

rocktown



for the
perfect
prom dress



April
23-29,
2010

Mighty ducks

Massanutten Resort hosts a duck race to raise funds for the Office on Children and Youth.

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One of the guys

JMU senior Jenna Wagner, 21, has been racing cars since she was 16 and soon will compete in the Volkswagen TDI Cup.

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Cover Story

With prom just weeks away, girls are on the hunt for the perfect dress, many choosing bold colors, large prints and lots of embellishments.

Features



PROFILE

Jenna Wagner, who grew up in Bristol and has been racing since age 16, will compete in the Volkswagen TDI Cup.

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LIFE

Massanutten Resort hosts duck race to raise funds for the Gus Bus and Teen Pregnancy Prevention.

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rocktownies

*the people who
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and entertainment
that is rocktown*

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On the cover:

Rachel Whetcel tries on a prom dress at Reflections in Harrisonburg.
Photo by Jessica Gilchrist

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About our name:

Rocktown was Harrisonburg's first name in the late 1700s and early 1800s, due to an overwhelming number of rocks that graced the landscape.

weekend. She'll race on seven different tracks across North America with other up-and-coming drivers between the ages of 16 and 26 in factory-prepared clean diesel Jetta TDIs. Wagner will earn a Pro Racing license from Sports Car Club of America at the end of the season in September.

"My ultimate goal would be to race in NASCAR, doing what Danica Patrick's doing but we're just going to take it one step at a time," says Wagner, who tried out in Las Vegas to get one of the 25 starting driver spots in the Jetta TDI cup. "This series has been the biggest

thing that's happened to me and hopefully it'll turn into bigger and better things afterward."

During the season, prizes include money and trophies, says Wagner, but what's at stake for the series champion is \$100,000.

Although the competition is co-ed, the sport's drivers are mainly men; but Wagner, one of two women in the Jetta TDI Cup, can race with the guys at speeds of up to 130 mph.

"It's nice to get a feeling of satisfaction if you beat the boys. I don't think they look at me really any differently than any other competitor but it's definitely a sweeter victory," said Wagner.

Wagner's most memorable race was the first time she and her uncle raced in the same class and encountered some run-ins.

"He ended up spinning me out and it started a family feud when I ran into him," says Wagner, who practices at Lonesome Pine Raceway in Coeburn.

While one class isn't necessarily more skilled than another, drivers work their way up through divisions, added Wagner, noting that risks are always something drivers take into consideration.

"You get a significant amount of rush and excitement every time you strap into the car," says Wagner. "Any driving has risks, but it's definitely safer now than it used to be with all the safety precautions they take."

Despite being an employee of JMU athletic photography services, an intern at Immerge

Technologies, a member of University Program Board's spirit and traditions committee and a Delta Gamma sorority sister, Wagner still makes racing a top priority.

"Racing is just a passion of mine," says Wagner. "Ever since I started it I knew it was something I wanted to continue. If I didn't do it, I'd probably feel like I had a part of my life missing."

Jenna Wagner

Age: 21

Sign: Leo

Birthplace: Bristol

Ideal car to race in: Any type of car.

Day-to-day car: Nissan Xterra

Favorite racecar driver: Tony Stewart

Best track to race on: Every track is a good track to race on.

Biggest accomplishment so far: Earning rookie of the year status and finishing third in end-of-the-year points last season at my hometown track.

Favorite movie: "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory"

Other hobbies: Snowboarding, wakeboarding, scuba diving and hanging out with friends and family.

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