

The Clarkston News

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Community group comes up with new plan for city hall

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

A renovated, expanded city hall is back on track, sparked by a new community initiative.

"We've been working on this project for about 4-5 months," said local builder Sam Moraco, who is teaming up with Clarkston teachers Jeff Peariso and Steve Wyckoff, local architect Jerome Carter, and others. "We've done this before – it would be like what we did in Independence Township with the senior center."

With an estimated total cost of \$297,500, the project would add eight feet to the north side of the Artemus M. Pappas Village Hall for DPW office and shop, 32-foot-10-inch-by-23-

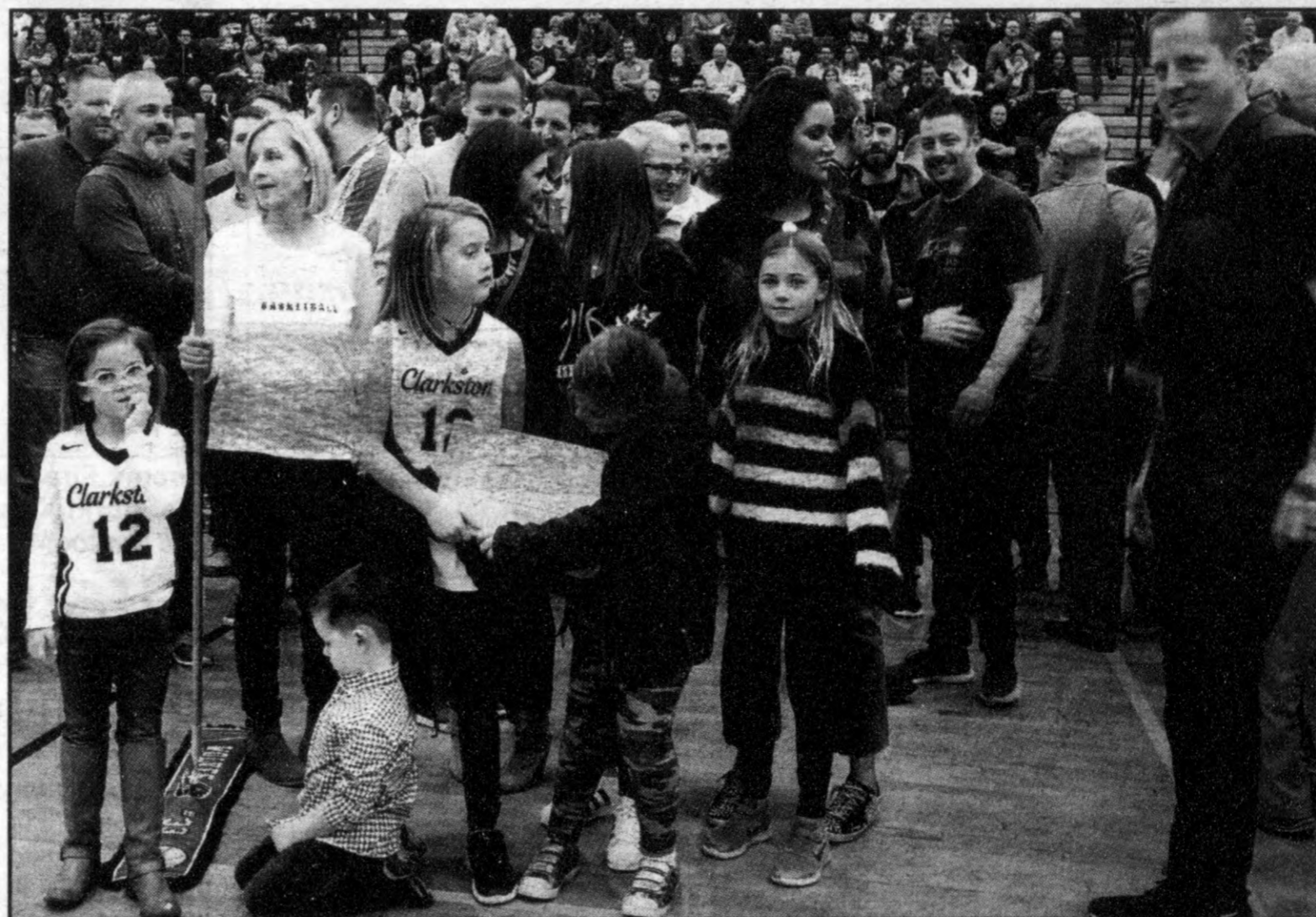
foot-5-inch DPW garage added to the west side and new roof, siding, trim, and paint.

City Council voted 7-0 at a special meeting, Monday, to approve up to \$7,500 for construction drawings.

"When I heard about this project, it really made me smile. It's building bridges in our community," said Mayor Eric Haven. "It could help us regain the idea of a village. It reminds me of barn raising, where everyone participated – I'd love to see that restored here."

The plans includes converting an existing garage bay to a 688-square-foot meeting room. The main entrance would lead to a new windowed reception desk and

See City hall on page 3



Coach Dan Fife's beloved grandkids check out the new Dan Fife Field House plaque as they gather with him and his wife Jan, sons, friends, and current and former players, in center court. Photo by Phil Custodio

Fife Field House enshrines family legacy

BY PHIL CUSTODIO

Clarkston News Editor

Coach Dan Fife's list of accomplishments, statistics, and broken records could fill an evening, but hardly any were mentioned at his community honors program before last Friday's varsity basketball game.

Instead, people talked about the impact he made on the lives of those he loves.

"He taught us about leadership, work ethic, how to win and lose the right way, how to be humble, how to be a competitor," said Tim Wasilk, who took Fife's place as Wolves head coach. "He was a mentor to so many kids, so many players. He coached not in wins and losses, but in life lessons, relationships, teamwork, those are the things that matter. Treat people the right way."

"We learned so much in our pre-practice talks," said Jeremy Fife, who flew in from Texas to be there midcourt with his brothers Dane, from Lansing, and Dugan, from Ann Arbor, Dan's wife and the boys' mom Jan, and the grandkids. "He would teach you life lessons. He would talk about business, like, 'guys, when you go out and try to get a job, no one is going to care who you are. You're going to have to work hard.'"

Dugan said his father finds joy in meeting student and athlete alumni, and seeing how they're doing.

"Players coming back and shaking his hand mean

more than anything to my dad," he said.

That legacy will live on the newly renamed Dan Fife Field House, said Superintendent Shawn Ryan at the Dec. 14 event.

"Everybody who enters this place will know this is the place you helped build, where your traditions will live on and your legacy will always remain intact," Ryan said.

The superintendent shared some advice Dan gave him when he took over the top spot last year.

"He said, 'don't ever forget, Clarkston's a family. Relationships matter, and in good times and bad, if you focus on those relationships, you'll do alright here,'" Ryan said.

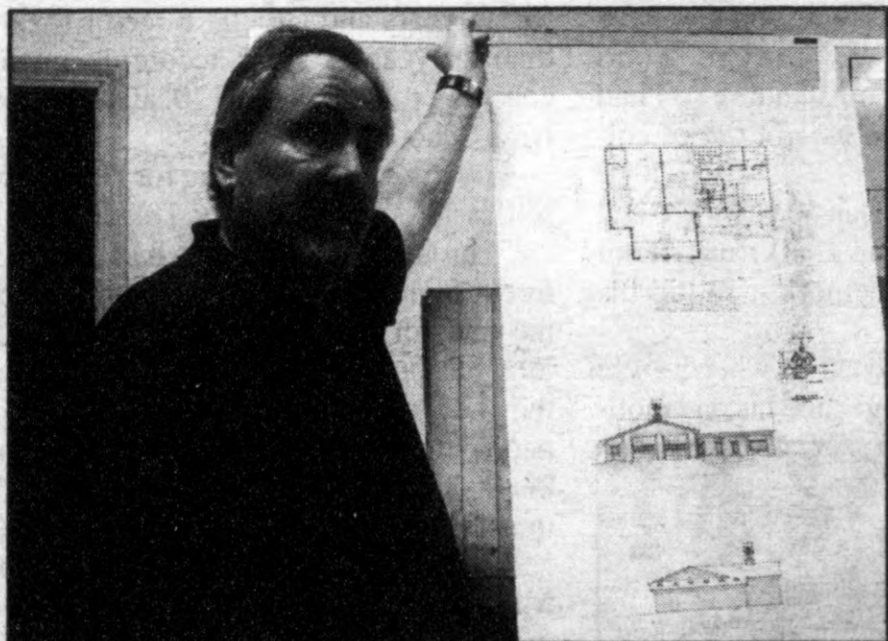
Dan was presented to much applause, a golden broom with his number on it, 33, from his days as a Clarkston athlete. He graduated from Clarkston High in 1967.

"A reminder of the Clarkston gym, where little things made big things happen," Wasilk said. "For 36 years, before every practice and every game, coach loved to sweep the floor. He did this religiously. It was his broom it was his floor. He had a special relationship with this broom. Coach Fife was never too big to do the little things, to do the dirty work, and he coached the same way."

Jan was also honored for her support over the years.

