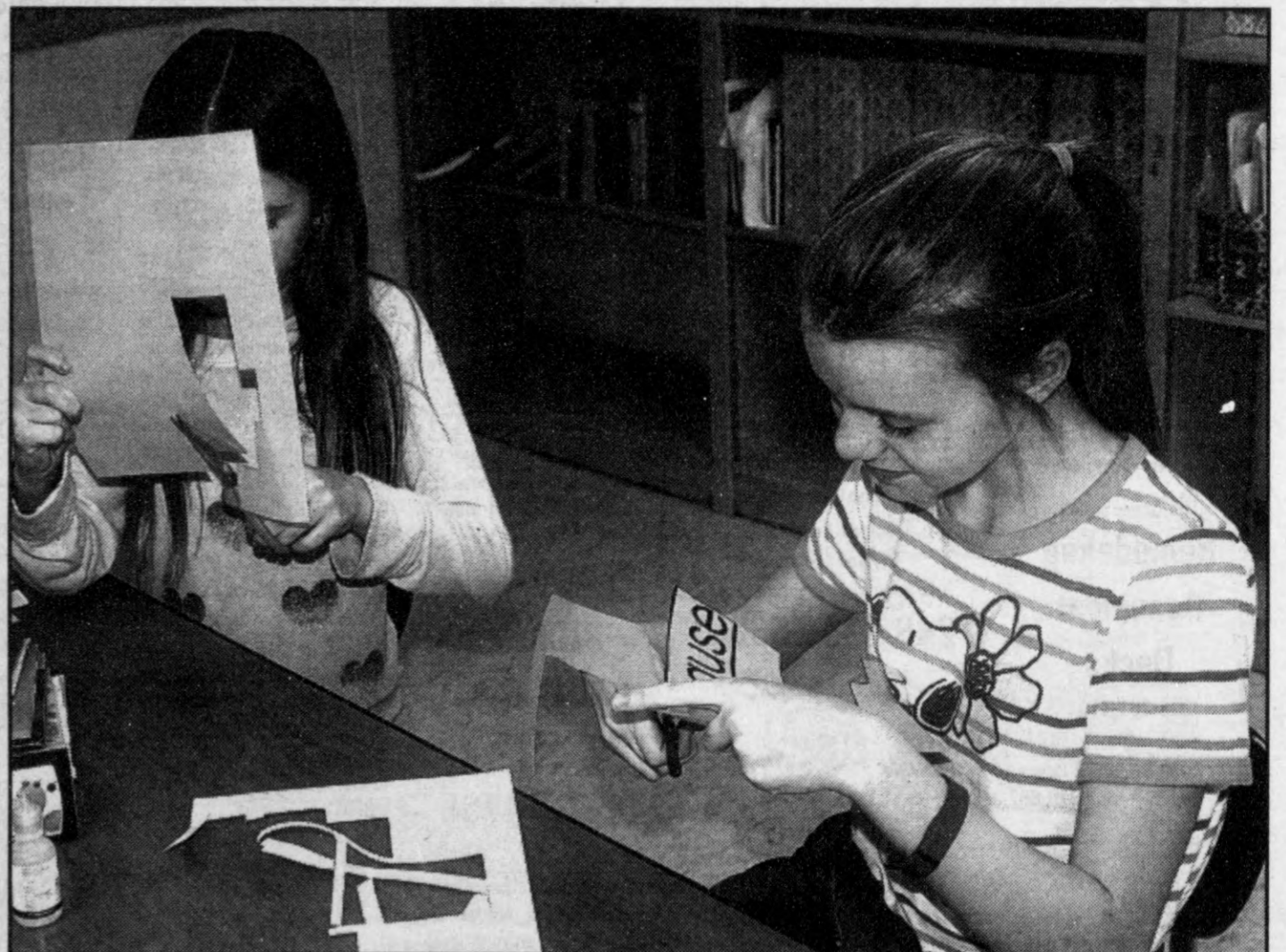
Empathy for others

Sashabaw Middle School students spent their February Wolf-Time working on a school-wide academic service learning project for Clarkston students in the special education department.

