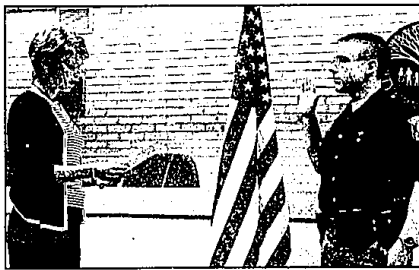


New PSO Brown sworn in Farmington

Scott Michael Brown, 23, was sworn in July 8 as a new Farmington public safety officer at Farmington City Hall.

Brown recently graduated from Lake Superior State University and Academy with a bachelors degree in criminal justice and a minor in fire science. He was a security officer for the campus security department, according to Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss.

Goss said Brown did well in his interviews. "He's very sharp and dedicated," Goss said. "We are proud to have him aboard."



New guy on the block: New Public Safety Officer Scott Michael Brown was sworn in at Farmington City Hall on July 8.

Brown was in the Criminal Justice Honor Society and holds certifications in incident command, hazardous materials and medical responder. His hobbies are downhill snow skiing, run-

ning, hiking, rock climbing and fishing.

He lives with his parents and two brothers.

— by Staff Writer Sue Buck

Music patrons will host Bingo

Farmington Music Patrons will host their annual Bingo 6-11 p.m. Thursday and Friday, July 18-19 and 3-11 p.m. Saturday, at the Farmington

Founders Festival. Bingo players receive 50 percent of each winning game with the remaining proceeds to benefit the Farmington High School

Music Department. The Bingo tent will be located on Grand River, in the Farmington Insurance Agency's parking lot.

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Legal Experience - 25 years in general legal practice. Practiced in every District Court in the Detroit Metro Area.

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Professional Experience - Writer and lecturer for the American, Michigan and Oakland County Bar Associations, and Institute for Continuing Legal Education. Topics include: District Court Practice, Legal Technology and Law Practice Management.

Paid for by: Barry Brickner for 47th District Court Judge Committee, 29271 Olencastle Ct Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Slots at the tracks

Patterson bets revenue will ease budget woes

By DAN WEST
dwest@coo.homecomm.net

With Oakland County and its 61 communities looking at millions in lost state aid, County Executive L. Brooks Patterson stepped forward to pitch a new idea that would ease the state's budget dilemma without raising taxes or cutting programs.

He believes the state could garner some \$300 million a year in new revenue if it permits slot machines and other electronic gambling devices at the state's seven harness race tracks. Locally, this would benefit Hazel Park Harness Raceway and the two horse tracks at Northville Downs.

"To me, this is a no-brainer," Patterson told reporters Wednesday. "Whenever the state has a budget crisis, they only look at two things: Cut programs or raise taxes, but here's another way."

Patterson's numbers come from the Michigan Harness Horseman's Association which bases its statistics on the infusion of electronic gambling devices at horse tracks in Minnesota, Delaware and North Carolina.

Michigan's seven horse tracks took a hit with the growth of

■ He believes the state could garner some \$300 million a year in new revenue if it permits slot machines and other electronic gambling devices at the state's seven harness race tracks.

casinos across Michigan. Since casinos opened in Detroit in 1996, the state's race tracks report a 19.2 percent drop in wagering and 26.7 percent decline in attendance. The loss of state sales and income taxes fell 13 percent.

According to Michigan Harness Horseman's Association spokesman William Jowett, the Detroit casinos played a huge roll in the closure of the once-popular Ladbroke DRC race track in Livonia.

"We're in the entertainment business," said Jowett, a former state lawmaker who also represents horse tracks in Swartz Creek, Jackson, Muskegon and Saginaw.

"If you don't have the product to compete, you won't win. We ought to have the products (slot

machines) to compete."

Under state law, slot machines are permitted only in casinos, State Rep. Marc Shulman (R-West Bloomfield) said a super majority in both the House and Senate would be needed to permit slot machines at horse racing facilities.

"I'm willing to look at it, but it's not the savior to the budget problems," said Shulman, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "It's one revenue enhancement option, but we need other structural solutions to resolve the budget problems in the long run."

Patterson, Jowett said, is the first public official to aggressively promote this initiative. With major budget cuts slated to balance Michigan's budget next year, Patterson said he was motivated to act because his county and its communities will be shorted \$7 million in revenue-sharing dollars from the state in 2003, under the latest plans in Lansing.

"For some of our smaller towns, that's 40, 50 percent of their revenues and that will hurt them a lot," said Patterson, who added the reductions harm a municipality's ability to repair roads and appropriately staff fire and police departments.



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