

New Miss Michigan is former Miss Farmington

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Newly crowned Miss Michigan Audrie Chernaukas should be familiar to Farmington pageant followers. She wore the crown of Miss Farmington in 1996.

"I'm still on Cloud Nine," said Ginny Morris, longtime Miss Farmington pageant organizer. "When they announced her name Saturday night in Muskegon...it was beyond words."

Chernaukas, 23, who competed in the state pageant this year as Miss Redford Township, will now prepare for the Miss America pageant to be held in Atlantic City Sept. 18.

Farmington's current queen Erin Cogswell finished in the top 10 finalists and won the commu-



Erin Cogswell

Reigning Miss Farmington Erin Cogswell won the community service award and finished in the top 10 Saturday night in Muskegon.

nity service award Saturday night. Her platform was Choices and Consequences of Alcohol.

Another former Miss Farmington, Annette Hohl, was also in the top 10 finalists for the state crown. Twenty six young women from across the state competed for the title.

"Farmington was very well represented," said Morris, who noted that Kelly Gurvey, a former Farmington and state winner who was second runner-up to

Miss America, was master of ceremonies for the evening.

Chernaukas of Livonia is employed by CM International in Southfield. Because the Miss Farmington pageant is now open to all Oakland County workers and residents, she was able to compete in the local competition again and was first runner-up in the Miss Farmington/Oakland pageant last year.

On Saturday she performed a ballet dance to "Titanic Suite"

for the talent competition. She wore a yellow swimsuit, a burgundy gown with a single row of rhinestones and an upswipe skirt, and a pale lavender gown with rhinestone straps in various portions of the Saturday program. Her platform was Hazards of Tobacco.

Monday evening Chernaukas was scheduled to meet with Morris in Farmington before heading to Detroit later in the week for a photo shoot for the Miss America

pageant.

She will attend the Miss Farmington/Oakland pageant at Vladimir's Banquet Center on Wednesday, July 7.

Chernaukas will be staying in Muskegon to prepare for the national competition in the fall.

Well-wishers can send greetings to Miss Michigan Audrie Chernaukas at 6154 McDowell, Muskegon MI 49441.

Chat room from page B1

I am all these years.

After fruitless medical tests by orthopedists, nerve specialists and nerve conduction tests which made the same misdiagnosis - carpal tunnel syndrome - I gave up on expecting doctors to help me.

In December 1998 I spent time on medical computer programs in the Farmington library which led me to the far more extensive medical library at Botsford Hospital and a very helpful librarian.

I know I didn't have carpal tunnel syndrome because I was 62 years old at the time of the operation, which was for a minor cyst on my left palm. My right hand is my dominant hand and I had no sensations whatever of carpal in either hand prior to the operation. I was given an axillary block in the nerve bundle of my left armpit prior to the operation.

An axillary block is when they stick a needle in your armpit nerve bundle which dead-

ens the feelings in the entire arm. A nurse anesthetist trainee administered my anesthesia under the supervision of a nurse anesthetist. After the poke, she asked me repeatedly if I could feel a numbness or tingling in my fingertips and I did not. It wasn't working. After pushing the needle to the bone, she twisted it. The anesthesia took effect.

The operation seemed to go normally. The cyst was removed. The healing process went okay until a week later. I experienced sudden excruciating pain from my left shoulder to the fingertips. My hand became clawlike and I couldn't extend my left index finger. The doctor told me there was nothing he could do about it and sent me to a hand specialist who told me to exercise it or it would "set up like concrete." I followed instructions.

After three months of intense pain, it subsided into a duller pain, atrophy of my fingers, weakness of my entire arm and shaking and loss of control of my fingers. This continues to this day.

which pertained to this subject. What I had been describing in detail for years to doctors appeared in the Journal of Hand Surgery, the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, and the book Anesthesia. I also found a comprehensive report in the Farmington Library medical computer program.

It is called an idiosyncratic condition, which means cause unknown. But because I have uncovered so much information on the subject I am sure I have found the cause, which appears commonly in the materials. I think it's caused by anesthesia damage due to improper injection techniques in the spine and the axilla. By needle damage to nerves.

It is far more common than reports lead the medical community to believe and almost always occurs within days after surgery and after nerve block anesthesia. The damage can be minor or severe, sometimes recedes and sometimes not. Damage can last a few years or be permanent.

I've written this with the hope it will be read by one or more persons who either have or know someone who may have undiagnosed Parsonage Turner Syndrome.

Kenneth Kemp is a resident of Farmington Hills

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