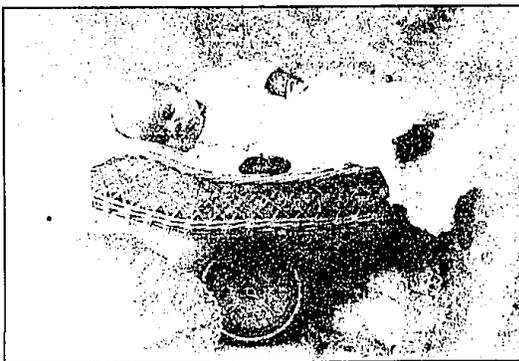


Hills man is 'Photographer of Year'



More than portraits: "Looking for Daddy," above, shows Farmington photographer Joe Durocher's portrait of Andrea Steinke of Farmington Hills. At right, Durocher's shot of Madelyn Marr of Farmington won "Best of Show." It's called "Pound for Pound, the Sweetest Around."



BY TODD WICKS
STAFF WRITER

Photographer Joe Durocher's background is in family portraits and senior high school photos.

But there's a serious artist in the Farmington Hills resident as well. Durocher, 39, was recently named "Photographer of the Year" by the Detroit Professional Photographers Association for several stunning black-and-white photographs he entered in this year's competition.

The photo entitled "Pound for Pound, the Sweetest Around," featuring Madelyn Marr of Farmington, took the "Best of Show" award.

"Looking for Daddy," featuring Andrea Steinke of Farmington Hills, also earned Durocher an award from the Professional Photographers of America.

A longtime Hills resident, Durocher is a partner with his wife, Kelly, in their business, Photographic Visions. He is a former employee of the Focal Point studio at Grand River and Farmington; she still

works there.

Although Durocher is succeeding with his "artistic" style of photography, he admits it's the weddings and baby pictures that pay the bills.

"We kind of consider what we do to be art, but involving people," he explained. "It's not necessarily landscapes or those sort of things. We take a person's idea, contribute to it, and put something together for them."

After working at Focal Point for 15 years and now on his own, Durocher estimates he has probably photographed half the population of Farmington. He figures 80 percent of his business comes from local residents.

"We're providing memories for people," he said. "It's a self-satisfying job. People don't always like having their picture taken, but we try to make it fun, so it always turns out to be a positive experience."

"It's great, making people happy with what they see."



Power shortage: Elta Nowecki, manager at Kowalski, plugs in the scale after unplugging the fan Thursday, as employee Gwen Langdon watches.

Storm from page A1

ditches and roads being flooded and detention basins filled to capacity.

As of Thursday, the Department of Public Services was evaluating the major areas of flooding to determine if major drain improvements were necessary.

As for power outages, the Farm-

ington Oaks apartment complex and the Crossroads Shopping Center at Nine Mile and Farmington both experienced failures.

The Kowalski Deli-Bakery there lost its power at 6 p.m. Wednesday. Thursday morning, several employees sat, watching the time run out on the shelf life of \$5000

worth of mostly-perishable stock. The store had partial power, but not enough to open for business.

"(Edison) is telling us we're not going to have power until the 5th," said Ella Nowecki, manager. "We're going to lose a lot of product."

The employees were there waiting for the store's owner to arrive and transport the salvagable stock back to the Kowalski plant in Hamtramck, which survived that city's brush with the storm.

Nowecki, who lives on Rensselaer in Farmington Hills, had spent the night before watching neighborhood kids swim in the

knee-deep flooding there.

"Cars were trying to drive through and were stalling out," she said.

Other stores in the plaza went ahead and opened for business, operating on half or even one-third of their power.

Meanwhile, an Edison crew worked on power lines at Freedom and Drake Roads. According to Coos, portions of the Chatham Hills subdivision were also flooded.

In Farmington Hills, assistant to the fire chief Robert Robty reported the west and north areas of town were the worst hit.

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DOMINICAN SISTERS OF OXFORD, MICHIGAN

Rackowski to host office hours every Monday

State Rep. Andrew Rackowski will meet with 37th District residents every Monday, starting in July.

"This is a great opportunity for me to discuss constituent concerns on a one-on-one basis," said Rackowski, R-Farmington Hills.

"Lawmakers can only be truly effective if they listen to those they represent. While people are still welcome to call my office any time with a question or comment, I think the Monday district office hours

will prove very beneficial."

Rackowski will be at Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty, from 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Mondays of each month.

On the second and fourth Mondays, he will be at Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road, from 10 a.m. to noon.

To reach Rackowski in Lansing, residents can write to him at the State Capitol, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, 48909.

OBITUARIES

ANNE J. WEST

Anno J. West, 83, died June 30 in Farmington Hills.

Born in Pittsburgh, Mrs. West worked in the communications department at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

She is survived by daughter, Stacie West Hinds of Farmington Hills; sister, Ruth O'Connor of Florida; and grandchildren, Kevin, Jennifer, Phillip and Alexa.

A memorial service will be held at 7 p.m. July 8 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Lung Association, 18860 W. Ten Mile Road, Southfield 48075.

WOODROW RHYMER

Woodrow Rhymer, 73, died July 1 in Livonia.

Formerly of Farmington, Mr. Rhymer was a machine operator for Modern Manufacturing and an Army veteran.

He is survived by wife, Katherine; son Woodrow Jr. of Livonia; brother, Bennie of Cushing, Ky.; and sisters, Almaida Cunniff of Cushing, Ky., Geraldine Collins of London, Ky., Anna Mae Hackett of Ohio, and Cynthia Rhymer of Farmington.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. July 5 at Creech Funeral Home in Middletown, Ky. Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home.

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TAMMIE GRAVES / STAFF ARTIST

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Dentistry in the 90s

by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S. & Martha P. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.

RETREAT OF SEVERE GUM DISEASES

Fifteen percent of all American adults are afflicted with the most severe form of gum disease which, in turn, can increase the risk for other diseases. For instance, patients with severe periodontitis have higher rates of heart disease, which carries the potential to destroy bone and loosen teeth. The good news, however, is that the incidence of advanced cases of gum disease is declining. According to evidence presented at a meeting of the American Dental Association by a researcher at the University of Washington's Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, improvements in diagnosing and treating gum disease, better oral hygiene, and increased use of antibiotics and fluoride are responsible for fewer advanced cases of gum disease. The researcher also said that flossing and smoking increase the risk of moderate to severe gum disease which, in turn, can increase the risk for other diseases. For instance, patients with severe periodontitis have higher rates of heart disease.

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P.S. Researchers recently identified three bacteria responsible for periodontitis and are working to develop a vaccine.

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