"The sacrifices she made have not gone unnoticed,"

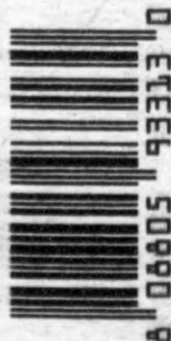
Please see Fife on page 2



Sam Moraco presents a plan for a city hall renovation and addition. Photo by Phil Custodio

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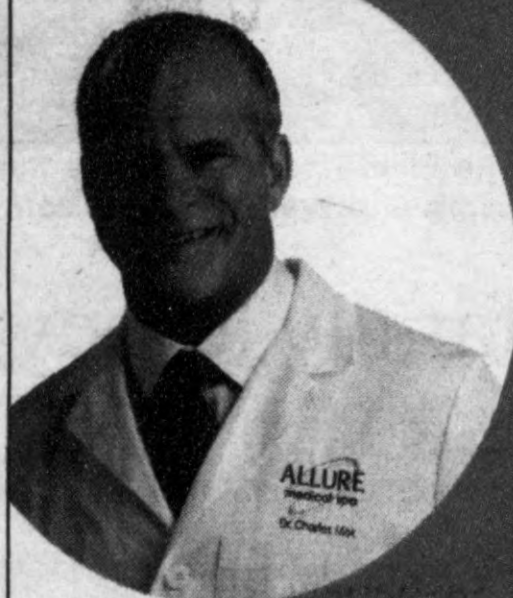
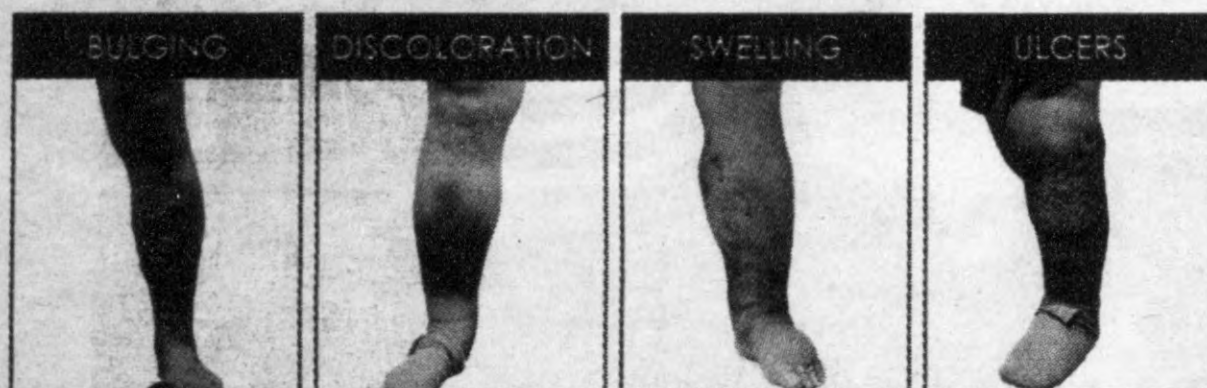
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Jeremy Fife shares memories and lessons he learned from his father, Dan Fife, during the celebration of Dan's Clarkston coaching career. Photos by Phil Custodio

Fife taught life lessons throughout winning career

Continued from page 1

Wasilk said. "For coach to be able to fulfill his passion and teach kids and coach kids throughout his life and make an impact on those kids, that was possible because of you."

"I always tell my players, you can have girlfriends as long as they're good rebounders. My wife is outstanding so I had to marry her right when we got out of college," Dan said.

Mel Vaara, who met Dan 60 years ago and was his first boss in the Clarkston school district, shared some memories, as did his sons.

Jeremy remembered a time when he was a 6-year-old team manager and his dad moti-

vated his players with a well-placed kick to an ice bucket, inspiring a come-from-behind win and maybe breaking his toe.

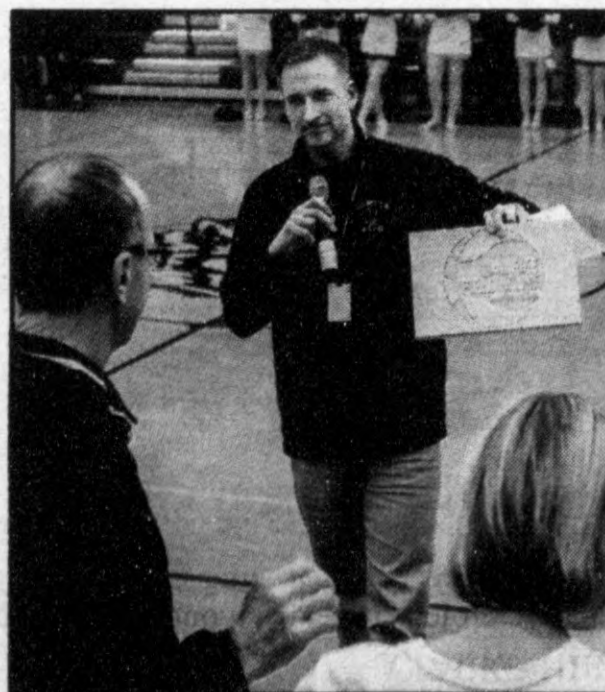
Dan coached the Wolves basketball team to back-to-back state championships in 2017 and 2018, served the district as head coach for 36 years and athletic director for more than 20 years. Career accomplishments a coaching record of 703-170, all at Clarkston High School.

Loyalty was a big value for Dan, as were selflessness and integrity, Dugan said.

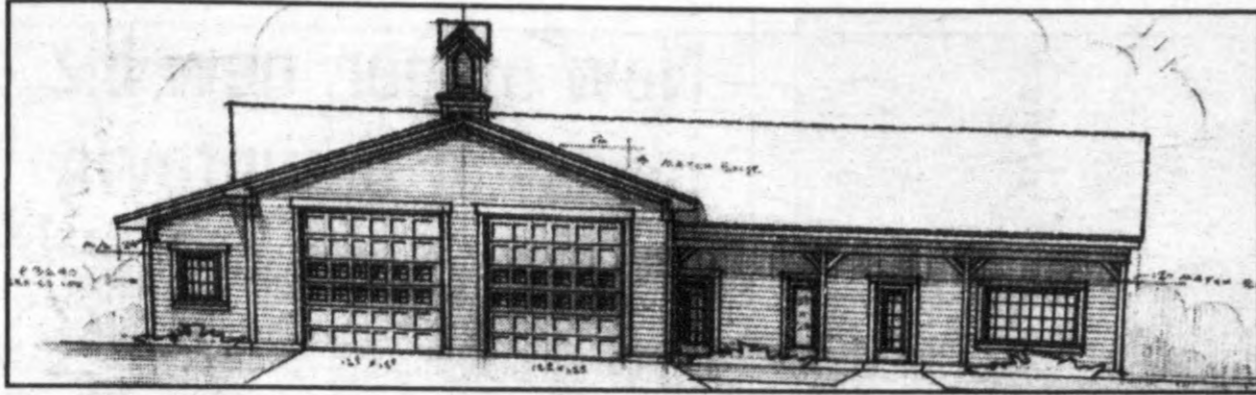
"Through the years, he's had a lot of different high schools coming to his school," the younger Fife said. "Colleges offered him jobs but he never once entertained any of those offers because he had loyalty to the people that hired him, like Mr. Vaara, to the kids in his program, but ultimately to the community."

Dan is the third winningest coach in Michigan high school basketball history, with 29 OAA league championships, 30 district championships, and 13 regional championships. He was inducted to the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Fame in 2009, and two of his players were named Michigan's "Mr. Basketball," Foster Loyer in 2018 and Dane in 1998. Dugan was Mr. Basketball runner-up in 1992 and Jeremy was Mitch Albom's Senior Student Athlete of the Year.

Dan was a standout student athlete in Clarkston beginning in 1957, and he created the McGrath youth basketball league in 1983, naming it after his high school coach Bud McGrath.



Superintendent Shawn Ryan presents the plaque to Dan and Jan Fife.



Jerome Carter's concept drawing includes an expanded DPW garage and workshop, topped with a cupola he would make himself.

City hall work for \$300,000

Continued from page 1

a locked door for security. The women's bathroom would be converted to a unisex bathroom open 24-7 to the public, and the men's bathroom would be converted into a unisex restroom for the office.

Construction costs are estimated at \$260,000; along with grading, pavement, and other work, \$30,000.

With a down payment of \$67,500 out of Clarkston's \$249,000 fund balance, the city would be left to finance about \$230,000, which could be paid off with a monthly payment of \$1,455 for 20 years, 4.5 percent interest, said City Manager Jonathan Smith.

Once complete, the city would no longer have to pay \$700 a month in offsite storage for records and equipment, or \$160 for portable toilets in Depot Park, so the net monthly increase would be \$595, Smith said.

In 2016, City Council considered \$1,600 a month about right for that year's city hall renovation plan – that's how much the city paid a month for its old DPW building at 3 E. Church Street.

Bids came in that year much higher than expected and the city faced a total cost of more than \$600,000 before council pulled the plug on the project.

The new version of the project was designed by Carter, who drew the original plans for city hall 42 years ago.

"We used materials that were state of the art for the day," Carter said.

Decades later, the building is now full of woodpecker holes, roof leaks, and mice in the ceiling. The building also has handicap-access issues and is too small for crowded meetings, Smith said.

"Some parts of the wall, you can literally push your fingers through," he said.

The building needs \$48,000 in work, one way or the other, he said.

That work includes repairing exterior walls, \$17,000; replace roof and damaged sheathing, \$18,500; and new security entrance and foyer, \$12,500, he said.

The community effort would include work by construction tech students from Clarkston Community Schools, which would lower labor costs and provide training for students, Smith said.

"It's a win win for all of us," he said.

The program has about 40 students in grades 9-11, working on restoration projects

around the community including the Bailey House and Sashabaw Presbyterian Church, Wyckoff said.

"They're young and they're excited but they know where to put a nail," he said. "It's going to be done right. It's going to benefit everybody."

Moraco will also reach out to local suppliers and businesses for help with deals and discounts.

The usual procedure is to seek at least three bids for projects, but the Charter allows City Council to waive that requirement, Smith said.

"We're asking for that override," he said. "This is a unique proposal. It involves the community coming together."

If given final approval, Moraco will lead the project with Carter as architect. Labor and supply contracts would be signed early next year, with work from early spring until the end of the school year.

Council member Scott Reynolds said the cost will probably end up higher as details are worked out, but is worth pursuing.

"It sounds interesting enough to want to learn more about it," Reynolds said. "This is within our wheelhouse. I think it's doable."

Council member Sue Wylie said voting for the drawings means the council is looking to complete the project.

"Not just to take a look at the plans and decide later – it means we want to go with this," Wylie said.

Council member David Marsh thanked the group for their initiative.

