

PRETTY SWEDE RIDES...

SAAB REVS UP VISITORS TO GENEVA'S SWEDISH DAYS FESTIVAL, **NEWS, A3**



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PHOTO BY DONNELL COLLINS/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON NEWS

BEHIND THE SCENES LOOK

Moms who cheer their kids on during Special Olympics meets spend the rest of the year trying to keep the local organization afloat.

Voice, C1

OUR VIEW

The Senate needs to take action on the stalled pay-to-play bill.

Viewpoint, A7

The Aurora Beacon News

TODAY'S WEATHER BY:

JENNIFER VASQUEZ, HERMES SCHOOL, AURORA



HIGH 85, LOW 65

MOSTLY SUNNY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2007

GOOD MORNING RICK BENNETT OF AURORA, OUR VALUED SUBSCRIBER

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OSWEGO MOM & KIDS: DEATH BY GUNFIRE

Families deal with the 'unspeakable'

Funerals arranged: Kimberly Vaughn and three children to rest in Missouri

By Lisa Donovan
CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

ST. CHARLES, Mo. — Christopher Vaughn, the Oswego man who survived a shooting that claimed the lives of his wife and three children last week, was back in his native Missouri Tuesday, where a church and congregation were preparing to remember the victims and help the family deal with an "unspeakable tragedy."

Dressed in a shirt, shorts and ball cap, Vaughn emerged from his parents' suburban St. Louis home. His left arm bandaged, he climbed into the passenger side of a beige metallic pickup truck and left without commenting.

A short time earlier, relatives who answered the door of the home in O'Fallon, northwest of St. Louis, asked that a reporter respect the three "No Trespassing" signs planted on the rolling wooded lot around the residence.

About 30 minutes away, in St. Charles, Mo., Christopher's in-laws also were asking for privacy in a case that is as mysterious as it is sad.

Last Thursday, as the family was reportedly making its way



JOHN J. KIM / CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

Christopher Vaughn, of Oswego, exits his parents' home Tuesday in O'Fallon, Mo. He is making funeral arrangements for his wife and three children who were shot to death Thursday in Channahon.

from their Oswego home to a water park in Springfield, Christopher Vaughn pulled off Interstate 55 to secure a car-top luggage carrier. He would later

told investigators that when he climbed back into the family's 2004 red Ford Expedition, his wife shot him in the leg. He bolted from the vehicle, he

told police, and when it was over, his wife and three children had been shot to death.

❖ Turn to **FAMILY, A2**

Police brass won't fight ticket picket

Numbers show traffic stops also down

By Matt Hanley
STAFF WRITER

AURORA — Although the police traffic-ticket protest here has stretched into a second month, much of the heat around the issue has subsided.

At a March 13 meeting, some Aurora police union members decided to issue fewer traffic tickets as a way of protesting a proposed Human Relations Commission that could subpoena officers to testify about resident complaints.

In each week since that meeting, officers have issued significantly fewer tickets than the previous year.

Between March 11 and May 5, 2006, Aurora officers wrote 4,155 traffic tickets. During the same time period this year, officers handed out 2,775 citations.

Initially, the protest drew heat from Aurora police leadership, with Chief Bill Powell calling it "disheartening." But in a recent meeting with The Beacon News, Powell said the "write-out" is not a concern.

"To me and the management, at this point in the game, it's a non-issue," Powell said. "There's a lot of things that can affect these numbers up and down. The drop is not that great

TICKETS ISSUED: 2006 vs. 2007

Week of:	Citations	Warnings	Total
Apr 8 - 14, 2006	435	95	530
Apr 15 - 21, 2006	510	106	616
Apr 22 - 28, 2006	508	85	593
Apr 29 - May 5, 2006	494	69	563
Apr 8 - 14, 2007	338	141	479
Apr 15 - 21, 2007	430	243	673
Apr 22 - 28, 2007	425	170	595
Apr 29 - May 5, 2007	333	160	493

of an issue that I'm concerned."

The comments mark a sharp change in tone from Powell, who previously said he was considering filing a labor complaint against the union. Powell said he now has no plans to do so.

"This, too, shall pass," he said. "We're just in a period right now. I don't want to get into a tit for tat with the union. They do what they feel is necessary to get the point across."

The city is not worried about a potential loss of revenue from the drop in traffic tickets. Last year, the city took in \$1.2 million from citations, and \$1.3 million was planned for this year's operations budget. But city spokesman Carrie Anne Ergo said the drop in tickets is not a concern.

"The purpose of traffic citations are to protect the public,

❖ Turn to **TICKETS, A2**

Community, the arts just go hand in hand

I tried awfully hard to bring a little culture into my kids' lives.

Don't get me wrong. They love music — and as proof, there are plenty of iPods and MP3 players lying around my house, filled with everything from country to rap. But I am a firm believer that every human being on the face of the planet would be a better human being if he or she could play the piano.

Or the flute. Cello. Sax. Or even the simple harmonica.



Denise Crosby
Columnist

And so I tried. I introduced my oldest to the viola when he was in fourth grade. After about six weeks of listening to him whine and screech — some of it was even verbal — I finally told him he

could give it up in pursuit of a career as an NFL running back.

I tried the same thing with the second kid. Only this time

❖ Turn to **CROSBY, A2**

Coming this week

■ **Thursday:** Get Set, GO — Beacon's entertainment section previews *American Voices*, the July 1 concert that will blow you away.

■ **Sunday:** Success Stories — How the Access to Music program helps underprivileged kids reach for the stars. And Our View of the Fox Valley Academy of Music Performance.

Diego loses long fight for breath



BEACON NEWS FILE PHOTO

Diego Alvarez traveled to America, looking for a chance to survive the cystic fibrosis that was killing his lungs. At left, he laughs with older sister Brenda, 18, at their Aurora home last year. The teen couldn't leave home while awaiting a double-lung transplant due to the risk of infection. He died Monday night.

Full story, A2



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