

'Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss'



Seuss duce: Sarah Yarmuth, 8 years old, was so excited about the 4:15 p.m. Dr. Seuss birthday party, that she wore her costume all day to Longacre Elementary School. At right is her brother, Tres Yarmuth, 5, who is wearing a "blue fish" costume, from "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish."

Kids toast reading at Seuss party

More than 400 youngsters showed up Monday at the main branch of the Farmington Public Library to celebrate the birthday - and literary work - of Dr. Seuss. Farmington Mayor Mary Bush, and her Farmington Hills counterpart, Aldo Vagnozzi, honored the famous children's author by reading to the children.

"It was great," Bush said. "The worst part was wearing that red and white wool hat and keeping it on when I was reading."

The event, like many across the country, also helped kick off March is Reading Month.



Hat trick: Farmington's Mayor Mary Bush hands over the hat associated with the 'cat' to Aldo Vagnozzi, Farmington Hills mayor.

Storyteller:

At right, proudly wearing the trademark Seuss hat, Farmington Hills Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi reads "The Cat in the Hat" during the birthday celebration Monday at the Farmington Public Library's main branch.



Puppy's bite proves bigger than its bark

A puppy's bite was bigger than its bark, but a Farmington Hills couple and firefighters were determined to rescue the stranded pooch lodged in a tree.

The Jarys weren't the only ones perplexed.

"We thought it was a put-on," said Denny Hughes, Hills firefighter based at Station No. 4 on Drake Road. "We've heard of cats in the tree, but we couldn't fathom a dog in a tree."

When they arrived, Hughes and his colleagues were looking skyward to find the dog in tree branches. Instead, the Jarys pointed to the ground where the dead tree lay.

Firefighters widened the hole into the trunk using axes and shovels. After the hole was opened a half-hour later, firefighter Derick Smith began to put on his gloves, which drew a laugh from Hughes. "It's only a puppy," I said," Hughes added.

Smith and a third firefighter Gerald Regie had the last laugh when the puppy bit Hughes twice when he grabbed for its paw.

The puppy, which is blond, was taken to the vet where it was cleaned up and given its shots. The female puppy was likely terrified, Theresa Jary said, adding "She is so gentle."

The mother appears to be trained and is also well-behaved, prompting Jary to speculate it was dropped off by someone.

Firefighters immediately named the puppy Stump.

"I had a different name for him after he bit me," Hughes said with a laugh, "which is probably not suitable for a newspaper."

That's when the Jarys called the Farmington Hills Fire Department.

14/Haggerty theater to open March 26

Wet weather caused a delay, but soon Commerce Township area residents will be able to fix their eyes on big screen entertainment at the new United Artist movie theater.

As with 14 different screens, there should be something for everyone in the family beginning later this month.

Originally planned to open in November 1997, Commerce Township planning director Bill Brownfield said rain allowed the ability to use heavy construction equipment on site.

"The unusually wet season that we had prevented them from getting in there," Brownfield said.

Located on the northwest corner of 14 Mile and Haggerty, the theater will open the evening of Thursday, March 26, with a \$1 per movie, \$1 per concession fund-raiser for Big Brother and Big Sisters of Metro Detroit. Expected to raise at least \$8,000, all proceeds will benefit the charity which pairs adults with children in need of mentors.

Theater manager Cory Jacobson, also United Artists assistant district manager for Michigan, gained an appreciation for Big Brothers and Big Sisters from his first theater employer's strong support of the organization. Jacobson was impressed with the program which supports families while providing children with the opportunity to participate in happy activities.

"We're really happy they're doing this," said Cecil Aitchison, associate director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, based in Southfield.

While Aitchison is looking forward to the increased dollars, which will be used to train, supervise and support volun-

If you're going ...

Shows: Call 960-5801 for show times and information. Matinees, movies shown before 6 p.m., will cost \$4.50 per person. Evening shows will cost \$7 per person and \$4.50 for children under 11 and seniors 60 and over.

Seating: With a capacity of 2,367, seating for the 14 screens will vary from 105 per unit to 416.

teers and families, she is more excited about the exposure.

"We always need to recruit more (volunteers)," Aitchison said of the program, which serves the tri-county area. "We have about 500 kids on our waiting list."

The \$7 million theater's grand opening celebration is planned for March 27. The latest example of the township's growth, the theater sits behind a complex of newer stores including Applebee's restaurant, PetSmart, Home Depot and Target.

Jacobson said this theater will allow viewers a unique movie experience with stadium style seating and digital sound.

Set on tiers, the seating allows for unobstructed views of the wall-to-wall screens accompanied by digital sound. The chairs also rock and feature arm rest cup holders.

"It's a really different concept for the industry," Jacobson said.

Jacobson said there have been employment inquiries from West Bloomfield, Walled Lake, Farmington Hills, Novi, Wixom and Milford, which he said, are the best indicator of which communities will be patronizing the theater.

Harrison students excelling in engineering, physics competitions

A number of Harrison High School students are involved in various physics and engineering competitions, said teacher Dennis King.

The first event was the Regional Science Bowl, held recently at Dayton, Ohio. Those students making the "bark" were seniors Eric Allen, David Weidendorff and juniors Ari Shwayder, Brian Malloux and Mogan Fry.

The Science Bowl competition, sponsored by the United States Department of Energy, is patterned after the college quiz bowl except that all questions come from physics, chemistry, biology, geology, astronomy, math and computers.

Teams of four students and one alternate compete in regional competitions with the winner of each regional competition winning an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Science Bowl.

Since Harrison began competing in 1992, they attained second place in the regional tourney in 1993, 1996 and 1997; third place in the regionals in 1995; and first place in 1992, winning the trip to Washington.

Eight Harrison students will take part in Tests in Engineering Aptitude in

Math and Science (TEAMS), set for Saturday, March 7, at Kettering University in Flint.

Seniors Eric Allen, David Weidendorff, Carrie Cox, Alex Israel, Trevor Roth, Joseph Walts and Theresa White, and junior Ari Shwayder are participating.

TEAMS, sponsored by the Junior Engineering Technical Society of America, is a written competition in which students are given 10 comprehensive engineering problems covering a wide range of engineering applications. The test requires students to function efficiently and effectively in a cooperative

group environment in order to apply their science and math knowledge to solve real-world application-type problems. Since the school first competed in 1991, teams have won or shared state honors all seven years. In 1996, Harrison went on to capture first place in the national competition.

Six students have a crack at being among the top five physics students in the U.S., through the United States Physics Olympics Competition. Harrison students Eric, David Weidendorff, Muhammad Alam, Alex Israel, Alan Yee and Joseph Walts will complete individ-

ual tests given at the school.

First, however, they must be selected one of 75 semi-finalists/All-American high school physics students. Sponsoring the event is the American Association of Physics Teachers. The eventual top five will represent the U.S. in the International Physics Competition.

Harrison physics teacher Dennis King was named a semi-finalist/All-American in 1988. Since then, the following students have earned the same honor: Maria Slutsky, 1992; Avi Drisman, 1994; Brendon Fay, 1996; Jon Anderson, 1997.