

THE RECORD



A year worth celebrating

The Record's Josh Brown takes a look back at the personal and team triumphs, as well as some of the heartbreaks, experienced by our high school athletes.

SPORTS E5

Child care in crossfire

Low-income subsidies frozen as region makes political statement

By BRIAN WHITWHAM
RECORD STAFF

WATERLOO REGION

Hundreds of children from low-income families might miss out on day care this year after regional councillors decided to send a strong message to Queen's Park yesterday.

Councillors chose not to res-

cue the child-care program by making up for shortfalls in federal and provincial funding. Several said they didn't like the move but felt it had to be made to force the provincial government to accept responsibility.

"It breaks my heart but I'm going to support it," Coun. Claudette Millar said. "If this is what it takes to get the province

to move I will support the motion — very angrily."

The councillors refused a staff request for \$1.4 million in operating money.

The community services committee decision, which will go to council next Wednesday, reduces the number of children eligible for subsidies to 2,300 from 2,600. Children's services director Mary Parker said that means the region will have to freeze the program until 300 children leave.

Parker said that would likely

take until August and the region would then start a waiting list for families seeking subsidized child care. By December, there could be 600 children either delayed from getting a subsidy or not getting one, she said.

Parker said the region hasn't had to use a waiting list for subsidized day care since 1992.

Catherine Fife, co-ordinator of the Child Care Action Network of Waterloo Region, said the staff proposal for operating money would have at least kept the system treading water.

"If this is what it takes to get the province to move I will support the motion — very angrily."

CLAUDETTE MILLAR
REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

She said yesterday's decision would freeze wages for child-care workers and kill any hope of progress on services for children with special needs, "who are in a state of crisis."

Fife said her group will try to convince councillors it's the wrong move.

"The way it was phrased was that they're taking a stand but that's not what happened," she said. "We're just trying to minimize the damage of a federal government that doesn't care about children and a provincial government that won't follow its own commitments."

"So the taxpayers have no choice but to rely on the local level."

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Missing opinions were key, Truscott case told

By SCOTT TRACEY
TORONTO

Three weeks before the Supreme Court of Canada was ordered to rehear Steven Truscott's murder case back in 1966, top federal officials had obtained expert opinions that challenged the evidence that led to Truscott's 1959 conviction, a panel of the Ontario Court of Appeal heard yesterday.

The appeal court also heard these opinions did not come to light during the Supreme Court's 1966 hearing, during which nine judges were urged to accept — and did — the positions put forward by the Crown at Truscott's 1959 trial.

James Lockyer, lawyer for Truscott at the current hearing, alleges his client's counsel 40 years ago was not told the department of justice had received these opinions, which could have cast doubt on Truscott's guilt.

Yesterday, Lockyer introduced an April 4, 1966, memo from D.H. Christie, director of criminal law for the department of justice, to deputy justice minister T.D. MacDonald.

Christie wrote that he had asked two pathologists to review the medical evidence entered at Truscott's trial, including an assertion by pathologist Dr. John Penistan that he was able to pinpoint Lynne Harper's time of death to a 30-minute window.

Penistan, who is now deceased, had testified this estimate was based largely on an examination of the 12-year-old's stomach contents.

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Contrite Liberals meet the faithful

Nine Liberal leadership candidates try to convince potential delegates in Waterloo Region that they have the right stuff to rebuild the party.

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Now you see it . . .



. . . now you don't



The golf dome at Sportsworld in Kitchener deflates yesterday as the new owner, GPM Managed Investments of Toronto, makes room for its redevelopment of the property with a focus on retail and office uses. It will take a few more days to completely remove the dome. Max's Golf Centre, north of Waterloo, plans to erect the dome this fall in time for the winter season. See additional photo, story on F4.

TARA WALTON, RECORD STAFF

Bodies of U.S. soldiers found

Two 'killed in a barbaric way,' officials say

BAGHDAD

The U.S. military recovered the booby-trapped bodies of two missing soldiers yesterday and Iraqi officials said the Americans were tortured and "killed in a barbaric way."

An insurgent group claimed the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq executed the men personally.

The U.S. military did not confirm whether the soldiers died from wounds suffered in an attack Friday or were captured and later killed.

The discovery of the bodies dealt a new setback to U.S. efforts to seize the momentum against al-Qaida in Iraq after killing its leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, on June 7. At least 18 people were killed yesterday in attacks across Iraq.

Coalition forces spotted the U.S. soldiers' bodies late Monday, three days after they disappeared following an attack on a checkpoint south of Baghdad, the military said. Troops delayed retrieving the remains until an explosives team cleared the area.

"Coalition forces had to carefully manoeuvre their way through numerous improvised explosive devices leading up to and around the site," the military said in a statement. "Insurgents attempting to inflict additional casualties had placed IEDs (improvised explosive devices) around the bodies."

Maj.-Gen. William Caldwell said the remains were believed to be those of Pte. 1st Class Kristian Menchaca, 23, of Houston, and Pte. 1st Class Thomas Tucker, 25, of Madras, Ore.

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After seven rounds of auditions Alisha Nauth, 19, of Kitchener has made it into the top 22 of Canadian Idol.

Kitchener teen in Idol finals

Singer, 19, bests more than 12,000 others, seven rounds of auditions

TORONTO

She's been Waterloo Idol and Oktoberfest Idol.

Now 19-year-old Alisha Nauth of Kitchener hopes to be Canadian Idol.

She made it into the top 22 of the singing contest, joining a postal worker, house framer and grocery store supervisor.

Alisha, a graduate of Grand River Collegiate, has wanted to be a singer her whole life, her mother Desiree Nauth said yesterday.

"Ever since she could hold a microphone in her hand, or even a brush that looked like a microphone, she'd jump up on the coffee table and sing."

The family even moved to Kitchener so Alisha could be closer to Toronto, where she hoped it would be easier to pursue a singing career.

Her dad, who works in insurance, requested a transfer from Edmonton and the family moved to Kitchener in 2004, said

Desiree. "We've always been here to support her — she's a good kid."

Alisha has also always been an honour student, said her mother.

"While she's been waiting to make it, she's been studying as well."

Now a student in creative advertising at Humber College in Toronto, Nauth lives with her parents and works part time at a Kitchener shoe store.

She bested more than 12,000 other contestants through seven rounds of auditions to become one of the final 22 young men and women in the top-rated CTV television program.

In an interview with The Record, she described her Canadian Idol experience.

"When I first went in, I really didn't know what to expect. The judges were really nice but very tough. You just have to listen and do what they tell you while keeping your own style."

The biggest challenge since arriving in Toronto with the other finalists, she says, is the late hours.

"It's crazy — I got no sleep at all, barely! We're learning a completely new song every day. It's hard to remember lyrics when you haven't had much sleep."

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