

DIOCESAN NEWS

Tier history museum featuring new exhibit with baseball theme

ELMIRA — A historic baseball display is serving as this year's Chemung County Historical Society spring exhibit.

"The American Game: Baseball in the Southern Tier" opened April 3 at the Chemung Valley History Museum, 415 E. Water St. This exhibit highlights events as far back as the Civil War, when the Chemung Unions played against Confederate prisoners at a nearby prisoner-of-war camp. Also included are vintage photos and artifacts, as well as a section of seats from Dunn Field on which visitors can sit and watch a baseball video.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Mercy coach will host girls' basketball camp

Kathy Boughton, head basketball coach at Our Lady of Mercy High School, will host a girls' basketball camp June 24-28.

The camp will take place in the school gymnasium, 1437 Blossom Road. Sessions are divided into two age groups: ages 10-12, 8 to 11 a.m.; and ages 13-15, noon to 3 p.m.

The camp's cost is \$100 and includes a free T-shirt, basketball and awards. Serving as assistants to Boughton will be three recent Mercy basketball stars: Gina Montezano, Kelly O'Neill and Mimi LaMagna.

For registration information, call Boughton at 716/288-7120.

Court sets day to hear arguments for motions

Cohocton Town Court April 2 set a May 21 date for argument of motions in the case against Father Eugene Emo, who has pleaded not guilty to second-degree sexual abuse charges.

Father Emo is accused of sexual contact with a developmentally disabled adult male in the priest's Cohocton family home last year.



GOOD FRIDAY PROTEST — About 75 people gathered at the Liberty Pole in downtown Rochester April 5 to hold a peaceful protest against the death penalty. Recent death penalty victims in the United States were remembered during the vigil, sponsored by the ecumenical death penalty coalition Reconciliation Network: Don't Kill in My Name.

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

'Whim' leads teen to national finals

By Lee Strong
Associate editor

Kelly Jo McKernan discovered something about herself when she arrived March 23 in Los Angeles as one of 12 finalists for Miss Teenage America.

"As soon as we got there, people started talking about my (Rochester) accent," McKernan recalled with a laugh. "I never even realized the accent we had in Rochester."

The St. Cecilia's parishioner ended up losing — Katie Beam of Broken Arrow, Okla., came away from the four-day competition with first place and a \$15,000 college scholarship. Nevertheless, McKernan said she felt enriched.

"Even though I didn't win, I made all these new friendships," McKernan remarked.

That she even made it to the finals was an adventure she never expected, the Eastridge High School senior observed. That adventure began when she answered a questionnaire in *TEEN Magazine*, which sponsored the contest.

"I entered totally on a whim," she recalled. "I figured so many people entered these things I wouldn't win."

However, she was one of 400 teenagers selected from among the questionnaire respondents for the second round. She was then interviewed by telephone and had to write an essay, and, in the finals, was interviewed in person by the judges.

Questions posed throughout the process centered on her home and school activities, and on her career goals. McKernan had plenty to write and speak about:

She is president of the senior class, a cheerleader and a member of the National Honor Society ranked eighth in a class of 165. She also works a part-time job at a clothing store. And she is an intern at radio station 990 AM and the soccer news anchor for the "Soccer Sam Show" on Time Warner Communica-

tions' leased access channel 26 — both activities fitting into her planned career in broadcasting. In addition, she volunteers at a nursing home.

"I don't sleep much," she quipped. Still, if McKernan were tempted to be excessively proud over all her involvements, all she needed to see were some of the activities of her fellow finalists.

A contestant from Idaho, for example, had published a volume of poetry, the proceeds of which were being used to help endangered species. And McKernan's roommate during the finals has her own cable access talk show in Detroit.

"I never met smarter, more articulate girls in my whole life," McKernan remarked.

The actual interview part of the finals only took about 10 minutes, McKernan said. The rest of the time, the girls toured the sites in and around Los Angeles, including Disneyland, and saw the musical version of "Beauty and the Beast."

In the end, McKernan said she is grateful for the experience.

"I'm glad I did it," McKernan said. "I wouldn't trade it for anything."

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