

Festival of the Arts 2000



'Battle of the Books' finals part of festival

BY JONI HUBRED
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Sixty-six teams will compete in the final "Battle of the Books" - sponsored by the Farmington Community Library - May 3 during the annual Festival of the Arts at the William Costick Activities Center.

A record 182 teams competed April 12 in a school semi-final competition for this year's "Battle of the Books."

Held in local middle schools, the competition pits teams of sixth through eighth graders against one another to demonstrate their ability to remember details from books they've read over the past four months. It's

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ENTERTAINMENT

No show: "Burn The Floor," previewed on E1, was canceled after our Entertainment section went to press. Refunds are available at purchase locations. Call (313) 983-6611.

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State rep. seeks third term

BY JONI HUBRED
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Andrew Raczowski has started wearing out another pair of shoes.

The second-term Republican state lawmaker formally kicked off his campaign with a reception at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills Monday night, but he started bringing his "Citizens First"

message door-to-door over the previous weekend. He showed off last year's loafers at the reception.

What was left of them, anyway. "I buy a brand new pair every campaign, and this is what happens," he said. "I have a brand new pair of Oxfords, and I already cracked them this weekend." Raczowski has a tough race ahead

of him for the 37th District House seat. Two challengers, Democrat and former Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi and Reform Party candidate Eric Borregard, have already announced their candidacies.

In his announcement speech, Raczowski hammered home the message he's been preaching since last year's vitriolic battle over House Bill

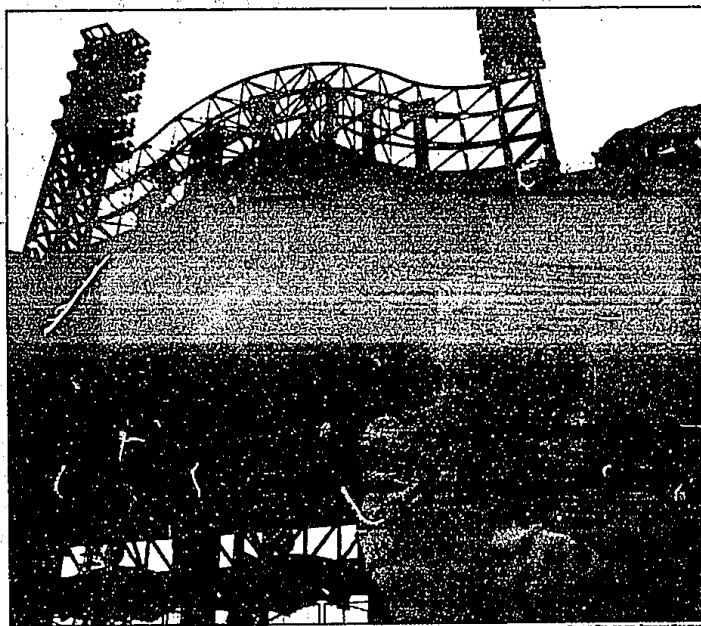
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Got sole: Rocky shows the beating his campaign shoes took last time round.

9 days glory

RECAPTURED



STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY KOLLMER

Image: Tony Segielski of Farmington was commissioned to create this huge mural.

Photographer's creation towers over ballpark

BY TIM SMITH
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Much has been written in recent days and weeks about all of the fancy bells and whistles incorporated into the creation of Comerica Park in downtown Detroit.

But, amid all the fancy new Detroit Tiger trappings is something plain, simple, old - and quite special. It is the stunning photographic work of Farmington resident Tony Segielski.

The 49-year-old Segielski, who is a photographer at Bill Life Studios in Troy, was contracted by the Mike Ilitch-owned Detroit Tigers and Little Caesars to snap a vintage baseball photograph to be enlarged to huge proportions and adorn the back of the mammoth left field scoreboard.

There it was - and is - for all to see. Segielski's spectacular work features a weather-beaten green wooden chair, from the John Fetzer era of Tiger Stadium. Resting on the seat is a baseball glove that belonged to Elden Auker,

the oldest living Tiger. Inside the pocket of the glove is a baseball from a bygone era. Auker donned the glove to the Tiger archives during the Tiger Stadium finale last September.

"It stands by itself," said Segielski, who snapped the photograph in January, using a vintage mahogany and leather camera from the 1930s or 1940s. "There's no copy. It's like a piece of framed art."

And what a frame it is. The panel itself is a jaw-dropping 96-foot-wide by 66-foot-tall and cost about \$300,000 to produce. According to Segielski, he first saw his photograph up on the scoreboard nearly two weeks ago and "got a real kick out of seeing it. It just made my day."

Meanwhile, Segielski said the picture is "purely image, there's no reference to anything," unlike most of the work he does, which is tied to a particular product.

"It's iconographic and simple," he explained. "People can make an instant read that says baseball."



PHOTO BY JON STOKES

Preparing: Photographer Tony Segielski prepares a vintage mitt and baseball.

Segielski said the scoreboard photo is similar to one he took a few years ago, which was used in a Tigers publication and in the 1998 World Series official program.

That photograph caught the eye of someone at Little Caesars, and Segielski eventually was contracted to work with Mike Johnson, an art director for the international pizza chain and Olympia Entertainment.

"It was Mike (Johnson's) idea" to take another photo to use on the scoreboard, said Segielski, adding that the display is expected to be up for five years.

A key to the project was getting Auker's mitt. People looking up at the scoreboard panel might not know the glove belonged to Auker, a right-handed pitcher who toiled for the Tigers from 1933-38.

They also might not know something else, which Segielski learned while doing the project. The first batter 18-year-old Auker faced in his major league career was Babe Ruth.

Auker struck him out.

Mom to place wreath

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Vietnam War veterans will be recognized during this year's Memorial Day proceedings after all, much to the delight of Helen Robertson.

Last month, the Commerce Township woman expressed concern that the May 29 festivities in Farmington would not pay homage to those who fought in Vietnam - including her son, Roy Kenneth "Ken" Williams Jr., a Farmington High School graduate who died in action 31 years ago.

She detailed in an April 6 Farmington Observer article how her efforts

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Mansion honored

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One of Farmington's best kept secrets now has a world-wide presence.

The historic Governor Warner Mansion on Grand River has been owned and maintained as a museum since Gov. Fred Warner's grandson, William Slocum Jr., and his wife deeded the house and grounds to the city of Farmington in 1980. U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg for the 11th District announced Monday morning the mansion has been honored by the Library of Congress' Local Legacy program.

In conjunction with the library's 200th anniversary, the program was established to bring recognition to people and places that have a past, a presence in their communities and a future. Knollenberg said.

"This is history," he commented. "It's past, present and future. It meets all the criteria we've been looking for."

Aide Shawn Chavattone began scouring the state for likely candidates after Knollenberg's wife brought the program to his attention. In all, they came

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STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREKLER

Hello: Curator Dick Carwell (right) leads U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg on a tour of the Governor Warner Mansion.