"We have teamed up with our special education department, particularly our students with autism. Our students are creating sight words that have a tactile feel to them," SMS Dean of Students Amanda Hoffman said. "We're using the month-long activity to teach our population here about how to have empathy for students who might learn a little bit differently or might have different needs."

Each student completed a few words using puffy paint to allow special education students to learn the words through touch. Once the tactile words are completed, they'll be given to autistic students in Clarkston's elementary buildings.

Students also created empathy posters to hang in Clarkston schools and local businesses.



Elke Roeser and Cameron Brosky cut out words from colored sheets of paper.

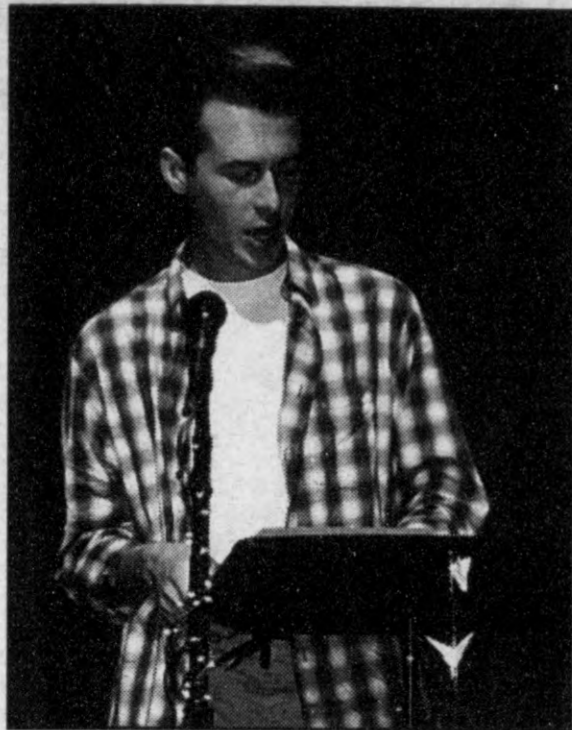


Ryan Drobot and Mason King focus on their task. Photos by Jessica Steeley



Jurney Harris, at right, and Marin Donnelly.

• Death notices & • Obituaries



Senior Jack Murphy shares his piece for his first performance.



Senior Hannah Seaman performs her poem. Photos by Jessica Steeley

Students learn about peers

Continued from page 1
introduction and explained their mission to the crowd: promoting self-determination of women and families, as well as empowering women, and allowing communities to thrive by building confidence, strengthening human connection and creating positive change.

The poems kicked off with the first poet, Nathan Wilson, a Clarkston alumni and current University of Michigan student.

The night continued in a flurry of emotions, powerful messages, claps and snaps as 20 student poets performed their original pieces, with performers ranging from Clarkston seventh graders to college students.

Senior Jack Murphy had a particularly powerful piece, receiving a standing ovation as he finished his poem.

"We try to pick a variety of topics and subject matter and we really strive to choose powerful poems we think the crowd will respond to. Jack's is a really great example of that, cause everyone just loved the message," Maday said.

Though Murphy has attended all three

poetry slams, this was his first year performing. His poem discussed issues he faces as a member of the LGBT community.

"I love doing these things," Murphy said. "I make it a priority to come and watch everyone and I'm always thinking to myself 'Man, I wish I could write as well as those people up there'. Then, I just started thinking 'Well, why can't I?' I started writing and I got opinions of people and I entered it."

