



Ottawa-based band strives to make it to the next level  
**C1**



Is a franchise right for you?  
**D1**



GUEST COLUMN:  
Full funding should be top priority  
**A4**

# THE Times

STREATOR EDITION



75¢ No. 124

*'If it matters to you, it matters to us.'*

THURSDAY  
May 29, 2014  
mywebtimes.com

**FAST FACT**

How many Academy Awards ceremonies did entertainer Bob Hope serve as host or co-host for?  
**A: 12**  
**B: 18**  
**C: 22**  
**Page A2 (Almanac)**

**QUOTABLE**

'If more politicians knew poetry, and more poets knew politics, I am convinced the world would be a little better place in which to live.'

— JOHN F. KENNEDY

**YOUR PHOTOS**

**Siblings**



Siblings Barb Houston, Michele Armstrong, John Diss, Jackie Serena and Sandy Kindred gather for a family photo in 1973. They are the children of John and Janet Diss. The photo was submitted by Barb Houston, of Ottawa.

**CORRECTIONS**

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**THIS IS CLASSIFIED**

**COLLEGE STUDENT**  
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**CLASSIFIED SECTION**  
Pages D3 through D6

**TO THE TOP**

The Relax Inn north of Streator has been remodeled.  
The Times | Tom Sistak

**obituaries • C2**

CRUM, Bruce — Ottawa  
DAHL, Marianne — Marseilles  
MARTIN, Allen — Ottawa  
REIHL, Alba — Streator  
TIBBLES, Allene — Streator



## Victim: Robbery occurred in a flash

### Streator Police seek suspects

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Alyssa Essman didn't realize she had been robbed until she was talking to a 911 dispatcher.

"It didn't really hit me as to what happened until I was talking to the dispatcher, then as I was saying what happened, it hit me, 'Oh my God!'" Essman recalled Wednesday.

Essman was the cashier at the Cigarette Store, 2202 N. Bloomington St., Streator, Tuesday afternoon when two white men entered the store, one of whom eventually came around the counter with a weapon and took an undisclosed amount of cash. The robbery occurred about 2:30 p.m.

Essman said as the one robber walked away — and before he even left the store — she went to the phone and dialed 911. Surveillance cameras recorded images of the robbers.

The robbers fled, going to the Star Ford-Lincoln car dealership a short distance to the south, according to police, where a number of vehicles contained keys because the vehicles were being moved

'It didn't really hit me as to what happened until I was talking to the dispatcher, then as I was saying what happened, it hit me, 'Oh my God.'

ALYSSA ESSMAN  
Robbery victim



Photos provided by Streator Police

One of the robbers had what appeared to be a tattoo of a cross on his forearm, as seen in this surveillance camera image.



An image of the other man who participated in Tuesday's holdup in Streator.

to work the day after the holdup, saying the job needed to be done. She

added she had never had such an experience in her 26 years.

"It was the first time," Essman said, "and hopefully the last."

## New owners renovating, cleaning up Streator motel

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A new-to-the-area family is cleaning up one of the Streator area's longtime problem sites with the goal of turning it into a viable business.

Keyurkumar "Kevin" Shah and his wife, Reshma, formerly of Glendale Heights, bought the Relax Inn motel in July at 1551 N. Route 23 north of Streator.

The couple, who moved with their two daughters into the motel, have remodeled and refurbished the guest rooms, built an addition, installed outdoor lighting and added 16 security cameras, among other renovations.

The motel just outside the city limits, formerly known as Pine Towers, was notorious for its uncleanness and crime.

The Shahs were unaware of the motel's reputation when they bought it, but they have vowed to transform it into a respectable business.

"We don't want any more garbage people," Reshma said. "We stopped renting rooms to bad people."

Kevin added: "We want to attract professional people."

On a recent weekend, about 60 percent of the 23-room facility was filled.



The Times | Tom Sistak

Reshma (left) and Keyurkumar "Kevin" Shah, formerly of Glendale Heights, bought the Relax Inn on Route 23 north of Streator, and have vowed to make it a viable motel for the Streator area.

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