



SHARON LeMIEUX/staff photographer

Allison Ayres says she is about as ready as she can be to represent the Farmington area in the Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant that winds up Saturday night with the crowning of Miss Michigan.

Pageant fever

Hills' Allison Ayres bids for state title this week

By Loraine McClish
staff writer

ALLISON AYRES is in a swirl of activities this week in Muskegon leading up to the grand finale of the Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant when the title winner will be crowned Saturday night.

Parties and fun and games are mixed in with the business of rehearsals and interviews for the 26 young women who have been chosen by their city to compete for the roses of victory.

But the woman who took the title of Miss Farmington last July isn't thinking of the pageant as competition.

"It's more camaraderie than contest," Ayres said. "I got to know our state pretty well training this last month with other contestants, meeting contestants, and then meeting all the other winners at our orientation. We gave one another help and constructive criticism. Any indication of competitiveness just wasn't there."

Said Sarah D'Ascenzo, executive director of Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant. "She'll do well in the pageant. We've spent a lot of time together this past couple of months — we've shopped together all the way from Toledo to Birch Run — and she is a well rounded, organized girl who would make a good representative for Michigan.

"She is a strong interviewee. She has talent and a wonderful personality. She's very intelligent and she looks beautiful in everything she wears.

'She'll do well in the pageant. We've spent a lot of time together this past couple of months . . . and she is a well-rounded, organized girl.'

— Sarah D'Ascenzo
pageant director

daughter of Carol and Nick Ayres of Farmington Hills. The dark-haired, brown-eyed beauty has a brother, Greg, who is a student at Wayne State University.

Shopping has always been a problem for Ayres. She is a size four (small) and most everything she buys must be altered.

Ayres is a Phi Beta Kappa majoring in economics and French at the University of Michigan. She's working towards a prelaw undergraduate degree.

She will pursue her career as an attorney with a law firm in Ann Arbor this summer doing research on children who are asked to testify in court.

She played a Rachmaninoff piano solo to help her win the title of Miss Farmington. She'll play the "Warsaw Concerto" to help her win the title of Miss Michigan.

She says she thinks she has been preparing for the Miss Michigan Pageant since the day she was named Miss Farmington.

"I'm as ready as I can be for this," she said. "It will all come together. I'll be wearing the same

interview suit that I did last year, but everything else is new."

D'ASCENZO GOT some help from the Miss Michigan Pageant System to help get Ayres ready. The volunteers set up mock interviews in unfamiliar surroundings with people she did not know. There were also drills on current events.

"They set up questions to pull out the contestant's opinions and feelings," D'Ascenzo said. "She did very, very well."

Another source of help has come from Ayres' sponsor, Chris Moore, who is owner and operator of Subway Sandwiches and Salads on Grand River.

Moore has been a two-time sponsor for the Miss Farmington competition and made a big kick, Ayres said, learning he had sponsored a winner this time around.

"The walls on his shop have got a lot of my pictures on them," she said. "And he kept right on being a sponsor by helping me with money towards my wardrobe."

Moore said it would be in the cheering section for Ayres this week in Muskegon, and would be backing another contestant for the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant next month.

The local Miss Ayres will be in Vladimir's Restaurant Wednesday, July 10, to crown the Miss Farmington of 1991.

Tickets for the local pageant are available from Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, 33411 Grand River.

D'Ascenzo is seeking persons to help with last minute details for the pageant. Interested persons who can volunteer either time or talent are asked to leave their names with the chamber at 474-3440.

Jogging pharmacist recalled as one always ready to help

By Tedd Schneider
staff writer

At home in Livonia or at work in his Farmington Hills pharmacy-parapharmacy, it didn't matter.

If you approached Albert Abdelnour for advice, he would quickly drop whatever he was doing and help you work things out. And he'd do it with a smile.

That's the picture family members and colleagues offered of the 44-year-old longtime Livonia resident, who died Wednesday after he was hit by a Jeep while jogging on the shoulder of Eight Mile in Northville.

Mr. Abdelnour's brother-in-law, Yusuf Hanania, 38, of Novi, was also killed in the accident.

"He was a gentle, sweet and caring man," said Halah Abdelnour, Albert's widow. "She said the two men were regular joggers."

"He was my mom and dad's favorite, and we always teased him about that. But it never bothered him. He just stood there and smiled with his eyes," she said.

Halah Abdelnour said her brother used the same approach to build his Meadow Pharmacy and Party Store into a successful business.

Co-workers agreed.

