

The Clarkston News

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Vol. 89 No. 12 Wed., December 20, 2017

2 Sections, 52 pages \$1.00

Inside:

Clarkston Tough!

Special supplement commemorating the 2017 CHS Varsity Football team

Clarkston Rocks star

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Smooth stones with painted images of Little Ralphie in his pink rabbit suit, Kid Rock, Christmas angels, buildings and streetscapes of downtown Clarkston.

Those are some of the favorites of Cindi Sans, the artist who painted them, as well as thousands of young rock hunters posting their trophies on "Clarkston Rocks" on Facebook.

"Their stories, they just touch me. They're so precious," said Sans, who was born and raised in

Clarkston, graduating from Clarkston High School in 1976. "It's a small thing I can do to help people right now. I've met so many people, it's amazing."

Clarkston Rocks started this past summer for the kids, at a good time for Sans.

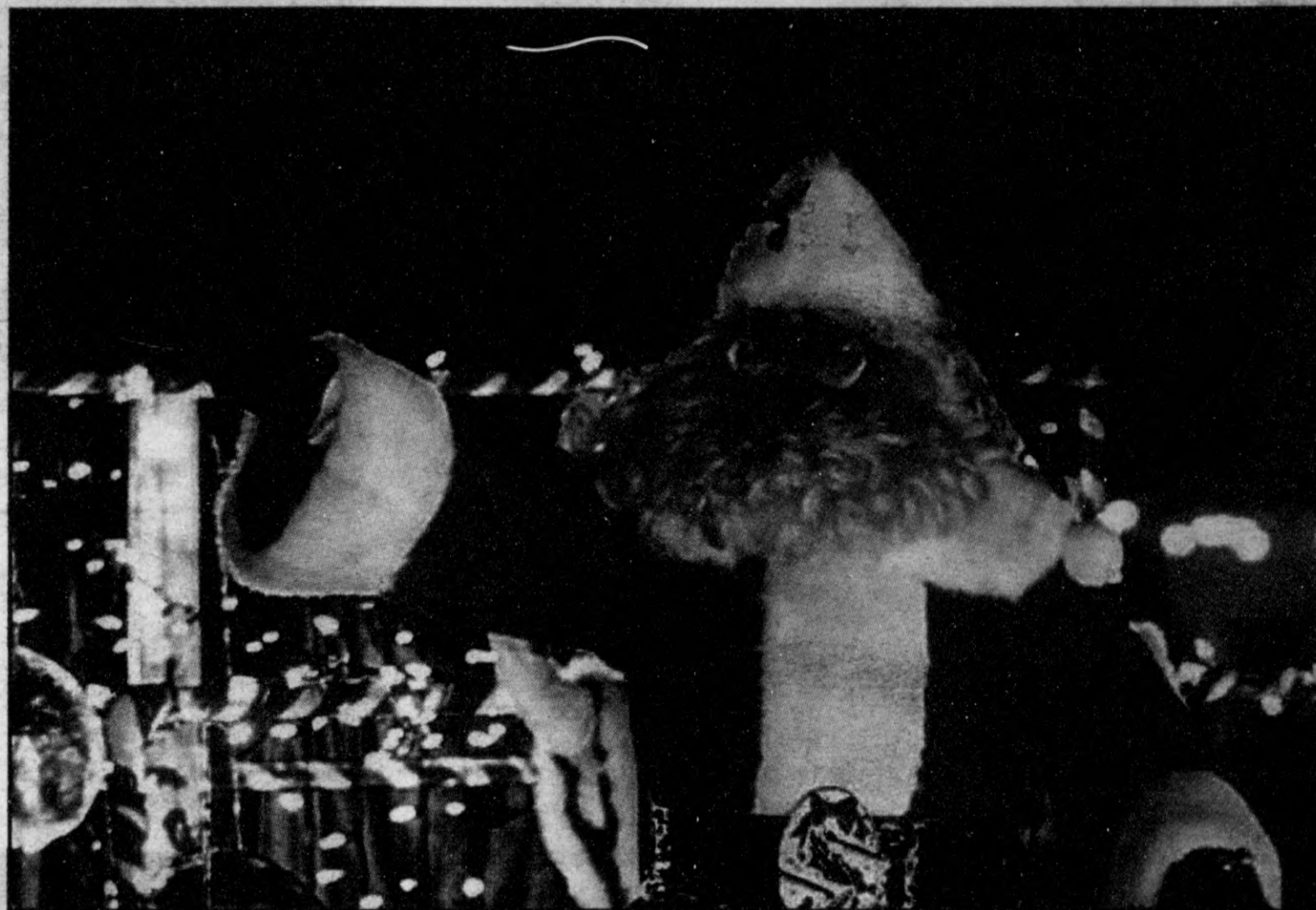
"I was really sick and couldn't do much of anything," she said. "I saw it online. In July, I was able to start painting."

Her cousin Jan Zwicker helps out, finding places around town to hide the painted rocks.

See Rocks on page 21



Artist Cindi Sans with a couple of her Clarkston Rocks.
Photo by Phil Custodio



Santa, AKA Mr. Mayor, greets the crowd gathered on Main Street for the Holiday Lights Parade, Dec. 16. Youth and community groups created brightly lit and colorfully out-of-this-world floats for the theme, "Christmas through space." Photo provided by Mark Kelly

FOIA talk troubles council

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

For Scott Reynolds, a FOIA lawsuit against the city casts a shadow over Clarkston.

"It seems like a black cloud we don't need to bear in the city anymore. It doesn't feel very transparent to me," said Reynolds, who was elected to City Council this past November, at the Dec. 11 meeting. "The white elephant in the room is the disconnect between new and old representatives."

The lawsuit, filed by resident

Susan Bisio in 2015 against the City of the Village of Clarkston over 18 documents the city withheld from her Freedom of Information (FOIA) request, is still an emotional topic, said Mayor Steven Percival.

"It's not cut and dried," Percival said to city attorney Thomas Ryan, whose decision it was to withhold the documents. "You can see the dilemma here, when you are the one who solely made the decision to withhold these documents."

Please see City on page 5

Masked man sought

Oakland County Sheriff's deputies are looking for a suspect in the attempted robbery of a gas station in the 8500 block of Dixie Highway, 10:54 p.m., Dec. 11.

According to police reports, a station employee received a call from someone asking her to check the public restroom for her wallet.

When the clerk exited the restroom, she saw a man behind the counter, wearing a red hooded

See Robbery on page 16

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Christmas Eve Service
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8:15 am and 11 am Worship



Clarkston Community School Life Skills students and the transportation staff unloading crew. Photo provided

Buses filled for Lighthouse

The community donated more than \$500 in cash and \$400 in gift cards, and filled two school buses with non-perishable food items, personal care items, and toys, including a bicycle, at Stuff a Bus, Dec. 9-10.

"We want to thank everyone in this wonderful community for your generosity and helping make this event a huge success," said Tina Fay, bus driver and

organizer. "A special thank you to Kroger's and Nieman's for allowing us to host this wonderful and rewarding event. All of our volunteers, without you, this would not be possible."

The donations were collected by Clarkston's Community Schools Transportation Department and provided to Lighthouse in Independence Township.



CHRISTMAS PROJECT: During the first week of December, Everest student government members volunteered at Ladies of Charity for their annual Christmas Project. The high school students helped prepare over 200 Christmas meal boxes for local families in need. Each meal box included ingredients and recipes for Christmas dinner and a handmade rosary. Photo provided

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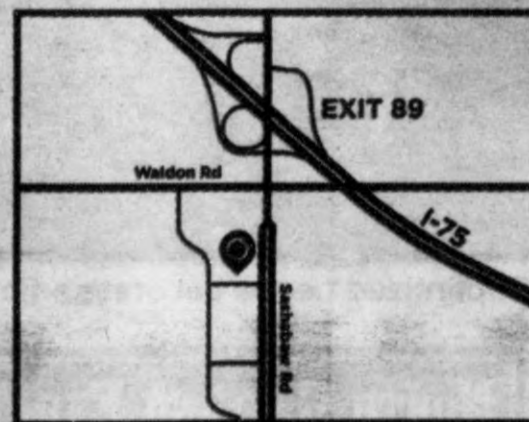
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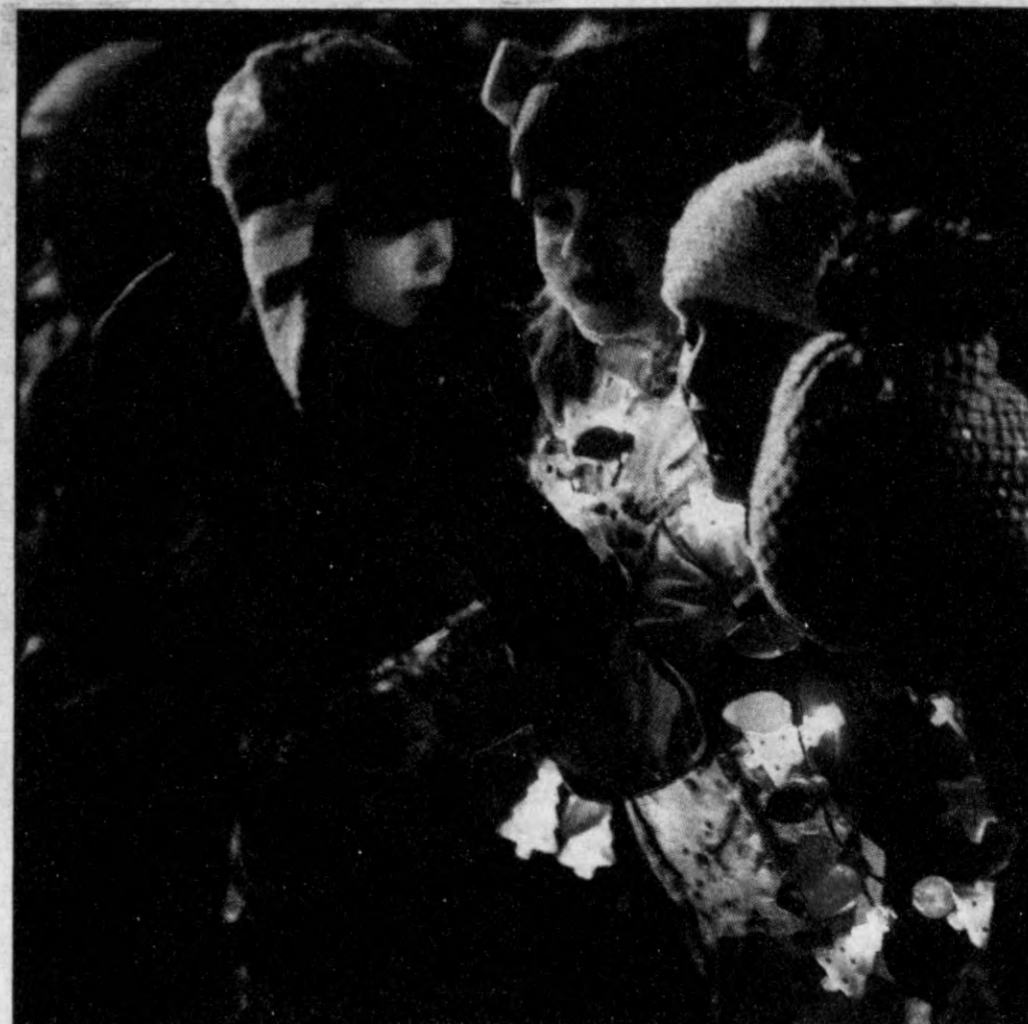
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Girl Scout Troop 75949 tries to stay warm on a brightly lit wagon. Photos provided by Mark Kelly



Christmas lighted children watch the parade go by.

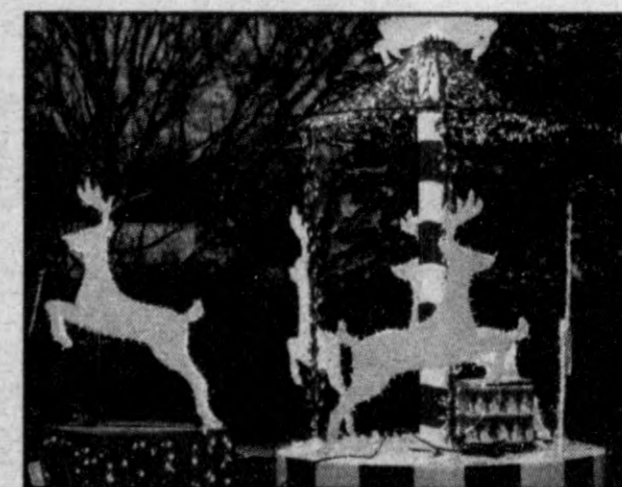


Supersized Legos decorate a float in the Holiday Lights Parade.

Downtown lights

Colorfully lit rockets, planets, stormtroopers, and X-wing fighter pilots joined Christmas trees and candy canes in the Holiday Lights Parade, Dec. 16.

Hosted by Team RUSH of Clarkston High School, the theme was "Christmas through space."



Pure white reindeer frolic on Bordine's float.

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City council split on FOIA-case documents

Continued from page 1

Council members and residents continued to raise concerns stemming from their discussion with attorney James Tamm, the city's attorney in the lawsuit provided by its insurance through the Michigan Municipal League, at the Sept. 11 council meeting.

Ryan had a correction to a statement made by Tamm.

"To correct the record, Mrs. (Carol) Eberhardt did not see those documents – nobody from the city saw those documents except me and the other lawyers," Ryan said.

Percival asked if he discussed the documents with Eberhardt, the former city manager.

"No, I probably told her I withheld documents but she never saw the documents," Ryan said. "She doesn't know what those documents are or were. There was no need to."

Reynolds said he was in the audience as a resident when Tamm spoke to the city council, and remembers him clearly saying the city manager met with Ryan and reviewed the documents.

"How did he come up with such an error," he asked. "That's a massive disconnect, don't you think?"

"Yeah, he was mistaken," Ryan said.

"I wish I had said something," Catallo said. "I was aware Carol hadn't seen them."

Tamm made his statements in September to support Ryan's previous claims he did not "lone wolf" the decision to withhold the documents.

"I'm hearing two different stories here – none of it makes sense to me," said resident Lorry Mahler.

Ryan has a conflict of interest in the case, she added.

"He is personally invested in the decision to hide the records," she said. "He's the one who brought it about. He's not the client, the city is."

Ryan said the decision not to provide the

18 documents was his, as the city attorney.

Asked if he was an agent of the city – those with city "agency" are subject to the FOIA law – Ryan said he's a city officer, like the city engineer.

Ryan based his denial on his opinion the city attorney is not a "public body," and the information was not created nor obtained by a public body, in this case the City of the Village of Clarkston. Therefore, they were not public records subject to FOIA, he said.

Judge Leo Bowman ruled in favor of the city in October 2016, and Bisio appealed. The Court of Appeals is not expected to hear the case until late next year.

"You never saw those documents so you never made decision based on those documents," Ryan said. "Truth and transparency is important. We're not hiding things – they were withheld under the parameters of the law. We'll see if I'm right or not."

Catallo said she didn't understand why they voted not to go into closed session when meeting with Tamm.

"It seems strange for me. He was here to talk to you and answer questions and you won't close the meeting," she said. "It didn't make much sense."

Council member Sue Wylie said it was important to have an open meeting to release as much information as possible.

"I very strongly feel information tax payers pay for should be open, she said.

"It was just us being extra careful," said Council member Rick Detkowski.

Wylie asked who owns the documents, the city or Ryan.

"They're not FOIAable documents – not public records, which means they're not city records," Ryan said.

"The city paid for them. Whose property are they," Percival asked. "Yours?"

"I guess – that's why we're in this lawsuit," Ryan said.

The city attorney said the actual

documents have been turned over to Tamm for use in the lawsuit.

Resident Cory Johnston asked if Ryan agrees with statements made in amicus briefs filed on behalf of the city by the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan Townships Association, that FOIA does not apply to local government agents.

"That's not what they're saying," said Council member Sharron Catallo.

"That's a quote," Johnston said.

The MML and MTA amicus brief includes a section, "Michigan Case Law does not Support a Claim that a Municipal or Local Governmental 'agent' or his Documents, are Subject to FOIA."

"It (FOIA) does apply," Ryan said. "We (the city) follow state law relative to FOIA."

"So throw the MML brief out now," Johnston said.

Reynolds asked if the case was about the words in the documents, which were about proposed development of 148 N. Main Street, and the vacant land at Waldon and Main streets, or the principle behind it.

"Both," Ryan said.

Council member Jason Kneisc said the content of the 18 documents is irrelevant.

"We got sued, and we won," Kneisc said.

"We're still in court – we haven't won anything," Reynolds said. "Once a decision has been reached, will they be released to the public?"

That depends on the ruling, Ryan said.

Resident Chet Pardee could not attend the meeting but sent a list of questions for Ryan regarding FOIA and the document request.

The city attorney said most of the questions were answered in September, and others, such as "whose reputation is damaged if the 18 emails are made available" were political in nature.

Percival asked the city manager to review the city FOIA policy for improvements for consideration by the council.

Briefly

Eric Overall tribute

Residents and neighbors from throughout north Oakland County have picked up more than 400 blue lights so far from City Hall in honor of deputy Eric Overall.

Donations are being collected for the lights and the family of the deputy, who died in the line on duty on Nov. 23.

"We can't keep them in stock. People have been very generous. I'm very proud of the city," said Mayor Steven Percival, who called for residents to light their homes with blue lights through December.

Jason and Melanie Haley, owners of the ACE Hardware at Dixie and Maybee Road, donated 100 light bulbs and will collect donations at the register on Dec. 22-23 – customers will be asked to round up their purchases to the nearest whole dollar, or any additional amount, with 100 percent going to the fund.

The hardware store will also match donations up to the first \$500.

The city will host a vigil in January, when the donations will be presented to the family, Percival said.

Kiosk in spring

A balky contractor is the reason installation of a paid-parking kiosk in the city parking lot at Main and Washington has been delayed, City Manager Jonathan Smith told City Council, Dec. 11.

"They have not been returning calls or emails – I'm extremely disappointed with this company," said Smith, who recommended contracting with a new company to provide the service.

City Council voted on Aug. 28 to approve the purchase from Harvey Electronics and Radio for a total of \$9,775. No money has been paid to the company, Smith said.

"The good news in this horror story is we're in the middle of winter, so we're not losing a lot of revenue," Smith said.

A new proposal should be ready early next year, with the service to start by spring, he said.

Rec master plan

Clarkston's new Recreation Master Plan is open to public review through Jan. 22. A formal public hearing regarding the 2018-2022 plan will be at the City Council meeting at City Hall on Monday, Feb. 12.

The draft master plan is available for review at City Hall, 375 Depot Street, and Clarkston Independence Library, 6495 Clarkston Road, and online at www.villageofclarkston.org. For questions or comments, call 248-625-1559.

One-year contract for school superintendent

BY BRENDA DOMINICK
Clarkston News Staff Writer

School Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock's salary for the new year is \$161,000, a raise of about 2 percent.

"This is a way we can indicate to you, Dr. Rock, that our intent is to compensate you within our means and we want you in that chair as our superintendent," said board Secretary Steve Hyer at the Dec. 11 Clarkston Board of Education meeting.

The contract proposal was for three years, but Trustee Sue Boatman asked it be changed to one year.

"I have concern that we've started to practice putting in two years of salary into the contract," Boatman said. "It's my belief that

members on boards changes and we have a process in place to do an evaluation and an annual contract to review the terms. I just think we're stepping on another board by putting in a legal document what a particular salary will be and I would much prefer to do just one year at a time."

The board voted unanimously to approve the revision to a one-year contract for \$161,000, plus benefits.

"I understand your perspective and certainly a lot can happen in the next year, but we are talking about a fairly small amount of money, you know, 2 or 3 percent," Hyer said.

"We settled on a raise percentage for next year and I think it's appropriate, and I think that in 2018, that board should decide what

should happen in 2019," Boatman responded. "You have no idea what could happen this year, and it should be rated on job performance – somebody could be ill or if a family is ill, and be on leave half the year. Then maybe you wouldn't feel like you wanted to compensate at that level."

The superintendent's evaluation score averaged 3.2 with a "Efficient" rating, said board President Elizabeth Egan.

"I absolutely want to send a message to the superintendent that Dr. Rock we want you here long into the future," Hyer said. "We are doing excellent things for kids, we completely buy into the vision and direction, and I think our evaluation has shown that."

Wendi's Word

A column by Wendi Price

Many sides to story

Being a mom, I pay more attention to the mom jokes like hiding in the bathroom away from children so a favorite candy bar can't be sniffed out before said mom gets a chance to devour it.

I used to laugh at the videos parents posted of tiny hands reaching under the door. I don't laugh anymore - Jonathan, now officially two-years-old, now knocks and tries to twist open doorknobs.

I am hiding but not hiding. I am in plain sight if he needs to find me all he has to do is walk into the kitchen. But alas he is occupied with "If You Gave a Mouse a Cookie" series on Amazon. Judge if you must, but mommy needed just 30 or so minutes to get a little bit of work done, and the laptop seems to be a magically beacon drawing the little one near.

Christmas with a toddler is a bit more interesting than last year. Tree ornaments hold enough wonder to be yanked off the branch along with the needles. I have given up putting ornaments within his reach back on the tree. I do treasure the pictures of baby gates around trees. Not in our house JD would think - challenge accepted and be climbing it in no time. This is the child who climbed out of a pack and play within a few weeks.

Presents under the tree? Before Christmas? Not this year. I didn't test a theory at our house, but he did pick up a decorated wrapped present at a business and tried opening it. He knows wrapping paper is meant to be ripped up - tiny piece by tiny piece. He knows the wrapping paper is surrounding something fun - books, blocks, toys.

He turned two last weekend - just days after the verdict was released Clarkston High School senior Thomas Kithier was ineligible to play basketball for 180 days.

There are many sides to the story and not every detail will be known as why Macomb Dakota, his previous high school, didn't sign off on the paperwork or why they thought something was off.

It's hard to stay neutral not because I work in Clarkston. Nor because I have seen student-athletes grow from McGrath League to Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball. It's the mom in me bursting out - here is a high school senior who left his previous school for many reasons as did three of his former teammates, who are playing basketball.

Let him play his senior year for the school he wanted to attend.



Rotary Shoes for Kids benefits from newspaper sales

Dear Editor,

The Clarkston Rotary Club would like to sincerely thank all of those who so generously donated during the recent newspaper sales on local streets and holiday activities. The spirit of the donors was encouragement for those volunteers collecting, not only for their contributions but also for the appreciation of their efforts.

Shoes for Kids has been the Clarkston Rotary's signature community service project for the past 39 years. It takes the collaborative efforts of not only club members but the many friends of Rotary and family members to bring each year's project to fruition. The Clarkston Rotary has been proudly involved in a Goodfellow type newspaper sales and subsequent service project for the past 77 years.

On Dec. 9, 320 Clarkston Community Schools children were hosted at Oakland Woods Baptist Church and provided with new winter boots, shoes, hats, and gloves.

The Clarkston Rotary Club and all of the many volunteers would like to say thank you to the Clarkston community as collectively, "We Can Make a Difference in a Child's Life."

The Clarkston Rotary would like to express its gratitude and appreciation by acknowledging the following groups, organizations and businesses for the success of this year's program:

A special thank you to *The Clarkston News*, Jim Sherman, publisher, and Don Rush, assistant publisher, and their staff for preparation and publication of the special Goodfellow edition, as well as the efforts of Rotarian Mary Sloan in bringing the paper to print.

We are truly grateful to Oakland Woods Baptist Church, Pastor Sheridan and their congregation for hosting the annual shoe distribution day. To their church members for volunteering their time to help insure that both projects are an absolute success.

To Boy Scout Troop #199 and their troop leaders for organizing troop members in collecting donations at three holiday event locations. They exemplify everything a community looks for from its future leaders. Troop #199 has provided continuous support to this community service project for the past

Kudos to Team RUSH for leading lights parade

Dear Editor,

Thank you, Team RUSH, for an outstanding job executing yet another great Holiday Lights Parade.

I was thrilled to see our Clarkston area community come together to produce a fantastic evening for our families, the children and to show our support to community groups.

(Kurt) KR Richardson and his team of coaches along with the 2017 State Champions Clarkston High School Football team were on hand and the sense of pride was contagious.

19 years.

To Cub Scout Pack #499 for participating in their fifth year of selling newspapers at Neiman's Family Market. The enthusiasm and efforts of the scouts did not go unnoticed.

To the Clarkston Optimists for their continued support with the Opti-Socks program.

To the Clarkston Area Lions Club for providing free eye exams to all of the families attending.

To the City of the Village of Clarkston for providing their warm DPW garage for use as a newspaper headquarters.

To Lighthouse of Oakland County, and the Clarkston Community Schools administration, social workers, teachers and staff for their efforts and support of the "Shoes for Kids" program.

To MPK Photo and Mark Kelly for building family memories through the family portraits and photos taken with Santa throughout the day.

To Jim Jacques for spending the entire day in a warm red suit making kids laugh and smile as they tell Santa what they want for Christmas.

To Neiman's Family Market for permitting Cub Scouts to learn community service by selling newspapers at their Clarkston store and their continued support of the Clarkston Rotary's many community service projects.