"The Facilities Committee, for over four years now, has been working to try and figure this out," Marsh said. "You've figured this out on your own time."

Residents in the audience also supported the idea.

"It's a real opportunity to bring the village together, an opportunity for citizens to make some donations," said Don Frayer.

"We're dealing with locals. The last thing they'll do is burn us, they live in the community," said Tom Lowrie. "It's a good opportunity. I'd hate to see it slip through our fingers."

"The idea of this being a community based project is really wonderful," said Sharron Catallo. "My great hope is you finally get storage – employees don't have access to the information we have."

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Briefly

New council location

Starting in January, Clarkston City Council will meet at Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road.

This is to allow more people to attend council meetings in a more user-friendly environment, said City Manager Jonathan Smith in his weekly report.

"In 2018, many of our council meetings were limited to standing room only and, on several occasions, we even exceeded the Fire Marshall's stated capacity," Smith said.

Other city meetings, such as Planning Commission, Historic District Commission, and committee meetings, will continue to be held in the City Hall office, Smith said.

City trash pickup?

Clarkston will look into a city-wide trash service after residents indicated interest in it, said City Manager Jonathan Smith.

"I asked for feedback about the idea of establishing a city-wide trash service. I received about 15 email responses plus several in-person responses, all in favor of the idea," Smith said in his weekly report to businesses.

Administration will investigate the cost, look at sample contracts, and survey addition residents and businesses, Smith said.

Upsides include a negotiated price for all residents and one day of trash pickup, instead of several collection companies operating in the city on different days.

The downside would be loss of competition and choice for residents, Smith said.

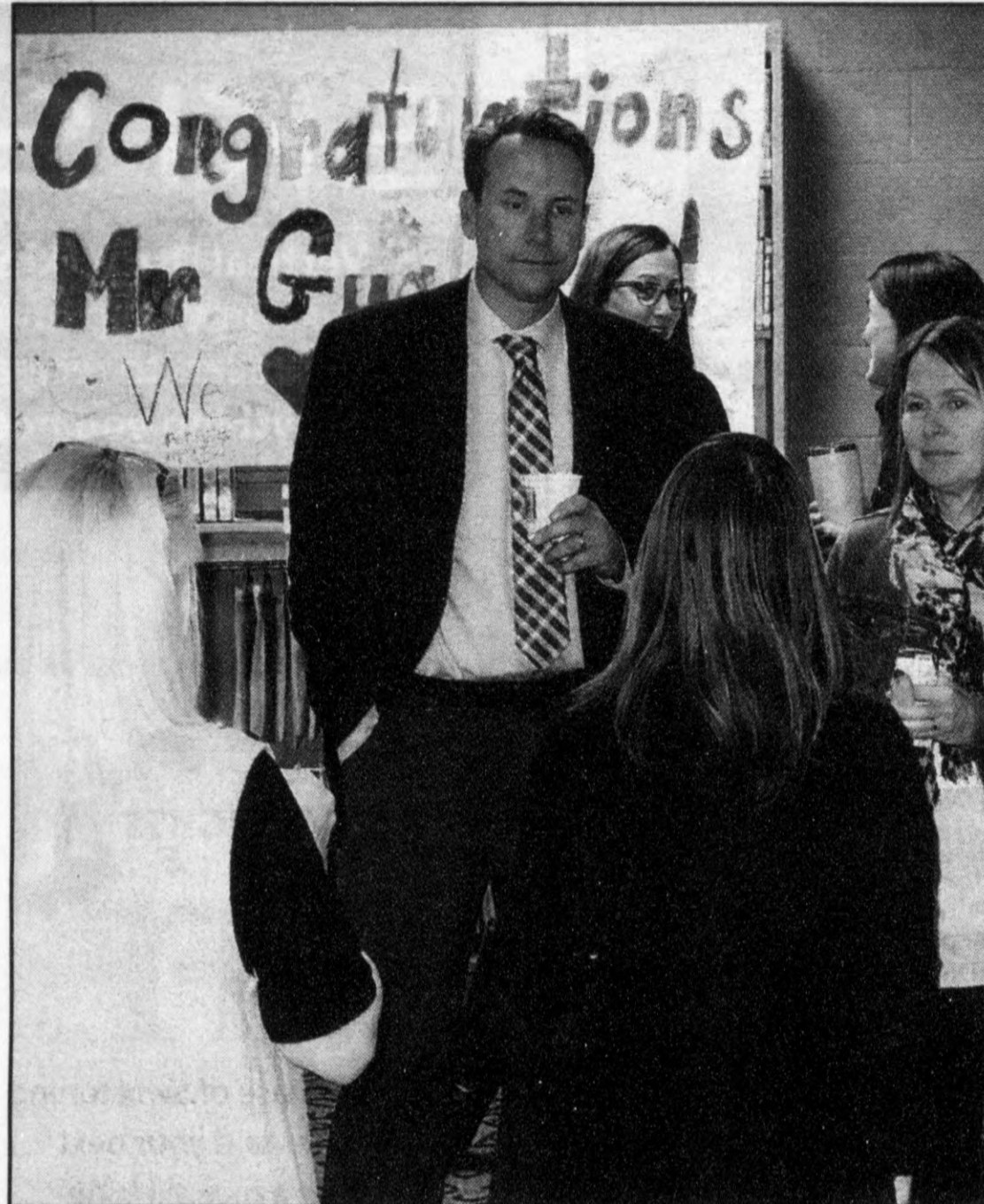
Trash pickup companies receive licenses to operate in Clarkston, as well as Independence Township.

The purchase of Smith Disposal by Advanced Disposal last year led to rate increases and complaints from customers throughout this year.

Holiday park passes

During Oakland County Parks and Recreation Appreciation Days, Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24; Christmas Day, Tuesday, Dec. 25; and New Year's Eve, Monday, Dec. 31, visitors can enjoy free daily park entry to Independence Oaks County Park, 9501 Sashabaw Road.

Park hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset, or as posted at the park. Visit OaklandCountyParks.com for info.



Teachers and staff at Bailey Lake Elementary congratulate their principal, Glenn Gaultieri, on his award. Photo by Phil Custodio

Outstanding principal

BY PHIL CUSTODIO
Clarkston News Editor

Glenn Gaultieri, principal of Bailey Lake Elementary, was surprised with the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association 2018 Outstanding Practicing Principal Award at the association's winter conference in Traverse City.

He was surprised again on Dec. 11, this time by teachers, staff, and former and current students at his school offering a congratulatory breakfast.

"I'm not one to be tricked twice," Gaultieri said. "You guys are awesome."

"We're thrilled," said Kathy Noble, teacher and an organizer of the surprise get-together. "He keeps us motivated, he writes poetry, he senses when things are rough, and puts the gavel down when needed. He's a really good communicator and we love him."

The award recognizes outstanding principals whose contributions to the profession are exemplary and recognized by their peers and communities.

"Glenn Gaultieri is one of finest principals I have ever had the opportunity to work with," said Superintendent

Shawn Ryan. "His dedication to the well-being of his students and his uncompromising drive to support learning for all children is second to none."

Gaultieri has been the principal of Bailey Lake Elementary since 2006 and earned his Bachelor's from Western Michigan University and his Master's degree from Michigan State University.

"We are fortunate to have Glenn as part of our leadership team and look to many more years of his service to Clarkston Schools and Bailey Lake Elementary," Ryan said. "Glenn makes everyone he comes into contact with feel both appreciated and respected; there is a sense of caring in everything that he does. When Glenn works with his students, there is constant attention to building and nurturing a relationship and his ability to be present in the moment shines through. Glenn has been a major force in bringing positive change to Clarkston in academics and Whole Child supports."

"I feel we do what's best for kids every day," Gaultieri said. "We have great people to support that here in the building and central office."

New owner, new biz ideas for downtown

So, the saying goes when the opportunity comes knocking, answer the door. That's what City of the Village of Clarkston residents Brandon and Mallory Still are hoping to do — answer the door on a new business approach for the city.

Still is jumping through city hoops as he turns 21 N. Main Street, the long-time retail mainstay, Clarkston Country Store & Main Street Antiques, into Main Street Michigan Co-Working Center.

What's a "co-working" center?

According to Still, a co-working center is a relatively newer business concept which takes into account the growing number of people who work remotely. Still has gotten rid of all the old retail shelving and is finishing up creating an open floor plan with desks, chairs and a "conference" room where people share the space and office amenities for a fee.

"It's not a retail center," Still said recently. "I think there is a misunderstanding with some in the city that we'll will have retail vendors in stalls."

Still said some of the types of businesses that are looking to utilize the space include a self publishing consultant, a manufacture's representative, a social media marketing expert and an insurance agent.

The second floor is an apartment, which Still hopes to make into "short term" stay accommodations. Still goes to the city planning commission this coming January. More information about the business can be found at the website, MainStreetMi.com. — Don Rush

'No' to park easement

City Council voted unanimously, Dec. 10, to turn down a request by the North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy (NOHLC) for a Depot Park easement agreement.

The conservancy proposed the easement this past August to place about 29 acres of Depot Park into a protected NOHLC land conservancy. The easement would protect the wetlands area in perpetuity from development to preserve the natural environment.

The Planning Commission recommended against the easement, citing loss of control for the city and lack of new value. Also, they believe City Council will continue to be good stewards and protectors of the park, and plans for wetlands conservation, walkways, and other natural uses are already being discussed by Friends of Depot Park.

"We have the council who can protect it," said Rich Little, commission chair at the City Council meeting. "We don't see where the threat comes from."

Easement agreements are more for private property by owners looking to leave a legacy, Little said. Also, legal fees could reach \$50,000, control of the land would be placed with NOHLC, and maintenance costs for phragmites control, tree removal, clean up, and other wetland tasks would continue to be city expenses, he said.

— Phil Custodio



Girl Scouts donated personal care items to residents in need. Photo provided

Christmas collection for Lighthouse

Girl Scout Troop 75949 donated 400 bottles of lotion and over 80 bottles of hand soap to help stock the Lighthouse Clarkston pantry on Dixie Highway, Dec. 5.