"WE'VE BEEN getting calls from customers all day," said Lauren Tackel. "One who's been coming in here for a long time just told me how

Elks get OK to use FHS parking lot

By Casey Hens
staff writer

Due to a lack of space at their site and because of ongoing road work along Orchard Lake, the Farmington Elks will be allowed to use the Farmington High School lot during this year's Farmington Founders Festival.

The Elks sponsor an annual "ex-roast" and beer tent during the festival at their property on the east side of Orchard Lake Road between 10 mile and Shiawassee.

Elks Festival chairman Al Young said the group made the request because they recently sold off property on site, which was formerly used for parking during festival.

On June 4, Farmington school board members voted 6-1 to give permission for use of the parking lot



Albert Abdelnour

just talking to Albert always made him feel better."

Many customers have frequented the store for years, even long after they moved out of the neighborhood, Tackel said.

"I've known him since I've been in this country, 1966," said Anwar George, store manager. "He was a great boss. Treated everybody real well."

Mr. Abdelnour, a native of Palestine, opened the party store on Farmington Road north of Eight Mile while still in his teens. He added the pharmacy after graduating from the Wayne State University

College of Pharmacy in 1973.

He ran it as a true family business, with children Al, Jeff, Tanya and Teresa all putting in long hours.

Manager George is a cousin.

"Even if you weren't family, he treated you like family," said Tackel.

Other survivors are Mr. Abdelnour's wife, Laila; parents, Abdelnour and Naimeh of Livonia; brother, Basim; and sister, Hilda Beshara, both of Farmington Hills.

He was an active member of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church and helping build the church cultural center, on Merriman near Six Mile, was one of his favorite projects in recent years, family members said.

HE ALSO belonged to the Michigan Pharmaceutical Association, Michigan Food Dealer Association, National Retail Druggists Association and Ramaleh Club.

Police said Friday they are continuing the investigation of the accident and hope to know this week whether charges will be filed.

"We know that the Jeep left the road and struck the victim on the shoulder, but we don't know why," said Lt. Gerald Ryan of the Northville city police.

The men were jogging eastbound on the north shoulder and the Jeep was headed westbound near Beck when the accident occurred about 8 a.m., Ryan said.

The men were facing oncoming traffic, he said.

will be denied.

Elks members are expected to be shuttled to and from the Elks lodge from the school parking lot by van.

Trustee Helen Prutlow dissented, after noting her concern it may conflict with driver's training or other school activities, and concern because there is alcohol served at the Elks site.

"One thing I've learned over the years, is you open the door one inch and people push it open and take a mile," she said. "I feel I need to make a statement."

Board president Susan Rennells said she considered the request a "one-time option" and that it be "restricted to the public."

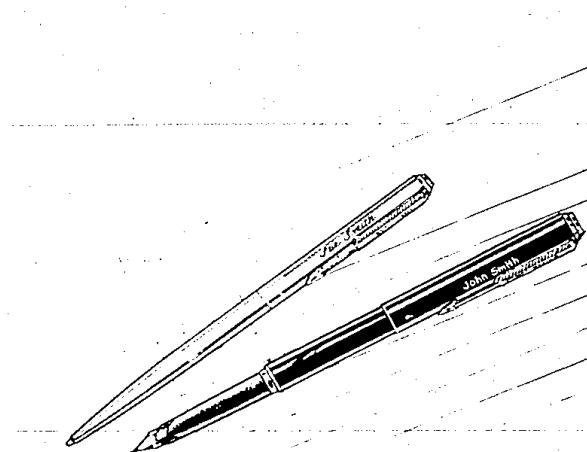
The Elks Club site is in Farmington Hills, while the Farmington High School lot is in the city of Farmington. Both police agencies told the school district they could work with the arrangement.

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— Helen Prutlow
dissenting trustee

only if it does not conflict with summer school activities.

They also stipulated that the club hold the school district harmless, provide appropriate insurance, and that the lot only be used for the use of Elks club members and those working at the club. If the arrangement does not work out, permission



PARKER PEN ENGRAVING EVENT

Thursday, June 13, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Birmingham and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Rochester
Friday, June 14, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., in Livonia. In our Stationery Department

Please come early with a gift from our collection of Parker 95, Parker 88 and classic pens, get 10% off. Bonus and throughout the world for superb writing performance and style. During this event, a representative from Parker Pens will engrave your purchase at no extra charge. Don't miss this opportunity to create a memorable gift that expresses your esteem and affection. The collection includes fountain pens, ball pens, roller balls, a suitable gift for every writer's style.

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