To Hamlin Pub, Brioni's Café and Deli, and Tim Horton's on Maybee for their commitment and dedication in supporting the many volunteers involved over the two weekends.

A special thank you to the Clarkston elementary schools who hosted their annual Hat, Mitten and Glove Tree collections. Their continued support provides variety for the attending children as well as extending the program further into the community.

To all of the volunteers, friends, and family members of the Clarkston Rotary Club who gave so generously of their time, energy, and donations to make this year's events a true gift. It is the dedication and commitment of the almost 300 volunteers over the two weekends that ultimately benefits so many Clarkston children.

*Clarkston Rotary Club and
Joel DeLong, Shoes for Kids chair*

Of course, you doubled down this year with the Santa float; the Big Guy and Mrs. Claus (who looked exceptionally regal) were at their finest as the community welcomed them to our city to participate in the holiday festivities.

My heart is filled with an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you; to all who participated in this event. It was yet another brilliant facet in the gemstone that we call our city and our home.

*Mayor Steve "Santa" Percival
Clarkston*

A Look Back

From The CNews archives

15 years ago - 2002

"Commission shuts down Dixie project until April" A combination of cold weather and unexpected needs led to the Road Commission of Oakland County to postpone widening a portion of Dixie Highway until mid-April in 2003.

"Deer escapes hunter, even after the kill" It was a deer of a lifetime for Clarkston resident Floyd Frick as he shot a eight-point buck from his bow and arrow. Unfortunately while he was at work, between 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the deer was stolen.

"A reading event of epic proportions at Bailey Lake" Bailey Lake Elementary second grade teacher Kathy Noble led her students and their parents in 2,003 seconds of reading. They joined thousands of readers from all over the world for the Read for 2003 program sponsored by Scholastic.

25 years ago - 1992

"Freak accident" A driver was attempting to back out of the parking lot hit a light pole, then threw her truck into gear while her foot was on the gas pedal. The truck went forward pushing a nearby vehicle into the front window of Wee Sale Shop on M-15.

"Class clowns" Six Andersonville Elementary students participated in a clown class offered by Clarkston Community Education's youth enrichment program. The kids ended the eight-week class with a performance for their parents.

"Grapplers runner-up at county meet" The Clarkston Varsity Wrestling team finished in second place out of 43 teams at the Oakland County Meet. They finished with 186 points as Troy finished as champion with 195 points.

50 years ago - 1967

"Vandals make shambles of Camp Oweki" A reward was posted to assist in the apprehension of the vandals who for over span of weeks broke 50 windows; stole fire extinguishers, lights from sockets, hand tools; art and crafts made by campers destroyed and more at Camp Oweki on Gullick Road.

"Exchange students discuss first Christmas away from home" Jacoba Kulper and Einar Brekkan, two foreign exchange students at Clarkston High School, shared many pre-holiday activities which reminded them of their homelands.

"Area vocational center to be located in Clarkston" Clarkston was selected as one of the four sites for the location of a vocational center for 11th and 12th grade students from area high schools.

A call to City Council members to support information freedom or step aside

Dear Editor,

At the Dec. 11, 2017, City Council meeting, I asked what the information policy is for the city since the city's documented policy is so different from what has been stated by attorneys representing the city in the Oakland County Circuit Court and Michigan Court of Appeals for a Freedom of Information Act challenge that has been going on for two years.

I received no answer.

There is no record of the city council deciding to go to court on this matter. There is no record of the council having knowledge of what their attorneys were stating in court on the city's behalf until they were informed of it by members of the public. There is no record that the attorneys representing the city informed the city of their plan and strategy. In fact, there is no record that the city denied the FOIA request that has caused two years of legal battles and reportedly hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal expenses. The

city attorney admitted to the council he, not anyone in the city hall, decided not to provide the disputed documents.

Then the Michigan Municipal League (MML), who provides the city's legal insurance, got involved presumably at the urging of the city's attorneys and stated to the Michigan Court of Appeals that Michigan's 41 year old Freedom of Information Act does not apply to local governments at all.

I communicated with Dan Gilmartin, executive director and CEO of MML and asked if this was truly the position of the MML. His response was, "That isn't an accurate representation of the League's position. We teach our people to embrace FOIA at every (sic) turn. The cases before the court are problematic for other reasons."

He did not elaborate on what the other reasons are and did not deny the MML's stated position in the Court of Appeals that, "State officers and employees are subject to

FOIA, but officers and employees of municipal and local units of government are not."

The city's web site says the "City of the Village of Clarkston follows the State of Michigan Freedom of Information Act Policy and Procedures" and "Records regarding City business are always available to the public." I don't think anyone has disagreed the denied FOIA requests were for work done by city attorney Tom Ryan regarding city business, he was paid for that work with city funds, and the work must have been requested to be done by the city or there would be no reason for him to do it and be paid by the city. We know the information withheld was in regards to matters being deliberated by the city council.

Michigan's Freedom of Information Act clearly states, "It is the public policy of this state that all persons, ... are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of

those who represent them as public officials and public employees, consistent with this act. The people shall be informed so that they may fully participate in the democratic process."

I request that every member of the council respond to the request I made at the Dec. 11, City Council meeting regarding the information policy for the City of the Village of Clarkston. If it is to have city related information withheld from the city council and public in contradiction to the intent of Michigan law, council resolutions and publicly acknowledged city policies, I ask that you resign from office immediately as you are in violation of your oath of office, the City Charter, council resolutions, your responsibilities to the public you were elected to represent and you do not want to be informed and participate in the democratic process.

Cory Johnston
Clarkston

Looking for a miracle this Christmas?

Across these great, fruited plains of America (including the almost frozen tundra of our Mitten State) folks are thinking about miracles -- it is that time of year. Folks either believe in one miraculous birth or they don't; they either believe in miracles or are hoping for one to intervene in their lives.

What is a miracle? One definition I liked for this column is, "a highly improbable or extraordinary event, development, or accomplishment that brings very welcome consequences."

Good, miracle-type stuff has happened during the Christmas season. A novelty song from my youth about Snoopy and the flying ace Red Baron and Christmas and World War 1 has stuck with me all these long years.

Here are some of the lyrics:

The news had come out in the First World War, the bloody Red Baron was flying once more

The Allied command ignored all of its men, And called on Snoopy to do it again.

Was the night before Christmas, 40 below, When Snoopy went up in search of his foe

He spied the Red Baron, fiercely they fought, With ice on his wings Snoopy knew he was caught.

The Baron had Snoopy dead in his sights, He reached for the trigger to pull it up tight. Why he didn't shoot, well, we'll never know

Or was it the bells from the village below?

This song, cute and all that, intrigued my young mind -- how can enemies be nice to one another?

* * *

Don't
Rush Me



A column by
Don Rush

Fast forward in my aging process, and somewhere along the line I read something about British and German enemies singing to each other during that first World War. I googled "allied and German troops sing on Christmas eve" and in less than one second I had over 2.5 million responses. Ever judicious in my selection of "news" sources, I reckoned I could trust an article from *Time* magazine. So, I clicked on the link and was taken to a story by Naina Bajekal, dated Dec. 24, 2014.

Wrote she in the lead, "On a crisp, clear morning 100 years ago, thousands of British, Belgian and French soldiers put down their rifles, stepped out of their trenches and spent Christmas mingling with their German enemies along the Western front.

In the hundred years since, the event has been seen as a kind of miracle, a rare moment of peace just a few months into a war that would eventually claim over 15 million lives . . . To this day, historians continue to disagree over the specifics: no one knows where it began or how it spread, or if, by some curious festive magic, it broke out simultaneously across the trenches.

Nevertheless, some two-thirds of troops — about 100,000 people — are believed to have participated in the legendary truce. . . ."

* * *

So, there you go. Christmas seasons can produce some mind-blowing, jaw-dropping, totally cool events to happen. Is that the type of miracles folks these days are looking for? I don't know. I suppose it would be nice if, by some divine intervention, The hand of God would come down and caress each and every one of us into a peaceful and loving way (even those who do not believe in any god, let alone one that has a "hand"

to "touch" us).

I do believe if you want a miracle or are in need of one, you need look no further than to the person next to you, even if it is the person in the mirror looking back at you.

Each and every one of us is a miracle -- there is a spark of light attached to us the moment we become. Now, I am no scientist but I know enough to say it is a miracle than any of us are born.

From the moment mom's egg is fertilized a gazillion things on the cellular level have to happen in just the correct way and order for baby to come screaming into the world. Each of us is a miracle of life.

We are each miracles, too, because we have the ability to love. Loving -- parent to child, child to parent, sibling to sibling, romantically, or to just "love thy neighbor", I believe is sharing of our own individual miracle.

For most, this time of year is wondrous, for others it is a sad time, a time wounds from the loss of love, of a spouse, parent, friend, or dear God, a child are ripped open and pain-filled.

Sometimes I think this: Those who we have loved and lost shared their miracle with us; our lives are richer and better because, on their own, they chose to love us for no other reason than we existed in their lives. The miracle they give us is that *they* thought *we* were worthy of happiness, life and love.

* * *

Or, maybe the miracles we seek are all ready inside us; given to us because we were born; shared with us by anyone who ever loved us.

This Christmas give your love, share the miracle of you and open the gifts which were freely given to you in love. Merry Christmas and peace be with you.

Comments to Don'RushDon@gmail.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

DECEMBER 12, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOTICE OF PLAN AVAILABILITY FOR REVIEW

Independence Township Parks, Recreation, and Seniors (ITPRS) is seeking public input regarding the ITPRS 2018 - 2022 Master Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires a minimum 30-day public review process as part of the master planning process. The plan will be available for review through January 22, 2018. A formal public hearing regarding the plan will be held at Township Hall on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, as part of the regularly scheduled Township Board of Trustees meeting.

A hard copy of the draft master plan is available for review at the Parks, Recreation, and Seniors offices inside Independence Township Hall, 6483 Waldon Center Drive, Clarkston, MI. The draft plan is also available online on the Township's website at www.independetwp.com, or can be directly accessed at <http://www.calameo.com/read/0051076739d580094be00> <http://easttawas.publishpath.com/>. For questions or comments, please call (248) 625-8223.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Independence Township Hall
6483 Waldon Center Drive, Clarkston, MI 48346

- CALL TO ORDER
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES
- ROLL CALL:
- REVIEW OF AGENDA: *Agenda additions or deletions require a majority vote of Board Members present.*
- PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:
- UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 - Case #17-026, Paul Mychalowych, Petitioner, **Requesting:** Two (2) total variances: 1) A 6.3 foot front yard setback variance and 2) A 5 foot side yard variance, both from Section 4.06(D), Table 4.06 and Section 13.05(B), in order to construct a home addition on an existing non-conforming lot of record, 8511 Lakeview Blvd., Parcel #08-12-377-011, R-1A Single Family Residential. (POSTPONED DECEMBER 6, 2017)
 - Case #13-019, Clarkston Hotel Group, LLC, Petitioner, **Requesting:** Two (2) total variances: 1) From Section 4.16(D), Table 4.16 to construct three (3) stories and, 2) From Section 5.05(A)(2), a 2.5 foot height variance for the parapet walls, both variances for the purposes of constructing a hotel, Northeast corner of Sashabaw Road & I-75, Parcel #08-22-401-004, OS-2 Office Service Two (Sashabaw Road Town Center Overlay District). (VARIANCE EXPIRED SEPTEMBER 3, 2015)
- NEW BUSINESS:
 - Election of Officers**
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
 - Regular Meeting Minutes of November 1, 2017**
 - Regular Meeting Minutes of December 6, 2017**
- DISCUSSION:
- ADJOURNMENT:

NOTICE: The above requests may be examined at the Building Department during regular business hours. **Written comments may be sent to the attention of the Zoning Board of Appeals c/o Charter Township of Independence - Building Department; 6483 Waldon Center Drive - Clarkston, Michigan 48346 prior to the Meeting / Public Hearing. For further information call (248) 625-8111.**

Barbara A. Pallotta, Clerk

NOTICE: Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the Building Department at (248) 625-8111 at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt shall be made to provide reasonable accommodations.

Don't shovel into road

The Road Commission for Oakland County (RCOC) asks residents and business owners not to plow snow or ice onto roads or highways, or block motorists' views of traffic with snow on road shoulders.

It's illegal under Michigan law. "Unfortunately, we have had problems in some areas lately, when business owners and residents have plowed their driveways or parking lots by pushing the snow out into the road," explained RCOC Highway Maintenance Director Darryl Heid. "This creates a safety problem for motorists and creates additional work for the Road Commission, which, in some cases, has to re-plow the road. That can mean it will take us longer to get to other roads and into subdivisions."

For more information on RCOC winter maintenance, visit rcocweb.org/259/Winter-Roads.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
INDEPENDENCE TWP.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
2018 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

6:00 PM - Township Hall Meeting Room
6483 Waldon Center Drive - Clarkston, Michigan 48346
(248) 625-5111

DAY	MEETING DATES
Tuesday	January 9 & 23
Tuesday	February 6 & 20
Tuesday	March 6 & 20
Tuesday	April 3 & 17
Tuesday	May 1 & 15
Tuesday	June 5 & 19
Tuesday	July 10 & 24
Tuesday	August 14 & 28
Tuesday	September 11 & 25
Tuesday	October 9 & 23
Tuesday	November 13 & 27
Tuesday	December 18

Barbara A. Pallotta, CMC
Township Clerk

POSTED: December 14, 2017
PUBLISHED: December 20, 2017
MOTION #2017-12-237
NOTICE: Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the Township Clerk (248) 625-5114 at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Because the People Want to Know
CLARKSTON

DECEMBER 15, 2017
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOTICE OF PLAN AVAILABILITY FOR REVIEW

The City of the Village of Clarkston is seeking public input regarding the Clarkston 2018 - 2022 Recreation Master Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires a minimum 30-day public review process as part of the master planning process. The plan will be available for review through January 22, 2018. A formal public hearing regarding the plan will be held at City Hall on Monday, February 12, 2018, as part of the regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

A hard copy of the draft master plan is available for review at the City Hall, 375 Depot Street, Clarkston, MI, and at the Clarkston Independence Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. The draft plan is also available online on the City's website at <http://www.villageofclarkston.org> or can be directly accessed at <http://www.calameo.com/read/0051076733a1bb50c1043http://easttawas.publishpath.com/>. For questions or comments, please call the Village (248) 625-1559.

Public Safety

For Clarkston and Independence Township

Hit and walk

A Waterford woman called police after a traffic accident on Dixie Highway at White Lake Road, 6:10 p.m., Dec. 2. She told a deputy a car next to hers veered into her lane and hit her driver's side front corner. She immediately pulled off to the side of the road and called 911. While on the phone, the driver of the other car approached and said, "did you see what happened?" "Yes, you hit me," she replied. He then turned and began walking south on Dixie. His vehicle was found sideways in the road with significant damage, running with the keys in the ignition and doors locked. The vehicle was towed. On Dec. 4, Independence Township substation was contacted by a 43-year-old Flint man wanting to get his car from the tow yard. He said the car had run out of gas and someone must have hit it when he was gone. When contacted by a deputy, he said he was in an accident, got out of the car, realized he had locked the doors and phone in the car, and left to get help. He was cited for driving with a suspended license, leaving the scene of an accident, no insurance, and failure to drive with due care and caution.

Harassment

A 32-year-old Center Line man was cited with harassment for calling and texting threats to a Hazel park woman, who was staying with a relative in Independence Township, 10:50 a.m., Dec. 4. She was advised to get a PPO and have her phone company block his number.

Warrant pick up

A deputy picked up a 41-year-old Detroit woman from Detroit Detention Center for a warrant pick-up, 3:05 p.m., Dec. 10. She had a warrant out of Sixth Circuit Court for failure to appear on a fraud charge.

License suspended

A 23-year-old Auburn Hills woman driving a car with a burned-out headlight was stopped on Maybee Road near Sashabaw Road, 11:20 p.m., Dec. 7. She didn't have proof of insurance or registration because it was her roommate's vehicle. A records check showed her license was suspended. She was cited for driving with a suspended license, and the vehicle was impounded.

Teens cited in assault

Two 17-year-old Clarkston boys were cited for assaulting a 15-year-old Waterford boy, 2:59 p.m., Dec. 11, in the 6000 block of Waldon Road.

According to police reports, one of the 17-year-olds had sent Snapchat messages to the 15-year-old about getting into a fight. The younger boy called his stepfather and told him there were kids coming to his house on Waldon Road to fight him. The two 17-year-olds went to the house and knocked on the front door, and the 15-year-old went outside from a side door.

The step-father tried to stop the fight but was unsuccessful. Both 17-year-olds punched the 15-year-old in the face, knocking him to the ground where the punches continued. They stopped the assault and went back to their vehicles.

The 15-year-old tried to flag down a police vehicle on Waldon, and the 17-year-olds exited their vehicles and began punching him again in the face and ribs. The stepfather pulled them off, and they then fled the scene, disregarding traffic and cutting off a vehicle causing it to run off the roadway to avoid striking them. Both 17-year-olds declined to talk to deputies before talking to an attorney.

All three teens were students at

Clarkston High School. One of the suspects recorded the assault.

The 15-year-old had scratches and bruises on his face, shoulder, back, and chest, and was bleeding but refused medical attention. His parents said they would take him to the hospital later.

According to postings on social media, the 15-year-old's mother sent an email to the school district administration in October about her son being bullied at the high school.

Responding to a request for comment on the case, Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock emailed, "As you said, this happened off campus. It is a police matter. We followed all school board policies. Student safety is always our first priority."

According to school policies, students who have been bullied should immediately report the situation to a teacher or administrator. Staff members are required to report and investigate the situation, and "the investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit and should be completed within three school days after a report or complaint is made."

Remedial actions may include up to expulsion for students.

— Phil Custodio

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Clarkston's Sporting News

Who is the next AOW?

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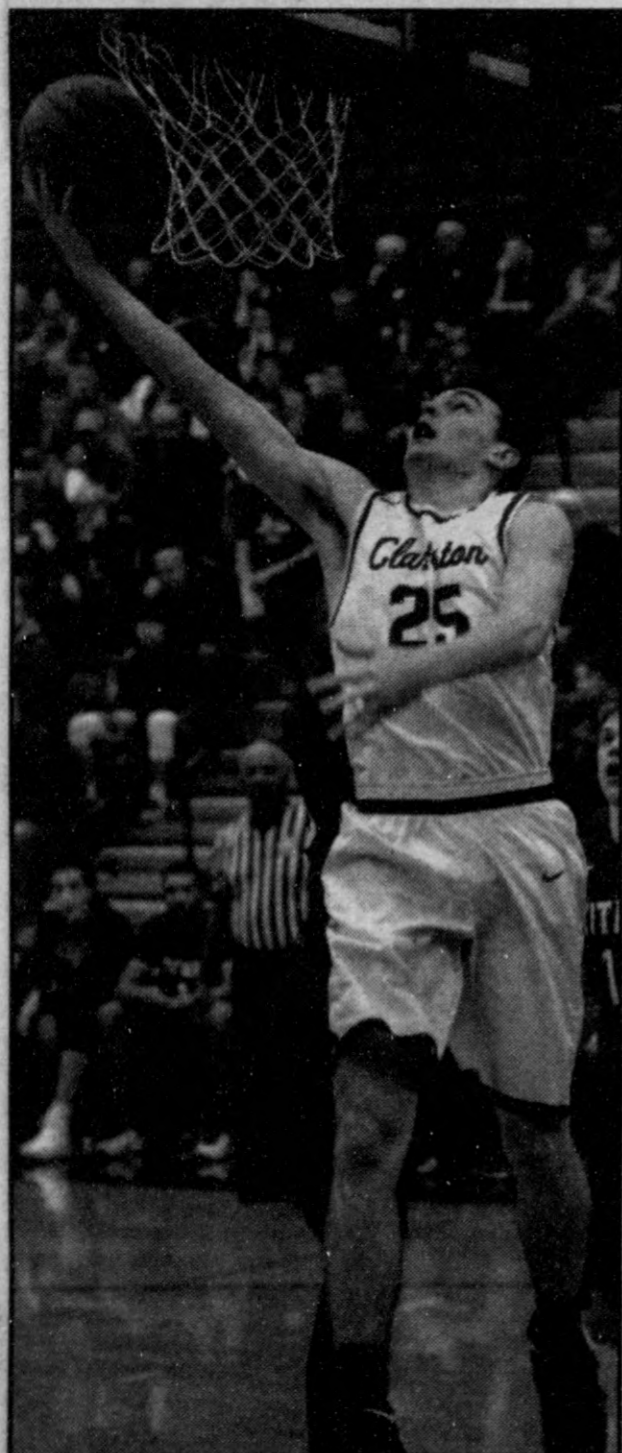
Defense strong in victory

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Wolves fans cheered as senior Max Anderson hit a 3-point shot with one minute remaining against Sterling Heights Stevenson last Friday.

One more shot from junior Josh Luther closed the game with Clarkston's fourth win, 88-37.

"I've been concerned about our defense," said Dan Fife, long time Clarkston Boys Varsity Basketball Head Coach, adding it's been awhile since they have played Stevenson. "They've been wanting to play us for a long time. We were good tonight. They aren't a bad team. We were just good - they caught



Nick Wells makes a shot in the first half. Photo by Larry Wright

us on the wrong night."

Clarkston opened the night with a 7-point run starting with a 3-pointer from senior Foster Loyer, followed by baskets from seniors Taylor Currie and Nick Wells.

Stevenson closed the gap to one point off a field goal with four minutes remaining in the first quarter, their third within 90 seconds. Clarkston scored three points off a basket from Currie and one at the line from Loyer, putting the score 15-11.

The Titans scored one more basket to put themselves two points away from the Wolves. It sparked a 13-point run from Clarkston which ended with a 3-pointer from Loyer at the buzzer.

The Wolves finished the first half with a 50-23 lead, scoring five points in the final minute with two points from Loyer on the line, one point from senior CJ Robinson and a dunk from Wells.

The second half provided more opportunities for players to come off the bench

"They did very good - same enthusiasm, same intensity," said Fife. "It goes back to what I think Clarkston Basketball is all about - defense. We made a lot of baskets out of our defense. That is always my gauge is our defense. I was proud of them tonight. I don't want to get too excited - I want to make sure they play like that all the time. If they do, we will be good.

Loyer led the team 25 points with three field goals and going 10-for-11 on the free throw line. Currie scored 20 points and Robinson had 13 points.

Anderson, seniors Chase Wasilk and Demond Mills-Bradley had one field goal each.

JV also defeated Stevenson, 62-28. Junior Desmond Mills-Bradley and sophomore Cole Donchez scored 13 points each. The freshman won their game, 61-22 with Isayah Harris leading with 15 points.

The Wolves opened the week with a win over Lake Orion on Dec. 11, 69-34. Loyer led the team with 20 points. Robinson scored 14 points, Currie had 11 points and Wells had ten points.

Next for Clarkston is an away game on Thursday at Orchard Lake St. Mary's Prep, 3535 Commerce Road.

"St. Mary's will be a tough place to play," said Fife. "It's a different environment there."

The freshman (3-1) game begins at 4 p.m., JV (4-0) at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK All State honors

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Everest Collegiate High School senior Grant Burgess finished his football season with his second First Team All-State honors.

He received the honors for his senior season from the Michigan High School Coaches Association.

"It is a huge honor," he said. "It's an indescribable feeling of all your hard work leading up to the moment you receive your award. It's relief and satisfaction you have accomplished in your career in the season. It's a pretty special feeling."

Last year he received First Team All-State honors from the Associated Press.

The Mountaineers finished the season 9-3 and finished in the regional final against future Division 8 State Champion Ottawa Lake Whiteford.

Burgess added it was quite a feat especially for a team with 15 players.

"It's really crazy if you think about it we were able to survive that long season with not many injuries so we were able to not forfeit games," he said.

Burgess explained he has learned a lot from Everest Football.

"The most important values I have learned from the program are how to handle adversity in tough situations and how to bounce back; teamwork, how to be disciplined and work as a team through difficult situations; brotherhood, all those 15 players are so close to me," he said. "No one leaves each other out. In the locker room everyone is smiling and

laughing. It's really fun. I also learned a winning mentality for life. You just want to make sure you are giving it your all and you are trying to win at it."

Burgess began playing football in third grade and during fourth grade started playing basketball and baseball, which he still plays.

Burgess has a 3.96 grade point average and plays sports all year. He added being involved in sports has helped him with his studies.

"It gives you a schedule that's routine," he said. "I am always active and never bored."

Burgess is still looking at colleges to attend after graduation which includes continuing to play football

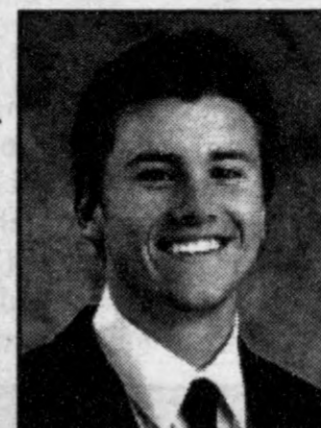
"I love the sport because of the values it has taught me, the friends I've made, and the friends I can make on the next level," he said.

He plans to study business with focus in marketing.

When Burgess isn't studying, practicing or competing in a game he enjoys hanging out with friends, watching movies with family, or boxing which he got into during the summer.

