HOMETOWN LIFE Specification of the beautiful to the beaut



Engagements, C7 Beliefs & Values, C9



A simple wish for Sweet 16 good health

he looks tiny but beautiful asleep in her hospital bed. Like the princess with long golden locks waiting for Prince Charming to kiss her on the cheek, rousing her from slumber to ride off into the sun-

kiss her on the check, rousing her from slumber to ride off into the sunset and live happily over after. But this sin't a fairy tale. It's reality, With garish lighting and beeping machinery and professional staff scurrying about. It's grueling and relentless and it somehow leaves time suspended in an unreal state. Her mother spends each day and night at her daughter's bedside, keeping a vigil, watching for signs of improvement that seem to come much too slowly. Mundame household tasks would be a welcome diversion. To be home vacuuming dog fur from the carpeting would mean life has returned to normal. That Nicole is back in the 10th grade studying biology and French, going to dances and the shopping mall with firends.

But she lies motionless in a hospital room, strapped to wires and monitors that record everything happening inside her body.

Time stands still

Time stands still

It started over a year ago. An aggressive disease that hit her with unusual vigor. Like a category five hurricane. Two Christmases lost in a blur of hospitalizations and tests. Two

unusual vigor. Like a category five hurricane. Two Christmases lost in blur of hospitalizations and tests. Two New Years come and gone. More peking and prodding, mere scene and surgeries. Now pneumonia and physication of the product of the produc

Gold medal winner defines success

■ Olympic Gold medal win-ner Shella Taormina will address the Child Abuse Council of Oakland County on Jan. 31 at Glen Oaks in Farmington Hills.

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA STAFF WRITER

White training for the 1996 Olympics, Livonia's Sheila Taormina didn't realize she might also be learning lessons that would lead her to a second career.

Taormina won a gold medal as part of a swim relay team that year, and became a sixth place winner in the first-ever women's Olympic Triathlon team in Sydney last year. She knows what it feels like to be a success, She's chosen to teach others the life lessons ahe's encountered and to help them discover the meaning of success in their own lives.

Taormina speak on the subject of team-work at her daughter's school. She felt the message was both appropriate and inspiring for the luncheon. Rather than follow suit and invite a keynote speak-er to talk specifically about child abuse. Taormina could offer uplifting advice and encourage the audience to make an impact.

and encourage the audience to make an impact.

"Every person can positively affect and change the world in which we live and the community in which we live and make it a better place for children to grow, said Foltyn.

As a mother, the battle against child abuse is one she's willing to fight. Through her work with the Circle of Friends, Foltyn hopes to inspire others to get involved. Projects like the Care House in Pontiac is just one example of such progress.

Giving back

team in Sydney last year. She knows what it feels like to be a success. Sie's chosen to teach others the life lessons she's encountered and to help them discover the meaning of success in their own lives.

"Preparing for athletic events is not much different than what a business person (might do to succeed)," she said during a phone interview from her Livenia home. "What it leads up to is, "What is your definition of success?"

Taormina will share that lesson at the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County's fifth anniversary function of the Circle of Friends, 1130 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31 at Glen Oaks Country Chuli for Friends, 1130 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31 at Glen Oaks Country Chuli his Farmington Hills.

Dr. Judith Hoeffler, executive director of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council attempts to teach all of the children it serves.

"Children need to have hope to go for the Olympics in their lives," said Hoeffler. "Whatever that is."

Inspired

Elyse Essick Foltyn, a Birmingham resident and event chair, first heard



Guest speaker: Sheila Taormina will share her message of suc-cess at a luncheon sponsored by the Oakland County Child Abuse and Neglect Council at Glen Oaks next Wednesday.

ments, Taormina took some good advice. "My boss gave me his blessing. He said 'Go for it ... If you fall flat on your face, you can always have your job back."
With little risk involved, she started her own company, Taormina & Associates, Inc., and has taken her motivational speaking talents around the world. She often books speeches and

guest appearances to coincide with her athletic events and swimming clinics. While Toormian wouldn't offer any of her secrets to success beforehand, she will talk about fear of failure and the quest to truly enjoy every day of life at the upcoming luncheon.

For more information, contact the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of 2489 332-1733.

Pop-A-Top helps kidney dialysis program



Heave-Ho: Donnell Davis and Marcel Eadie hoist a heavy bag of pop-can tabs with a little help from Pops, a member of the Jokers Motorcycle Club. Pops collected the tabs from his club's other members.

illiam Grace Elementary students continue a service project launched by Jennifer Hoemke, Miss Farmington 1997, called *Pop-A-Top For Kidney Dialysis.* Recently the school got a big boost from the Jokers Motorycle Club of Detroit which donated 50 pounds of tabs.
Student council, teachers and staff are all collecting the tabs off soda, juice and fruit cup cans. Each class has a container donated by Andrea Anderson to fill. The winning class will have a pizza party, courtesy of Papa John's Pizza in Farmington.
All tabs are weighted by Haggerty Metal and all money will go to Children's Hospital in Detroit for children and adults on kidney dialysis.

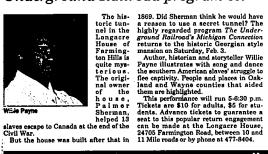
sis.
Drop off your tabs during regular school hours, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. William Grace is at 29040 Shiawassec, between Middlebelt and Inkster, a block south of Nine Mile.



Tops Galore: Benji Card and Donnell Davis are ready for the aluminum

Black history

Underground Railroad program set





Stogan: Erica Yurk made a sign to promote the pop top drive.