

And the winner is ...

Canton man wins annual chamber raffle

BY TIM SKUTIS
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Robert Thompson of Canton will apparently take his prize in the 2000 Fantasy Cruise Raffle and hit the open road.

Thompson won the grand prize at Sunday's Fantasy Raffle Picnic and Drawing at Shiawassee Park in Farmington. As of Tuesday, Thompson had not yet informed Carleigh Flaharty, director of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, about which prize he was leaning toward.

But Flaharty said she had reliable information that Thompson is leaning toward taking his and her Harley-Davidson motorcycles, valued at a combined \$34,000. The motorcycles, dubbed "Fat Boy" and Dyna Wide Glide, are provided by Motor City Harley-Davidson in Farmington.

"I understand he's been talking to people (at Motor City Harley) and is talking about getting a pair of Harley-Davidsons," Flaharty said.

Other top prizes Thompson — not present during the raffle — could have selected included a Corvette from Holiday Chevrolet



PHOTO BY JULIE HEDEN

We won! Dermott Mc Dermott, Kathleen Hoffman, Mary Jane Pope and Gloria Pederson (not pictured) won a \$500 shopping spree.

in Farmington; \$30,000 in cash; a Mediterranean cruise; or a Mercedes ML-320 from Mercedes Benz of Novi.

Sunday's raffle, held in conjunction with the June 22-24

Farmington Area Family Fest, was the highlight of an afternoon picnic attended by about 300. Heavy weekend rains flooded a portion of Shiawassee Park, but those areas were roped off. Flaharty said weather broke for the picnic.

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Besides Thompson, there were nine other raffle winners. The \$1,000 second prize was collected by Leslie Reboty; picking up \$500 prizes for third, fourth and fifth place were Jim Lukas, Dermott McDermott and Jason Boyd; the sixth and seventh prizes (\$250 each) were won by Mary Organ and Kirk Vickers; the eighth, ninth and 10th prizes, for \$150 each, were won by Juan Quovada, the Northwest Gazette staff and Felicia T. Landue. Flaharty said 842 raffle tickets, at \$100 each, were sold, totaling \$84,200. About 20 percent of total net proceeds will be given back to the Farmington Area Family Festival, the board now overseeing the former Founders Festival, along with professional festival management company Watts Up Inc. That money will be used to help plan the 2001 event.

Many of the raffle tickets were sold during the festival at the chamber of commerce booth located in front of Metrobank, in downtown Farmington. The Harleys, Corvette and Mercedes were displayed at the booth, drawing much interest, Flaharty said.



PHOTO BY JULIE HEDEN

Guess what? Carleigh Flaharty calls grand prize winner Robert Thompson.

Despite criticism, Shriners entertain in annual parade

BY JONI HUBBED
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The controversy over a Shriners entry in this year's Farmington Area Family Fest parade wasn't lost on Joyce and June Habermehl and their friend Olga Keeney.

The longtime Farmington residents watched from the south side of Grand River Saturday, as the hour-long stretch of dignitaries, political candidates, marching bands, kids — and Shriners — passed by.

"Looks like they got that straightened out," Joyce Habermehl said.

The group's participation became a point of concern for parade officials Thursday, after an opinion column published in the Observer reportedly upset the Shriners. Karen Bolen, chairwoman of the Multi-Cultural Multi-Racial Council of Farmington and Farmington Hills, criticized the group for its "cowboys and Indians" parade entry, which she said reinforced negative stereotypes and inaccurate views of American history.

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The Shriners themselves have heard people complain about the portrayal of violence, because of a scene where a stagecoach driver shoots at a couple of bandits as they try to rob the stage.

Shriners Len Goodlesky of St. Clair Shores and Frank Gomoll, who works at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, understand the concerns.

"People are concerned about the violence," Gomoll said. "You turn the TV on, you get Bugs Bunny doing the same thing."

As for the cultural issues, Goodlesky believes there's an important point people are missing. "They have to remember what the purpose of it is," Goodlesky, a retired police officer, said. "It's fellowship, it's having a little fun, and it's helping the children."

Through a variety of fund-raising efforts, the Shriners support hospitals that provide total care for crippled children and support for their families. The help comes without a price. Shriners cover 100 percent of the cost for tests, treatment, services, hospital equipment — whatever the family needs.

Their motto is a simple one: "No man too tall, no child too small."

"This is strictly what the Shriners is all about," Goodlesky said.

Contrary to the group's Highlanders band, clowns, lancer cars, Keystone Cops, chanters and floats seemed to delight everyone in the crowd, especially the three ladies who have seen many parades in their years as Farmington residents.

When asked, Joyce Habermehl said she enjoyed the kids and the clowns the most. Olga Keeney, who said she preferred the Family Fest parade over Memorial Day's, had just this to say: "I thought the Shriners did a good job."



PHOTO BY JULIE HEDEN

Involved: The Shriners' cowboys and Indians team participated in the parade and provided entertainment in the streets of Farmington.

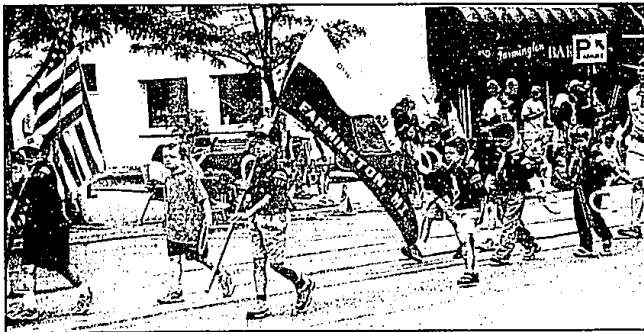


PHOTO BY JULIE HEDEN

Marching: Cub Scouts turned out in packs to march in the parade down Grand River in Farmington. The parade was started at a different location this year.

Parade from page A1

ington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce group, she had a chance to watch from the sidelines this year.

"I loved it. I thought it flowed really well," she said. "The timing was just perfect. I thought all the floats that entered were very well done."

Despite concerns that some groups might be put off by a new entry fee, Flaharty said she thought community organizations were very well represented.

Award winners included: Float: Harvest Temple Wor-

ship Center-first, Farmington Rockets-second, city of Farmington Hills Department of Special Services-third.

Band: Plymouth Fife & Drum Corps-first, Farmington Community Band-second.

Drill team: Farmington High

School Cheerleaders-first, Farmington High School Pom Squad-second, Farmington Rockets Cheerleaders/Farmington Rockets-third.

Artist: Harvest Temple Workshop Center.

Carleigh Flaharty
—Chamber president

CLARIFICATION

Jeremy Brown was missing from the list of graduates from the Alternative Academy in Farmington Hills. Also not listed were two award winners

from the Alternative Academy: Randy Clark — Boyle Scholarship, \$500; and Brianne Silberschein — Optimist Award, \$200.

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