His advice to aspiring athletes is "whatever you do stick to it, don't quit. Believe in yourself and always do whatever you are doing with heart and passion. Always do things with a purpose. Keep fighting for what you are doing and you will be successful."

The Everest Boys Varsity Basketball team will be back in January. Catch them this Friday as they play against alumni players.



Grant Burgess



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Good position for winter with win

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Saturday night was full of highlights as the Clarkston Varsity Hockey team defeated Farmington Hills Harrison, 7-2.

"We played a very good game," said Karl Daiek, head coach. "The guys never deviated and that's important. Plus, we got players in for the opportunity to play on the ice."

Which led to a highlight from Cameron Exline who scored his first goal at the high school level.

"It was cool because when I put him out there with a few guys from the first two lines I leaned over to them and said this is going to be a great opportunity for Cam to get a goal today," Daiek said. "The first shift they fed him up front and he was right there. Perfect position. It was great to see — teammates are thinking about teammates. From coaching standpoint, you want to see that. They like it when anybody succeeds."

Goals also came from Drew Stark, Nik Highducheck, Daniel Milano, Brent Bachusz and Brandt Botterill with assists from Botterill, Bachusz, Milano, Gage Stamper, Daniel Tremblay, Austin James and Austin McKay.

Daiek added Farmington Hills was short-handed with a small roster.

"He's been going through some of the things Clarkston has gone through the last couple of years where the numbers aren't there," he said. "Sometimes it's hard to keep the interest up for the guys. They all want to win. Ultimately it's the playing that's the important part. The fun is in the playing."

The Wolves opened the week with a 7-4 loss to Birmingham United last Thursday.

Birmingham took the lead during the first period with one goal scored in the first two minutes and added two more in the last few minutes. They attempted for one more in the last 20 seconds but found themselves blocked by goalie Brendan Borawski and defender Austin James.

The Wolves bounced back with two goals in the second period. Trevor Gilman scored

less than three minutes into the period with assists from Daniel Milano and Trey Roy after Clarkston kept possession in Birmingham's territory.

Milano scored on his own goal during a power play as the clock marked 7:17. Gilman and Nik Highducheck assisted on goal.

The Wolves continued to put pressure on the net but it was Birmingham who closed the period with one more goal, 4-2.

Brent Bachusz and Milano scored in the third period to tie the game. Birmingham took a time out and came back to score three more goals in the final six minutes.

"We battled," said Daiek. "We controlled the majority of the play. It was a pretty even game. Birmingham got a couple of fortunate bounces which can happen in any sport. Sometimes the breaks don't go your way, but I was pleased with the play. It was still good hockey. We competed all the way through."

He added the players have been in situations in the season they have been down by 2-3 goals and they came back from the deficit.

"It's encouraging to see they are willing

to compete and that's what we are out there for," Daiek said. "You have to keep battling regardless. I am pleased with the play and the attitudes."

The Wolves host Notre Dame Prep on Thursday for their last game before they head into holiday break.

"They have had a very good program over the years," said Daiek. "I expect a very tight game and competitive game. For me, it's about what we do. We can compete with anybody. We just have to stick to our structures."

The game begins at 5:30 p.m. at Detroit Skating Club, 888 Denison Court, Bloomfield Hills.

Join the Wolves and coaches for some ice time over holiday break at DSC. Open hockey players in grades 6-12, join the Wolves on Dec. 26 from 8:15-9:30 p.m.; grades Kindergarten to fifth is Dec. 27, 8-9:15 p.m.

Prior experience is needed and please bring your full gear. Please RSVP by emailing Kim Stark at kimsta@gmail.com or sign in at the rink when you arrive.



Brandt Botterill controls possession behind Birmingham Unified's net during the second period last Thursday. Photo by Wendi Reardon Price

Matches mixed

The Clarkston Girls Varsity Bowling team split last week with win over Birmingham Unified and loss to Farmington Harrison.

It was a close match against Farmington last Friday at Country Lanes as the Wolves lost, 17-13. Hannah Turk led the way with scores 207 and 204 for a 411 series. Angelina Stowers bowled a 179.

They won their match against Birmingham Unified, 30-0, on Dec. 11. Turk led the way with games of 171 and 222 for a 394 series. Stowers bowled well with scores 166 and 188 for a 354 series.

"We seem to be improving," said Coach Jim Turk.

The Clarkston Boys JV and varsity teams opened last week both posting wins over Birmingham Unified at Astro Lanes, Dec. 11.

The varsity team won their match 25-5. Drew Sagowitz had the highest score with games 222 and 246. Leo Chasse was close behind with games of 238 and 222. Jake Phelps bowled games of 201 and 214 and Sean Furness bowled a 222.

The JV team won their match, 30-0, where Andrew Bradford led with a 209 game.

The varsity team lost a close match against Farmington Harrison last Friday at Country Lanes, 16-14.

"They are one of the best teams in the OAA Conference," said Coach Bill George.

Jacob Corey rolled a nice 264 game. Phelps shot a 236 game. Furness had bowled games of 191 and 211 and Sagowitz bowled games of 216 and 190.

The JV team won their match, 20-10. Josh Boyd led with games of 226 and 213. Drew Clayton rolled a nice 256 game, Kyle Hancsak rolled a 216, and Nathan Locher rolled a 200.

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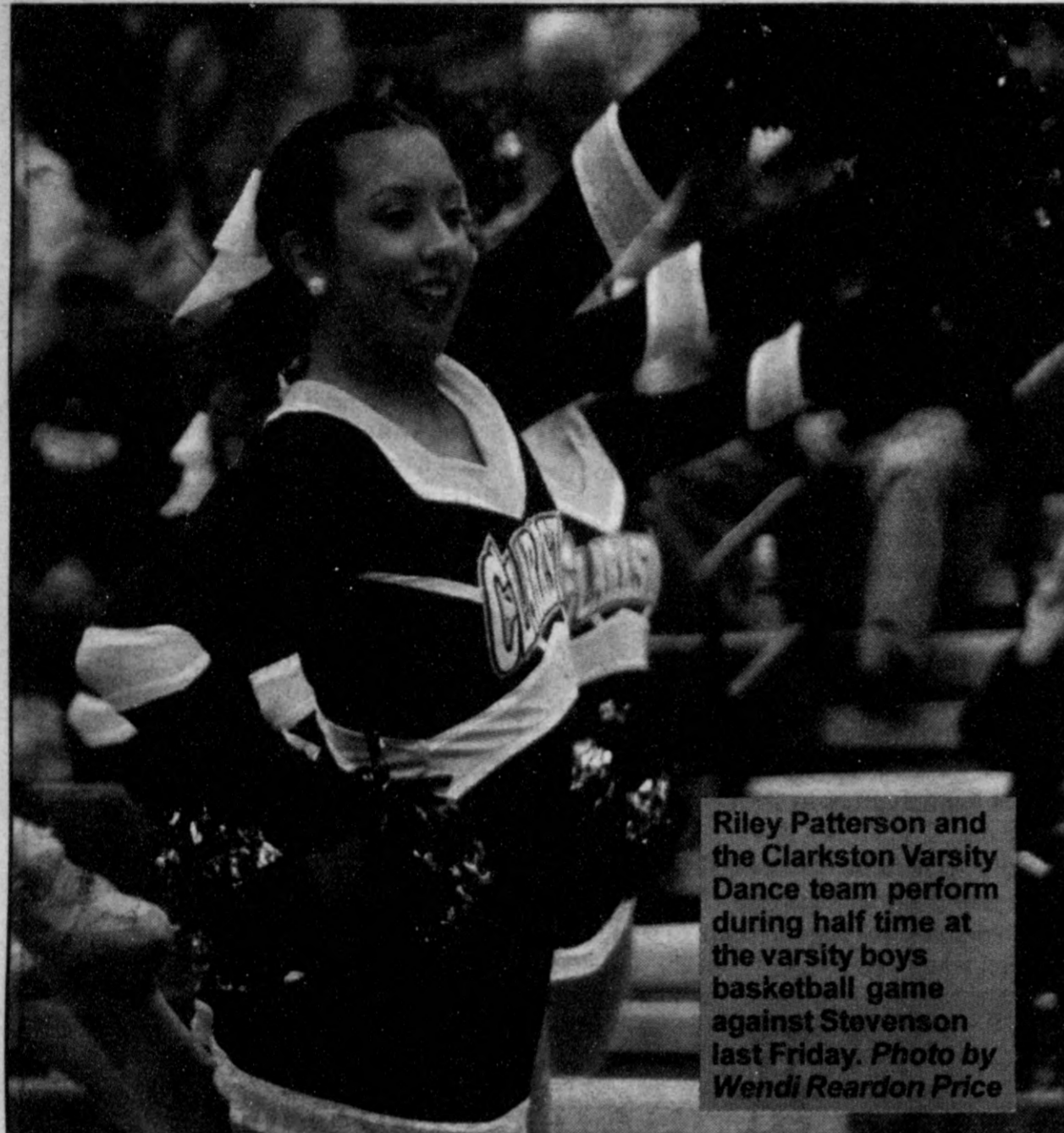
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Riley Patterson and the Clarkston Varsity Dance team perform during half time at the varsity boys basketball game against Stevenson last Friday. Photo by Wendi Reardon Price



Senior Kayla Luchenbach reaches as she scores on Groves High School, Dec. 12. Photo by Larry Wright

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Wolves head into league play

The Clarkston Girls Varsity team defeated Groves High School on Dec. 12, 52-46, putting their record to 3-1.

Senior Kayla Luchenbach led the team with 24 points and eight rebounds. Senior Maddie Beck scored 20 points and had eight

rebounds. Senior Molly Nicholson had eight points, including a game changing "and one."

The Wolves opened the week at Stoney Creek. Join them at home Friday when they host Southfield Arts and Technology. JV begins at 5:30 p.m., varsity follows.

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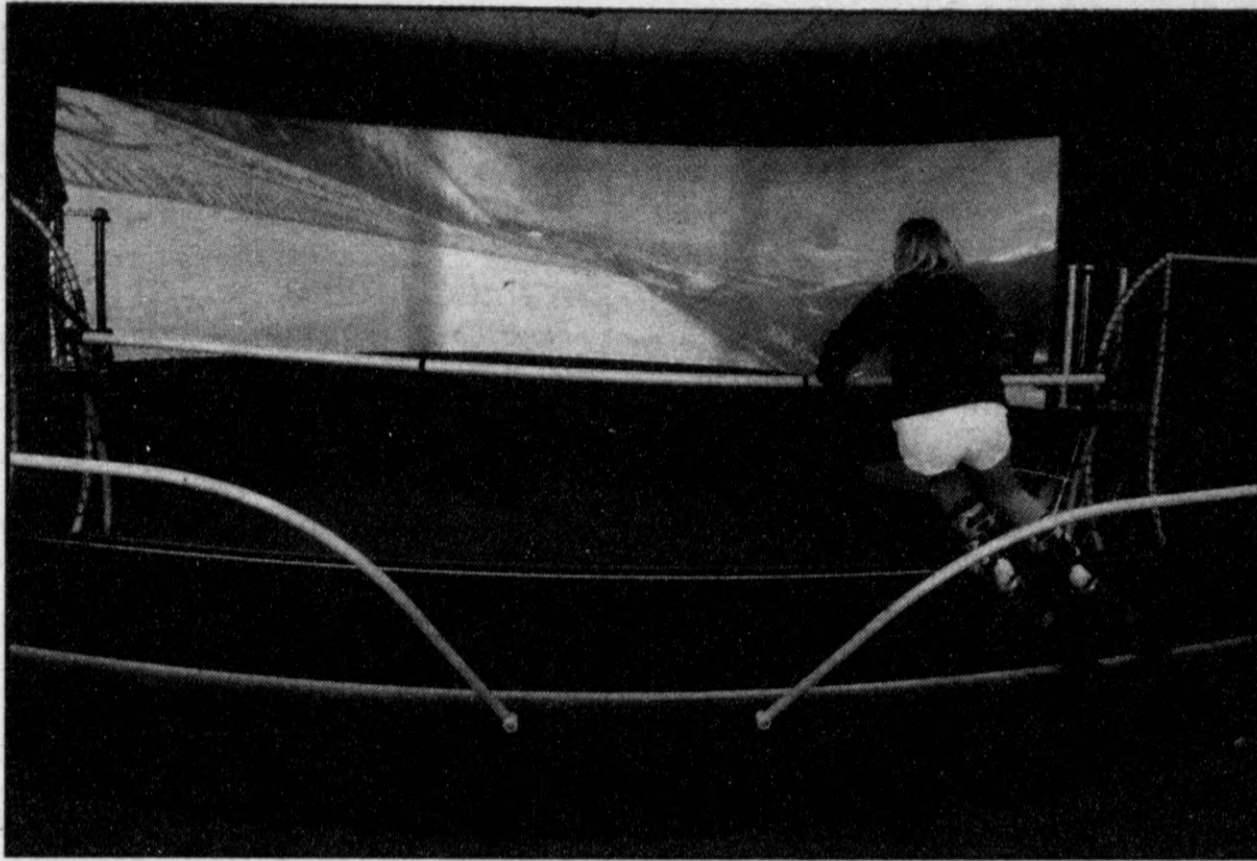
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Vertical Drop Ski Shop, a full-service ski store is the only store with SkyTechSport Ski Simulator. Photo provided

Virtual skiing at Vertical Drop

Vertical Drop Ski Shop has everything needed for the ski season and even more.

The new shop, located at 6325 Sashabaw Road, has the only SkyTechSport Ski Simulator in a retail environment.

There are only five simulators in the nation and are used by professional skiers, including the U.S. Olympics Ski team.

"Just as many racers use the machine as recreational skiers," owner Bob Thomas said. "It's an unbelievable workout."

He added he wanted the machine after his daughter used it at one of the shows.

"She got off and said it felt just like being on snow. It peaked my interest."

Users can choose to train on a pair of skis or snowboard, mounted to rails on a lateral surface. They are able to adjust the terrain to add ice, racing gates, moguls and powerful G-forces. Through a series of sensors and a virtual reality computer system users can move like they would on the slopes. The simulator can be tuned for various levels of ski and snowboarding - from beginners to Olympic racers.

Racers getting ready for their high school winter season have shown improvement after a few sessions especially if they had little to no experience skiing prior to using the machine.

"A coach from Notre Dame Prep came in to tell me he had a couple of kids who weren't experienced skiers," Thomas said. "He contributed their ability to at least quality terms 100 percent to the machine he had done with the kids. It opened his eyes."

He added it is also great for people recovering from injuries.

"There is that tricky time when a patient is done with formal physical therapy, but not quite ready to get back on skis. In most cases you can simulate running, jumping, and cutting movements in sports, but skiing is al-

most impossible to simulate off the hill," said Robb Aikens, physical therapist and co-owner of Health Quest Physical Therapy and Medical Fitness. "The SkyTechSport simulator opens up a whole new opportunity to get back to peak performance on the hill as quickly and safely as possible. Now you can simulate the physical demands of carving turns in a safe, controlled environment."

Vertical Drop is also one of two ski shops in Michigan to offer 3D scanning and vacuum technology to find the perfect boot fit.

"It will map the foot to exact sizes, how high the instep is, where they stand on a bell curve," Thomas said. "It also maps the interiors. If you have your heart set on a particular boot it will say okay this boot is great but here are potential issues you are going to have like where it will hit the foot and cause discomfort. In the racers case, it will tell you your foot is 120 millimeters but the boot is only 98 so you might have an issue. It adds a major tool for the toolbox."

Vertical Drop also has everything you need before you go onto the snow including full line of top-rated equipment and apparel and plenty of knowledge on ski tuning and racing.

Thomas brings more than 50 years of ski industry and experience. His father, Don Thomas, started in the mid-1950s and was one of the first to support racing in southeastern Michigan.

"I grew up with it," Bob said. "I started the store and never really left it. We skied as a family forever."

He added he as well as his daughter and son raced in high school and at the USSA level.

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School board condemns decision on athlete

BY WENDI REARDON
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Senior Thomas Kithier is continuing his fight to play high school basketball as he and his parents made the next step to fight Michigan High School Athletic Association's decision Kithier is ineligible to play for 180 days.

Kithier and his parents, Jane and Karl Kithier, hired trial attorneys Ven Johnson of Johnson Law, PLC and Steve Fishman for the case.

Thomas transferred to Clarkston High School from Macomb Dakota as a student-athlete after looking at different districts during the summer. He and Clarkston Community Schools administration completed all the necessary paperwork. Macomb Dakota did not sign the educational transfer form, putting in motion a 90-day ineligible period which would have kept him from playing until Jan. 15, 2018.

Dakota made a formal allegation Thomas' move was primarily athletically motivated and not legal, which made the MHSAA to look into it. The MHSAA ruled Thomas ineligible to play for 180 days - his entire season.

"Dakota's gross misconduct has threatened Thomas' ability to attend Clarkston High, the school of his choice, simply because they would be losing their star basketball player," Johnson said. "A high school senior and legal adult should be allowed to attend school anywhere he or she wants. Whether that includes playing basketball, volleyball, being a member of the marching band or of the drama club is completely irrelevant."

Fishman added, "If the MHSAA's arbitrary and capricious decision is allowed to stand Thomas will be irreparably harmed. Ven Johnson and I are investigating every legal option available to Thomas and his family, and will be moving forward immediately. This young man deserves all the fruits of his hard work and dedication."



Kithier

The Clarkston Community Schools Board of Education made their own stand as they unanimously passed a resolution advocating for Thomas' athletic eligibility during their meeting on Dec. 11.

"If my superintendent deliberately sabotaged another student, it would be the last action my superintendent would take," said Steve Hyer, board secretary, adding if CCS superintendent acted like Chippewa Valley Schools administration termination articles would be filed immediately and brought to the board for termination.

"Deliberately harming another student's future is grounds for termination on the basis of an act of moral turpitude. It is unconscionable, egregious, and I don't know how these men can sleep at night knowing what they did and allowed to happen. You, as grown men, should be ashamed of yourselves," Hyer said.

Cheryl McGinnis, board trustee, added her take on it was sadness.

"I have tried to distance myself from it a little bit because I thought it would resolve itself," she said. "I couldn't imagine people who call themselves educators would get in the way of a student living out his dream. We are only who we are today for a short matter of time. To take that opportunity away from him for whatever their grudge might be seemed so sad. I am saddened by it. I hope there is still an opportunity for adults to do the right thing."

Hyer called for Chippewa Valley Superintendent Ronald Roberts, Dakota Principal Paul Sibley, and Dakota Athletic Director Michael Fusco to answer why they didn't sign the form and to immediately resign.

"You have no place to look after the well-being of children if you thought this was okay," he added.

"Beth Pyden, Denise Aquino, Laura Cardamone, Jill Demyunck Zech, Frank Bednard, Andrew Patzert, and George

Saboah. You were elected by your community to watch out for your community's kids and make sure each and every one of them receives a free and appropriate public education. You were elected to provide oversight at Chippewa Valley Schools. How could you let this happen?

"I call on you as the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education to do a full and complete investigation into this matter to avoid any of your other students for being blocked by the reckless actions of your administration."

"If you live within our boundaries we are going to do the best we can do to give you the best we can deliver to you every day that's the best of our ability," Hyer said. "We want you to find your passion. We want you to get to that point where you can explore that."

Board Vice President Kelli Horst said, "I'm struck by the contrast of the commitment and passion of Clarkston educators like those who were honored for making their students' dreams come true with the determination shown by coaches and administrators at Dakota to prevent a student from pursuing his dream - I can't believe the intentionality - the maliciousness - with which he is being made an example of an out-of-touch rule that is arbitrarily enforced, at best."

"I feel this is a very unfair situation for this young man," said Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock. "I want to do everything I can to support him. From the beginning we understood it was an academically related transfer. It has been consistent throughout as I talked to all those involved. I appreciate the board's willingness to discuss it. We are doing this for all students in the state."

"We are doing what we can do to resolve this situation. We are being made an example of. People are upset. I am proud to stand up for our student," Hyer said. "As a board if we don't take a position on this, this is an important issue. It affects one of our students I think we would be tone deaf if we didn't take a position. We have exhausted our appeals."

New seats for City Council

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

City Council will have a new look in January, after a new seating order was approved.

Council member Rick Detkowski made the proposal to arrange seating by alphabetical order, with the mayor in the middle. The council voted 4-3, Dec. 11, to approve it.

"I don't see the reason for it," said Council member Sharron Catalo, who voted against it along with Mayor Steven Percival and Council member Jason Kneisc. "It's always been done the way we do it now, and it's not been a problem."

Detkowski said the change will "freshen things up bit," and help with public perception of the council.

"Some viewers assume collusion - I'd like to try to break that suggestion by physically moving the spots," he said.

"People say that," Catalo asked.

"Of course they do," Detkowski said.

Catalo said the seating order, which was, from left, Scott Reynolds, Sue Wylie, Detkowski, Percival, Catalo, Kneisc, and Eric Haven, was a tradition.

"You sit in the seat of people you replace - it's worked," she said. "There's never been any difficulty as long as I've been here."

The perception in public has been because people sit next to each other, they are on the same side, Reynolds said.

"I walked to all 400 houses during the campaign - people would ask me what side I'm on," Reynolds said. "My answer was, 'I'm neutral.' I'm in favor of dispelling that. There's a bigger perception of it than you may think."

"I think that's ridiculous," Catalo said.

"People say that," Wylie said.

"You guys can do whatever you want, I'm not moving," Catalo said. "This is so kindergarten."



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GOING GREEK: The Jungle, Clarkston High School's student section, went back in history for last Friday's theme - toga night. They were able to prep for the theme as school was cancelled on Thursday due to weather and snowy, icy road conditions. *Photo by Wendi Reardon Price*

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No one injured in robbery attempt

Continued from page 1

jacket with black long sleeves, gray sweat pants and blue sneakers. The suspect was wearing a black ski mask covering his face, but appeared to be white.

The clerk began yelling at the subject, who then jumped over the counter with several deposit envelopes and fled west-bound across Dixie Highway into a nearby Park and Ride lot.

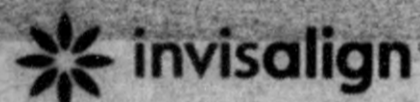
He dropped the envelopes outside the

station and they were recovered by deputies. They contained no cash and it appears he obtained nothing in his attempt as nothing appears to be missing from the station.

The clerk was not injured. A K-9 Unit tracked the suspect from the gas station to the Park and Ride where the scent was lost. It appears he had a vehicle waiting for him.

The incident remains under investigation.

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Clarkston Cub Scout Pack 163 won Best Overall Entry.

Parade awards

Clarkston Cub Scout Pack 163 won Best Overall Entry in the Holiday Lights Parade with their Star Wars-themed float at the Holiday Lights Parade, Dec. 16 in downtown Clarkston.

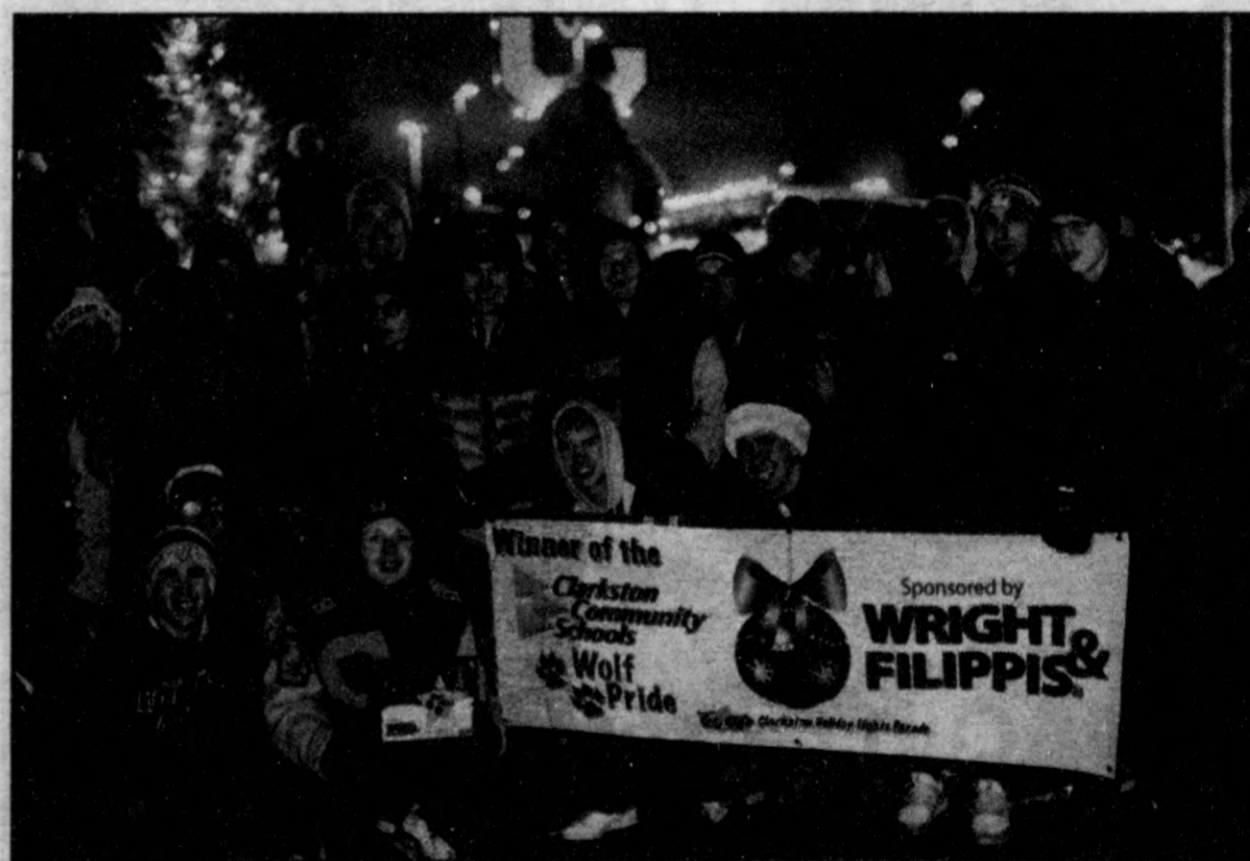
Their decked-out trailer festooned with TIE fighters and an AT-AT, and scouts dressed as Jedi, Sith, rebels, and stormtroopers earned them a \$250 cash award, sponsored by Team RUSH.

