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### 'Survivor' star recalls days growing up in Farmington's

Michael Skupin, star of television's "Survivor II, the Australian Outback," was the celebrity grand marshal at Castralian Staturday's Botsford Parade in downtown Farmington. Not everyone may know that he's a Farmington boy, born and rulsed, and that most of his old friends know him as Michael Landry as he took his step-father's last name while he was a child and teenager. After coming back to Michigan aher being on the hit TV series, he said people he know in his younger days would shout out, "Hey Landry!" He said his parents and other close relatives still live in the Farmington area where he visits often.

He appeared with his wife, Peni and their four children on a Hummer at the parade. Interviewed at the Ox Roast tent afterward, he said eruising along Grand Avenue on top of the expensive sport utility was interesting in that he got to see what salong the road at a slow speed.



'Survivor' star Michael Skupin shows off his healed hands while being interviewed after the parade Saturday. He was the parade's celebrity grand marshal.

"I've driven on this road a million times and never paid attention to what's along it," he

said with a laugh. "All the parks and streams. You never realize what a neat place this is."
Skupin, who was the only contestant to be removed from the series after he accidentally fell into a fire pit and severely burned his hands, showed his recovered paws. He even suggested to feel how smooth his palms were.

He recounted how as a child

sliding into the toal with fun.

And being part of the parade was a highlight he said as he's witnessed it himself as a bystander for years.

"It's great that this tradition continues," he said.

So far his life has been just as here as ever.

So far his life has been just as busy as ever.

In fact, the star said he will be part of a Survivor charity golf outing Aug. 14 where 20 past contestants of the series will meet in White Lake Township.

For more information, check out Skupin's Web site at www.MikeSkupin.com

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