Clarkston's Lighthouse location serves residents who are facing economic hardship by providing food and resources, and also personal care items.

In 2017, Troop 75949 conducted a drive along with North Sashabaw Elementary students to bring in personal care items.

Donate soap, lotion, feminine products, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, disposable razors, Q-tips, band-aids, diapers, wipes and other items at the Lighthouse office, 5850 Dixie Highway.



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Phil in the Blank

A column by Phil Custodio

Community crew

The sense of community was strong inside the newly renamed Dan Fife Field House as family and friends shared lessons they learned from the legendary coach.

I had to watch out for past-tense references in the story I wrote about it, because it was starting to sound like a collection of eulogies – the posthumous kind. Sharing memories, stories, and appreciation for a man while he's there to listen to all of that is a great idea.

The team looks to be in good hands, with Tim Wasilk. As a former Fife pupil, he's ideal to carry on his teacher and coach's legacy.



The talent on the court will help. After the Fife presentation and the game got underway, I watched as Fletcher Loyer set up for a three-pointer.

"I wonder if he's as accurate as Foster," I wondered.

The ball swished through the basket. "Chances are good he is," I thought.

That community spirit was also on display Monday at city hall.

A few years back, there was a group of residents labeled "the usual suspects" due to their meddling in various issues.

I'm thinking that name should be applied to a new group. I've been calling them that to myself, at least.

They're the ones who show up whenever something has to be done, find what's needed, figure out a plan and get it done.

Sometimes they display feats of genuine heroism, like when Clarkston Optimists ran into the building plowed into by a double-trailer truck, looking to help anyone who might be hurt.

Folks of all ages, retirees with the time to think about solving problems, business owners installing and maintaining flower boxes on city easements, and construction-tech kids going around fixing stuff. People in Clarkston Rotary, the churches, those who show up in the paper a lot.

Like Sam Moraco, who's helping to lead the community project idea for city hall. He's been in the paper previously for his work preserving the old Bailey House on Sashabaw Road. Kicked off by Steve Percival when he was mayor, the new city hall plan could solve an issue plaguing the city for years.

And also Tom Lowrie. He's at a lot of these things.

Opinion Pages

Letters, columns & Editorials

Rotary appreciates community support

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. Over one hundred volunteers were active over the two day event. Many first time volunteers have promised that they will be back next year.

The Clarkston Rotary has been proudly involved in a club published "Goodfellow type" newspaper sales as a service project for the past 78 years.

"Shoes for Kids" has been the Clarkston Rotary's signature community service project for the past 40 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. Over the past 21 years, we have been fortunate to be able to provide for over 8,500 Clarkston kids and the Clarkston community has generously donated over \$275,000 to bring this truly community wide service project to fruition.

On Dec. 8, 436 Clarkston Community School children were hosted at Oakland Woods Baptist Church and provide each child with new winter boots, shoes, hats, and gloves. This year over 50 people were involved in the Friday night set up and for "Shoes for Kids", 160 volunteers worked in two hour shifts providing for 35 children every half hour. We are proud to have given over 800 pairs of shoes and boots this year.

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*, publisher Jim Sherman, Don Rush, and their staff for preparation and publication of the special Clarkston Rotary special Goodfellow edition, as well as the efforts of Rotary Club President 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 20 years.

To Cub Scout Pack #499 participating in their sixth 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 Opti-Socks program in providing needed socks to go with their new shoes.

To the Clarkston Area Lions Club for providing free eye exams to the families. They have made a difference in so many lives by detecting early vision problems. This year they were able to prove for over 100 people

To the City of the Village of Clarkston for providing the use of their warm DPW garage for use as a newspaper headquarters, a place to rest, converse and dine on a variety of food items from local restaurants and grocery stores.

To Lighthouse of Oakland County, and the Clarkston Community School administration, Social Workers, teachers and staff for their efforts and support of the "Shoes for Kids" program in getting families signed up.

To Mark Kelly (MPK Photography) for family photos with Santa.

A special Thank You 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 the Union Joints (Wood Shop and Union), Hamlin Pub, Brioni's Café and Deli, Hungry Howie's and Tim Horton's for their commitment and dedication in supporting the many volunteers involved over the two weekends.

A special thank you to the Clarkston elementary schools and area churches for 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 Gott's Auto for use of a truck and cargo trailer over the years and making it possible to move the inventories.

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 possible and a true gift for may children. It is the dedication and commitment of the almost 300 volunteers over the two weekends that ultimately benefits so many Clarkston children.

Interested in participating and volunteering in either event next year, seek us out on clarkstonrotary.org or by calling 248-625-9741.

Clarkston Rotary Club, Joel DeLong,
"Shoes for Kids" chair and family

A Look Back

From *The CNews* archives

15 years ago - 2003

"Springfield officials get pay hike"

The four Springfield Township trustees staged a friendly rebellion of sorts rejecting proposed pay increases for themselves but approving healthy hikes for the three top elected officials.

"Schools earn fitness award"

The Clarkston Community Schools Board of Education acknowledged the receipt of the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports 2003 Physical Education Level 5 Award.

"Artist turns passion into business"

Clarkston resident Margaret Cobane was able to take her passion and turn it into a productive business in the form of original design holiday ornaments. Along with husband, Russell, and family member Richard Wallace, they established the Cobane Wallace Group and focused on hand-painted and blown glass Christmas ornaments.

25 years ago - 1993

"Local's fight goes national"

Jill Burstein, a Clarkston area resident, made national headlines when her employer told her to remove a sign wishing passersby a "Happy Hanukkah." She complained to supervisors, feeling her religious freedom was stifled. After that was unsuccessful, she went public on the matter via the media.

"Bah humbug!"

While residents got into the holiday spirit, there were Grinches on the loose trying to take it away as the Oakland County Sheriff's reported at least six area homes were robbed within a week. It also included damaged or destroyed Christmas decorations at four of the addresses.

"Wolves take fourth at Owosso Invitational"

The Clarkston Varsity Wrestling team finished in fourth place at the Owosso Invitational to kick off the season.

50 years ago - 1968

"Kids Christmas party by Jaycees"

The Clarkston Area Jaycees and the Jaycettes, held a gala Christmas party at Clarkston High School for about 2,000 kids.

"Sweet sights"

Window shoppers in Clarkston were delighted with the cake decorating masterpiece by Gerald Hodge, owner of the Clarkston Bakery on South Main Street.

"Round the town"

Danny Kloes, of Waldon Road, celebrated his third birthday at a family dinner. A special Batman cake had been ordered for him.



Clarkston State Bank Backroads organizers present a \$3,000 donation to DRAW.

Backroads donations

More than 1,000 runners and walkers raced in the Clarkston State Bank Backroads Half Marathon, 10K, and 5K, Nov. 11, raising \$6,000 for two local charities.

"Over the years, the Backroads Race has provided funds to several organizations who rely on donations to fund their programs," said J. Grant Smith, president and CEO. "We are proud to partner with both DRAW and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital with the proceeds from the 2018 race."

Disaster Relief at Work (DRAW) was started in 2011 by Greg Martin of Clarkston to help survivors of natural disasters return to normalcy.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital works to advance cures and means of prevention for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment.



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital receives a \$3,000 donation from the race. Photos provided

With only a few days before Christmas . . .

Well, there are only a hand full of days left until folks all over these fruited plains celebrate Christmas. And, I am feeling kinda' good about it, because I am almost finished shopping for presents!

In my reckoning, if I wait until the end, shelves will be picked almost clean of items to purchase, thus making my buying decisions easier. (Remember, even at Christmas, it's really only about me.)

* * *

Got this e-mail last week: "Don: I enjoy reading your column, and I got tickled when you listed the things that need to be deleted from TV, but you forgot one — the movie, *A Christmas Story* is chock full of things PC Police find objectionable: It stereotypes women as stay-at-home moms and criminals as clumsy buffoons. It glorifies guns. It depicts bullying. It condones violence as a way to resolve conflict. It depicts child abuse (overtly the soap scene and covertly the friend whose mother is heard hitting him, then shows up at school with bruises). In all seriousness, I think it's a delightful movie that is on my must watch list, at least once on Christmas Day! Have a Merry Christmas — Janet D."

Thanks, Janet. I love that movie, too (even if it has the tired, old stereotype that men/dads are smackin' frackin' baboons).

* * *

Still love the following editorial from the Sept. 21, 1897 *New York Sun*. I love the prose, the topic — everything . . .

**Don't
Rush Me**



**A column by
Don Rush**

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes

the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

* * *

I smile every time I read that!

* * *

To you who are sad, alone and just not "feeling it," this holiday season, I wish you peace. I offer you love. Figuratively or literally, I give you my hand to hold. If you need, I will tenderly, gently and with compassion wipe away your tears. Your pain is yours alone, I know. Know though, you are not alone . . .

. . . Oh, and if you want, I just saw some cool things on-line you can ingest to make your poop sparkle and glitter . . . and if glittery, sparkly poop doesn't make you smile, let me know I will come up with some other sort of bathroom humor that might do the trick.

I will be thinking of you this holiday, I promise.

* * *

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.

DontRushDon@gmail.com



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Website - www.kensingtonchurch.org
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Mom Squad:
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Wednesday:
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Public Safety

For Clarkston and Independence Township

Assault

A 27-year-old Independence Township woman was cited for assault after punching a caregiver 5-6 times in the back and one time on the right ear, 10:08 a.m., Dec. 6, in the 10000 block of Horseshoe Circle. The caregiver refused medical treatment.

On Dec. 7 at 4:55 p.m., the 27-year-old was cited for violation of smoking law for smoking a cigarette in the dining room area after being told to smoke outside.

