

CHAT ROOM



Katie McManus

From the heart: surgery more than expected

I remember telling my friends just a few days before my surgery "It's not that big a deal. I'll be back to normal in just a couple of weeks." I explained that I would be having a heart valve repair and that I had the best doctor in the country doing the procedure. I knew from the time I was young that my mitral valve wasn't in the best of shape and that something would have to be done someday but it never stopped me from being active. As a child I was very involved with dance and as an adult I've participated in a variety of bike tours across the state.

The morning of my surgery, Feb. 23, and the weeks that followed seem like a dream to me now. What was supposed to be a three hour procedure, turned out to be 26 hours of stress and uncertainty for me and my family. The surgeon attempted to repair my mitral valve but wasn't happy with the results. He explained to my family that the valve was in worse shape than he had expected and he was taking me back into surgery to replace the valve with a mechanical one. This meant more waiting and worrying for them and more anesthesia for me. When the surgeon finished the replacement he sent my family home for some much needed rest. Little did they know they would be back in the waiting room just a few hours later. My sister received a phone call at 5 a.m. from my doctor. They were taking me back into the operating room yet again but this time it was for complications from internal bleeding. The doctors couldn't figure out where it was coming from but mysteriously the bleeding subsided and finally my body was able to rest.

Surrounded by supporters

I can remember waking up from my surgery having no idea what I had

Please See CHAT ROOM, B2

A PARENTS' GUIDE

The Teen Music Scene

Backstreet Boys

Concert info: Scheduled to play the area in the fall. Visit <http://www.backstreetboys.com> for more information.

Who are they? Howie Dorough, Nick Carter, A.J. McLean, Brian Littrell and Kevin Richardson

What you should know: Parents of teenage girls probably know all there needs to know - and then some - about the heartthrobs du jour. The group's latest album, "Millennium," sold 1,133,505 copies the first week of release, smashing the record set by Gorth Brooks.

Score brownie points: Littrell had heart surgery last year, and the guys really do play instruments. Littrell and Richardson are cousins.

Sample lyrics: "Ain't nothin' but a party/Tell me why?/Ain't nothin' but a

Please see BOYS, B2

98 Degrees



Concert info: "Nickelodeon All That Music and More Tour" featuring performances by 98 Degrees, Monica, Aaron Carter, 3rd Storee, No Authority and Billy Crawford, and the cast of Nickelodeon's "All That" television show, begins at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 20, at Pine Knob Music Theatre, 1-75 and Sashabaw Road, Independence Township. Tickets are \$28.50 pavilion, \$20 lawn. Groups of 20 or more get \$3 off pavilion tickets, and \$2 off lawn tickets. For more information, call (248) 377-0100 or visit <http://www.palacetickets.com> or <http://www.nick.com>. (See related story in Entertainment)

Who are they? "All That" is a "Saturday Night Live"-style variety show for kids that airs on Nickelodeon. Monica is an R&B/soul singer, while 98 Degrees is group of Ohio men who specialize in ballads - and sending teenage girls' hearts aflutter. Carter is the brother of the Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter. Billy Crawford and 3rd Storee are up and coming acts. No Authority is signed to Michael Jackson's Sony-affiliated record label, A&M.

What you should know: The "Nickelodeon All That Music and More Tour" is a sort of "Nickapalooza" with its festival atmosphere. Along the sidewalks of Pine Knob, there will be interactive activities, auditions for different Nickelodeon television shows, Nickelodeon game show-style activities, a travel-

Please see 98 DEGREES, B2



Britney Spears

Concert info: The show, originally scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 24, at the State Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit, is postponed until Sunday, Sept. 12. The all-ages show is sold out, but more tickets may be released closer to the show. Call (313) 961-5451 or visit <http://www.statetheatre.com> for more information.

Who is she? A Louisiana teen who dreamed of being a star since she was in kindergarten. What you should know: Her debut album, "...Baby One More Time," has sold more than two million copies. Like members of 'N Sync, she is a former cast member of the "Mickey Mouse Club."

Score brownie points: Spears lost in the final round of "Star Search." She is a model for Tommy Hilfinger and has a television show in the works.

Sample lyrics: "My loneliness is killing me/I must confess it's killing me/When I'm not with you I lose my mind/Give me a sign/Hit me baby one more time." Spears has repeatedly explained in interviews that this song has nothing to do with sex.