Clarkston High School's a cappella groups Detroit Voice, Synergy and Encore earned the Best Holiday Spirit Award.

Clarkston High School Varsity Football Team, celebrating their state championship with the bundled-up crowd, won the Wolf Pride Award in the parade. The award earned them a \$100 prize, sponsored by Wright & Filippis.



Chewbacca pilots a sandcrawler in the Union Joints entry.



Wolf Pride award winners, the Clarkston High School state championship Varsity Football Team. Photos by Mark Kelly



Some of the committee members who collected "Toys for the Children" are, seated from left, Tina Zudell of Clarkston and Brenda Davis, and standing from left, David S. Niezgoda of Clarkston, chairmen, Beth Arnold of Clarkston, and Ron St Amant. Photo provided

Realtors collect toys for hospital

The members of the North Oakland County Board of Realtors banded together over the past month and have donated hundreds of toys to the Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Along with the Detroit Association of Realtor, NOCBOR members began collecting new, unwrapped toys on Nov. 11 and delivered a large van filled with toys on Dec. 18.

They were not only the children being treated in the hospital, but also for the children of the families whose siblings are patients at the Children's Hospital of Michigan, located in Detroit.

Led by the Membership Services Committee, chaired by Realtor David Niezgoda, NOCBOR, based in Waterford, is the second largest board in Michigan, consisting of over 5,000 realtors.

Santa hits the slopes at Pine Knob

Children of all ages, skiers and snowboards, are invited to Ski with Santa at the Pine Knob Ski and Snowboard Resort, 7778 Sashabaw Road, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 23.

"North Pole operations are running smoothly," said Santa, who goes by the name Jim Jacques most of the year. "The elves are getting everything ready for Christmas Eve and I need a bit of exercise before the big night. A few runs and fresh air is just what I need to be ready."

Skiing with Santa is free. However everyone who hits the slopes with the Jolly Old Elf



Santa's ready to ski.

will need to purchase a lift pass for the day; and bring or rent ski, snowboard, and helmet equipment.

Non-skiing parents can watch from the Pine Knob Café or the Off the Wall Lounge.

Santa Jim lives in Clarkston, and works as an engineer in Auburn Hills. As Santa, he visits hundreds of children of all ages each holiday season - scout packs, family events, group parties, and senior centers. He also teaches skiing at Pine Knob Ski and Snowboard Resort.

The Pine Knob Ski and Snowboard School organized this event. For more information, call 248-625-0800 ext. 4 or email pkskischool@gmail.com, or check www.SkiPineKnob.com.

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GIVING TREE: Everest Collegiate Student Government partnered with Lighthouse of Oakland County to adopt four local families for Christmas. The "Giving Tree" campaign had an initial goal of \$300 per class to provide basic family items such as pots and pans, cleaning supplies, warm winter clothing, and gifts for each family's children. The high school students were so enthusiastic in their promotion of the campaign, they collected over \$1,500. The additional money collected was used to provide Meijer gift cards for any other items they may need. *Photo provided*

Audit report OK'd

Clarkston City Council voted 6-1 to accept its 2017 audit report and file it with the state.

Council member Scott Reynolds voted against the motion, at the Dec. 11 meeting.

Reynolds said auditor Rana Emmon's comments to City Council in November regarding the effects of the 2014 library millage vote on city revenues were confusing.

"She presented it as a potential revenue loss," he said. "We owe it to the public to have clarity about that."

The three-year-old resolution includes the provision, "in future years, the city will reduce its general operating millage levy by 0.691 mills from the level that the city would otherwise have imposed."

City Manager Jonathan Smith said the library millage issue is separate from the audit, which is required to be filed by the end of the year.

The city will ask Emmons and Julie Meredith, director of Clarkston Independence District Library, for more information about it, which will be presented to council, Smith said.

"The timeline since 1976, the ins and outs of millage rates and why — there's quite a bit of history," he said.

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Thursday at noon

Fridays at 6:00pm

Saturdays at 10:00am

The latest news from our community, ITV, District Library, Independence Township Parks, Recreation, and Seniors.

For a complete schedule, Visit our website:

www.independencetelevision.com or find us on Facebook.

Community achievements

Heather Valencic of Clarkston, who has lived with kidney disease since her 20s, was one of the National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Ambassadors who greeted guests at the Annual Kidney Ball, Dec. 2, in Detroit.

Valencic, 45, who is married to Jeffrey Musson with one son, Andrew, was born with polycystic kidney disease.

Her mother donated a kidney to her 15 years ago, and it is still working.

She has been involved with the foundation for 12 years, helping raise money at the foundation's Kidney Zoo Walks.

NKFM was there for her post-transplant, providing support and education, she said.

"That's why I care so much and share my story—to help others," Valencic said.

The fundraiser at the MotorCity Casino Hotel, with a "Casablanca" theme, raised over \$615,000 for the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan.

"The Kidney Ball is our largest fundraising event and takes over 100 wonderful staff and volunteers to make it happen. The community has again shown us their great support for those living with kidney disease and for our evidence-based programs to prevent kidney disease," said NKFM CEO Smith-Wheelock.

After a delicious dinner prepared by the MotorCity Casino Hotel culinary staff, WDIV-TV's Steve Garagiola started the program, which included remarks by Kidney Ball Committee Honorary Co-Chair Duane

McLean, Detroit Tigers Vice President of Business Operations; Jon Krebs; and Jeff Chandler, Kidney Ball Committee co-chair and executive vice president – Surety, VTC Insurance Group.

The event included a silent auction with over 250 eclectic items and a children's toy auction. Live auction items included two 18-person suite packages at the new Little Caesars Arena, one to see entertainer Katy Perry, and one for a Detroit Red Wings hockey game.

For more information about the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's programs and services throughout the state, go to www.nkfm.org or call 800-482-1455.

Angie Pesta of Clarkston recently celebrated her 20-year anniversary with PartyLite Candles & Gifts.

Pesta started her career as an independent consultant in 1997 as a way to earn extra income and become a stay-at-home mom to her two boys, Austin and Adam. Over the past 20 years, she has earned 20 all-expense paid incentive trips she has shared with her husband, Kevin, and was also recently recognized at the company's National Conference in Dallas, Texas, as the seventh highest selling sales consultant in North America, ranked number three in the United States for team sales excellence, and also ranked in the top 25 in North America for sponsoring excellence.

"We're so very proud of Angie," said Tracie Graham, vice-president of sales, PartyLite North America. "She is an amazing example of the entrepreneurial spirit and commitment our business model promotes."

"I love what I do, and I love sharing this opportunity with others to help them change their lives as well," Angie Pesta.

Lawrence Plastics of Clarkston, Independence Commercial Construction of Waterford, and Pentastar Aviation of Waterford were recently awarded \$54,000 in grant funds from the 2018 GoingPRO-Skilled Trades Training Fund (STTF) for the development of skilled-training programs in local Michigan companies.

"I applaud these businesses for earning such important grants," said state Rep. Jim Tedder. "It is essential to provide new opportunities for workers and employers so Michigan can continue to build the most talented workforce in the nation."

The STTF operates under the Talent Investment Agency and aims to provide opportunities for employers and workers to gain skilled-training experience in high-demand technical fields.



Pesta



Heather Valencic of Clarkston, with her husband Jeffrey Musson, was an ambassador for the National Kidney Foundation's annual Kidney Ball.

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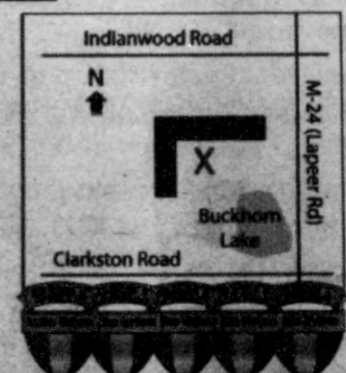


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Events

Blood drive, American Red Cross, Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-3:45 p.m., McLaren Cancer Institute Clarkston, 5680 Bow Pointe Drive; Jan. 4, 1-6:45 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road; Jan. 4, 2-7:45 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, 5464 Waterford Road. 800-RED CROSS, 800-733-2767.

Sunday

Donation-only class benefitting O.A.T.S., Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Yoga Oasis, 6160 Dixie Highway. 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.

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

Tuesday

Wint's Healing Hearts Grief Support Group for all ages for those who have recently lost a loved one, Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m. Topic: "Emptiness After the Holidays." Led by a bereavement counselor for Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home, Clarkston. Carriage House in Clintonwood Park. Walk-ins welcome, free. 248-625-5231.

Grief Share, 13-week seminar/support group for those suffering loss, 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesdays, 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.

Clarkston Area Coin Club, second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 5464 Waterford Road. 248-345-8555.

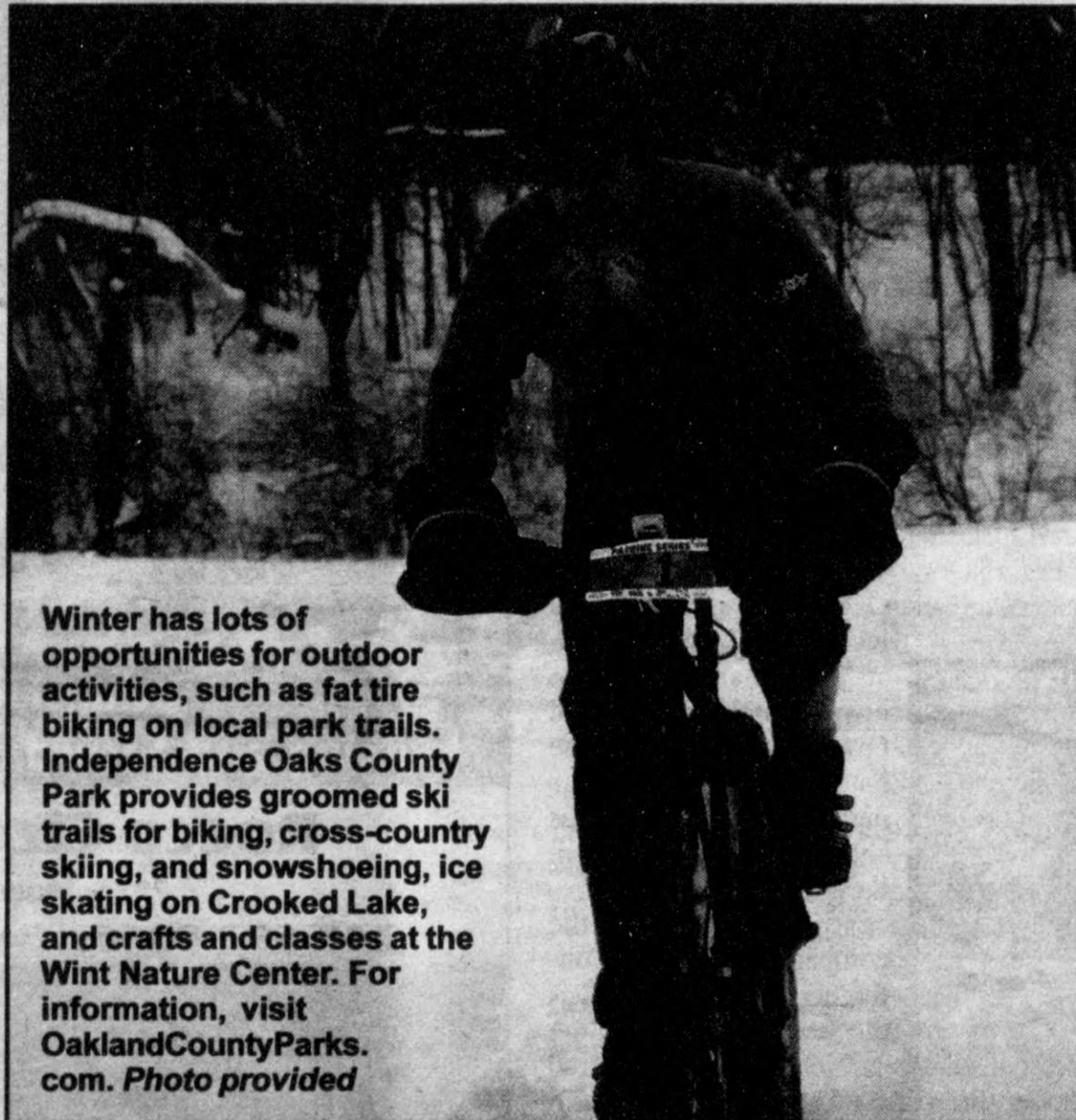
Needlework Night, fourth Tuesday, 6:30-8 p.m. Stitch and visit. Everyone welcome. Springfield Township Library, 12000 Davisburg Road. 248-846-6550.

Seniors On With Life Group forming for widowers, widows, divorced. Dinners, breakfasts, golf, social gatherings. 248-393-8553.

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

Around Town

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



Winter has lots of opportunities for outdoor activities, such as fat tire biking on local park trails. Independence Oaks County Park provides groomed ski trails for biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing, ice skating on Crooked Lake, and crafts and classes at the Wint Nature Center. For information, visit OaklandCountyParks.com. Photo provided

Networking Get-Together, Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Network, fourth Tuesday, 9-10 a.m., Picasso's Grapevine, 12 S Main Street. Free for chamber members.

Big Chief Barbershop Chorus, 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays, Waterford Oaks, 2800 Watkins Lake Road. Call Jack, 248-334-3686.

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

Wednesday

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, 7:30-9 a.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Free. Facebook.com/coffeeclubmi, and www.clarkstoncoffeeclub.com.

Coffee and Conversation, Jan. 18, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Independence Township Senior Adult Activity Center, Clintonwood Park. \$1.

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

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-

Civic groups

Clarkston Rotary Club, Mondays, 6:30 p.m., 7048 Gateway Park Drive. 248-880-0027.

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

Daughters of the American Revolution, Sashabaw Plains Chapter, second Tuesday, www.sashabaw.michdar.net.

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 Lions Club, second and fourth Thursday, 6:30-8 p.m., 6644 Dixie Highway. 248-802-8603.

Clarkston Area Genealogy, 10:15 a.m., third Thursday, Clarkston Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. 248-620-2984.

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.

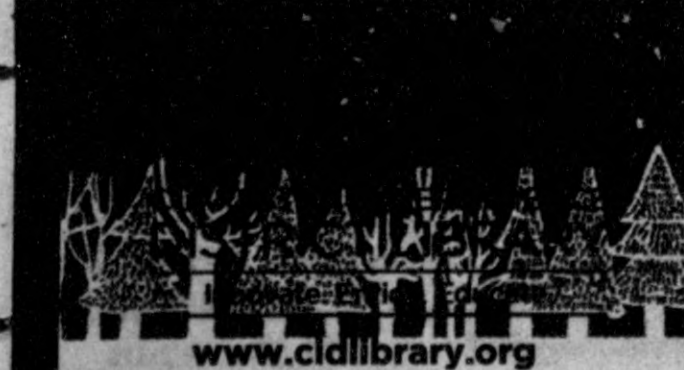
Friday

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. Immediate results. 248-625-2212.

HEY CLARKSTON! WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY?



www.cldlibrary.org

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Discover Michigan using your library card. Check out a pass for one of Michigan's cultural attractions or state parks and recreation areas! Visit plymouthrockets.com/map2016/ and check out a pass today!



Got Yarn

Wednesday, December 27 @ 7 pm

Join our ongoing knitting and crocheting group. Beginners, experts and any level in-between are welcome.

Holiday Hours

Sunday, December 24th
CLOSED
Monday, December 25th
CLOSED
Monday, January 1st
CLOSED



Clarkston Rocks

Continued from page 1

She hid a Kid Rock rock in Clarkston Independence District Library by some of his CDs, and a Grinch rock by the "Grinch" movie.

"She loves coming up with unique places to hide them," Sans said. "She gets as much joy from it as I do."

Rocks painted with angels are popular, especially during the Christmas season.

"One lady sent a message, her dad was going into surgery and he held onto it when going into surgery and when he got out," the artist said. "I sent some to Troops Need Love Too. A chaplain sent a video back - I sent a Snoopy angel rock and he has it on his desk."

The work has helped her as she deals with her illness, which she discovered after Thanksgiving last year when she went to Pine Knob Urgent Care.

"I couldn't get up without fainting," she said.

She was admitted to Genesys Regional Medical Center, where her condition was very serious.

"I coded a couple times. My family was called," she remembered.

She has been treated for stage four cancer in her stomach and bones. There's no cure, but it's treatable, she said.

"I'll be taking a pill for the rest of my life," she said. "So far, it's helping."

Her condition affects her thumbs, so she has to paint in different ways, but paint she does. She has been painting 7-8 rocks at a time about twice a week since July, at least 200 altogether.

"They bring a smile to someone's face. It makes your day," she said. "It's fun meeting all these different people. It's touched me, and helps me feel better. That, and finally having some hair."

Her youngest of three children, Austin Sans, helps by driving her around.

"He's my right hand. He takes me everywhere," Cindi said. "He's the rock of the family."

"She's becoming a Clarkston celebrity," Austin said. "She really loves it. People are really attached to these rocks."

Cindi has been an artist all her life

"As a child, my mom let me make messes and create things," she said. "I was always doodling in school."

Jobs over the years include insurance, work at a horse farm, and advertising at the *Clarkston News* from 1984-1985, "a variety of jobs, but I always found time to paint," she said.

She has painted rocks before, along with mailboxes and other objects.

"It's not really that difficult. You get used to uneven surfaces," she said. "A mailbox I painted in 2014 is still good."

She gets her rocks from Facebook fans, but most from her cousin.

"She bought some big bags of large Caribbean beach pebbles from Home Depot," Cindi said.

It takes about a half hour for Cindi to paint a rock, sometimes longer for bigger samples, all finished with 2-3 coats of Rustoleum spray.

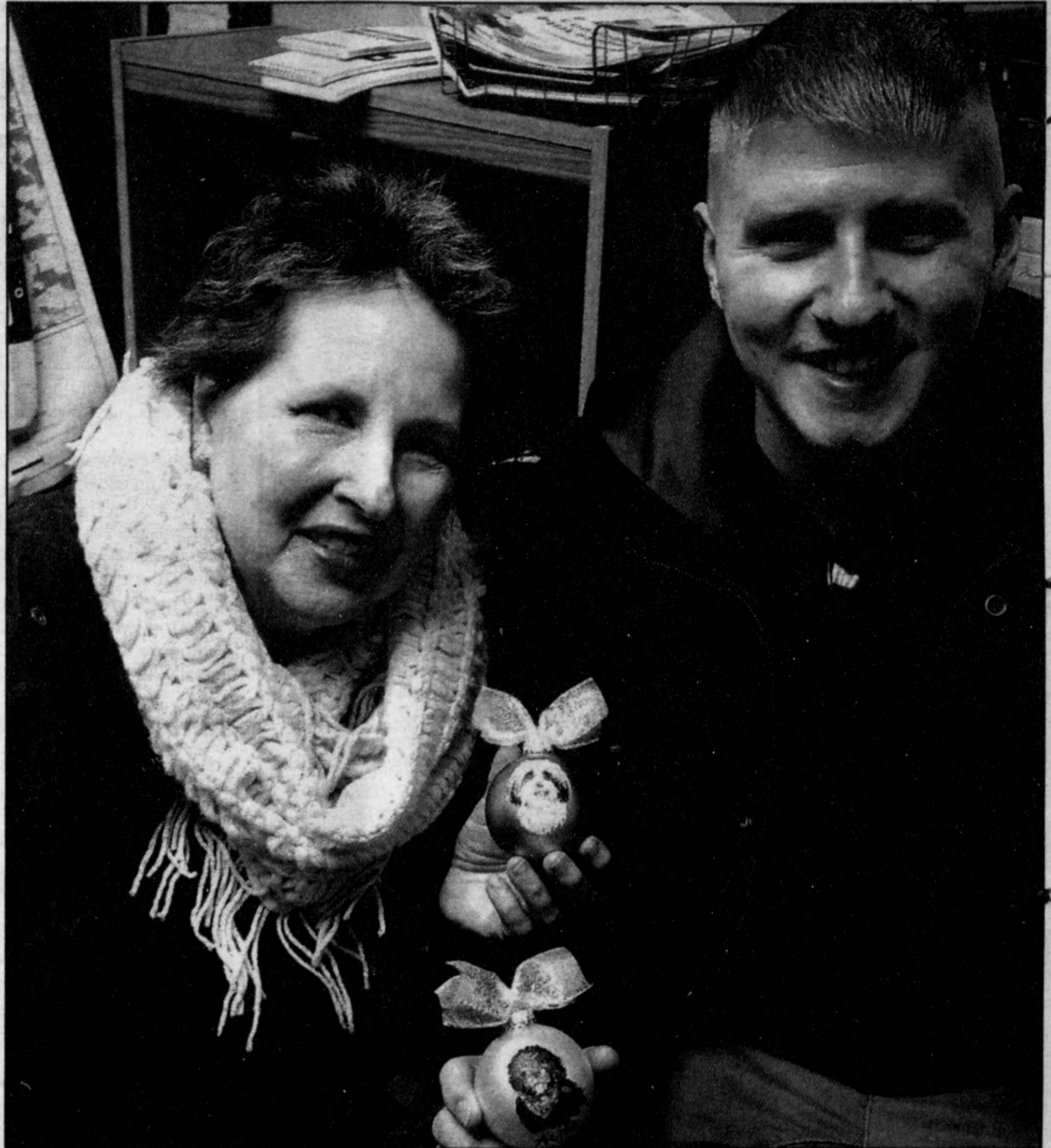
For the holidays, she'd working on 12-days-of-Christmas rocks, and also paints ornaments for sale online to places as far away as England and Australia.

For Halloween, she painted horror-movie characters, like Pennywise the clown.

"It was Michael Myers for me," Austin said.

Clarkston Rocks was created by parents on Facebook as something for their kids to do over the summer, and now has more than 2,000 members.

"It's nice to see it spread," Cindi said. "Seeing the kids with their bags to find the rocks, it's so cute."



Cindi Sans, with her son Austin Sans, paints ornaments along with stones for Clarkston Rocks. Photo by Phil Custodio



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Waterford CATV-10 Sun. 12:30pm,
Tues 2:30pm
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Sat. 6:00 pm
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 am
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www.bridgewoodchurch.com
6765 Rattalee Lake Road
Clarkston, 48348 (248) 625-1344
Sundays at 9am & 10:45am
- Adult experience
- Nurture Center (birth-4)
- Kids Life (K-5th)
- Crave Students (6th-8th)
Tuesdays at 7:00pm
- 501 (College & Twenty-Somethings)
Wednesday at 6:45pm
- JourneyON Adult Focus Studies
- Nurture Center (birth-4)
- Kids Life (K-5th)
- Crave Students (6th-8th)
check out all Bridgewood has
to offer you online at
bridgewoodchurch.com

SASHABAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1st, 3rd and 5th weekends of each month,
Sunday at 11:00 am 2nd and 4th weekends
of each month, Saturday at 6:00 pm
5300 Maybe Road, Clarkston
Website: www.sashabawpresbyterian.org
(248) 673-3469

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

6490 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston
Holy Eucharist - 10:00 am
(248) 625-2325
Reverend Heather Barta
www.clarkstonepiscopal.com
Christmas Eve 4:00 pm

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CLARKSTON

5972 Paramus, Clarkston
(248) 625-3380
Located 2 blks. N. of Dixie Hwy. (E. of M-15)
Pastor: Russell Reemtsma
Sun: 9:30 am Sunday School
& Adult Bible Fellowship
10:30 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
Wed: 6:15-8:00 pm
AWANA (Pre-school-Gr.6)
Semper Fi (Teens, Gr. 7-12)

CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

6300 Clarkston Road - Clarkston
(248) 625-1323
Pastor: Greg Henneman
Sunday Worship:
9:15 and 11:00 a.m.
Nursery Care at both services Children's
Ministries:
September thru April
Wednesdays, 6:45-8:00 p.m.
Student Ministries:
September thru April
Tuesday: 3:00-8:00 p.m.
Thursday: 3:00-7:00 p.m.
www.clarkstoncommunity.com

CALVARY LUTHERAN (ELCA) CHURCH

Clarkston Campus
6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston
248-625-3288
Pastor: Jonathan A. Heierman
Sunday Worship:
8:15 am, 9:30 & 11:00 am
Nursery, Children & Youth
9:30 & 11:00am
8th & 9th Grade Confirmation
12:30 pm
"Come as you really are
... become more!"
www.calvaryinfo.org

KENSINGTON CHURCH

6595 Waldon Rd., Clarkston
Website - www.kensingtonchurch.org
(248) 786-0600
Services:
9:00 & 10:30 am
Childcare for birth through 5th Grade,
9am and 10:30am
Middle School Program, Sunday 10:30am
High School program, Sunday 6:00-8:00 pm

THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

5449 Clarkston Rd., Clarkston
(248) 394-0200
Rev. Tim Chappell
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 10:00 am
Dream Keepers Youth Group
Sunday's 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Bible Study
March - May and Sept. - Nov.
www.fcclarkston.com

CLARKSTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

DIXIE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

ST. DANIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

7010 Valley Park Dr., Clarkston
(W. of M-15, S. of I-75)
(248) 625-4580
Rev. Ronald J. Babich, Pastor
Saturday Mass: 5:00 pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am
Religious Education: 625-1750
Mother's Group, RCIA,
Scripture Study, Youth Group

WAYPOINT CHURCH

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

• Death notices & • Obituaries

Margaret Vollbach, 89

Margaret T. Vollbach of Clarkston passed away Dec. 13, 2017, at age 89.