Waiting with marijuana

A deputy on patrol stopped to check on a car parked after hours in a dark parking lot in the 5000 block of Clarkston Road, 11:36 p.m., Dec. 11. The car smelled strongly of marijuana. Inside was found a marijuana cigarette, a glass jar containing a small amount of marijuana, and several pipes in the glove box. The four occupants, two 17-year-old Independence Township boys, 17-year-old Holly girl, and 18-year-old White Lake woman, were cited for loitering. The marijuana paraphernalia was confiscated.

Felony arrest

Responding to a tip, a 53-year-old Independence Township man with several outstanding felony warrants from other jurisdictions was located in the 9000 block of Tuscarora Drive, arrested, and jailed on the warrants, 11:20 p.m., Dec. 11.

Liquor license revoked

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission revoked the liquor license of Dandy Oil's Citgo gas station on Dixie Highway after several violations of selling alcohol to minors. Employees sold liquor to a 19-year-old decoy in an Oakland County Sheriff's Office operation on July 13. The station had 15 sale-to-minor violations with more than \$10,000 in fines. The commission is required by state law to suspend or revoke a business' liquor license if it commits three or more sale-to-minor violations within two years.

Call Oakland County Sheriff's Office with tips at 800-SPEAK-UP or 1-800-773-2587



Oakland County Sheriff's deputies and wreckers clear an accident from Main Street and Clarkston Road, Dec. 17. Photo provided



From left are Susan Huttenlocher Ebeling of Lighthouse, Lighthouse CEO Rick David, Michele Robinson of Lighthouse, Katie Bowman Coleman of Bowman Chevrolet, and Clarkston Rotarians Janet Thomas, Mary Sloan, president, Jeff Lichty, Mindy DeLong, and Joel DeLong. Photos by Phil Custodio

Van for Lighthouse

Clarkston Lighthouse can stay on the road to help residents in need much better now, with the help of Clarkston Rotary, Bowman Chevrolet, and residents.

The community effort, launched by Rotary President Mary Sloan, resulted in a new-to-them van to pick up food and other donations around the area.

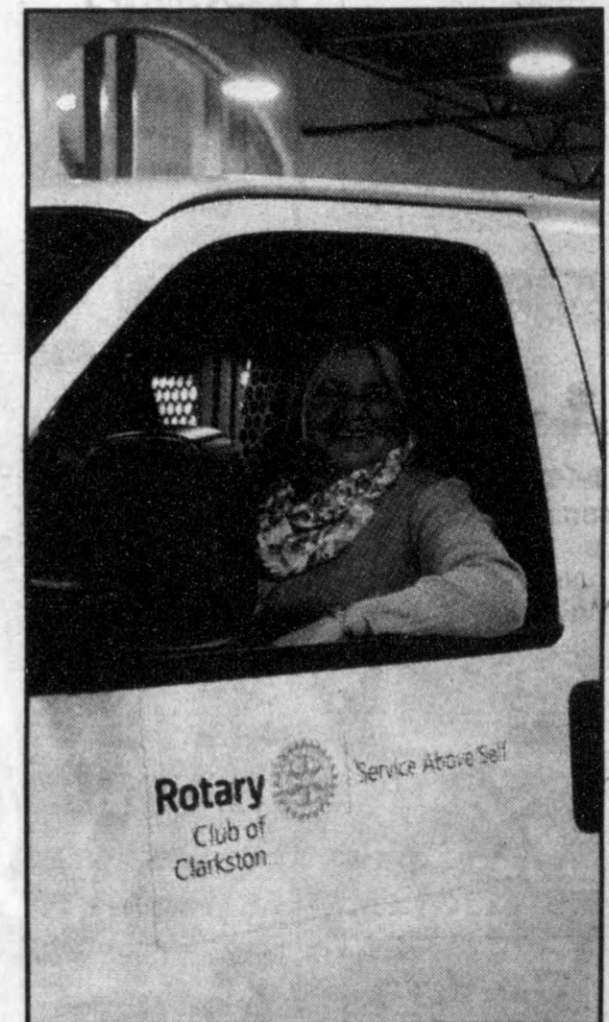
Their old van was worn out, with hundreds of thousands of miles on it.

Rotary's \$7,500 donation was used to kickstart a successful fundraising appeal for the Clarkston van, with funds also allocated by the Lighthouse Board toward the purchase of a vehicle for the Pontiac Lighthouse location.

At its new office, 5850 Dixie Highway, Lighthouse Clarkston provided 52,164 meals to the Clarkston community last fiscal year. Over 60 percent of those served were children. The Clarkston location has been serving northern Oakland County since 1990.

Overall, Lighthouse provided 256,932 meals to people in need last year. For more information, call 248-972-1497.

- Phil Custodio



Michele Robinson is happy to have community support for their new van. Photos by Phil Custodio



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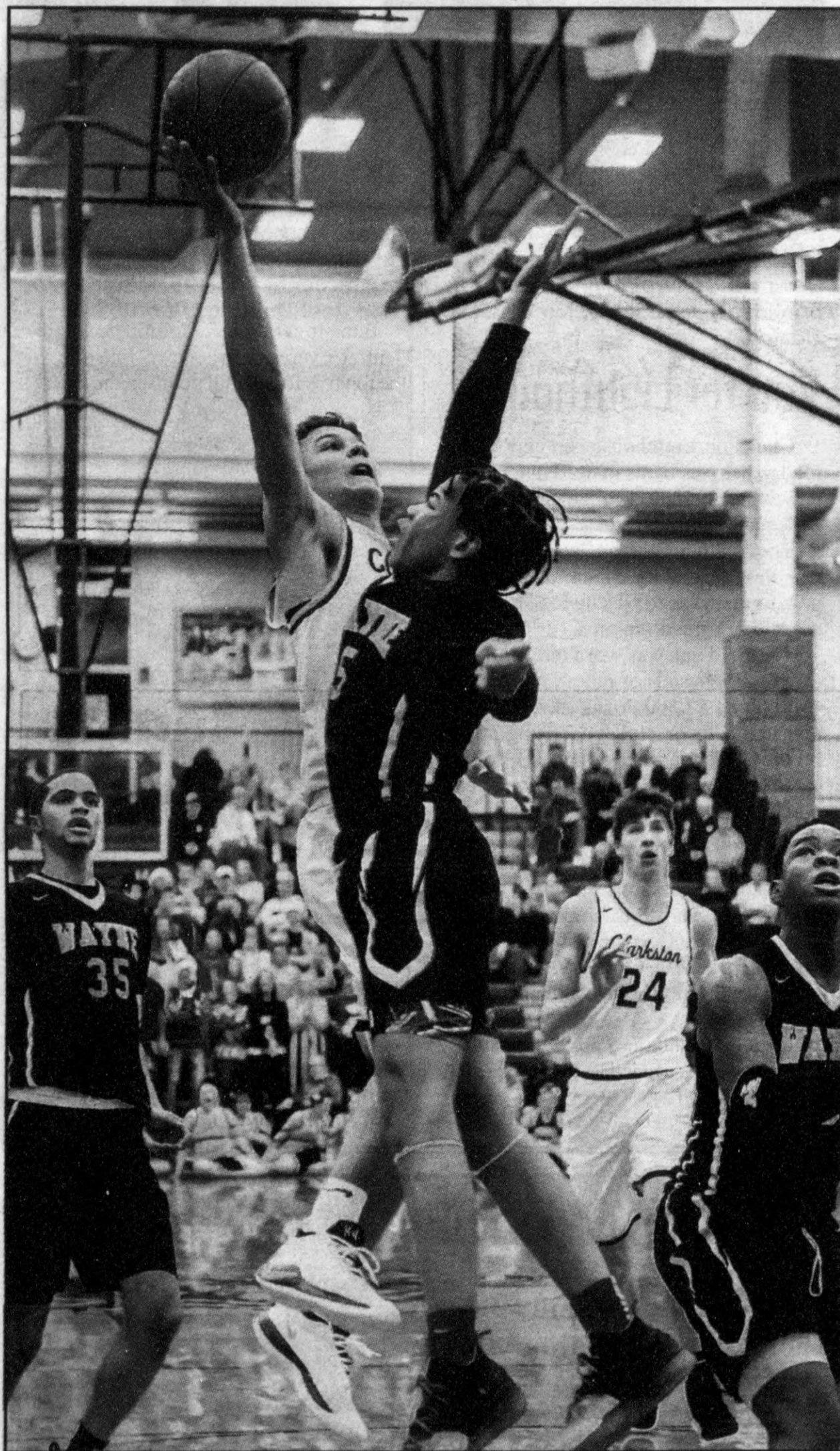
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Clarkston's Sporting News