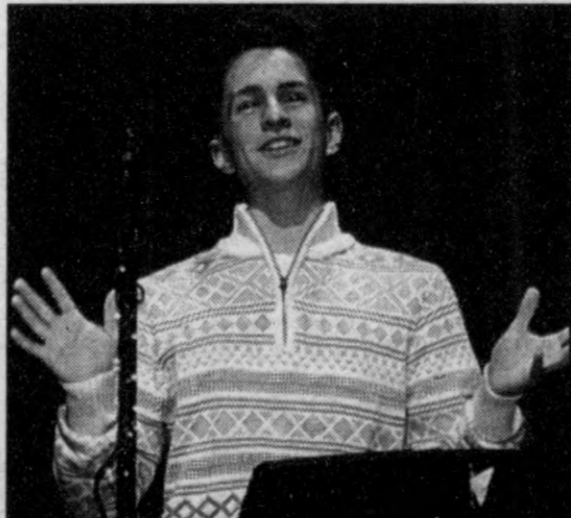
Murphy added going to the poetry slam every year has helped him learn about his peers he sees everyday but doesn't necessarily know on a personal level.

"You get to know what their struggles and what their beliefs are and I just think that's a really great way to kind of get to know what's going around you," Murphy said.

Maday, a senior at the high school, co-founded Voices for Change with her older sister, Madeline, and though she will graduate this year, the program will be continued by Clarkston sophomores Addison Gale and Sierra Aguilar.



Sophomore Sierra Aguilar, a Voices for Change Executive, recites her poem.



Sophomore Evan Hall expresses his thoughts through his poem.

Mary Quigley, 84

Mary Catherine Quigley (Murphy), a long time resident of Clarkston, age 84, passed away peacefully Monday, Feb. 20, 2017, at her home.

She was preceded in death by her parents Roy and Elizabeth (Feeny) Murphy, beloved husband Jesse Quigley, and sons William and Paul Quigley. She was the grandmother of William (Angie) Quigley Jr., Chaelen (Rob Phillips) Quigley, Michael (Stephanie) Quigley and Angela (Christopher) Chirco; mother in law of Louann Quigley and Denise Quigley; aunt of Roy "Bumpie" Murphy, John and Michelle Murphy; also survived by many other grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Mary had an amazing love for her family. She will be missed, but never forgotten. A family memorial will be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Donald Zielinski, 78

Donald E. Zielinski, "Don," of Waterford passed away Feb. 21, 2017, at age 78.

He was preceded in death by his parents Floyd and Lula Zielinski and nephew Paul Glowzinski. He was the loving brother of Cheryl Zielinski and Pat (the late Frank) Glowzinski; uncle of Kathy (Ken) LaFerle, Michael Glowzinski, Patrick (Cindy) Glowzinski and Charles (Heather) Glowzinski; also survived by many great nieces and nephews, extended family and friends.

Don was a former teacher, church organist and choir director throughout Metro Detroit including Our Lady of the Lakes, Our Lady of Sorrows, St. Daniel's and Detroit Catholic Central.

Memorial Mass, 11 a.m., Monday, March 6, at St. Perpetua Catholic Church, Waterford, where friends and family may visit Monday after 10 a.m. Private Inurnment All Saints Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Sacred Heart Major Seminary or the American Heart Association. Arrangements entrusted to the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Online Guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Diane Ilene Zielinski, 77

Diane Ilene Zielinski of Clarkston, formerly of Troy, passed away Feb. 22, 2017, at age 77.

She was the loving wife of James for 54 years; beloved mother of Kathy (Robin) Davis, Karen (Mike) Smith, Kristine Zielinski and Karrie (Andy) Tarajos; proud grandpa of Jessica Davis, Justin (Katharina) Davis, Eric Smith, Rochelle Smith, Jenna Tarajos; preceded in death by her sister Rose (Wally) Strzelecki, Jeanne (late Stanley) Stanonis and Mary (Dan) Matey; also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Diane loved spending time feeding her birds and traveling up north to spend time with family at the cabin.

Visitation was Feb. 27 at the Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Funeral Mass was Feb. 28 at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church, Orion. Private burial Van Hoosen Jones Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Bird Center of Washtenaw County. Arrangements entrusted to the **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.



Matthew Timothy Rosko, 34

Matthew Timothy Rosko passed away Feb. 20, 2017, at age 34. He was the beloved son of Paul and Barbara Rosko; dear brother of Christopher Rosko; loving nephew of Timothy Hunt (Mary), Susan Barrow (Lon), Carrie Elzinga (Greg), Katharine Shishkovsky (the late George), Michael Rosko, Susan Weinbaum (Richard), Kristin DeMare, Anne Loehnis (Charles), and Allison Trisch (William); also survived by 10 loving cousins.