She was preceded in death by her husband James and son Robert (Jerri). She was the loving mother of Janet (Albert) Glascock, Nancy (Mike) Walkowski, Diane (Dave) Ladwig and Claudia (Stacy) Herring; proud grandmother of 11 grandchildren and four great grandchildren; also survived by many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Margaret owned and operated Clarkston Remodeling with her husband Jim.

She was a longtime volunteer for Lighthouse.

Memorial Service will be scheduled at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to **Lewis E. Wint and Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Memorials may be made to Lighthouse. Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Donations for Solemates

Solemates of Clarkston High School are collecting winter clothes for all ages, men/women/children, gently used, such as gloves, scarves, jackets, snow boots, and snowpants at Clarkston Independence District Library, as well as Sashabaw Middle School, Clarkston Junior High School, and Clarkston High School.

Donations will be collected through Jan. 12, and will go to Grace Centers of Hope in Pontiac.

Sandra Mae Nickerson, 82

Sandra Mae Nickerson of Clarkston passed away Dec. 17, 2017, at age 82.

She was the mother of Debra (Bob) Gallo, Robin (Antonia), James "Jim", Toni Duddles and Raquel (Dan) Bugg; also survived by 14 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and one great great grandson; sister of Frank (Virginia) Almas, Ramona (Bud) Cullens, Jerry (Debbie) Almas, Edward (Pat) Almas, Mary Lou (Dan) Mirovsky and Mina (Mike) Bahan; preceded in death by her siblings Robert Almas Sr. and Sharon Swindell.



Sandy was known as "Mom" to many, especially Cheryl Ledesma and Mary Jane Budrow. She was a cherished neighbor of Toney and Lisa Liechty. Sandy retired from General Motor and enjoyed playing bingo, watching the cooking show & cake decorating. She will be missed by her dogs, Peaches and Miss Holly.

Friends may visit at **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston, Wednesday, 4-9 p.m. Funeral Service, Thursday, Dec. 21, at 12:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to Haven for abused women and children. Online guest book www.wintfuneralhome.com.

In our local churches...

Christmas at Kensington Church, 6595 Waldon Road, "What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?" Dec. 23, 7 p.m.; Dec. 24, 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. Childcare for birth-age 5 at the Dec. 24 services. Free tickets at www.kensingtonchurch.org/Christmas. 248-786-0600.

Adult Bible Fellowships, Sunday School, 11 a.m., Dixie Baptist Church, 8585 Dixie Highway, 248-625-2311.

Coffee and Conversation, first, third, fifth Sunday, 12:30 p.m., for adults and interested youth. Sashabaw Presbyterian Church, 5300 Maybee Road. 248-673-3469

Sunday Night Youth Group, games, snacks, etc., 6 p.m.; devotion time, 7 p.m., First Congregational Church of Clarkston, 5449 Clarkston Road. 248-394-0200.

Bible Study, Mondays, 10 a.m., Church of the Resurrection, 6490 Clarkston Road. 248-625-2325.

Bible Study by the Fire for adults and older youth, October-May, Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Sashabaw Presbyterian Church, 5300 Maybee Road. 248-673-3469.

Cove gatherings for teens, grades 6-12, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Waypoint Church, 8400 Dixie Highway. 248-623-1224.

DivorceCare 13-weekly seminars, Thursdays, 6:45-8:30 p.m., Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road. Call 248-625-1611.

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


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 Dan McCarville
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 Great Bands


Christmas Eve
Sunday Dec. 24

OPEN
 7am to Midnight

Christmas Day
Monday Dec. 25

 OPEN 7am-2am
 Dinner with Robin 2pm
 Come Party Krystle & Robin Serving up Christmas Cheer
 LIVE MUSIC 4:30 til ?
 Matt & Kyle (from Static)


Friday
December 29th
LIVE MUSIC


Saturday
December 30th
LIVE MUSIC


New Year's Eve
Sunday Dec. 31
LIVE MUSIC
ALL NIGHT


New Year's Day
Monday
January 1st
 Bowl
 Games
 



Merry Christmas From Our Family To Yours!

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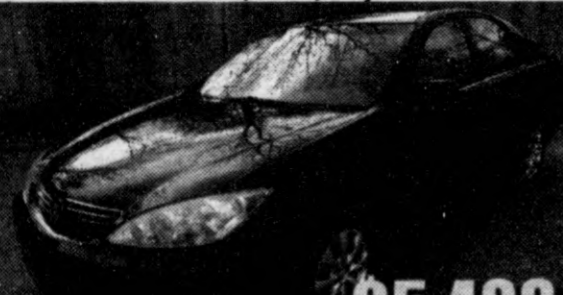
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 Heated leather, power everything, Only 66K miles!



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2011 Ford F150 FX4 SuperCrew 4X4
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\$20,988

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 Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9am-6pm
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248.627.5263

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VERIFICATION

Ad-vertiser,
Penny Stretcher,
The Citizen

CONDITIONS

All advertising in Sherman Publications, Inc. is subject to the conditions in the applicable rate card or advertising contract, copies of which are available from the Ad Dept. The Oxford Leader, P.O. Box 108, 666 S. Lapeer Rd., Oxford, MI 48371 (248-628-4801), The Lake Orion Review, 30 N. Broadway, Lake Orion, MI 48362 (248-693-8331) or The Clarkston News, 5 S. Main, Clarkston, MI 48346 (248-625-3370). This newspaper reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Our ad takers have no authority to bind this newspaper and only publication of an ad constitutes acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Antiques & Collectibles	150	General	170	Pets	200
Appliances	160	Greetings	020	Produce	040
Auctions	090	Help Wanted	360	Real Estate	310
Auto Parts	240	Holiday Items	010	Rec. Equipment	180
Bus. Opportunities	330	Horses	220	Rec. Vehicles	280
Card of Thanks	380	Household	130	Rentals	290
Cars	250	In Memoriam	400	Services	410
Child Care	340	Lawn & Garden	080	Trucks	270
Computers	140	Livestock	210	Tutoring/Lessons	070
Craft Shows	120	Lost & Found	190	Vans	260
Farm Equipment	230	Manufactured Homes	320	Wanted	030
Firewood	050	Musical Instruments	060	Wanted To Rent	300
Free	100	Notices	390	Work Wanted	350
Garage Sales	110	Personals	370		

Phone 248-628-4801 - 248-625-3370 - 248-693-8331

DEADLINES: Regular classified ads Monday at 12 noon preceding publication. Semi-display advertising Monday at noon. Cancellation Deadline: Monday noon.

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

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WANTED 1960/66 45rpm record, "Twilight Zone" by Barry Ray(e) (combs) \$5-\$10. (248)634-4362 IIZX202

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SEASONED HARDWOOD: \$100 per face cord. Delivery available. 248-640-4279. IILZ44

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090 AUCTIONS

AUCTION

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Oxford, MI. 48371
248-628-0940

#218 Jerry Whisnant-Household
#321 Neil Powers- Household
#271 Sarah Glowatz- Misc.

\$100.00 Deposit
Refundable when unit is cleaned out.
"Cash Sale" IILZ32c

100 FREE

WHIRLPOOL, Side by side black door, model WRS965CIAE/2012. 248-408-5392 IILZ31f

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Oxford Leader & Ad-Vertiser
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Clarkston News & Penny Stretcher
248-625-3370
Lk. Orion Review
248-693-8331
(Holiday deadlines may apply) LZ28-dh

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170 GENERAL

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Dec. 27 Editions

WILL BE
**Fri., Dec. 22rd
at Noon
and**

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Jan. 3 Editions
WILL BE
**Fri., Dec. 29th
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L32dhf

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L14

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ZX204

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In the matter of Seelah Grace Merritt, Minor TO AL INTERESTED PERSONS including: Adrian Merritt and Anastasia Higgins whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on January 17, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. at 1200 N. Telegraph Rd., Pontiac, MI 48341 before Judge Kathleen A. Ryan P55648 for the following purpose:
Petition for the Appointment of Minor Guardianship
Linda Franklin
298 Hunters Hill
Oxford, MI 48371
248-630-6143

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

Estate of Charles Michael Peckham, Deceased. Date of birth: 9/14/1951
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Charles Michael Peckham, deceased, died October 20, 2017.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Heather Lake, 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 P-78232
2745 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan 48328
(248) 682-8800
Heather Lake
518 E. Williams St.
Owosso, Michigan 48867
(989) 413-4946

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

Estate of Anne A. Kyker, deceased. Date of birth: 0814-1935
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Anne A. Kyker, died 07-04-2017.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Timothy P. Flynn, 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.
12-15-2017
Timothy P. Flynn
6480 Citation Drive
Clarkston, MI 48346
248/625-0600

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

Estate of Irene Augusta Rhodes. Date of Birth: 8/15/1923
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Irene Augusta Rhodes, died 6/18/2017
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.
December 11, 2017
Munger & Associates, P.C.
Jon B. Munger P54736
4545 Clawson Tank Dr, Ste 100
Clarkston, MI 48346
248.618.1200
Jon B. Munger
4545 Clawson Tank Dr, Ste 100
Clarkston, MI 48346
248.618.1200

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF OAKLAND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

Estate of Irene Augusta Rhodes. Date of Birth: 8/15/1923
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Irene Augusta Rhodes, died 6/18/2017
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.
December 11, 2017
Munger & Associates, P.C.
Jon B. Munger P54736
4545 Clawson Tank Dr, Ste 100
Clarkston, MI 48346
248.618.1200
Jon B. Munger
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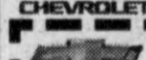
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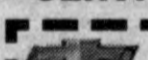
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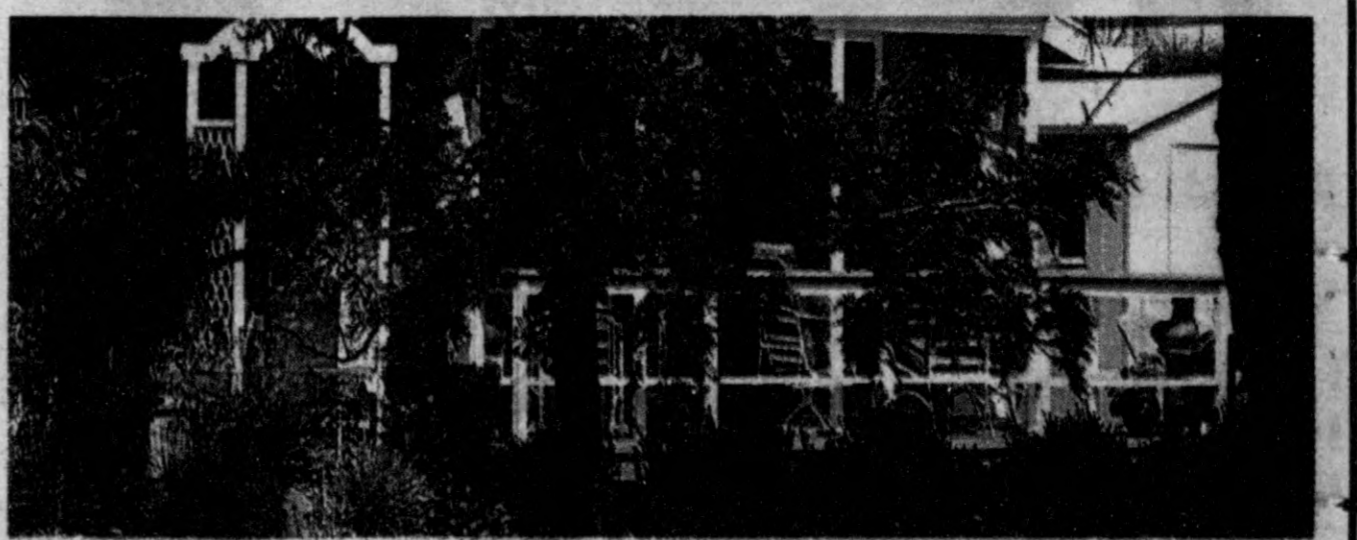
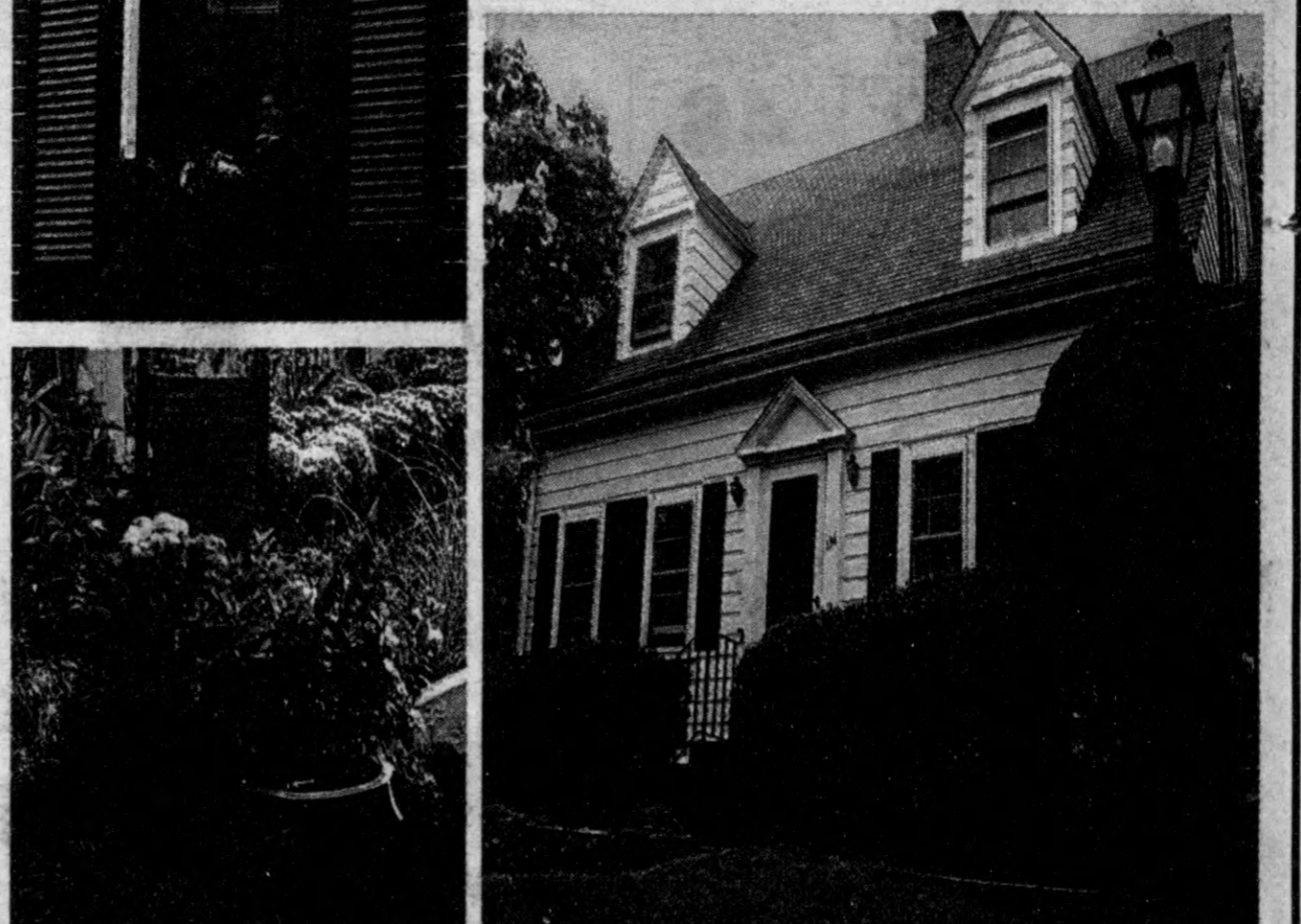
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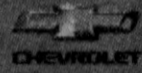


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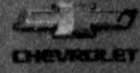


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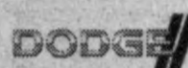
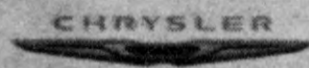
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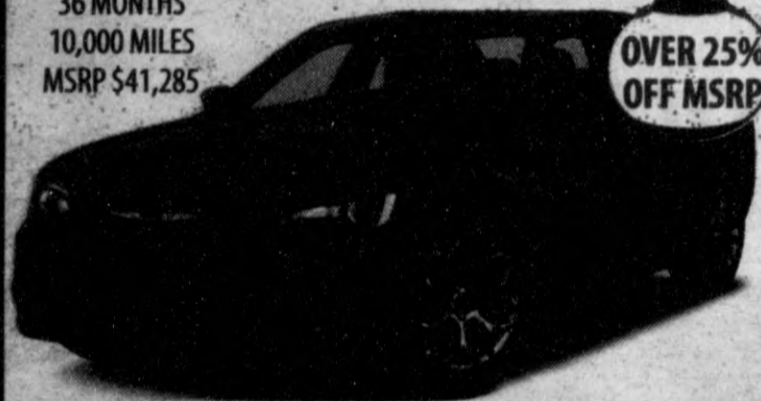
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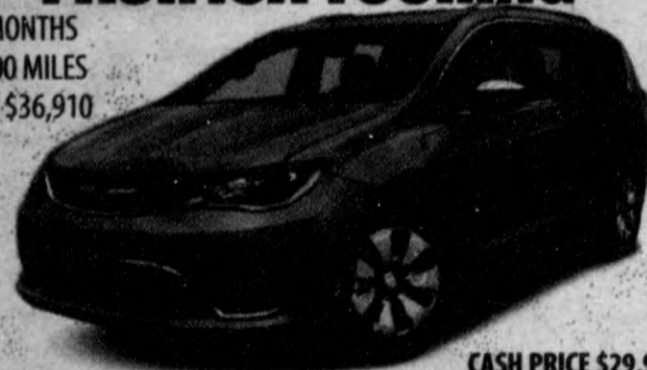
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Clarkston Tough

A salute to the 2017 Michigan Football Champions

Clarkston News - Dec. 20, 2017



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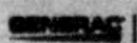

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From the Big House to Ford Field, a special football season

By Don "Astro" Rush, CHS Class of 1981

I thought it was kinda' ironic when I went back into *The Clarkston News* archives and found the old picture to the right. Young Kurt Richardson had opened the 1970 season running for a couple of touchdowns against Oxford. That was the first half. He didn't play the second half because he had the flu, and became "violently sick."

The irony comes from this: Less than a decade later Richardson (KR) would be an assistant coach when I "graced" the old gridiron for Clarkston. Back then, KR was fond of yelling during those thrilling, hot, muggy, and too-long August two-a-days, "If you ain't puking, you ain't trying hard enough!"

Ah, memories.

If you haven't figured it out by now, Clarkston loves its football team. It loves all its teams, but football is king — even when the team is not winning. Clarkston has made it to the state championship only three times in its history, and those championships all came under the tutelage of Coach Richardson.

I emailed KR the other day to ask him some questions for this section, with the simple subject line, "Astro here."

When I was in the 10th grade, KR dubbed me Astro, and during the football awards banquet bequeathed to me not a trophy for my football prowess, rather a blue baseball cap with big yellow letters, "ASTRO." (So he says, I talked loudly a lot on the sidelines, without taking out my mouth guard — I sounded like George Jetson's cartoon dog, Astro. Whatever.)

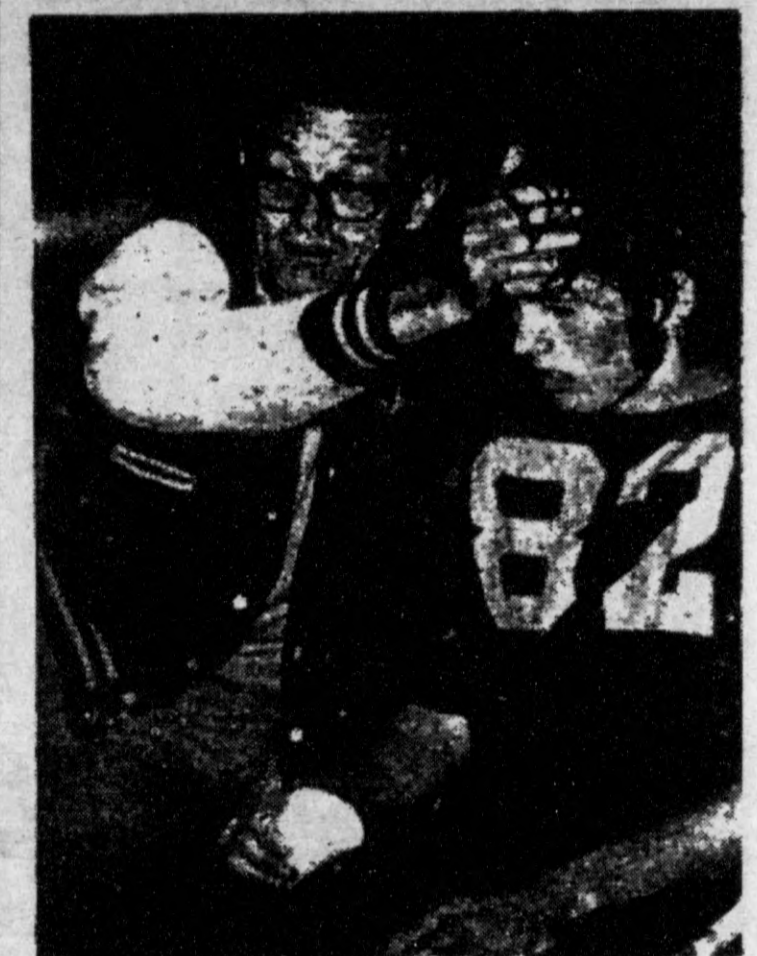


Clarkston High School Varsity Football Head Coach Kurt Richardson (KR) has been on the gridiron since 1970, when he played as a wide receiver. To the right, we found this picture of KR from the Sept. 24, 1970 Clarkston News. Above, the groovy sideburns are gone and replaced with mustache and goatee.

I wanted to see how this team's two losses helped them down the road to Ford Field and eventual championship and how things have changed.

About the losses, says he, "Our two losses were to — at that time — better teams. One of the things we preach to the kids is take a negative and turn it into a positive and I think sometimes we learn more from a loss than we do

Continued on Page 17



FLU — In the first half of the Clarkston vs. Oxford game Friday night, Kurt Richardson, No. 82, ran for 2 touchdowns of 70 yards each. He didn't get to play the second half. During halftime Kurt became violently sick. Dr. Robert Buehrig, above with Kurt, said it was the flu.