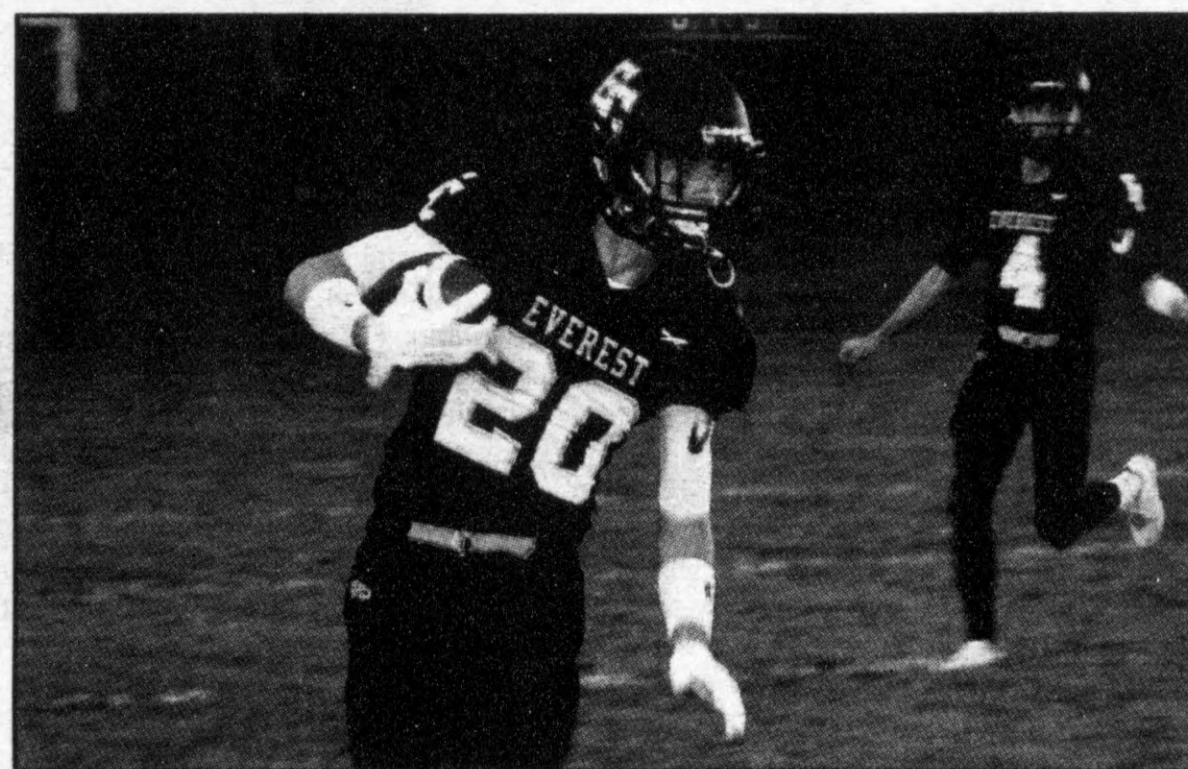
Who is the next AOW?

Nominate your favorite athlete by contacting Wendi at 248-625-3370 or at clarkstonnews@gmail.com



Keegan Wasilk goes for the basket, helping the Wolves break in the newly named Dan Fife Field House with a win, Friday night. They beat Wayne Memorial, 60-46, with 21 points and eight assists from freshman Fletcher Loyer, 14 points and 10 rebounds by junior Matt Nicholson, and eight points from freshman Wasilk, bringing their record to 3-2. They take on Lake Orion at home on Dec. 18. *Photo by Larry Wright*

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Nino Mastromatteo earned AP Second Team All State. *Photo provided*

4,000 yard career

Nino Mastromatteo, senior at Everest Collegiate High School, was named to the AP Second Team All-State, Catholic High School League, All Catholic.

His 2018 season stats as wide receiver include 39 receptions, 616 yards, and six touchdowns; and rushing 473 yards with five touchdowns. Career stats include 111 receptions, 1,937 yards, EC's career reception/yards leader; 20 touchdowns as EC's Career Passing Receptions for TD Leader; and rushing 697 yards with five touchdowns; and on defense, 163.5 tackles and 10 interceptions, as EC's Career Interception Leader. Also on special teams, kick returns of 1,056 yards, EC's Career Kick Return Leader; and 4,115 all purpose yards, making him EC's Career All Purpose Yards Leader.

"Nino accumulated over 4,000 all-purpose yards in his four-year varsity career at Everest. It is an incredible accomplishment and shows you just how hard Nino

worked," said Head Coach Michael Pruchnicki. "He has a passion for the game of football and it is easy to see that by the way he plays the game."

Mastromatteo also plays basketball, is on the AB Honor Roll, and has 90 total high school service hours. He is also on Cultivating Cultures Club, and teaches younger athletes at Rising Stars.

His athletic goal is to be the best student-athlete he can be in college. Life goals are to love his neighbor as he does himself and be a good child of God.

Hobbies include spending time with family, lifting, and Rising Stars workouts.

Motivation includes people telling him he can't do it, and the best thing about being a Mountaineer is being a leader in the Brotherhood.

"I strive to be the best man I can be and teaching other men to be an even better leader than I am," he said.

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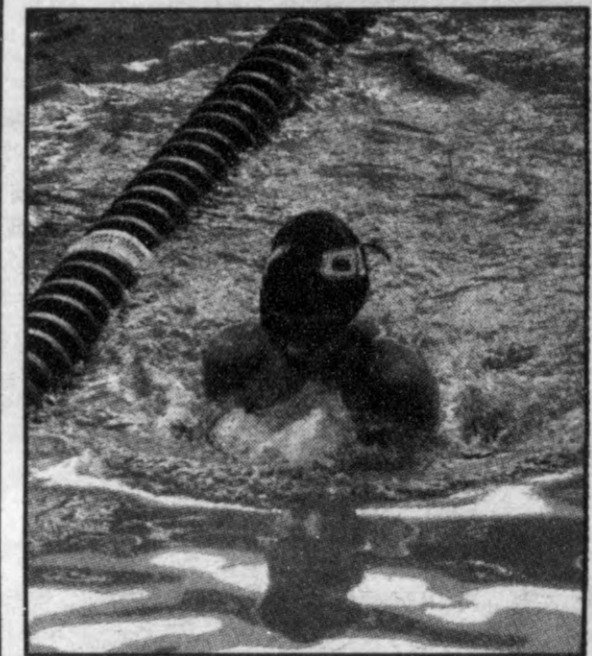
COMMERCIAL

Main Office: 248-380-8800





Clarkston High School's fan section The Jungle, in Christmas regalia at last Friday's game, can compete in the Battle of the Fans contest, hosted by Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council. Schools can submit a short YouTube video of their cheering sections in action at school sporting events. Deadline is Jan. 12. Nine semifinalists – three each from Class A, Class B and Class C/D – will then compete in a two-week challenge for the prize. The winner will be announced Feb. 2 and recognized March 15 at the Breslin Center. Go to www.mhsaa.com/BOTF. Photo by Phil Custodio



Benjamin Luginski

Swimmer qualifies

Benjamin Luginski, fourth grade student at Everest Elementary, finished in the top five for overall points in the Boys' 10U group recently in Indianapolis. He swims with the Oakland Live Y'ers (OLY).

He also qualified for additional events at the 2019 Short Course State Championships in March, bringing his total to eight of the 11 events he is eligible to swim in; and he qualified for the NCSA National Swimming Championships in Orlando by posting a time of 28.76 seconds in the 50-yard Freestyle.

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Boys & Girls Ages 10-16

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Dec 21st - Jan 6th

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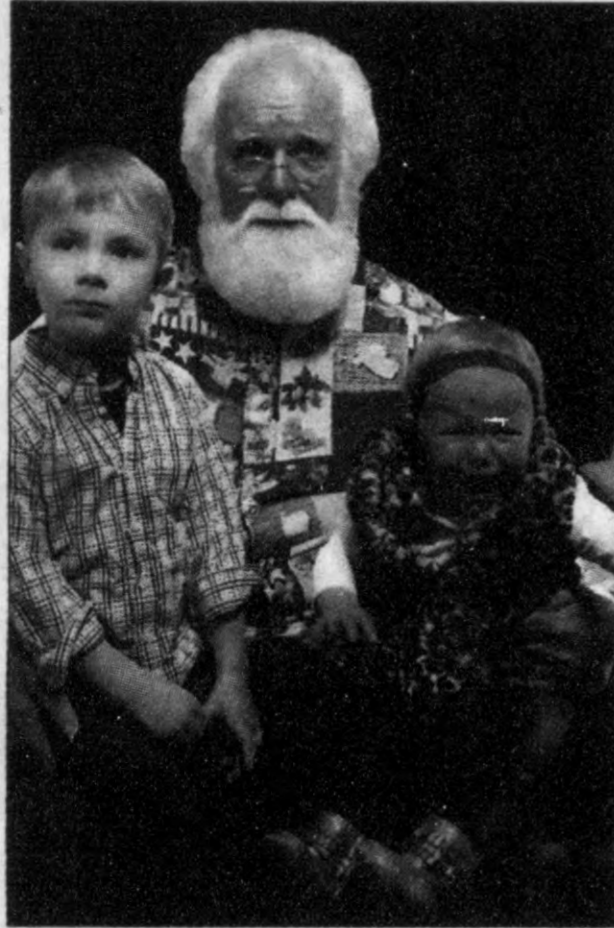
Sashabaw Rd.	LAKE ORION
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Scared of Santa! ²

We asked our readers who also follow us on Facebook to send us in those cute pictures of their kids visiting Santa. You know the ones --

where the kids are doing everything except smiling. Here's Part 2 of what readers sent in.

Thanks for sharing, Don Rush



From Nicole Marie



From Kim Zattel



From Mary Parkison



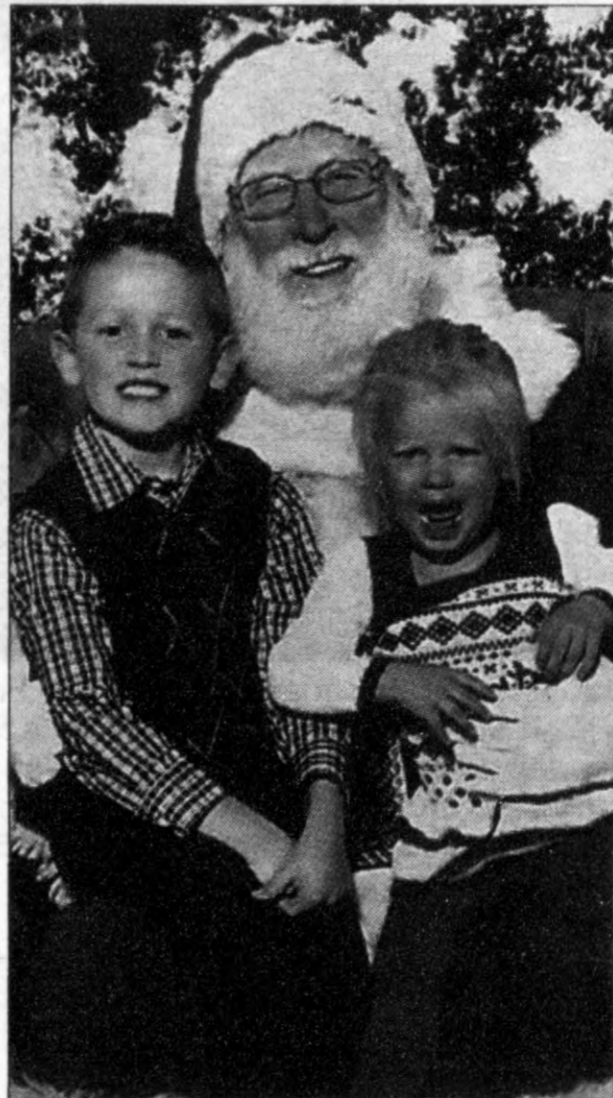
From Mary Parkison



From Nancy Ogle



From Kristin Smith Borgula



From Stacey Moultrup-Skipworth



From Jim Jacques



From Jennifer Sexton MacConaghy



From Sherry Pifer-Elliot



From Peg Roth



Victor Cronin, Michael Foskett, and Nolan Neiman brought gifts from afar. Photo provided

Christmas at Everest

This year's annual Everest Academy Christmas program, "A Season of Rejoicing," Dec. 12, featured the preschool through fourth-grade students, fifth-grade handbell choir, fifth-grade choir and band, the middle school band, and the international program choir.