Services have been held. Memorial tributes to Leader Dogs for the Blind. Arrangements entrusted to **A. J. Desmond & Sons Funeral Directors**, Troy. View obituary and share memories at AJDesmond.com.



Obituaries posted daily at
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STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND

FILE NO: 2017-374, 710-DE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate
Estate of Thomas F. Mayer, Deceased. Date of birth: 7/16/1946
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Thomas F. Mayer, Deceased, died December 14, 2016.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Russell C. Anderson, personal representative or to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
SHAUN B. ISGRIGG, JR. P-78232
2745 Pontiac Lake Road Waterford, Michigan 48328 (248) 682-8800
Russell C. Anderson
2745 Pontiac Lake Road Waterford, Michigan 48328 (248) 682-8800

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

SYNOPSIS
TAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD
THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
FEBRUARY 21, 2017

A. A Regular Meeting of the Charter Township of Independence Board was called to order at 7:03 PM at Independence Township Hall.
B. The Pledge of Allegiance was given; led by Tom Middleton, Oakland County Commissioner; District #4
C. ROLL CALL: Present: Kittle, Pallotta, Aliaga, Brown, Loughrin, Schroeder
Absent: Ritchie
There was a quorum present.
Also Present: Doreen Groth, GIS Manager; Larry Hess, Park Superintendent; Lt. Larry Perry, Oakland County Sheriff's Department; David McKee, DPW Director; Derek Smith, Parks, Recreation & Seniors Director; Terry Biederman, Johnson & Anderson; Paul Trinka, IT Right
D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: As presented.
E. CLOSED SESSION: None.
F. BOARD/PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS: Clerk Pallotta
G. PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom Middleton, Oakland County Commission - District #4
H. PUBLIC HEARING: None
I. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS: None
J. CARRYOVER/POSTPONED AGENDA ITEMS: None
K. CONSENT AGENDA:
1. Approval of the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2017
2. Approval of the Payroll of February 10, 2017 and the Check Run of February 14, 2017, for a Total Amount of \$664,744.07
3. Approval of Request for Sound Variance for Waterford Hills Road Racing Track
L. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: None
M. REGULAR BUSINESS:
1. Acceptance of Proposal - 2017 Capital Improvement Project - Bay Court Park / Lakeview Building Renovations
2. Award Bid - 2017 Summer, 2017 Fall & 2018 Winter/Spring Recreation Guides
3. Acceptance of Proposal - Design & Engineering Services for Clintonville Road Safety Path Project
4. Acceptance of Proposal & Approval of Budget Amendment-Enterprise Content Management System (ECM)
5. Acceptance of Proposals and Approval of Budget Amendment - FileBound Document Management System Conversion Project
N. COMMUNICATIONS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / REPORTS:
1. Minutes: Information Technology Oversight Committee (ITOC) January 5, 2016 - Final
2. Report: Oakland County Sheriff's Office Report - December, 2016
3. Report: Building Department Monthly Reports - October, January, 2017
4. Report: PR&S 2016-2017 Clintonwood Park Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
5. Report: PR&S Summer Day Camp at Clintonwood Park
6. Report: PR&S 2016 Annual Report - Building a Stronger Community
O. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Trustee Schroeder; Supervisor Kittle
P. ADJOURNMENT: The Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM
Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara A. Pallotta, CMC
Township Clerk
Published: Wednesday, March 1, 2017

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.
INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP
OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP 6483 WALDON CENTER DR CLARKSTON, MI 48346