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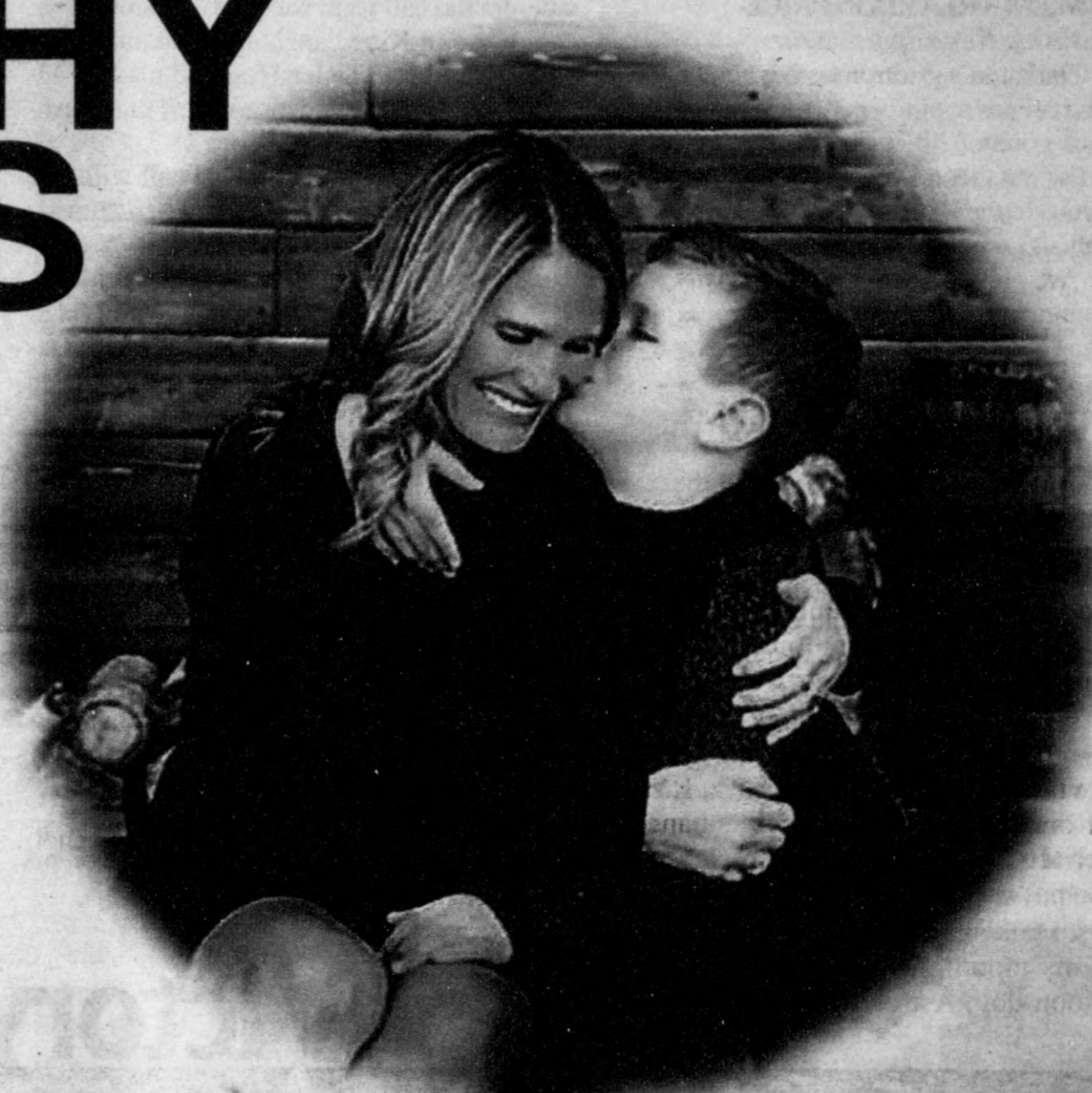
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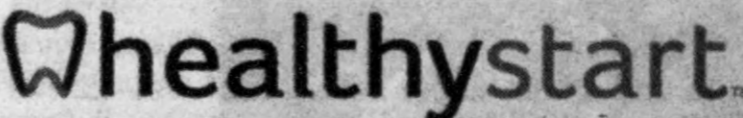
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Big win at Big House

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Clarkston's gridiron heroes celebrated on the sidelines at University of Michigan as the clock counted down.

For the second year, the Wolves were victorious in the Battle at the Big House, with a 42-7 win over Lapeer.

"We played pretty well all the way around," said Kurt Richardson, long-time head coach for Clarkston Varsity Football.

Clarkston opened with possession of the ball and scored their first touchdown just over six minutes into the game off of **Josh Cantu's** first of three touchdowns for the night.

Lapeer tied the score after a snap went over the Wolves and the Lightning recovered it to run the ball with two minutes left in the first quarter.

"The snap was kind of ugly," Richardson admitted. "They are a good football team. They are going to win a lot of games."

Cantu broke the tie at the beginning of the second quarter with a 10-yard run. On Lapeer's next possession they didn't gain much ground

before the ball went back to Clarkston.

Keagan King caught the punt and in the next play **Wolf Tieler Houston** made a 43-yard run into the endzone on his only rushing attempt, putting the score 21-7.

The Wolves closed the first half with one more touchdown off a 9-yard run by **Michael Fluegel**.

Quarterback **Nate Uballe** was 4-for-5 for 27 yards and one down in passing. Houston caught two of the passes for 14 yards and **Conner Heaton** caught two passes for 13 yards.

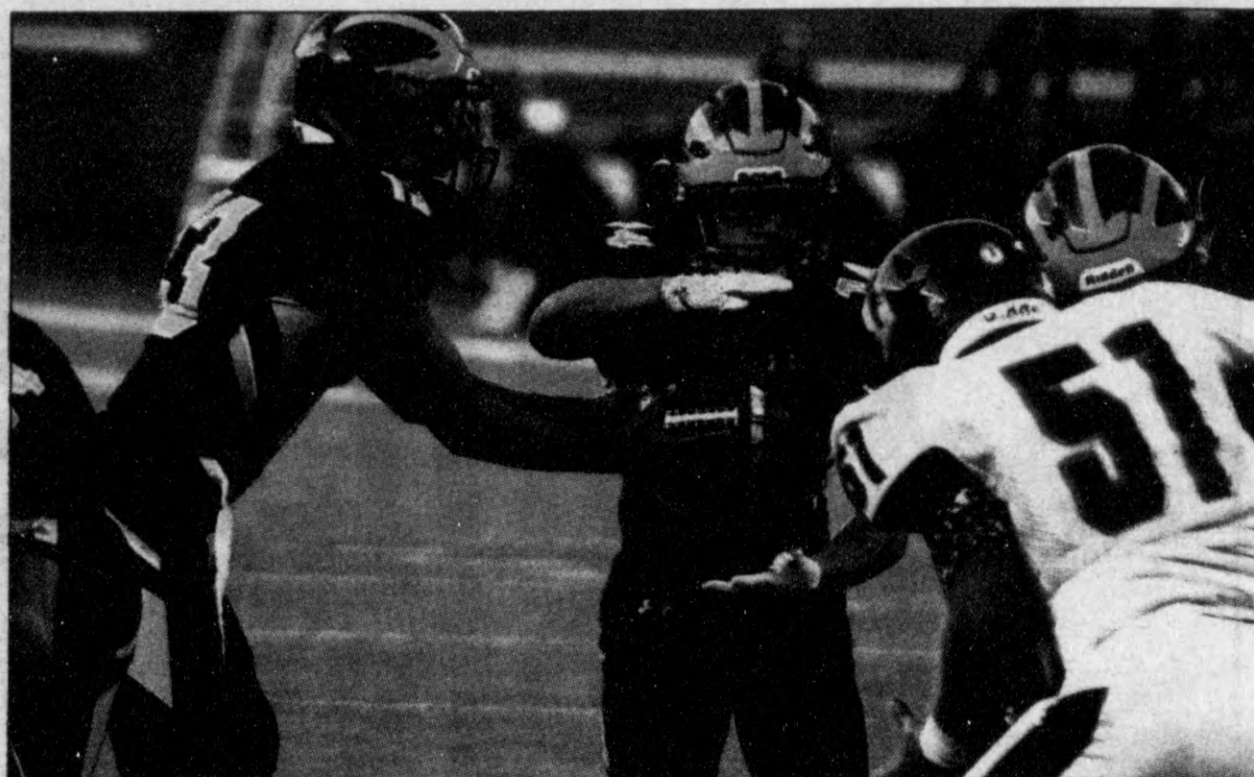
Uballe rushed the ball eight times for 81 yards. Cantu rushed the ball 140 yards on ten carries. Fluegel rushed the ball 61 yards on ten carries and **Jake**

Billette carried the ball three times for 73 yards, scoring one touchdown.

"We have three good backs and then Tieler broke that one run - it was nice to see," Richardson said. "Nate played a tremendous game - throwing the ball, running the ball, and general command of defense."

Tristan Mattson was 5-for-5 on PAT attempts and **Jermaine Roemer** scored on his lone PAT attempt.

1
Week



Nate Uballe hands the ball to Josh Cantu on his way to scoring his second touchdown against Lapeer last Friday. Photo by Wendi Reardon Price

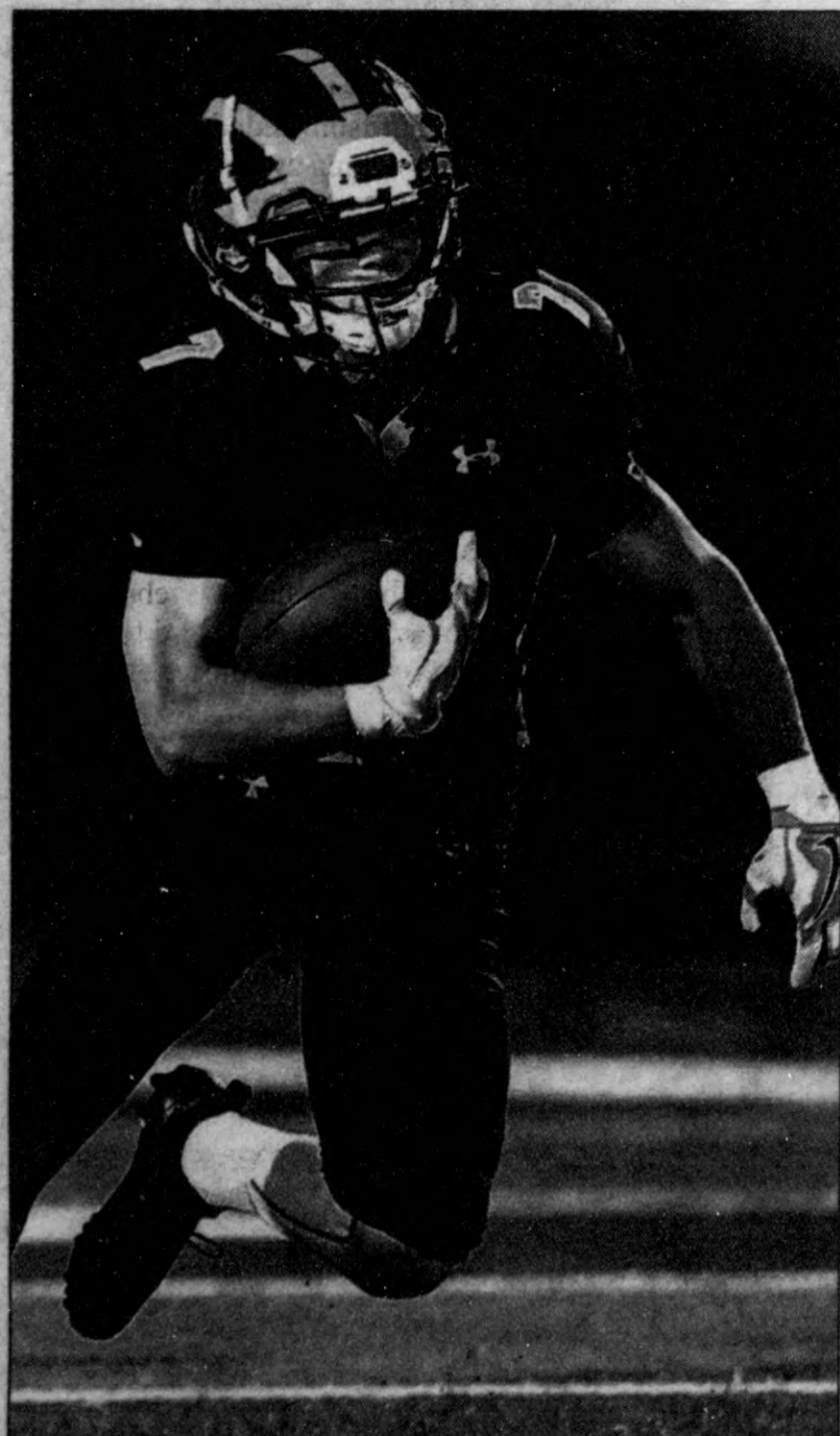
Cody Hughes led defense with five tackles and one assist. **Maxx Brennan** and **Gino Paese** had three tackles each. Brennan also recovered a fumble with 4:53 remaining in the first half.

"They did not break," Richardson said about defense. "We didn't turn the ball over. We maybe had one, two penalties. We did some good things. We have some things we

need to work on."

The Wolves host Southfield Arts & Technology this Friday. The Warriors lost their season opener to Davison in triple overtime, 56-54.

"They are a really good team, and you always want to get off on the right step," Richardson said. "It gives you a little momentum going in there."



Junior Keagan King runs after catching Southfield's punt in the Wolves' home opener. Photo by Larry Wright

Victory at home opener

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

The gridiron heroes finished their traditional post-game dance celebration before turning their attention to **Conor Donahue**.

All of the players burst into singing Happy Birthday to Donahue, who finished the night of his birthday helping the Wolves to a 17-7 victory over Southfield Arts & Technology.

Kurt Richardson, long-time head coach for the Clarkston Varsity Football team, reflected it was a good win for the boys especially since Southfield scored 54 points in their season opener.

"Southfield is a good football team and our kids felt like we should have beat them last year," he said. "They have been gearing for this one. They have been hearing about 'Southfield this' and 'Southfield that.' They were up for it. They were ready. Plus, they wanted to play on the (new) field."

It came to defending their turf, slowing down their running game, and keeping the Warriors' Division 1 runningback from scoring, he added.

For defense, senior **Zach Scott** led with 11 tackles, six of which caused lost of yards for Southfield, and he had one interception. Sophomore **Josh Pacolt** had four tackles, two with losses. Senior **Tieler Houston** had three tackles and one interception. Junior **Jayviar Suggs** and senior **Anthony Simmons** each had two tackles and recovered a fumble. Seniors **Nathan Ladd** and **Cody Hughes** each had three tackles.

"Zach was unbelievable tonight," said Richardson. "He made tons of tackles, a pick and he was all over the field. He is our leader on defense. He directs everything. I am very impressed with Zach tonight."

Scott's interception started a 50-yard drive which ended

with quarterback **Nate Uballe** scoring a touchdown on less than 1-yard in 10 plays with 10 minutes to go in the first half.

It put the score at 10-0 with junior **Tristan Mattson's** 38-yard field goal, scored with 6:35 remaining in the first quarter.

Southfield scored with 22 seconds remaining in the first half with a touchdown pass to **Mathew Gilbert**, putting the score 10-7.

The Wolves put more distance in the score after a long drive in the third quarter which ended with Uballe connecting a 10-yard pass in the endzone to Donahue with 1:35 remaining in the quarter.

Uballe went 9-for-19 for 105 yards in passing. Senior **Tieler Houston** caught three passes for 40 yards and Donahue caught two passes for 16 yards. Senior **Josh Cantu** was the leading rusher, carrying the ball

23 times for 68 yards and three first downs. Mattson was 2-for-2 on PATs.

"Uballe gets better and better," said Richardson. "Tieler said he could take the kid so we went with what they said they could do. I am happy with what we've got. We've got some young pups on the offensive line. They mature every day. We are getting there."

The Wolves (2-0, 1-0 OAA Red) host Bloomfield Hills (2-0, 1-0 OAA Red) on Friday for the ninth annual Football for a Cure, which all money raised is donated to Karmanos Cancer Institutes in both communities. The donations help patients with non-medical expenses.

"Everyone is a winner," shared Carrie Wheeler, from McLaren Clarkston. "Thank you to both the teams, both the communities and Karmanos. We are very excited to be engaged in this game this year. The community has really wrapped their arms around this and we are really blessed. It really is helping all of our patients."

2
Week

Fluegel kicks off comeback win

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Within a span of seven minutes, Bloomfield Hills had scored two touchdowns to take the lead in last Friday's football game.

Clarkston's gridiron heroes needed a spark in their 34-20 win, and it came in the form of senior **Michael Fluegel** and his 53-yard run into the Blackhawk's territory.

"We did a sweep reverse and he just ran it down the field," said senior **Gino Paese**. "It switched the momentum and got us all thinking we can come back."

Four plays later senior **Nate Uballe** connected a 14-yard touchdown pass to senior **Tieler Houston** to tie the score with 9:01 left in the OAA Red game, 20-20.

"We flipped mentality after that," Paese said.

"It gave us a little spark from there we took over and finally had an answer for the dynamic duo they've got," said Kurt Richardson, long-time head coach for Clarkston Varsity Football. "I didn't have to say anything to them. They knew there was a sense of urgency and let's play the game."

The Wolves defense kept Bloomfield Hills from gaining any ground in their next possession. The control went back to Clarkston who scored three minutes after their last touchdown off a 23-yard touchdown pass to senior **Josh Cantu** from Uballe.

Clarkston scored again with 2:52 remaining in the game off Cantu's 55-yard quick run into the endzone, 34-20.

"The come back was real nice," said Paese. "It was a tough battle but it was very fun. We love to compete. I give credit to them (Bloomfield) for fighting back. We just lost a little bit of what keeps us motivated and going. We definitely found it again, bounded together, grouped up, and counted on each other."

Bloomfield Hills opened the game with control of the ball and were unable to score. The Blackhawks punted the ball with junior **Wolf Josh Luther** catching it and running it 74 yards to the 1-yard line.

Cantu scored on the next play to put

Clarkston on the board three minutes into the game. Cantu scored again with 2:55 remaining in the first quarter off a 5-yard run.

"That's what we are about," Richardson said about the running game adding Uballe also had some great passes. "We can throw the ball when we have to."

Uballe went 9-for-11 for passing for 146 yards for two touchdowns.

Cantu ran the ball 146 yards on 23 carries and Fluegel carried the ball six times for 96 yards. Junior **Tristan Mattson** went 4-for-5 on PATs with one

blocked.

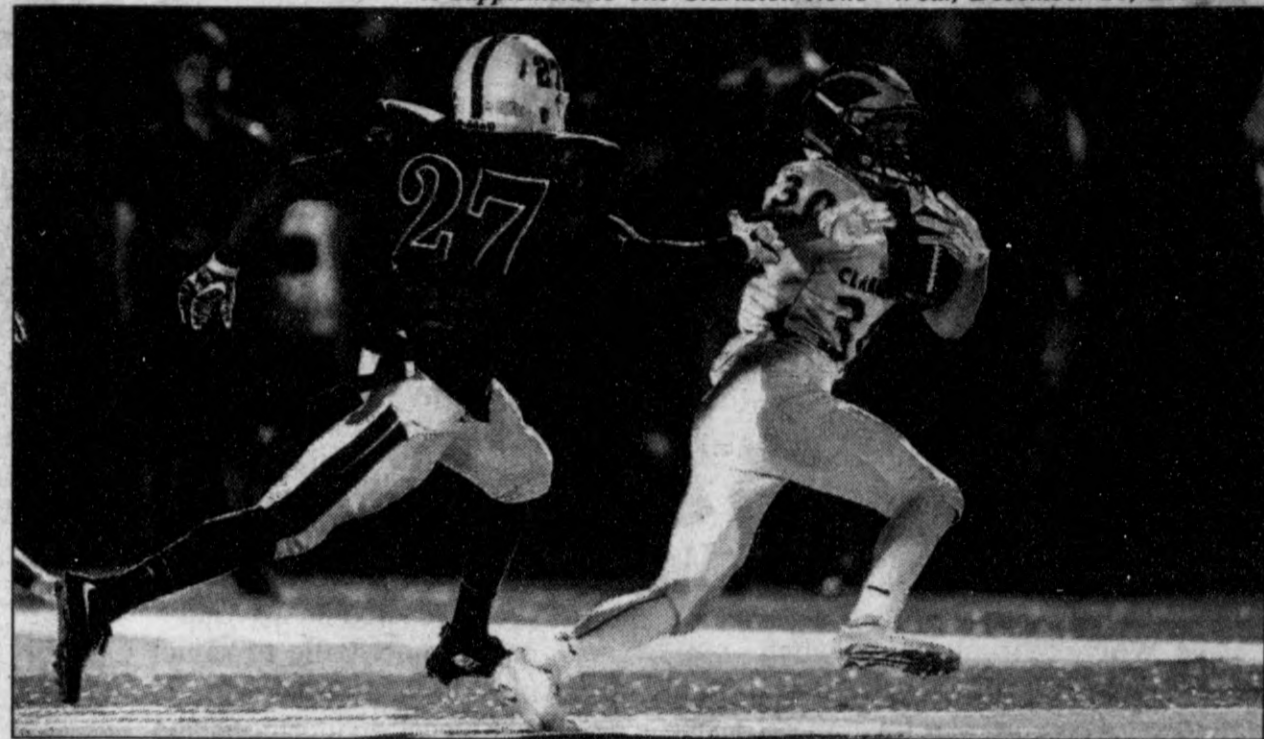
Paese led defense with eight tackles with four for losses and had two sacks. Senior **Zach Scott** and Fluegel each had four tackles and three assists each. Senior **Stewart Newblatt** had four tackles, one for loss of yards and a safety. Houston had two tackles and two assists and Luther had five tackles.

The Wolves (3-0, 2-0 OAA Red) head to West Bloomfield (1-2, 1-1) on Friday, 7 p.m.

"Every game is a different battle," Paese said. "Tonight definitely helps our confidence and helps us grow. The next battle is a new challenge, and we will come out with the same mentality."



Josh Cantu leaps into the endzone during the Wolves' home win over Bloomfield Hills. Photo by Larry Wright



Senior Michael Fluegel puts West Bloomfield on the chase. Photo by Larry Wright/WrightActionPix

Lessons learned in loss

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE

Clarkston News Sports Writer

The Wolves were back on the football field on Monday afternoon using their first loss of the season against West Bloomfield to get better.

"We made a lot of mistakes at key times," long-time Clarkston Varsity Football Head Coach Kurt Richardson reflected about the 37-15 loss. "They took advantage of them. They are a very good football team."

Both teams hadn't posted any points by the time the first quarter ended, but during the next quarter the Lakers came up with a 14-0 lead. Within the first two minutes of the second half, West Bloomfield added one more touchdown and PAT to the score.

The Wolves added points with a 49-yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback **Nate Uballe** to junior wide receiver **Conor Donahue**. Senior wide receiver **Tieler Houston** followed the play, catching a 2-point conversion.

Junior running back **Jake Billette** put Clarkston in the double digits after he scored on a 12-yard run. Junior kicker **Tristan Mattson** was successful on his PAT attempt.

Junior running back **Josh Cantu** was the leading rusher going 103 yards on 19 carries.

Senior **Gino Paese** and Houston led defense with five tackles each. Junior **Josh Luther**, senior **Zach Scott** and senior **Michael Fluegel** had four tackles each. Senior **Maxx Brennan** had three tackles and recovered a fumble.

Richardson added the boys can take something away from the loss.

"They have to come together," he said. "They've got to take a negative, turn it into a positive and make sure it doesn't happen again."

The Wolves (3-1, 2-1 OAA Red) next challenge takes them to Oxford High School in the Wildcats' home opener after going 1-3 on the road.

"They are going to have a bullseye on our back," said Richardson. "It's a game on paper we should win but we have to rebound. We have to go in there and play solid football."

Tickets are available online for the game at oxfordathletics.org/2017/09/18/buy-tickets-for-football-home-opener. Stadium ticket office is open on game day, 1-3 p.m. Kick off is 7 p.m.

3
Week

4
Week

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C'town's gridiron heroes shut out Wildcats

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

The Wolves bounced back from their first loss of the season in a big way as they took down Oxford last Friday, 48-0.

The first hit to the Wildcats' in their home opener came from senior running back **Josh Cantu** on a 1-yard touchdown run after senior quarterback **Nate Uballe's** handoff. The 60-yard drive was finished as the scoreboard hit 8:47 in the first quarter.

The Wolves struck again when senior linebacker **Zach Scott** intercepted Oxford's first pass and play for the night. Using the opportunity he scored his first varsity career touchdown for Clarkston, putting the game at 14-0 less than four minutes into the game.

"It was exciting," he said. "I saw it and jumped it. We knew after last week's loss (to West Bloomfield on Sept. 15) it was tough. We had to bounce back easily."

"We talked about it all week - how you handle adversity is really what makes a team, a person," said Kurt Richardson, long-time head coach for Clarkston Varsity Football.

He added getting a 14-0 lead in the first four minutes of the game helped the Wolves

"It took a lot of wind out of their sails," he

said. "It took them out of their game plan. It is a powerful blow."

Another blow came when the ball went loose during the Wildcats' possession. Senior Wolf linebacker **Stewart Newblatt** recovered the fumble with 8:16 on the clock.

Less than a minute later, senior **Tieler Houston** caught 7-yard touchdown pass from Uballe, putting the boys at 20-0.

During the second quarter, the Wolves scored on a 4-yard touchdown pass from Uballe to senior **Conner Heaton** and 13-yard touchdown run from senior **Michael Fluegel**, ending the half 34-0.

Fluegel scored again in the third quarter on a 73-yard run with 4:58 remaining.

Junior **Anthony Welch** added the last score on the board in the fourth quarter on a 5-yard run after receiving the hand off from junior quarterback **Jakob Jensen**.

"Everything is rolling," Scott said. "Our defense played well. Our offense looked great, too."

Uballe went 9-for-12 in passing for 93 yards with two touchdown passes. Houston caught four passes for 47 yards.

Fluegel was the the leading rusher for 150 yards on ten carries with two touchdowns.

Junior **Tristan Mattson** was 4-for-5 on PATs

5
Week



Nate Uballe hands the ball to Michael Fluegel, who scored two touchdowns in the Wolves' win over Oxford. Photo by Wendi Reardon Price

and senior **Jermaine Roemer** was 2-for-2 on extra points.

