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


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to enter Central Michigan University in the fall. Her platform is Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD). Her sponsor is Hearts and Roses florist.

Victoria Anderson, 21, is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University. She is currently student teaching. Molissa's platform is Literacy. Her sponsor is the Grand Rapids Art Center, 2000 Antique Mall in Farmington. Her talent is cardiac kick.

Victoria Anderson, 19, of Farmington Hills is a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology majoring in astrophysics. She graduated number one in her class from North Farmington High. Her sponsor is the Masonic Temple. She will be competing in the talent competition. She's a synchronized swimmer and member of the rowing team. Her platform is asthma.

Leslie Reinhold, 20, is a junior at Michigan State University. Originated from Saginaw, she will live in Farmington. Her sponsor is Executive Printing. Her platform is eating disorders.

Francesca Romeo, 21, of Farmington Hills is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. She will be dancing in the talent competition. Her platform is America Today: A Nation of Nations. She is sponsored by the Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Stephanie Watson, 21, of West Bloomfield, is sponsored by Focal Point Studio. A senior at Lawrence Tech University, she will be singing in the talent competition. Her platform is Tree of Life - Roots. She traced her family genealogy recently and made some interesting discoveries.

Leilani Thorn, 18, of Waterford, is a student at Waterford Mott High School. Her sponsor is Contemporary Awards. She is competing for the talent competition. Leilani dances with the Detroit Shock dance team. Her

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce is Positive Peer Influence.

"We have five returning contestants and five new sponsors," said Ginny Morris, pageant coordinator.

The festivities will get under way at 7 p.m. July 7 at Vladimir's, on Grand River near Inlaker. Tickets are \$10 in advance, available at the Farmington Chamber of Commerce office, or \$12 at the door.

"There have been a lot of changes this year," said Morris. "The parade will be a parade of nations and each contestant will have a pageant buddy, someone under the arm."

Ten Marine color guard members will escort the contestants to the parade, which is part of the program. We also have a few surprises on hand."

The Farmington Chamber of Commerce office is at 3300 N. Thapa, Suite 501. Hours are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Contestants: The countdown is on with 10 contenders for Miss Farmington/Oakland County. At right, back row: Francesca Romeo, Sarah Burkett, Stephanie Watson and Leslie Reinbold. Seated: Erin Cogswell, reigning queen, Pamela Walk, Madonna Emond, and Leilani Thorn. Not pictured are contestants Victoria Anderson, Melissa Howard and Michelle Miller. The Miss Farmington/Oakland County pageant is slated Wednesday, July 7, at Vladimir's Banquet Center in Farmington Hills. The pageant is the official kickoff event to the annual Farmington Founders Festival which runs through the weekend in downtown Farmington.

been through. My bed was surrounded by the most important people in my life and what a comfort it was to see their faces. They explained to me what I had gone through and what the doctor had to do. I was so relieved that it was all behind me now.

I'd have to say, the hardest thing I had to deal with after the surgery was not being able to perform at my normal energy level. I was prepared to just jump right back into my normal routine which included full-time work, part-time school and a very active social life but my body wouldn't allow it. It's the first time in my life that I wasn't able to call the shots. I had to be patient and let my body heal.

There were some days of anxiety too. I had a foreign object in

my body and wasn't quite sure how to deal with this. Would it fail? Would my body accept this new addition? Are there limits to my activity? These are all normal questions and the doctor reassured me that everything looked great and to continue living my life like I always had.

I don't think my family and friends will ever know just how much their support meant to me. It's because of them that I was able to make it through such a difficult challenge. Love and compassion are better healers than any drug. And thanks to the expertise of the Surgeon "All's well that ends well," and I can write this just a few short months later with only a scar to remind me of my battle.

Katie McManus is the editorial receptionist for the Farmington Observer.

superhero's logo on a gold chain. **Sample lyrics:** 'N Sync's lyrics are generic love songs: "It's tearin' up my heart when I'm with you/When we are apart I feel it too/And no matter what I do I feel the pain/with or without you." Jordan Knight, on the other hand, is a bit risqué for 'N Sync fans: "You

98 Degree

know I got to give it to you/Can't deny/We'll do it right." Five is all about fun with non-specific party lyrics: "Slam dunk the funk/put it up/when you got that feeling." **Appropriate age:** Because of Knight, 18 and older. **Hear for yourself:** www.poeps.com ("N Sync, Jordan Knight and Five).

Score brownie points: Drew Lachey of 98 Degrees is rarely without a baseball hat. Like 'N Sync, the Backstreet Boys and Britney

Spears: Tommy Hilfinger is 98 Degrees' designer of choice. The group has a holiday album coming out in October, "98 Degrees ... This Christmas." Monica's last name is Arnold.

Sample lyrics: The words to Monica's "The First Night" are somewhat questionable: "I wanna get down/but not the first night." The group 98 Degrees, however, prides itself on innocuous, vague lyrics: "I've made up my mind/There is no turning back/Sho's been good to me/And she deserves better than me."

Appropriate age: Nickelodeon says it is for the first grade and up. All ages can hear for yourself: www.pops.com (Monica), or www.98degrees.com

One More Time."
Hear for yourself: www.pceps.com

mistake/ Tell me why/ I never want to hear you say/ I want it that way." Even if the lyrics were somewhat suggestive, younger fans at the shows will never know – the screaming drowns out most of the performance.

Appropriate age: If hip thrusts and booty shaking are OK with you, then all ages.

Hear for yourself: www.backstreetboys.com

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