The Charter Township of Independence 2017 March Board of Review will meet for its organizational session, MCL 211.29(1), at the Township Hall's Office of the Assessor on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 9:00 am.
The Board of Review will be in session at the Independence Township Board Room located at 6483 Waldon Center Drive, Clarkston, MI 48346 on March 13, 2017 from 9 am to 5 pm, March 14, 2017 from 1 pm to 9 pm, and March 15, 2017 from 9 am to 5 pm. Valuation appeals of the 2017 assessed value (50% of market value), classification, Hardship applications and Disabled Veteran Exemption Affidavits can be addressed to the March Board of Review.
Appeals are for the 2017 tax year only. If you wish to appeal your assessed value in person, please make an appointment through the Assessor's Office by calling (248) 625-8114 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm weekdays.
-Deadline to make an appointment is Tuesday, March 14th by 4pm***
A resident or nonresident may also protest to the Board of Review by mail by submitting a completed and signed "Petition to Board of Review" (Form L-4035). This form is available on line at www.michigan.gov/documents/14035f2658_7.pdf or at the Township Assessing Department. Completed petition forms along with any documentation supporting your opinion of value should be mailed to: Independence Township Assessing Department, 6483 Waldon Center Drive, Clarkston, MI 48346 or emailed to assess@indtwp.com. Protests by mail must be received prior to the adjournment of the March Board of Review.
The Board of Review is an appeal process to review property values, not tax bills. The Board of Review has no jurisdiction over the millage rates that are multiplied against taxable values in order to calculate the tax bill. The year 2017 tentative equalization ratio is 50%, and the estimated multiplier is 1.0000 for all property classifications.
Christine Ritchie, MAAO
Acting Assessor
Independence Township

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND

FILE NO: 2017-374, 687-DE

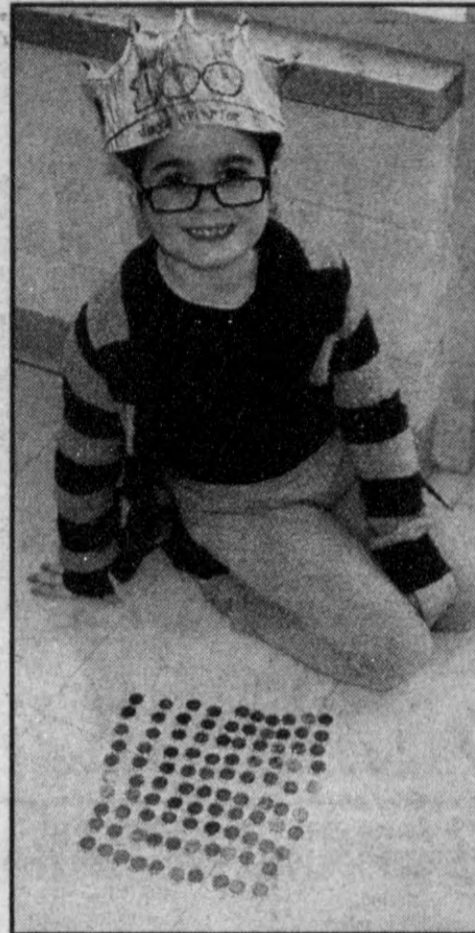
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate
Estate of Mary Ann Lauran. Date of Birth: 10/16/1937
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mary Ann Lauran, died 12/30/2016.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jon B. Munger, personal representative or proposed personal representative to both the probate court at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, MI 48341 and the named personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
February 23, 2017
Munger & Associates, P.C.
Jon B. Munger P54736
4545 Clawson Tank Dr, Ste 100
Clarkston, MI 48346
248.618.1200
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Clarkston, MI 48346
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
CLARKSTON PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLARKSTON
375 DEPOT STREET
CLARKSTON, MI 48346
PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY MARCH 20, 2017 7 PM
A variance is being requested for 117 N Main Street (Lot 38) to build a new home.
The Lot is 55.00 feet wide. According to our Schedule of Regulations R-1 needs 80 feet in width.
City Clerk, Sandy Miller

