

# The Clare County Cleaver

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989.539.7496  
Volume 131, Issue 5

Est. 1881

"In The  of Michigan's Vacationland"



Thursday, February 2, 2012 • Harrison, Michigan 48625 • County Seat of Clare County

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## Harrison Little League Registration

It's that time again Harrison Little League is doing Registration for the 2012 Baseball Season. If you are interested in Playing Baseball or Softball, please come to Glen's Market in Harrison on February 4 from 6-7:30 pm, February 18th from 1-3 pm. or February 29th from 5:30 -7:30 pm. After March 1st there will be a \$10.00 Late Fee from March 1st to March 15th. Last day to sign up for the 2012 Baseball Softball season is March 15th. Junior League can also sign up at this time too. The cost is \$35.00 per player or \$85.00 per family. If you are interested in Sponsoring a Team or purchasing/renewing a Sign to promote your business, or if you have any questions please feel free to contact Mary Cooper at (989) 339-7014 or Jeannie Jackson at (989) 339-4144. Registration forms will be coming home in your child's Friday folders if they attend Larson or Hillside Elementary.

## Clare County To Feature Items For Sale Online

The Clare County Sheriff would like to announce that the Clare County Website [www.clareco.net](http://www.clareco.net) has a new link on its home page that will allow people to view current sale items such as all OWI and Drug Forfeiture items like motor vehicles and other items.

Wednesdays will be open to the public to get a hands-on look at the items. Please come between 8am and 4pm to look at items available for bid. All bids will be sealed and given to the Administrators Office located in the Court House.

## Cabin Fever Variety Show

It's that time of year when you need to get out of the house. Get rid of that cooped up feeling and come and enjoy a fun filled evening of dancing, singing, comedy and more. Please join us as the Farwell Band Boosters present the 20TH ANNUAL CABIN FEVER VARIETY SHOW at the Farwell High School, Jaime Performing Arts Center. Saturday, February 11, 2012 at 6:30pm. Doors will open at 5:50pm. Admission is \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for students. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at any Farwell School office. Concessions will be available before the show and during intermission. Featuring the talents of Mallory McDowell, Matt Moore and Band, Tamra Mackie, Rebecca Bowling, Newman School of Dance, Sonbeam Puppets, Open Range and many more awesome acts. This is a great evening of entertainment for all ages. All proceeds benefit the Farwell Area School bands.

## Computer Classes

Basic Computer Skills - February 6th, 4pm - 6pm  
Basic Web Page Design Workshop February 9th, 4pm - 6pm  
Basic Microsoft Windows February 16th, 4pm - 6pm  
How to use the Internet February 23rd, 4pm-6pm  
How to use your Apple Computer February 27th, 12pm-2pm  
You must register for all classes to attend. For registration please visit or call the Harrison District Library at 989-539-6711. You may also call Nick Loomis at 989-386-7576 ext. 6.

## Harrison Ski Team Girls Take 1st Place



In The Central Alpine Conference 4th Year In A Row!

### Great Job Girls!!!

The Harrison Ski Team Skied at Apple Mt. on January 24, 2012. The Girls Team skied to a First Place finish. The following skiers for the girls' team are Jordan Coon taking 1st place in Slalom with a first run of 14.08 and a second run

of 13.97 for combined runs of 28.05 and in Giant Slalom Jordan takes 1st Place with a first run of 14.44 and a second run of 14.80 for combined runs of 29.24. Tina Price takes 2nd place in slalom with a first run of 14.78 and a second run of 15.02 for combined

runs of 29.80 and in Giant Slalom Tina takes 4th place with a first run of 15.68 and a second run of 15.47 for combined runs of 31.15. Riley Romanowski takes 6th place in Slalom with a first run of 16.23 and a second run of 15.71 for combined runs of 31.94 and in Giant

Slalom Riley takes 3rd placed with a first run of 15.64 and a second run of 15.47 for combined runs of 31.07. Alyssa Price takes 7th place in Slalom with a first run of 16.09 and a second run of 16.08 for combined runs of 32.17 and in Giant Slalom Alyssa takes 7th with a first run of 16.24 and a second run of 16.01 for combined runs of 32.25. Savanna Duggan takes 8th place in Slalom with a first run of 16.5 and a second run of 16.75 for combined runs of 33.25 and in Giant Slalom Savanna takes 8th with a first run of 16.39 and a second run of 17.06 for combined runs of 33.45. Marisa Kulper takes 15th in Slalom with a first run of 19.20 and a second run of 19.17 for combined runs of 38.37 and in Giant Slalom Marisa takes 14th with a first run of 18.22 and a second run of 18.26 for combined runs of 36.48.

Racing for JV Team is Christian Meylen first run 1.04.72 second run 22.76 for combined runs of 1.27.48 and Andi Martinez first run 38.80 and second run 19.97 for combined runs of 58.77.