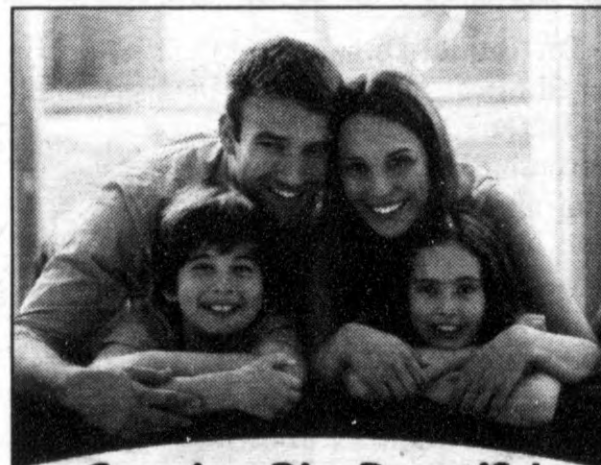
Everest Academy students were also cast in roles and narrated the Christmas story. Zoe Abraham, Mercedes Arinez, and Cameron Tong were the narrators with the Holy Family played by Amelia Shripka (Mary) and Wyatt Phyle (St. Joseph). Additional students played other roles in the story.

Community events?

Tell us about them at
ClarkstonNews@gmail.com

STATE OF MICHIGAN FILE NO:
PROBATE COURT 2018-386, 167-LG
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING
In the matter of TAJIANAN AUTUMN SCOTT, Minor
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including ERIC MICHAEL SCOTT 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 2, 2019 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 APPOINTMENT OF LIMITED GUARDIAN OF MINOR.

NOVEMBER 26, 2018
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WATERFORD, MI 48328
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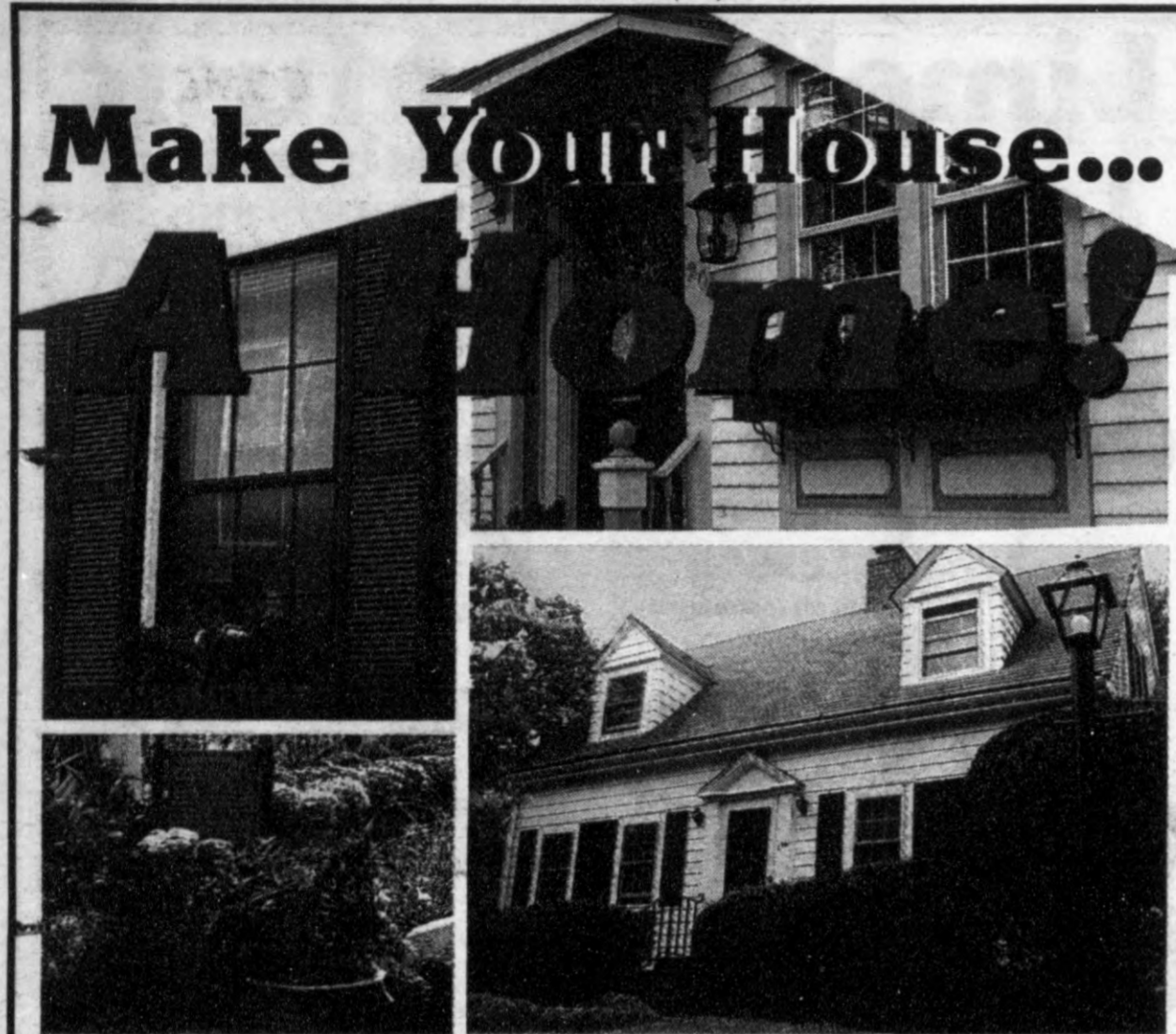
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Death notices & Obituaries

Janet M. Badgero, 74 Paul E. Barlow, 83

Janet Marie Badgero of Clarkston died Monday, Dec. 10, 2018. She was 74.

Born July 28, 1944 in Highland Park, Mich., to the late Sol and Dorothy (nee: Lancaster) Spector, she is survived by her loving husband of more than 40 years, Paul Badgero; one step-son, Scott (Dawn) Badgero; and two grandchildren, Delanee and Brayden Badgero.

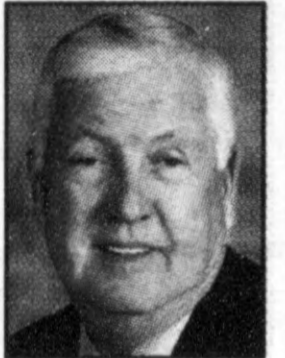


Janet was a Registered Nurse and she loved her Dachshunds.

Family received friends on Dec. 13 at **Village Funeral Home**, Ortonville. Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Animal Rescue League. Envelopes are available at the funeral home. To send a condolence to the family, please go to www.villagefh.com.

Obituaries posted daily at Clarkstonnews.com

Paul E. Barlow of Lapeer, formerly of Gladwin and Clarkston, passed away at age 83. He was greeted in heaven by his wife Rolena "Roe" on Dec. 9, 2018.



He was the father of Pat (Jim) Queen and Brian (Joy) Barlow; grandpa of Brandon Hansen and Abbey Barlow; brother of Ralph (Sharon) Barlow, Ruth Smith, Edna (Gary) Germain and Daniel (Sandy) Barlow; many nieces and nephews; preceded in death by siblings Bill Barlow, Luella Reger, Frank Barlow, Ann Reed and Rose Wayland.

Paul retired from GM Truck and Coach and was a member of Lapeer Nazarene Church and Living Faith Church, Port Richey, Fla.

Funeral Service was Dec. 13 at **Lewis E. Wint & Son Funeral Home**, Clarkston. Interment Lakeview Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Lapeer Nazarene Church. Online guestbook www.wintfuneralhome.com.

Business achievements

Dr. Daniel Durance, D.D.S., recently joined Michigan Main Street Dentistry at 22 S. Main Street, with Dr. John Stevenson, D.D.S., fully retiring after over 30 years of practicing dentistry in downtown Clarkston.



Dr. Durance

Dr. Durance is a 2017 graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy, School of Dentistry. Originally from Midland, he attended Albion College where he received his undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and Cell Biology.

Since graduation from dental school, he had

been practicing at a dental office in Frankenmuth. Dr. Durance and his wife reside in Clarkston.

Wes Goodman, executive director of operations for Clarkston Community Schools, was appointed chairman of the Statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council.



Goodman

Goodman will also represent non-community water supplies on the council.

Goodman has been with Clarkston since 1994 and has more than 25 years of operations and facilities management experience.