MAD, GLAD OR SAD?
Write a letter to the Editor
clarkstonnews@gmail.com



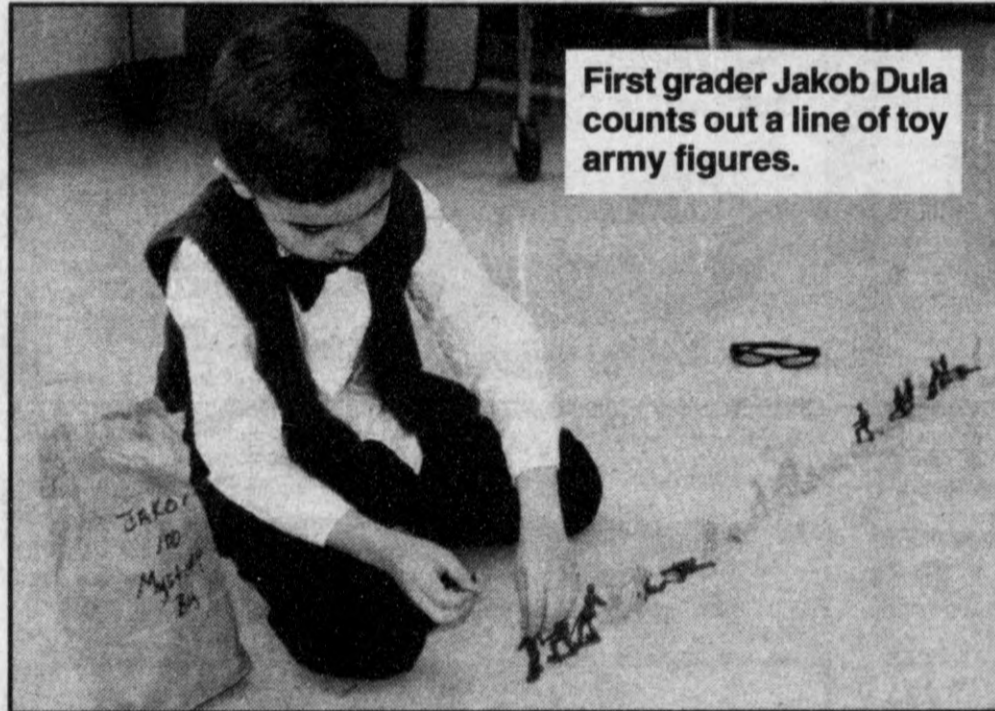
First grader Lauren Fotherby makes a line of hair ties.



First grader Nela Vincent has her 100 pennies ready to go.



Kindergartners Mikayla Battle and Ella Park lift 10 pound weights. Photos by Jessica Steeley