**Harrison Boys Team takes 3rd Place** at Apple Mt on January 24, 2012. Skiing for the boys team are: Kalib Clark taking 7th place in Slalom with a first run of 13.88 and a second run of 13.56 for combined runs of 27.44 and Kalib takes 22nd in Giant Slalom with a first run of 26.13 and a second run

of 14.82 for combined runs of 40.95. Beau Niezguski takes 11th place in Slalom with a first run 14.28 and second run 13.97 for combined runs of 28.25 and Beau takes 10th in Giant Slalom with a first run of 14.67 and a second run of 14.36 for combined runs of 29.03. Thomas Sofka takes 18th place in Slalom with a first run of 15.17 and a second run of 14.99 for combined runs of 30.16 and takes 14th place in Giant Slalom with a first run of 14.93 and a second run of 14.70 for combined runs of 29.63. Ben Taylor takes 19th in Slalom with a first run of 15.68 and a second run of 15.08 for combined runs of 30.76 and Ben takes 18th place in Giant Slalom with a first run of 15.03 and a second run of 15.35 for combined runs of 30.38. Dylan LaPorte takes 13th in Giant Slalom with a first run of 14.84 and a second run of 14.51 for combined runs of 29.35. Josh Wilson takes 21st in Giant Slalom with a first run of 18.59 and a second run of 16.17 for combined runs of 34.76.

**The Central Alpine Conference meet hosted by Harrison took place on January 26, 2012.** Where the Girls Team skied to a First Place Finish for the 4th year in a row and the Harrison Boys team skied to a 3rd Place Finish.

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## Road Commission Receives Failing Grade From Constituents



Roads in subdivisions just off BUS 127 remain unattended on Monday after snow fell over the weekend.

### By Genine Hopkins

With winter finally rearing its head, Clare County's Road Commission has begun the tedious and expensive work of clearing 1,250 miles of roadway under its jurisdiction. With such a large task there are often complaints from citizens who are homebound until the back roads are cleared, and this year many citizens feel like the Road Commission isn't doing their jobs, especially on back roads, during the two storm systems we had move in over the past two weeks.

Numerous calls were phoned in to the *Cleaver*, with, as usual, rumor and innuendo playing a large portion. Questions about whether or not the Road

Commission had put a freeze on all overtime were asked, as were concerns about the ability of the department to properly clear out rural residential areas with budget restrictions.

The *Cleaver* went to the source, contacting Road Commission Manager Ron Bushong on the eve of arrival of Thursday's storm system, which ended up being much milder than anticipated.

As to the question of overtime, Bushong stated that the department is proceeding via its own winter maintenance policy that has been in place for at least 23 years. This policy states that:

"...snow removal operations will be prioritized by traffic volume: expressways and state highways

are first to be plowed, followed by major county roads, rural county section line roads, and finally subdivision and dead-end roads. The process of opening all roads in the county can take up to three full working days after a storm ends, with widening and cleanup taking several more days to complete. During extended or closely-spaced storms, snow removal equipment will concentrate on keeping main roads open, possibly delaying snow removal on many local, subdivision and dead-end roads for several more days. Factors such as temperature, wind and moisture content of the snow also have an effect on the amount of time it takes to get the roadways cleared.

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## Benefit To Be Held

This is a time of great need just to make a go of it, not just in small communities but the larger cities as well. The good thing about living in small towns is the spirit of helping that comes into action when one of their citizens needs help.

There will be a benefit held on February 5th at the Budd Lake Bar in Harrison for a young Harrison man and his family that will feature music, food, and auctions. Joe Oakley was seriously burned at the beginning of this year as he raced

to save his family from a fire at their home that had awakened him. His quick actions prevented injury to his girlfriend Samantha and their 2 small children but resulted in second & third degree burns on his legs and feet and caused extensive damage to their home making it temporarily unavailable.

Insurance will cover the cost of home repairs but the family is struggling to live because of Joe's inability to work. Joe, Sam and the two youngsters are living with his

parents as Joe begins the painful process of recuperation.

Please show the Oakleys the spirit of small towns charity and rally to help them by attending the benefit at the Budd Lake Bar on February 5th. It is slated to begin at 2pm.

If you are unable to attend please consider contacting the family directly with your show of support at the following address:

Joe or Alan Oakley  
1161 Pineview  
Harrison, MI 48625

## Michigan Out Of Running For "Race To The Top"

### By Genine Hopkins

Despite having some districts make great strides toward improving their educational goals and implementing innovative programs such as those in Clare County's own Farwell Area Schools, Michigan once again was shut out of grant funding in the Race to the Top Early Childhood Grant. Governor Rick Snyder received notification on December 15, 2011, from U.S. Dept. of Education Secretary Anne Duncan.

The feds gave two reasons for Michigan not being named in the grants. First was the inability to demonstrate funding for implementation of key projects, such as lack of a state wide kindergarten status entry assessment, and second what they considered Michigan's limited investments in early childhood education development and care, specifically key elements of an effective learning and development system.

The governor's office and state education leaders expressed an interest in working on implementation of the statewide assessment program for kindergarten and placement of an improvement system, but it is unclear with continued funding cuts how much progress Michigan's Great Start/Early Childhood programs

can actually make. The creation of the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation will allow for not only private input into the Great Start Program, but autonomy from government and its bureaucracy, freeing the ECIC to apply for funding and grant possibilities.

Judy Samelson, the CEO of the ECIC, has input from business people, health providers, education leaders and other sectors that normally don't have a voice in the development of educational programs.

"Our board is very diverse, but all board members have a vested interest in improving education at the early childhood level to improve Michigan's future work force," Samelson told the *Cleaver* in a phone interview. "We're concerned about a variety of things - dropout rates, reading readiness, writing skills, etc. - and more and more research is finding that brain development in children is built by age 4, prompting a serious look at early childhood education."

It is hoped that the ECIC can work with the State of Michigan Department of Education to improve the standards not only to benefit students but to have schools meet the criteria for grant funding at the federal level.

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