



The highs and lows of the Toronto film festival. 5B

# People & Places

B

Brides 4  
Events Calendar 4  
Sports 8

WEBSTER POST NEWS

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20-26, 2006

## notable names

### Webster resident studies abroad

**Kaelyn Modrak**, daughter of John D. Modrak Jr. of Webster, is spending the fall 2006 semester studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland, through a program run by Saint Michael's College. Modrak is a student at Trinity College. She is a junior English literature major at Saint Michael's. Modrak is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester.

### Local resident earns degree

**Elizabeth K. Figura** of Webster was one of 13 graduate students to receive degrees during the 2006 commencement exercises held on Sunday, May 14, at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva. Figura, who received a master of arts degree in teaching, is the daughter of Barbara and Mark Figura. She is a 2001 graduate of Webster High School and will be teaching fourth grade in the Liverpool, N.Y., school district this fall.

### Assistant principal honored

**Mary Ann Harrigan**, assistant principal at Bay Trail Middle School in Penfield, was recently honored with two community awards. She received the first award from the Rochester/Monroe County Your Voice, One Vision program which honors individuals for their work with youth. She was recognized for her outstanding dedication to being a great adult asset builder in Rochester and Monroe County. She also received the Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Rush-Henrietta Rotary Club for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among people in the world.



HARRIGAN



STAFF PHOTO/JOHN D. HANLON

Sierra Lynn Doody of Webster shows Corduroy her teddy bear as Jillian Fame from Webster looks on. Sierra, 2, sleeps with her bear every night. Parents and children welcomed Corduroy to the library.

# A teddy bear picnic

Little ones enjoyed a teddy bear picnic with Corduroy, a character from the popular series of children's books by Dan Freeman, at Webster Public Library Thursday morning.



STAFF PHOTO/JOHN D. HANLON

Corduroy looks on as children's librarian Adrienne Furness reads "Where's My Teddy" to participants.



STAFF PHOTO/JOHN D. HANLON

Parents and children welcome Corduroy to the library.

### Got a PEOPLE tip?

Send it to Melissa Lang at [mlang@mpnews.com](mailto:mlang@mpnews.com) or call our Pittsford office at (585) 381-3300, ext. 450.

### A CHILD WAITS ...

#### for you Earl

Kind-hearted Earl, 13, is a sweet, easygoing teen who is rarely seen without a smile. He loves being around other people, laughing and helping out whenever he can. Earl loves roller coasters! He also likes car rides, watching T.V. and jumping on the trampoline. Earl is enrolled in 8th grade special education classes where he does well. Earl is not at all discouraged by his physical limitations; in fact, he doesn't seem to be aware of them and continues to reach for the stars! Earl is deaf and uses sign language and pointing to communicate. The perfect family for Earl will provide him with love and join him as he enjoys life to the fullest.



*If you are interested in adopting this youngster or another waiting child, please contact:*  
**Children Awaiting Parents**  
595 Blossom Road, Suite 306,  
Rochester, N.Y. 14610  
(585) 232-5110  
[info@capbook.org](mailto:info@capbook.org)

# Autumn is when our year really starts

Since tomorrow is the official beginning of autumn, I feel the time perfect to reveal a long-held opinion of mine ... that autumn gets the short end of the stick from the American public. To me, autumn is the start-up season for us all, not a time to close down. A time to get rolling, a time to create, a time to quicken the pace ... not go slower. We've been fed a gruesome tale about autumn - fall - across the years. One version of our beloved dictionary ("Chambers 21st Century") describes autumn in absolutely ghastly terms: "a period of maturity before decay."  
Songwriters have followed suit with "downer" sorts of lyrics. In "Early Autumn", the scene is bleak: "There's a dance pavilion in the rain/All shuttered down ..."  
Or in "September Song": "For it's a long, long while from May to December/But the days dwindle down when you reach September ..."  
Decay. Dwindle. Down. Shuttered. Black and blue words, words I'm sure the pilgrims didn't have in mind as they chomped on and celebrated the bountiful November harvests after which autumn is dedicated.  
So help me with my campaign, will

## Lee Burgess

RIDGE RUNNER



you? "Talk Up Autumn" is its name; AUT is its acronym (note how cutely I've rearranged the letters so as to further suggest the season). Talk Up Autumn accepts only glowing colors - orange and red and yellow - and only equally glowing words - "brilliant" and "sparkling" and "shiny" and the more cerebral "intelligent."  
There now. Don't you feel better already?  
My passion for AUT - autumn - was rekindled back in late August driving west out of the village and along the Ridge. I spotted Firemen's Field to my left just beyond McDonald's - and suddenly felt sad. As the song suggests, it was shuttered down. Signs no longer screamed "All Day Tickets - \$10!" or "Drink Pepsi!" or "Thrill to the Ride of Your Life!"

The only interaction between Firemen's Field and the public that day were small white warnings - "No Trespassing" - superimposed against a background of boarded-up booths. Carnival's over. Summer's over. See you in July '07.  
Pensively, I drove further west and pulled into the rear parking lot at Schroeder High School. My summer-over funk disappeared quicker than a crow eating road kill in traffic. The Warrior varsity football team near the field, and the Schroeder cheerleaders behind the gym, were doing just that: cheering, psyching, yahoo-ing, raised fists, high fives, screaming - waiting for Game One.  
That sort of excitement isn't limited to kids, either. Adults seem freshly empowered by autumn, too - cars and trucks going faster or just plain more cars and trucks on the road. People waving. "Hi!" More smiles. Nippy mornings and sweat-shirt evenings. A harvest moon.  
We vote in autumn. A baseball champion is decided in autumn. Pro football, hockey and basketball swing into action in autumn. Classes begin

in autumn. A new school tax bill arrives in autumn.  
The beginnings are endless. Leaves that adorn the branches and ground like unlimited gold coin. Indian Summer. Orange bathrooms. Orange bathrooms?  
Yep. Bathrooms not wallpapered in flowery pink patterns. Just plain ol' down home orange - I caught the craze (such as it is) about four years ago. Today, our bathroom stands as a monument to autumn. Orange walls uninterrupted by trim except near the ceiling. Orange trimmed in white. Orange. Orange. Scorching orange. Mind-boggling and phenomenal (even at 2 a.m.).  
OK - I'm getting maudlin. Time to sign off. I just wanted to share my enthusiasm for autumn - fall - this week with you. Look around, will you, for the next few weeks. Appreciate the feel of fall ... a beginning, not an end.  
Something you AUT - ought - to consider.  
*Lee Burgess writes this column for the Webster Post. He can be reached via e-mail at [BBur08537@aol.com](mailto:BBur08537@aol.com).*