

## It's grouse season again

The first couple of weeks of October are a special time of year. There's usually a frost, turning the leaves orange and gold and killing brush.

This enables grouse hunters to see their prey; maybe even make a few accurate shots.

Even dogs seem to sense that special time of year. They get eager to get out in the brush after the hot summer months.

October is also a time to renew old friendships with other hunters. The talk over a few beverages is sometimes as interesting as the hunting. For years, I've celebrated the fall season in a grouse camp of sorts in the Upper Peninsula. There's a large cabin rented and sons and their friends show up. But that's all changed. The attack on America has put a damper on all sorts of activities. Oh, we'll still go, but there will just be a different spirit to the whole affair. The foliage just won't look the same, and the sound of a shotgun going off will bring up visions of something that may be happening on the other side of the world.

I suspect this year there will be fewer friends visiting.

And if my sons and their friends show up, I'll be wondering where they'll be next year if our war on terrorism continues. Will they be wearing camouflage and carrying a rifle instead of a .20 gauge shotgun and an orange hunting vest? Time will tell.

Earlier this summer I read a poignant essay by nature writer Sig Olson about a long canoe/fishing trip he took with his son prior to his son leaving for battle in World War II.

I suspect as the hunting season in Michigan unfolds, wildfowl, upland bird and deer hunters will be having similar experiences. Where will their friends, sons and daughters be next fall?

Will stories shared around campfires be told with the same enthusiasm as in past years? Will the normal antics of hunting friends seem as funny this year? It's doubtful.

(Counts is the editor of the Redford Observer and can be reached at (734) 953-2114 or by e-mail at jcounts@oe.com.)

## Marlins and Shamrocks win cross country meets

Farmington Mercy took four of the top five places Tuesday to defeat Harper Woods Regina, 20-39, in a girls cross country meet at Metro Beach Metropark.

The Marlins' Shannon LaFave edged Catherine Vaughn of Regina for first place by more than half a minute. LaFave clocked 21:27 to Vaughn's 22:09. Elizabeth Williams was third for Mercy with a time of 22:26 while teammates Valerie Burnisky and Amanda Nagy clocked 22:31 and 22:53 to take fourth and fifth, respectively.

Regina's Lauri Eisen was sixth at 23:13, Mercy's Courtney Meyer finished seventh with a time of 23:29 and Katie Eisen of Regina placed eighth in 23:38.

Mercy's Lauren Longley (M) was ninth with a time of 23:56 while teammate Bridget Hunt rounded out the top ten with a 24:08 clocking.

The Marlins are now 2-2, both overall and in the Detroit Catholic League.

Detroit Catholic Central won the Haslett boys Cross Country Invitational on Saturday while Farmington High finished ninth.

The Shamrocks totaled 32 points while the Falcons had 225 in the 16-team meet.

CC took the second through fourth places. Ryan Lowry was at 15:51.5, John Krawiec at 16:04.9 and David Lucas clocked 16:05.6. Kyle Jekot rounded out the scorers, taking seventh at 16:37.7.

Farmington's lowest finisher was Ryan Kiblawi, whose 17:17.6 earned him 27th place. Chris Tobe captured 30th with a time of 17:24.2, Kevin Heist took 32nd at 17:28.6 and Tom Peszek was 72nd with a time of 18:38.3.

Rounding out the finishers for the Falcons were non-scorers Tom Eason (83rd, 19:01.5) and Patrick Whinnery (95th, 19:51.2).

Non-scorers for CC were Dan Horgan (16th, 17:01.5), Brian Doet (25th, 17:15.6) and Bryan Seymour (28th, 17:18.1).

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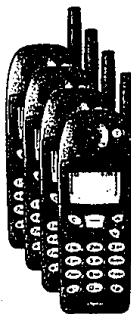
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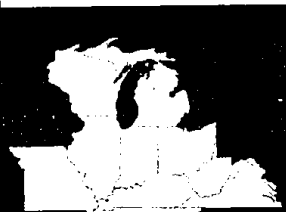


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