Scott led defense with five tackles, one tackle for loss. He had one interception, leading to a touchdown.

"He is definitely our leader on defense," Richardson said. "He plays tough all night."

Junior **Joshua Luther** had five tackles. Senior **Nathan Ladd** and junior **Jayviar Suggs** each had three tackles and one tackle for loss. Houston had an interception.

The Wolves (4-1, 3-1 OAA Red) head to Troy Athens (0-5, 0-4) on Friday, 4333 John R Road in Troy.



Offense comes to life in 45-13 pounding of Athens

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Clarkston's gridiron heroes have seen some tough opponents and this Friday's game at Rochester Adams won't be any different as both are battling for the OAA Red crown.

"They are pretty good," said Kurt Richardson, long-time head coach for Clarkston Varsity Football, about the Wolves' familiar foes. "We have to stop their running game. They are pretty solid all the way around, but their running game is their strength. We have played them in the past as our crossover because they are a good program with good kids."

He added, "Adams is very, very good. We will have to play our best game of the year so far to beat them."

The Wolves added one more win to their record last Friday in their battle at Troy Athens, 45-13.

"The score is deceiving," Richardson shared. "I don't think we played real well. It was sloppy, too many penalties. We didn't execute real well."

Senior runningbacks Michael Fluegel and Josh Cantu led in scoring with two touchdowns each. Fluegel scored on a 32-yard run and a 72-

yard run while rushing the ball 124 yards on six carries. Cantu scored on a 2-yard run and a 15-yard run as he rushed 16 times for 132 yards.

Junior runningback Jake Billette had a 25-yard touchdown run to help the boys in scoring.

Senior quarterback Nate Uballe was 6-for-14 for 116 yard with one touchdown to senior wide receiver Spencer Lenardson on a 42-yard pass. Lenardson had two receptions for 64 yards.

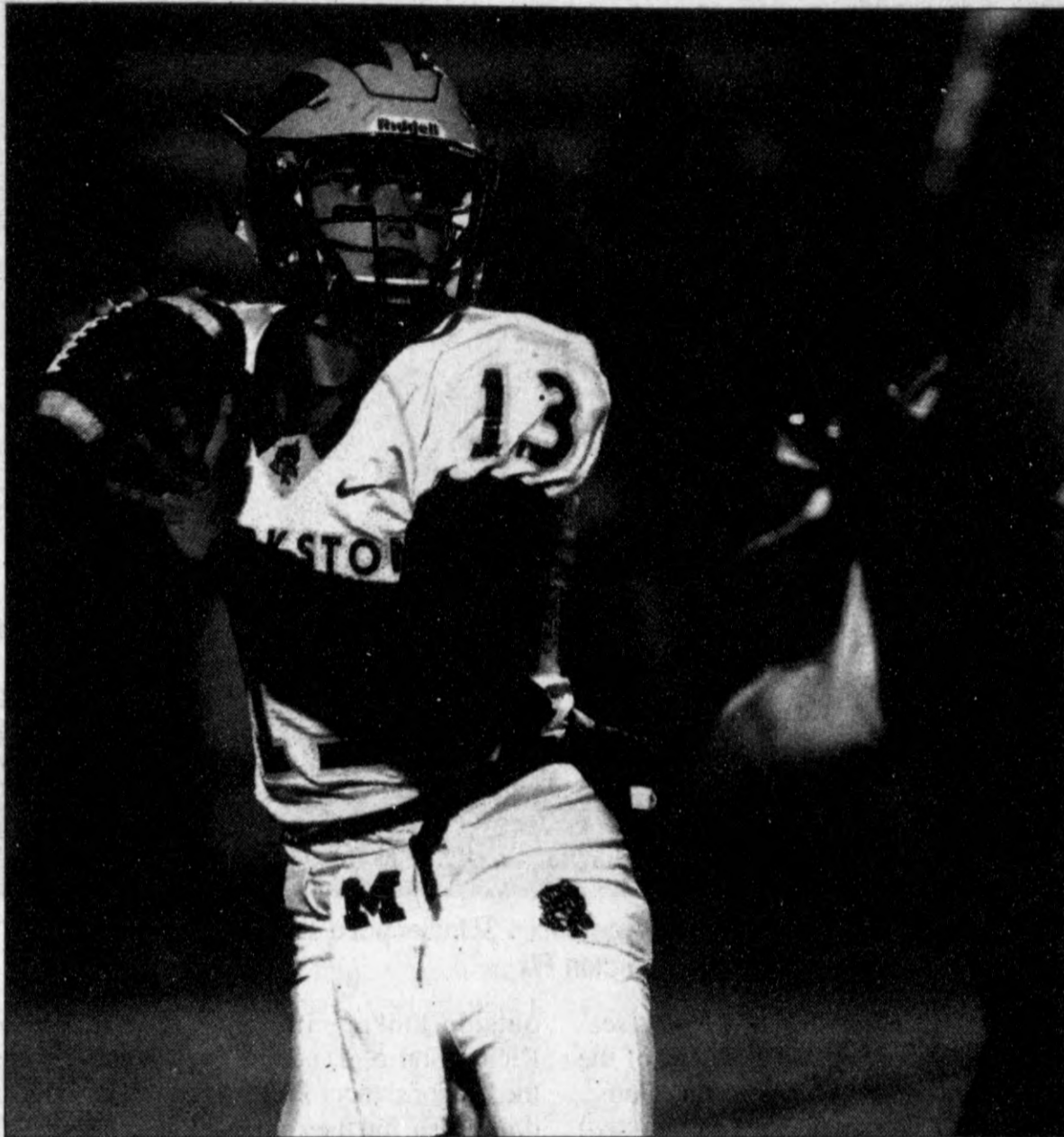
Junior kicker Tristan Mattson had a 43-yard field goal and went 4-for-4 on PATs. Senior Jermaine Roemer went 2-for-2 on PATs.

Senior Maxx Brennan led defense with six tackles and one interception. Senior Anthony Simmons had four tackles for 17 yards loss. Junior Josh Luther had five tackles and junior Conor Donahue had three tackles.

"The good thing is we got out of Athens pretty much injury free," Richardson said. "To be healthy going into Adams against them is big."

Both teams go in 5-1 overall and 4-1 in the OAA Red.

6 Week



Nate Uballe seeks out his target as Troy Athens defense closes in during the Wolves' 45-13 win on the road. Photo by Kyle Hughes

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Lost in the fog at Adams

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

A spark in the fourth quarter didn't lift the fog on the field or on the scoreboard for the Wolves at Rochester Adams last Friday.

Clarkston's gridiron heroes scored two touchdowns within a minute but lost the OAA Red league game, 21-14.

"The fourth quarter was nice, but we didn't play for three before that," said Kurt Richardson, long-time head coach for Clarkston Varsity Football. "They hung in there and came back. It's still a loss."

The Highlanders scored their third touchdown during their Homecoming game with 8:10 remaining on the clock.

Junior Wolf Josh Luther started the boys on the 32-yard line after catching the kick and running to the line before he was stopped.

A successful pass from senior quarterback Nate Uballe to junior Conor Donahue moved the boys to the 40-yard line. Two plays later, Donahue caught another pass from Uballe to help the Wolves gain 57 yards on the play to put them on the 3-yard line.

"He made a good catch," said Richardson.

Junior runningback Josh Cantu scored the first touchdown for Clarkston as the clock marked 6:56 on the 1-yard run.

The Wolves kicked off and senior Gino

Paese recovered the onside kick to put Clarkston on the 45-yard line.

Five plays later, Uballe completed an 11-yard touchdown pass to Donahue at 5:58.

Uballe went 8-for-26 for 117 yards on passing with one touchdown pass to Donahue.

Donahue caught five of the passes for 101 yards.

Cantu was the leading rusher with 61 yards on 19 carries with one touchdown run. Junior Tristan Mattson went 2-for-2 on PATs.

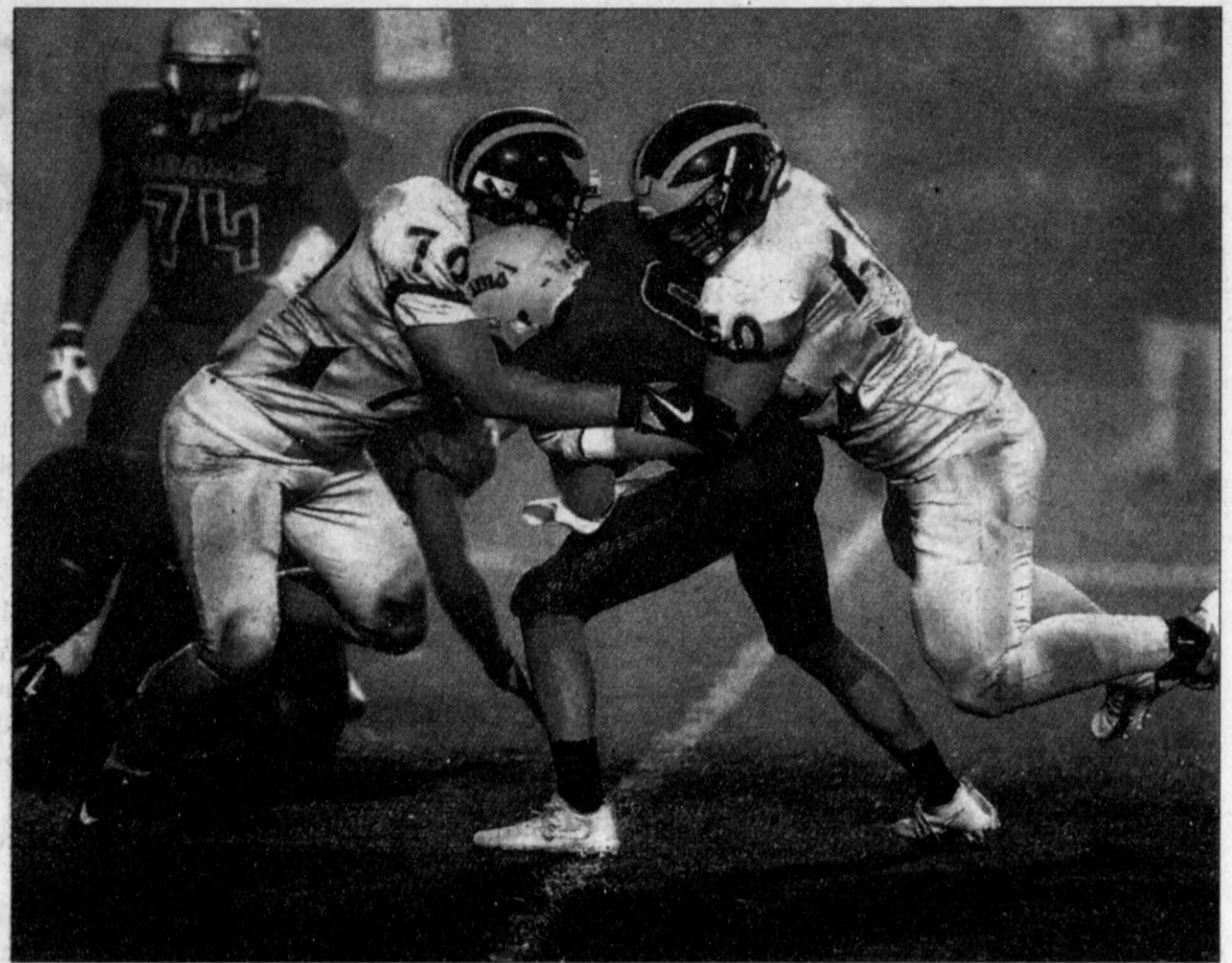
Senior Cody Hughes led defense with eight tackles and one assist. Paese had four tackles, four assists, one tackle for a six-yard loss, and recovered a onside kick. Senior Zach Scott had four tackles, six assists, one tackle for loss on yards and recovered a fumble.

Senior Stewart Newblatt had five tackles and five assists. Junior Jayviar Suggs had three tackles, four assists and one tackle for a loss.

"They are well-coached and a tough football team," Richardson added about the Highlanders. "They are probably better up front than I thought they would be. We couldn't block them. Usually we can block people. It didn't help we lost (Michael) Fluegel, he's got a hamstring injury."

The Wolves (5-2, 4-2 OAA Red) need one

7 Week



Senior Stewart Newblatt, left, and freshman Rocco Spindler put a stop on Rochester Adams' offense. Photo by Larry Wright/Wright Action Pix

more win for a playoff spot in the post-season and need to accomplish it in one of the next two games which includes hosting Homecoming against Lake Orion (2-5, 2-4 OAA Red) and a OAA crossover game.

"They better win or they will be on the

outside looking in come playoff time," Richardson said, adding they aren't taking the Dragons' record for granted. "They aren't doing well, but they are still Lake Orion."

The Wolves host the Dragons on Friday. Kick off is at 7 p.m.

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Clarkston lands playoff spot

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Gridiron heroes clinched a playoff spot as they finished their game against Lake Orion with a 17-9 win last Friday.

The Clarkston Varsity Football team is back to practice this week, working to finish the regular season better than the last two weeks have gone for them on the field.

"We just had no fire," reflected Kurt Richardson, long-time head coach of the Wolves, after the team's win over Orion. "We couldn't run the ball. The turnovers were huge. We better get better in a hurry."

The Wolves opened the scoring with 6:55 remaining in the first half with a 16-yard touchdown run from senior **Michael Fluegel**. Junior kicker **Tristan Mattson** added to the score with a successful PAT attempt, 7-0.

Lake Orion closed the half with a field goal with 1:12 remaining.

The Wolves scored again in the bottom of the third quarter as senior quarterback **Nate Uballe** passed the ball to senior wide receiver **Tieler Houston** for a 85-yard touchdown run with 2:21 on the clock.

"I don't know what the offensive guys saw," said Richardson. "They saw something. It was huge."

Lake Orion closed in on the score with a touchdown with six minutes to go. During the play they received a penalty for unsportsman conduct, pushing their attempt for extra points back 15 yards. Senior **Zach Scott** sacked their quarterback before they could add more points to their score.

The Wolves next big play came from senior **Cody Hughes** as he intercepted the Dragons' pass attempt with 2:34 left in the game. Twenty-five seconds later senior kicker and punter **Jermaine Roemer** scored on his 41-yard field goal attempt, putting the score 17-9.

The Dragons didn't give up as they made one more attempt for a touchdown with three seconds to go. The pass went into the endzone and Houston deflected the pass before it could be caught.

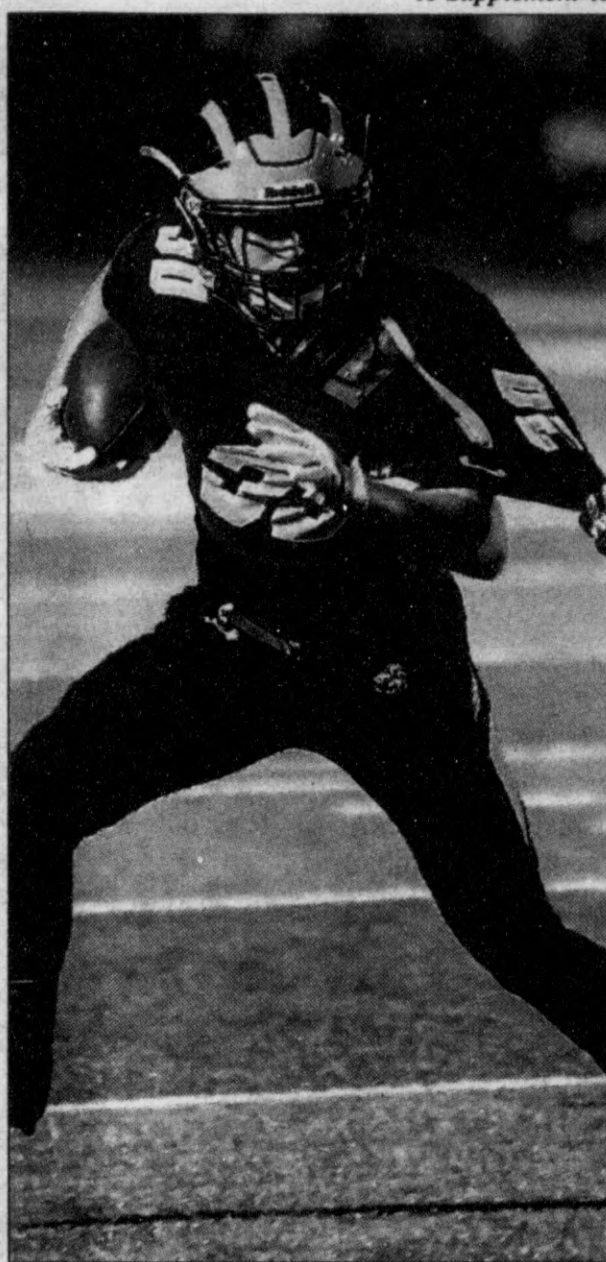
"Hats off to Lake Orion," Richardson added. "They are 2-and-5 (in OAA Red) and they played their butts off - that's a tribute to the kids and their coaches."

Uballe was 11-for-17 in passing for 177 yards. Houston caught five of the passes for 125 yards.

Fluegel was the leading rusher, going 85 yards on ten carries. Mattson was 2-for-2 on

8
Week

Continued on Page 17



Senior Michael Fluegel keeps his pace as Lake Orion tries to stop him. Photo by Larry Wright

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2017-18 Roster

1 Tieler Houston
 2 Conor Donahue
 3 Spencer Lenardson
 4 Jakob Jensen
 5 Max Nicklin
 6 Trevor King
 7 Keagan King
 8 Cody Spears
 9 Conner Heaton
 10 Jacob Berman
 11 Zach Reid
 12 Sydney Seng
 13 Nathan Uballe
 14 Jermaine Roemer
 15 Briggs Tedder
 16 Jacob Billette
 17 Ryan Wycoff

18 Joshua Luther
 19 Ethan King
 20 Zach Scott
 22 Clayton Hall
 27 Cody Hughes
 28 Jordan Viers
 29 Nathan Ladd
 30 Michael Fluegal
 31 Jayviar Suggs
 32 Anthony Simmons
 33 Christian Dominguez
 34 Joshua Cantu
 36 Jack Featherston
 37 Joseph Steger
 38 Seamus O'Donnell
 39 Tristan Mattson
 42 Joshua Pacolt
 43 Maxx Brennan

44 Brendan Barker
 45 Gino Paese
 48 Alexander Nastasa
 50 Rocco Spindler
 51 Noah Nicklin
 52 Cameron Pass
 53 John Selwocki
 54 Noah Burt
 56 Garrett Joseph
 58 Trevor Townson
 59 Kobe Barragan
 60 Cody Dellinger
 61 Vincent Conforti
 62 Anthony Welch
 63 Carsen Quick
 64 Ryan Snyder
 65 Joshua Crull
 68 Jack Holmes

69 Aaron Berti
 70 Stewart Newblatt
 71 Zachary Aldrich
 72 Logan Klima
 73 Dominic Maniscalchi
 74 Garrett Dellinger
 75 Devon Banks
 76 Eric Benson
 77 Mawell Mengyan
 79 Brandon Marcks
 81 Jaydon Septer
 82 Peter Galligan
 83 Blake Peterson
 84 Mark McLouth
 86 Michael Thornton
 90 Ryan Cooper
 93 Chase Lajiness

Offensive Coaches:

Rich Porritt
 Luke Denver
 Ryan Kaul
 Jeff Long
 Justin Pintar

Defensive coaches:

Steve Pearson
 Phil Price
 Tony Miller

Head Coach:
 Kurt Richardson

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Regular Season Record

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Friday	08/25/17	Lapeer High School at Ann Arbor	W	42-7
Thursday	09/01/17	Southfield Arts & Tech High School	W	17-7
Friday	09/08/17	Bloomfield Hills High School	W	34-20
Friday	09/15/17	West Bloomfield High School	L	15-37
Friday	09/22/17	Oxford High School	W	48-0
Friday	09/29/17	Troy Athens High School	W	45-13
Friday	10/06/17	Rochester Adams High School	L	14-21
Friday	10/13/17	Lake Orion High School	W	17-9
Friday	10/20/17	Harrison	W	23-12

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Clarkston Defeated Grand Blanc Round 1, 37-7
 Clarkston Defeated Davison for District Title, 28-0
 Clarkston Defeated Holland West Ottawa, 29-22

State Championship Game
at Ford Field, Detroit, Nov. 25, 2017

Final Score:
Clarkston, 3 - West Bloomfield, 2

Post season starts in Clarkston

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Gridiron heroes marked the end of the weekend in front of the television as MHSAA announced the pairings during Sunday Selection.

The time came for Division 1 and Clarkston was drawn to host Grand Blanc (7-2) in the Pre-District round this Friday.

The Wolves finished their regular season with a 23-12 win over Farmington Hills Harrison (6-3, 6-1 OAA White).

"It was a great win because that is a very good football team," said long-time head coach Kurt Richardson. "Anytime you beat a Harrison team it's great. You know they are well-coached."

So well-coached that the Wolves celebrated the Hawks' head coach John Herrington before the game. Herrington became the winningest coach in MHSAA history with 431 wins when Harrison defeated Berkley, Oct. 13.

The Hawks scored on their first play on a 70-yard touchdown run only 14 seconds into

the game. The Wolves blocked their PAT attempt putting the score 6-0 for Harrison.

Harrison scored again with four minutes remaining in the first quarter off a 1-yard run. They were blocked again by Clarkston defense as they tried for a 2-point conversion.

The Wolves struck back in the next quarter scoring not once, not twice, but three times.

Senior quarterback Nate Uballe handed the ball to senior running back Josh Cantu for a 1-yard touchdown with 8:23 left in the first half. A successful PAT from senior kicker Jermaine Roemer put the Wolves at seven points.

Harrison took over control of the ball and during their fourth play senior Zach Scott intercepted the ball to turn and make his second touchdown of his career for Clarkston with 6:43 on the clock. Roemer scored on another PAT and put the score, 14-12.

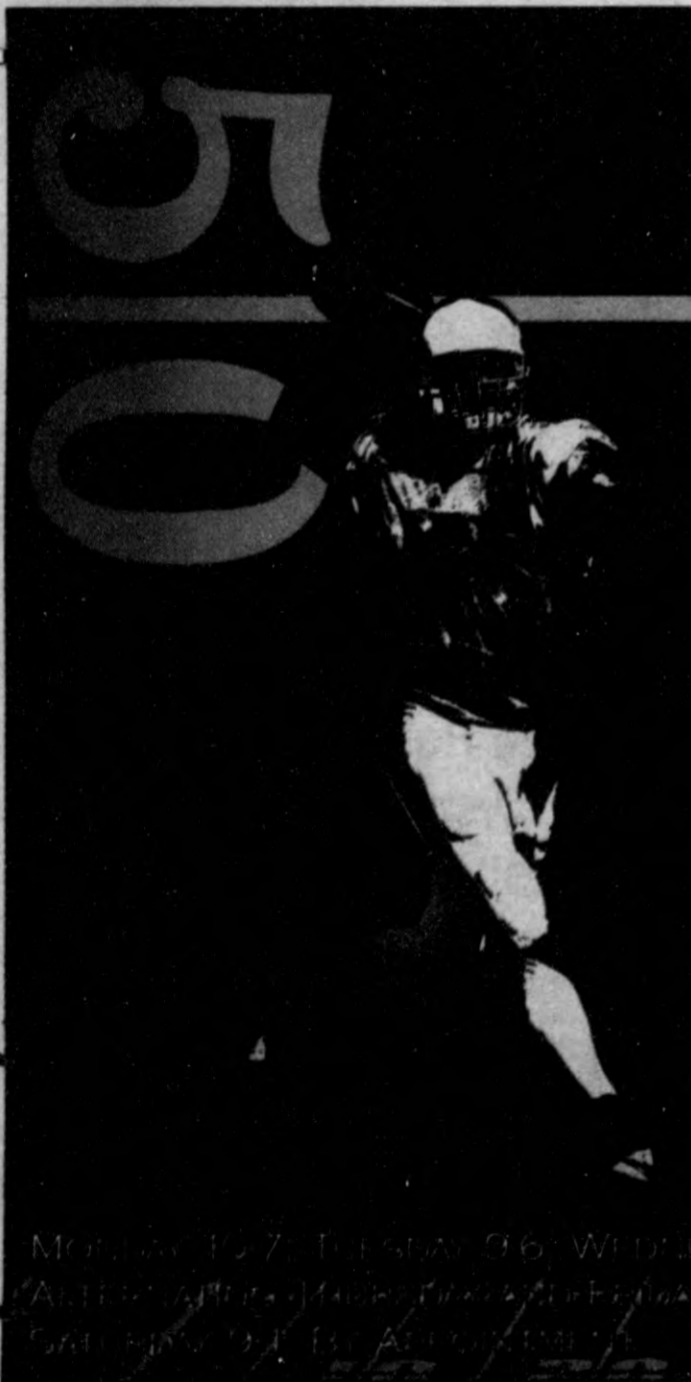
"We made some great adjustments offensively and defensively," said Richardson. "After those two quick ones we played darn good defense. It was a great

Continued on Page 17



Senior linebacker Zach Scott helps put a stop on Farmington Hills Harrison. Photo by Larry Wright

9 Week



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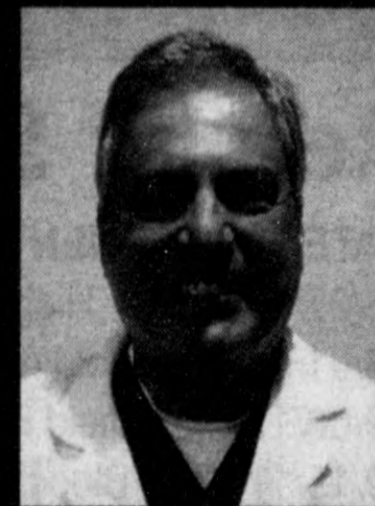
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"One other thing I would like to mention is the great job our assistant coaches did this year and every year. Those guys do not get enough credit for the hard work they put in and the product that is the field and even more importantly the things they do for kids that have nothing to do with football. Our program is not just about winning championships but more importantly about the people -- players coaches, parents and fans -- that help win those championships." -- Coach Kurt Richardson



From left, Phil Price, Kurt Richardson, Justin Pintar, Luke Denver and Jeff Long receive their new blonde do from Brooke Manuel. Not in picture, Ryan Kaul, Tony Miller, Steve Pearson and Rich Porritt. Special thanks to Clarkston Community Schools Superintendent Dr. Rod Rock for the photo.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the Clarkston High School Football team
on their Division 1 State Football Championship



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Michael Fluegel outruns Grand Blanc during the Wolves' 37-7 win. Photo by Larry Wright

Wolves set sights on championship

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

C'town's gridiron heroes gathered for the traditional post-game festivities calling out to senior Michael Fluegel to open the dancing after the Wolves defeated Grand Blanc in their MHSAA Football pre-district game last Friday, 37-7.