Appropriate age: All ages, unless you don't buy her explanation of "...Baby

Please see SPEARS, B2

BY CHRISTINA PUOCO
STAFF WRITER
christina@homecomm.net

Teen-oriented harmony-driven pop is all the rage. Look at the Backstreet Boys' latest album, for example. In its first week of release, "Millennium" sold more than 1.1 million copies.

Britney Spears' album, "...Baby One More Time" has been certified quadruple platinum, while 'N Sync and 98 Degrees have both sold millions of albums.

Gil Wachsmen, vice chairman of Musicland Stores Corporation, said these sales figures show teens steer the market.

"The performance of the Backstreet Boys' release reflects the heavy shopping habits of the teen demographic, which will grow in numbers until 2020. Young people shopped at our stores in full force because they want a hot new release in their hands the same day it is available."

The average age is 13-18 years at shows by Backstreet Boys, 'N Sync and 98 Degrees, but are these concerts and albums appropriate for young children?

We've compiled an easy-to-read chart for parents that describe a little bit about the groups and their lyrics. There's even fun facts thrown in that parents can use to impress their children.

'N Sync

Concert info: 'N Sync, Jordan Knight, Five and Billy Crawford, perform Saturday, July 31, at the Pontiac Silverdome. Showtime is 8 p.m. Tickets are \$32.50. For more information, call (248) 456-1600 or (248) 645-6666.

Who are they? 'N Sync is a group of Orlando, Fla., men - JC Chasez, Justin Timberlake, Chris Kirkpatrick, Lance Bass and Tony Fatone. Jordan Knight is a former member of New Kids on the Block. Five is from the United Kingdom.

What you should know: Timberlake and Chasez are former stars of the "Mickey Mouse Club." Kirkpatrick has funky dyed hair and braids.

Score brownie points: The men wearing the bunny ears in 'N Sync's "I Drive Myself Crazy" video is the group's bodyguard. Timberlake is rumored to be dating Britney Spears, and Fatone is a Superman nut who wears the



Please see 'N SYNC, B2

Ten contestants vie for Miss Farmington crown

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER
maryrod@homecomm.net

Wednesday evening of Founder's Festival week is traditionally the night Miss Farmington/Oakland County is crowned on stage at Vladimir's Banquet Center in Farmington Hills. It is the opening event of the festival.

This July 7 reigning queen Erin Coggswell will pass the crown to her predecessor. Who will she be?

Ten contestants are vying for that honor. Here's a thumbnail sketch of each.

Pam Walk of Novi is a 19-year-old sophomore at Oakland University in Rochester Hills. Her platform is Drugs

and Youth. She is sponsored by Kathryn Tristain of Airborne International.

Michelle Miller of Farmington Hills, 19, is a sophomore at the University of Kentucky. A singer, her platform is Special Needs Children: What is Normal? Metro Bank is her sponsor. Sarah Burkett, 20, of Novi, attends

the University of Michigan where she is a sophomore. Ken Levy of the Kick Boxing Club of Novi is her sponsor. Her platform is Cancer.

Madonna Emond is a recent graduate (Class of 1999) of Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. She plans

Please See MISS FARMINGTON, B2

SUMMER SAVINGS!



Striped TEES \$9.99* Print ROMPERS \$19.99* Crested TEES \$9.99* Drawstring SHORTS \$9.99*

DRESS BARN

Also at Dress Barn Woman!

For a store near you visit www.dressbarn.com or call 800-639-6064 8:30 am to 5:00 pm EST, M-F

*DRESS BARN WOMAN PRICES SLIGHTLY HIGHER. MOST STORES OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED. SALE ENDS 6/22/99

Father's Day

Heads or Tails, Dad Wins!

\$80.00

Dad's the Best Solid Gold Coin

Heads...Dad's the best, so this Father's Day, make it a key chain, good luck charm, ball marker, or pendant!

Tails...Anytime Dad shows his gold coin he gets an extra 10% off any regular priced item. Each gold coin is numbered and the discount is good until December 31, 1999!

M.B. JEWELRY DESIGN & MFG. LTD.
Applegate Square • 29847 Northwestern Hwy
Southfield, Michigan 48034 • (248) 356-7007