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- 248-299-6100**
75 Barclay Circle, Ste 105
Rochester Hills

Christmas

WORSHIP SERVICES

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Christmas Eve
December 24th at 4pm

6490 Clarkston Road
248-625-2325
clarkstonepiscopal.com
(across from the library)

COME CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT DIXIE

Christmas Cantata
Dec. 16th & 23rd at 6 pm
"Night of Alleluias"

The Foresters Group
Wed., Dec 26th at 6 pm

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm
Regular Sunday Worship 10AM

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LCMS

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248.625.4644
www.SaintTrinityLutheran.com
office@sainttrinitylutheran.com
Pastor Michael Duchene

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT 7PM AND 11PM.

Saturday: 6pm • Sunday: 9:30am
Bible Study & Sunday School: 10:45am

Christmas Worship

Calvary Lutheran Church
6805 Bluegrass Drive, Clarkston
248.625.3288 | CalvaryInfo.org

DECEMBER 24
4pm
Puppets share the Christmas story
8pm & 10pm
Candles & Communion

DECEMBER 25
11am
Come As You Are, PJs & ALL

Christmas Mass Schedule
December 24th Services: 4pm, 8pm, 10pm
December 25th Service: 10am

New Year's Mass Schedule
New Year's Eve Mass: 4pm
New Year's Day Mass 10am

St. Daniel Catholic Church
7010 Valley Park Drive in Clarkston
Two blocks west of Main Street
248-625-4580
www.StDanielClarkston.org

Rev. Ronald J. Bahick, Pastor

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Sunday Dec 23 at 11am
Monday Dec 24 at 2 or 4pm

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Clarkston United Methodist Church

4:00 PM
7:00 PM
9:00 PM
11:00 PM

6600 Waldon Rd
Clarkston, MI 48346
248-625-1611
www.clarkstonumc.org

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DEC 24 WEEK ENDS

11:00 AM 9:00 AM
12:30 PM 10:45 AM
2:00 PM

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Monday, December 24th
5:00 PM or 7:00 PM

Waypoint Church
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www.waypoint.org
248-623-1224

Events

Blood drive, American Red Cross, Jan. 8, Sashabaw Middle School, large group instruction room, redcrossblood.org

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/members, \$4/non-members.

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, Jan. 8, 7 p.m., Carriage House in Clintonwood Park. Topic: "Emptiness After the Holidays." Free, walk-ins welcome. 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. \$40/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.

Clarkston Community Women's Club, third Tuesday, 7 p.m., District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. Contact Jackie, 248-425-4095.

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.

Nuview Nutrition Meet & Greet, 6:30-8 p.m., second Tuesdays, free, 7300 Dixie Highway Suite 500. Pre-register. **Ending Alzheimer's: Battling Cognitive Decline and Alzheimer's One Brain at a Time**, Nuview Nutrition Wellness Center, 7300 Dixie Hwy, Suite 500.

Around Town

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



The Clarkston Dance Team shows their appreciation for Coach Dan Fife by spelling his name with pompoms at last Friday's pregame celebration. Photo by Phil Custodio

Free. Once a month, 6 p.m. Call for dates and reserve seat, 248-625-5143.

Wednesday

American Mahjong, Wednesdays, 12:30-4:30 p.m., Senior Community Center, Clintonwood Park. Drop In, \$1/member, \$2/non-member.

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.

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, 248-625-8231.

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.

Civic groups

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

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

Clarkston Optimist Club, 7:30-8:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Road, www.clarkstonoptimist.org

Clarkston Genealogical Society, 10:15 a.m., third Thursday, Clarkston Independence District Library, 6495 Clarkston Road. All welcome.

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

Preservation Clarkston, third Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Buckshots, 7048 Gateway Park Drive. Preservationclarkston@gmail.com.

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. Photos taken of child's eyes to check for potential vision problems. Immediate results. 248-625-2212, www.clarkstonlions.org.

Volunteer opportunities

Avalon Hospice, sit with patients, hold their hand, listen to stories, personal care, or just be there. Two hours a week or more. 800-664-6334; **McLaren Hospice**, not-for-profit, companionship-type for patients living with terminal illness, 248-320-0106. **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Oakland County**, 55+, opportunities at hospitals, cultural institutions, food pantries, tutoring. 248-559-1147; **Meals on Wheels**, for homebound elderly or handicapped individuals in Independence Township and Clarkston, 248-625-8231.

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CAREGIVER NEEDED for elderly Alzheimer's woman, 4-9pm Monday-Friday. 248-760-2451 !!R42

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Join our award-winning community news team as a full time reporter. College graduates with journalism/communications background. Applicant must have strong reporting and writing skills, and an interest in community affairs. experience with photography and page layout desirable. Send cover letter, resume, and clips to editor. Phil Custodio, Clarkston News, 5 S. Main Street, Clarkston MI, 48346; Clarkstonnews@gmail.com LZ45tnf

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 DEC 22..... Hideaways
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 Open 7am to Midnight

Christmas Day / Tues Dec. 25th
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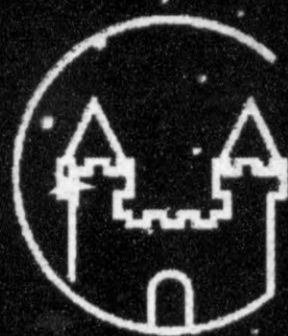
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\$995 DOWN
\$219 /MO*
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MSRP \$36,640
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\$1995 DOWN
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BUY
\$27,780^A
SAVE \$7,710
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39 MO LEASE

\$179 /MO*
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\$995 DOWN
\$239 /MO*
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GT AWD

MSRP \$35,430
BUY
\$27,469^A
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39 MO LEASE

\$249 /MO*
\$1995 DOWN
\$274 /MO*
\$995 DOWN
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NEW 2018 CHRYSLER
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\$1995 DOWN
\$274 /MO*
\$995 DOWN
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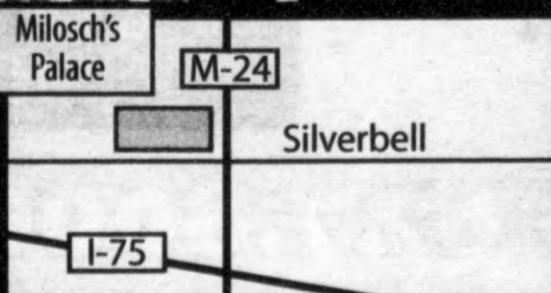
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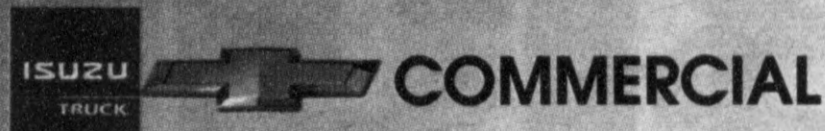
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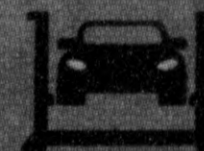


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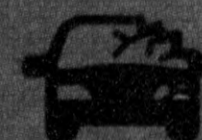
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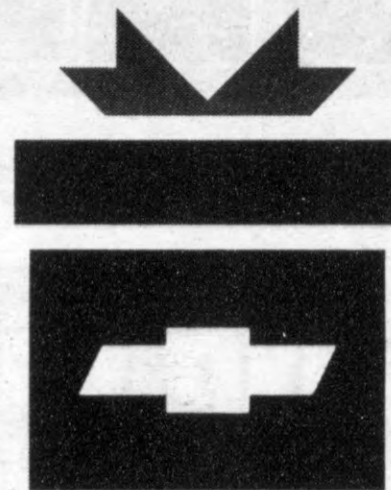
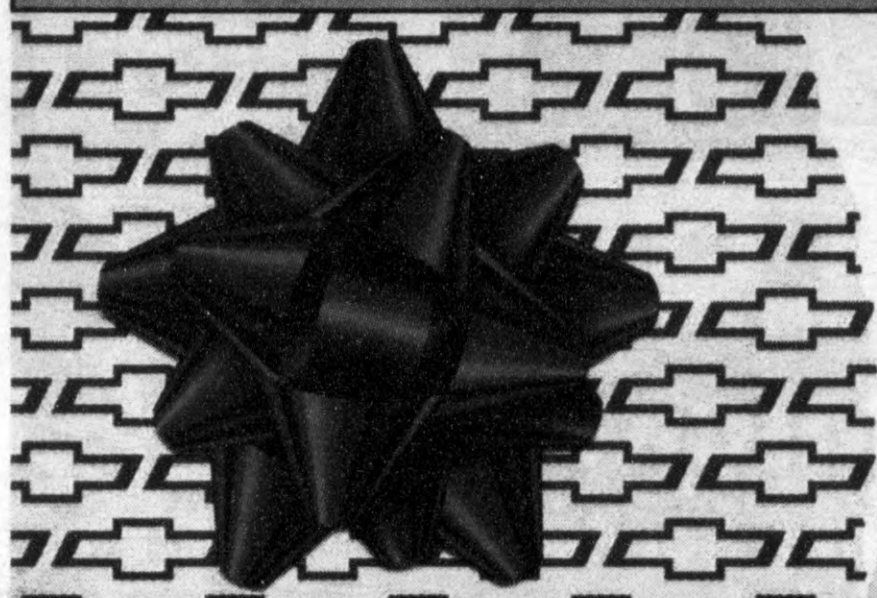
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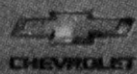


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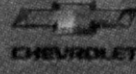


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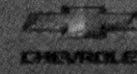


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\$20 OFF

ANY DEALER
RECOMMENDED SERVICE

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WHEEL BALANCE SPECIAL
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

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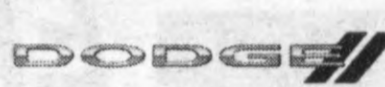
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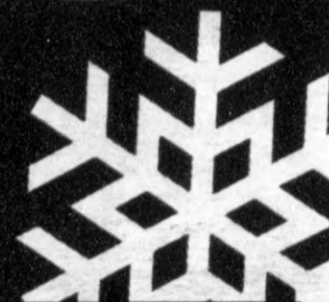


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24 MONTHS
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MSRP \$36,915

CASH PRICE \$28,151

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MSRP \$29,975

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10,000 MILES
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