Fluegel, who celebrated his birthday, was serenaded "Happy Birthday" by his classmates in the Jungle after he scored the second touchdown of the night with 2:39 remaining in the first quarter.

Senior quarterback Nate Uballe connected a 44-yard pass to Fluegel, who zigged and zagged down the field avoiding Grand Blanc defenders until he finished in the endzone.

The Wolves opened the game with a 63-yard run by senior running back Josh Cantu on the first play. Cantu would strike again as the clock hit 10:46 on the first touchdown of the night.

"We got the running game going again

and that was our goal," said Kurt Richardson, long-time head coach for the Wolves. "It was a nice win."

Clarkston closed the first half 17-0 after a 29-yard field goal from senior Jermaine Roemer.

They posted 20 more points before Grand Blanc closed the night with their lone touchdown with three minutes remaining.

Uballe went 4-for-8 in passing for 105 yards. Cantu was the

leading rusher for the night going 173 yards on 21 carries and scoring three touchdowns. Fluegel carried the ball eight times for 87 yards. Junior Jake Billette carried the ball six times for 45 yards and scored on a 13-yard touchdown in the last eight minutes of the game.

Richardson added the offensive line, with core players Stewart Newblatt, Cameron Pass, Garrett Dellinger, and Rocco Spindler, were key.

"I don't care when it is or where it is, they

Continued on Page 17

10 Week

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Wolves shut out Cardinals, 28-0!

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

The Clarkston Wolves ran and slid on Davison's muddy field in celebration Saturday night as they claimed the MHSAA Football District championship with a 28-0 win.

11
Week

The Clarkston Varsity Football team was all smiles when they accepted the trophy and ran it to the visitor side stands to share with friends, classmates and family.

"We did a lot of good things tonight," Kurt Richardson smiled. "I thought **Josh Cantu** was freaking awesome. I thought our offensive line was awesome. I thought our composure was awesome. Our defense flew to the ball."

Cantu, senior running back, agreed, "it was a good team win. The offensive linemen did a phenomenal job. We couldn't have done better tonight."

Cantu led the team scoring all four touchdowns for the night and ran the ball 264 yards on 32 carries.

"Just going to run the ball as normal," he said.

The Wolves opened the game starting on the 21-yard line and were quickly moved to the 26-yard line after a penalty was called on the Cardinals. Senior quarterback **Nate Uballe** handed the ball to Cantu who ran 40 yards putting Clarkston into Davison's territory.

Cantu scored three plays later on a 28-yard touchdown run as the clock hit less than three minutes into the game.

He struck again in the second quarter on a 3-yard run with 9:33 remaining in the first half.

The Cardinals opened the second half



Senior running back Josh Cantu grabs the handoff from senior quarterback Nate Uballe as sophomore linebacker Josh Pacolt (No. 42) blocks Davison's defense. Photo by Wendi Reardon Price

aiming to score on their visitors, but they turned the ball over one minute into the third quarter as the ball came loose. Senior linebacker **Stewart Newblatt** recovered the ball for Clarkston, setting the boys up at the 25-yard line in Davison's turf.

Cantu scored 90 seconds later on a 3-yard run and closed the quarter with a 2-yard run to put the score, 28-0.

Senior kicker **Jermaine Roemer** was 4-for-4 on PAT attempts. Senior linebacker **Anthony Simmons** led defense with six tackles and had one interception. Junior linebacker **Brendan Barker** and senior linebacker **Gino Paese** had five tackles each. Senior defensive back **Tieler Houston** had his fifth interception of the year.

The Wolves (9-2) take on Holland

West Ottawa (10-1) for the MHSAA Football Regional title on Saturday.

"I know they are good," said Richardson. "They beat Rockford (33-28)."

"I am excited," added Cantu.

Kick off is 1 p.m. at Holland West Ottawa, 3685 Butternut Drive, Holland, MI 49424.

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On to final 4

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE
Clarkston News Sports Writer

Clarkston's gridiron heroes overcame a 16-point deficit in the final stanza of their MHSAA Football Division 1 Regional game at Holland West Ottawa. The 29-22 win propels them to the Final Four.

"The ending was just fun. Everybody was out on the field taking pictures with the trophy. It was cool," said Kurt Richardson, long-time head coach for Clarkston Varsity Football. "It was a great fourth quarter. It was a pretty good second

12 Week

half. We didn't play good the first half. I don't know if it was the 2-hour bus drive, but we were kind of flat. Second half, we got it going. Josh Cantu and the offensive line were outstanding."

Cantu scored within the first minute of the final quarter off a 1-yard run. Before West Ottawa could score, Wolf Garrett Joseph recovered a fumble putting Clarkston at the Panther's 15-yard line. Seconds later Cantu would add another 15-yard touchdown run to the board. Quarterback Nate Uballo followed each touchdown with a 2-point conversion pass to senior Tieler Houston, tying the game 22-22. With just over three minutes left in the game, Cantu scored again on a 29-yard line.

"Anytime Josh is doing well that means the offensive line is too," Richardson explained. "They are the one who really



From left, Conor Donahue, Spencer Lenardson, Cody Hughes, Maxx Brennan and Jack Featherston proudly pose with the regional trophy. Photo by Kyle Hughes

took command of that game."

He added defense turned things around in the second half as well.

"We started putting pressure on the quarterback," he said. "We started flying to the football like we have been doing. We didn't do that in the first half. We were playing real cautious. We caused a couple of turnovers. We did some good things in the second half, the fourth quarter especially."

The Wolves opened the game with a 2-yard touchdown run from Cantu.

"We came out and scored right away, and I thought 'okay, we are good,'" Richardson shared. "Then, we just, I don't

know, flat there for a little while. I don't know what the reason was."

The Panthers closed the first quarter taking the lead with a field goal and a touchdown. They scored 12 more points in the second quarter to lead 22-6 at halftime. Uballo went 8-for-14 in passing for 94 yards with two interceptions. Houston and Zach Scott caught two passes each. Cantu was the leading rusher with 201 yards on 34 carries. Jermaine Roemer was 1-for-2 on PATs with his first attempt blocked.

Scott led defense with six tackles and blocked one of the Panther's PAT attempts. Josh Luther and Anthony

Simmons had five tackles each. Gino Paese had four tackles, two with loss of yards for West Ottawa.

"Paese was outstanding," Richardson added. "He was really good at the end. Tieler had a good game."

The Wolves (10-2) play Detroit Catholic Central (8-4) in the MHSAA Division 1 Football Semifinals on Saturday. The last time Clarkston faced DCC was in 2013 when they beat them for the state championship.

"They are big, strong and run orientated," Richardson said. "They are a great program with a rich history. It will be a good game. It will be a good battle."

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From the Big House to Ford Field, a special football season

Continued from Page 2

from a win. That is what the kids did, especially with the Adams loss, took it to heart and worked harder than before."

KR says since he played for Clarkston in 1970 and even after he started coaching under then head coach Rob White in 1977 the game, rules and even the players have changed.

"Probably the biggest thing is the

concussion protocol and protecting kids health. We use to hit all the time in practice and you thought nothing about playing a little bit woozy or with a head ache. That is the biggest change and one for the better."

Back in the day, he said, teams were built to grind the game away — power and strength. Today, it is about speed. "Everybody is trying to get their athletes out in space and let them run."

And, while many in today's society feel entitled to nice things, KR says this team

not only works hard on the field, they also take pride in their community.

"Our kids help raise money for their uniforms. Our families helped raise the money for the field-house; previous kids have worked their tails off to create that tradition and pride and our kids give back to the community in our cancer game, Rush for Food and other ways.

"This season was very magical because nobody expected it and it was done the old fashioned way with hard work and unselfish teammates. This team with local

kids beat a team with a bunch of transfers from all over. This team won the right way -- the way high school sports are supposed to be played."

Please enjoy this section, a re-cap of every game. Oh, about puking, says he, "No we don't say that if you are not puking you are not working hard enough. Now we just tell them make sure when you puke you are off the turf and not on the track!"

Congrats coach, assistant coaches, players and parents. Nicely done.

PATs.

Senior **Zach Scott** led defense with ten tackles, two with loss of yards for the Dragons. Hughes had six tackles, three assists and one interception and senior **Maxx Brennan** had five tackles and three assists.

The Wolves (6-2, 5-1 OAA Red) will find out during MHSAA's Selection Show this Sunday on FOX Sports Detroit - PLUS who they will face in the first round of playoffs. Before then, they host Farmington Hills Harrison (6-2, 6-1 OAA White) on Friday.

"We came out really ugly tonight," Houston reflected after the win over Orion. "We have a lot of things we need to work on. We are still trying to get better as a team. We are still coming together. Everything will fall into place. Go Wolves." Kick off is at 7 p.m.

win for us."

The next three scores for the Wolves came from Roemer who successfully completed three field goals with two of them for 28 yards in distance and one for 45 yards.

"Jermaine was outstanding tonight," said Richardson. "We gave him a shot last week and he made it. He came through this week. Tristan Mattson didn't pout and he was putting it in the endzone. The kicking game, offense, defense - all was good tonight."

Uballe was 7-for-12 in passing for 157 yards. Senior **Tieler Houston** caught four of the passes for 77 yards and Scott caught two passes for 65 yards. The leading rusher was Cantu with 56 yards on 12 carries and one touchdown.

Scott led defense with seven tackles, four assists and one interception return for a touchdown. Senior **Gino Paese** had seven tackles and two assists. Junior Jayviar Suggs had three tackles.

The Wolves host Grand Blanc on Friday.

are always key," he said. "They know it. We talk about it all the time. They played great tonight."

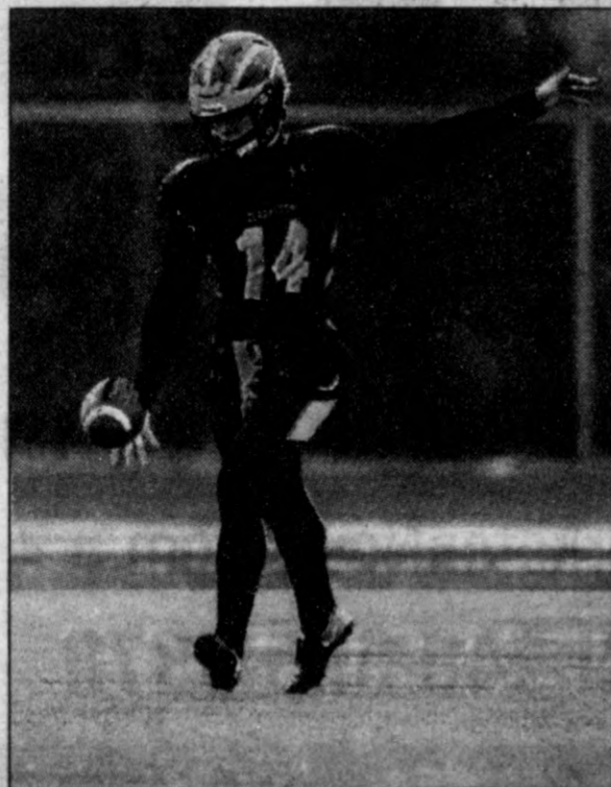
Roemer went 3-for-3 on PATs and junior **Tristan Mattson**, who handled kickoffs for the night, was successful on his lone PAT.

Junior **Josh Luther** along with seniors **Zach Scott** and **Anthony Simmons** had four tackles and three assists each. Luther also had a recovered fumble and an interception. Senior **Tieler Houston** also had an interception as the Bobcats attempted for a touchdown pass in the endzone.

The Wolves (8-2) aim to repeat last year's district championship success defeating Davison (9-1) for the second consecutive year.

Clarkston heads to Davison High School on Saturday. Kick off is at 7 p.m. There are no pre-sale tickets for the game. Tickets will be available when the gate opens at 5:30 p.m. They are \$5 each.

No passes are accepted per MHSAA.



Senior Jermaine Roemer punts the ball. Photo by Larry Wrigh

8
Week,
continued

10
Week,
continued

13
Week

Ford Field bound!

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE

Clarkston News Sports Writer

"Guess where we are going," Kurt Richardson, long-time head coach of Clarkston Varsity Football, asked on the cold, rainy field of Walled Lake Western, Saturday afternoon.

The gridiron heroes just cheered — they all knew they were headed back to Ford Field for the MHSAA Division 1 Football State Final this Saturday, 1 p.m. They sealed the deal by defeating Detroit Catholic Central, 27-7.

"I said earlier in the week I thought it would come down to who could run the ball better," said Richardson. "We ran the ball better. **Michael Fluegel** was good. Offensive line did a tremendous job and defensively we played real well. We made three huge special plays - special teams were huge."

The Wolves were unable to score on their first possession sending senior kicker **Jermaine Roemer** out to punt the ball, which went 69 yards, starting the Shamrocks' on their own 1-yard line.

Junior **Brendan Barker** and freshman **Rocco Spindler** kept the Shamrocks to a gain of only two yards in the first two plays.

"We were flying to the ball and our defensive front guys did a tremendous job," Richardson said.

On the third down, DCC threw a pass and senior **Cody Hughes** caught it, turning control over to Clarkston and ran to the 2-yard line before he was stopped. Senior **Nate Uballe** handed the ball to senior **Josh Cantu** who ran in a 2-yard touchdown as the clock marked 6:43.

The Wolves next score came with 5:35 remaining in the first half off a 6-yard run by **Fluegel**, putting the score 14-0.

The Shamrocks opened the second half fumbling the kick off from Clarkston. The Wolves recovered it on the 18-yard line. Three minutes later, **Fluegel** ran in for a 6-yard touchdown just making it into the endzone.

Fluegel scored again with 4:21 remaining in the third quarter after the Shamrocks ran out of downs and the ball went to Clarkston. **Uballe**

handed the ball to **Fluegel** and he took off for a 71-yard touchdown run.

Richardson added the team peaked at the right time for the season.

"I told them we could be special," he explained. "Then, we took a big hit when we lost **Noah (Nicklin)**. We've had other kids step it up. Then, the Rochester Adams loss - sometimes you turn a negative into a positive. I think that was part of the deal. They wanted to go after it."

Fluegel was the leading rusher with 111 yards on 19 carries with touchdowns. **Cantu** ran 95 yards on 21 carries with one touchdown.

"Mike has always been a feature back the last couple years and at the tail end of the season we started using him more on defense," Richardson said. "Josh is a mudder the more the weather got bad. **Michael** stepped up today and made the run. It sealed the deal."

Roemer went 3-for-4 on PATs. He had three punts for 163 yards.

"The guy with little acknowledgement, **Roemer**, played a huge role," **Nicklin** shared on Twitter. "Totally different game without him."

Senior **Zach Scott** led defense with eight tackles and one sack. Senior **Gino Paese**, senior **Tieler Houston**, junior **Josh Luther** and **Barker** each had four tackles. **Paese** had one sack in the fourth quarter.

It was the second time Clarkston played Detroit Catholic Central in the playoffs in which they defeated the Shamrocks for the state title for their community. Richardson took a moment glancing over the field as players congratulated each other and received hugs and high fives from family and friends.

"This is special," he said, about the Wolves winning the semifinals for the community. "This is a special community. It always has been. I am just glad we can go back."

The Wolves (11-2) head to Ford Field for a rematch against OAA Red foe West Bloomfield (11-2) for the state championship. Tickets are available at Ford Field for \$10.

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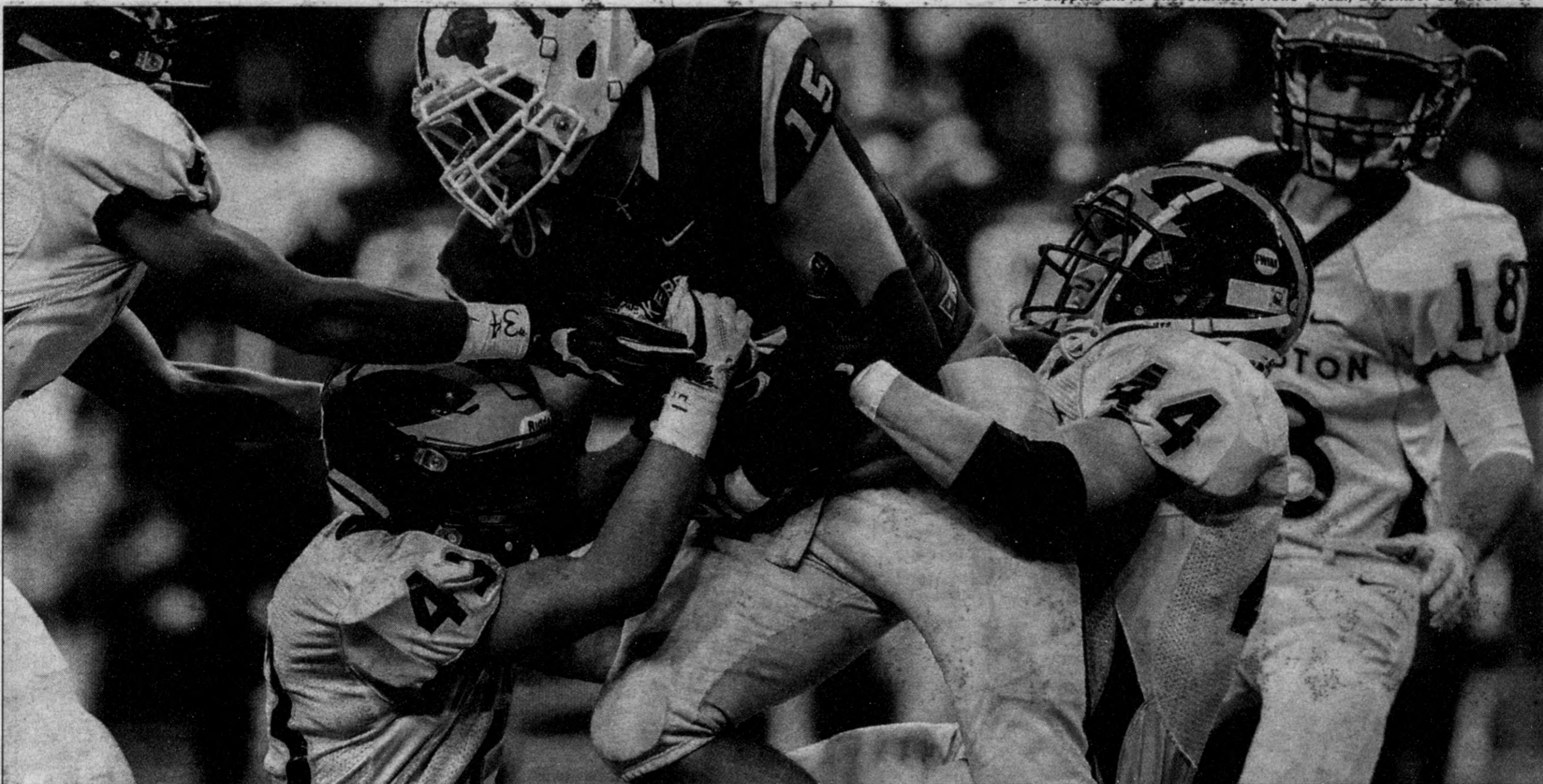
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Senior Maxx Brennan and junior Brendan Barker take down West Bloomfield's James Faulkner after the Lakers gain 14 yards in the second quarter of the MHSAA Division 1 Football Finals at Ford Field last Saturday. Photo by Larry Wright

Defense leads way to state championship

BY WENDI REARDON PRICE

Clarkston News Sports Writer

Fans had cause for Thanksgiving after a stony defensive line stopped West Bloomfield cold, winning the Wolves their third MHSAA Division 1 Football State Championship this past Saturday.

"It's another great day for C-Town," said Kurt Richardson, long time head coach for Clarkston Varsity Football, as the gridiron heroes celebrated their third trip to Ford Field with hugs and high fives. "We have great support from our fans. Our kids, they win, but most importantly they win the right way."

It came down to a 3-2 score against OAA Red foes West Bloomfield, which Richardson attributed to a tremendous job from the defensive line coaches and play-

"It was a total defensive game plan by Phil Price, Tony Miller and Steve Pearson," he said, adding the assistant coaches spent late nights putting together plans of action and watching all the film on West Bloomfield.

"The kids deserve a ton of credit for the things we asked them to do because a lot of it was brand new," Richardson added.

"The defensive line kept pressure on them. The linebackers were taking away all the underneath passes. Then, the secondary were taking away the deep."

The Wolves lone score came from a 30-yard field goal from senior kicker **Jermaine Roemer** with two seconds remaining in the first half.

"I wouldn't be able to get down there without my team," Roemer said.

"Our kickers were outstanding all year," Richardson added.

West Bloomfield's two points came with three minutes remaining in the first quarter when Clarkston's snap for a punt went too high and into the endzone for a safety.

Richardson added **Cody Spears**, the snapper, responded well.

"He had to snap the ball eight more times," he said. "He didn't let it carry over. He didn't let it affect him mentally, which was huge."

The Lakers attempted a touchdown pass from the 7-yard line with 9:44 remaining in the second quarter and senior **Wolf Zach Scott** reached up for an interception.

Clarkston had another big interception with 1:29 left in the game, this time it was senior **Tieler Houston** with the catch on the 49-yard line, closing the game with Wolves

in possession.

"Coach always talks about keeping the middle sealed and always have your eyes on the swivel. I saw him come out and I just made the play," Houston said.

"We found a way, that's what these kids have been about all year, is finding ways to win," Richardson said, adding they lost senior running back **Josh Cantu** due to an injury during the semifinals against Detroit Catholic Central. "He was a huge part of our offense. Our kids just figured out we have to win some other way."

Fluegel, who played both defensive back and running back for the game, agreed.

"It's something the coaches always preach. Your name can be called at any moment," he said. "You have to step up and step up to the occasion. I just tried to do my best and help my team."

It was the lowest score in the MHSAA Final in which both teams score. The championship game also tied the record for most punts by two teams. Roemer made eight for 284 yards.

Senior **Cody Hughes** had five tackles, five assists and a fumble recovery in the first half. Scott had four tackles, two assists and one interception. Senior **Gino Paese** had four tackles, one assist and one sack. Junior **Jayviar Suggs** and Fluegel had three tackles

and one assist each. Suggs had one sack. Junior **Joshua Luther** and senior **Nathan Ladd** had two tackles and one assist.

Senior quarterback **Nate Uballe** went 5-for-12 for 33 yards. Senior **Connor Heaton** was the leading receiver with two catches for 22 yards.

Junior running back **Jacob Billette** was the leading rusher with 69 yards on 14 carries with four first downs. Fluegel went 41 yards on 11 carries.

The Wolves closed out the season with a 12-2 record, with losses to West Bloomfield, 37-16, and Rochester Adams, 21-14.

"We always talk to kids about turning a negative into a positive," Richardson said. "When we got our butt beat by Adams it was a wake up call, we've got to turn things around. We started making strides. Our running game changed a little bit. A lot of people said we didn't have a chance in the second game of playoffs. We didn't have a chance in the third game. Everybody said we didn't have a chance tonight (against West Bloomfield) and they just came out and played the game."

"You just have to believe," Scott added. "If everyone believes we can do it. We have enough athletes, we can do it."




Congratulations Clarkston Wolves! 2017 Division 1 Football State Champions

We at McLaren Clarkston know first hand the commitment, discipline and skill required of a team of champions, and we wholeheartedly congratulate the Clarkston High School gridiron athletes, their coaches, teachers and families.

Achieving the school's third state football title in five years is a major accomplishment and a tribute to the coaching staff and students who have worked so hard to build a tradition of excellence.

*We're proud to care for the Clarkston community.
Go Wolves!*

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