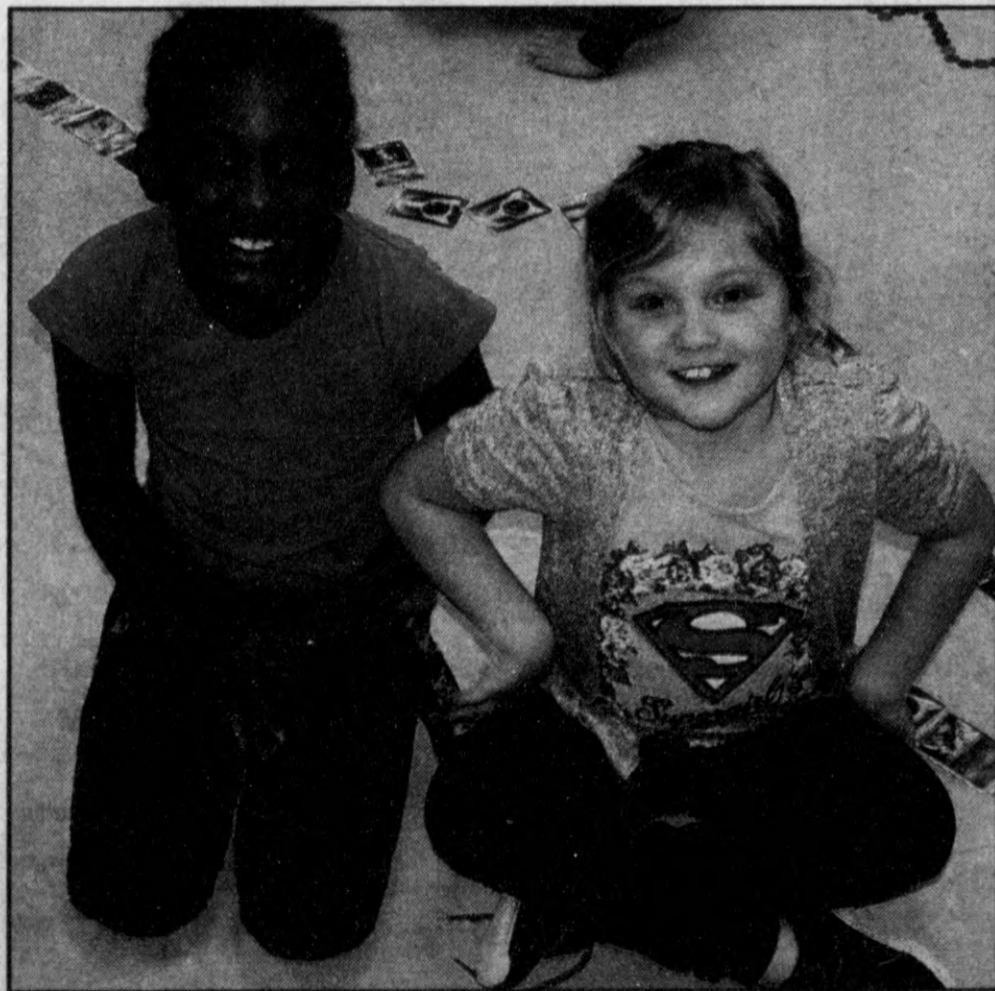
First grader Jakob Dula counts out a line of toy army figures.



First grader Fallynn Vanderpool poses with 100 pennies.



First grader Shea Dabish places puzzle pieces in a line



First graders Ry'Ley Price-Thomas and Dani Deladurantaye pose for a picture in the crossing lines.

100 days

Kindergartners and first graders at Pine Knob Elementary celebrated 100 days in school by dressing up as 100-year-olds, counting and lining up 100 objects, and doing activities 100 times or for 100 seconds.

All different objects were used to make lines, such as seashells, playing cards, pennies, crayons and paper clips.

Some of the different activities included clapping 100 times, jogging for 100 seconds, and lifting 100 pounds by lifting 10 pounds 10 times.



First grader Sarah Marcy uses seashells in her line.

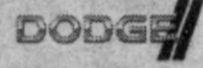
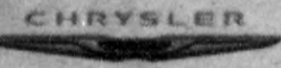


First grader Evan Schneider continues his Pokemon line.

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Up To 72 Months



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NO GAMES, NO GIMMICKS

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FRIENDLY HOMETOWN SERVICE

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2017 CHRYSLER 300S AWD

36 MONTHS
10,000 MILES
MSRP \$40,265



CASH PRICE \$30,623

\$1000
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$140**

\$0
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$180**

2017 GRAND CARAVAN GT

24 MONTHS
10,000 MILES
MSRP \$35,485



CASH PRICE \$25,794

\$1000
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$138**

\$0
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$180**

2017 JEEP PATRIOT HIGH ALTITUDE

36 MONTHS
10,000 MILES
MSRP \$29,970



CASH PRICE \$21,197

\$1000
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$144**

\$0
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$169**

2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING

24 MONTHS
10,000 MILES
MSRP \$27,585



CASH PRICE \$26,705

\$1000
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$186**

\$0
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$224**

2017 JEEP COMPASS HIGH ALTITUDE 4X4

36 MONTHS
10,000 MILES
MSRP \$29,790



CASH PRICE \$18,236

\$1000
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$94**

\$0
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$109**

2017 RAM 1500 BIG HORN 4X4

24 MONTHS
10,000
MILES
MSRP
\$45,955



CASH PRICE \$29,758

\$1000
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$147**

\$0
DOWN LEASE FOR **\$179**

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Tue. & Wed. 9-6; Friday 9-6;
Saturday 10-4

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