

# Students show their best in mind olympics

Olympics of the Mind, a scholastic competition in creative problem solving, has been challenging Farmington teams since February. Thirteen teams presented their solutions in local competition April 23rd at the Farmington Training Center.

On May 7, seven of the 13 teams went on to state finals at Central Michigan University. The teams competed with more than 1,100 students assembled from all over Michigan in the Finch Fieldhouse, Mt. Pleasant.

Pat Girbach was the parent chairman. Connie Mason, coordinator of gifted programming for the Farmington schools, also aided in the program.

The Farmington school district provided two coaches, brainstorming practice for elementary students, buildings for team meetings, the training center for local competition and a bus for the trip to Mt. Pleasant.

Parents provided most of the coaches, all of the children and a great deal of energy and support.

Judging the local competition were Mary Ellen Tolwin, Rosemary MacDonald, Frank Fekete, Dave Coffin, Marilyn Gault, Shelley Littman, Gill Fertig, Judi Fox and Janice Rolink. Local parents sent as state competition judges to Mt. Pleasant were Connie Mason, Bob Prior, Pat Girbach and Rosemary MacDonald.

Students teams chose from five long-term problems and came up with solutions.

In Humor from Homer, the problem was to present humorous alternatives to tragic scenes from Homer's Odyssey. That challenge was met by the Harrison High team, which placed second in the state competition. Team members were Steve Miller, Eric Sanders, Todd Cherkasky, Howard Weiner and Howard Pann.

In addition to solving a long-term problem, the competition also included spontaneous thinking in a brainstorming session. The session was to test the teams' ability to respond quickly and creatively.

This impromptu thinking earned up to 100 points while the long-term problem was worth 250. Fifty of those points were for style, costumes worn by team members and the fashion with which the long-term problem was solved.

Other Farmington teams competing in the Humor from Homer category were the East Middle School group, coached by Bill Beger, and the Middlebelt Elementary team, coached by Don Monastiere and Cheryl Beger.

East's team, composed of Jeff Barringer, Todd Beger, Kelly Cole, Risa Krupoff, Rob MacDonald, Mike Kerkler and Kathy Varsanyi, placed 12th out of 28 teams competing.

The Middlebelt team, composed of Jim Barr, Heather Bopp, Scott Kervon, Brad Monastiere, Julie Ritter, Chris Sarsfield and Lisa Tomlin, placed 12th out of 24.

The Miner's Helper was another problem in which Farmington teams competed at the state level. The prob-

lem required construction of a device which could level down a path and retrieve minerals (represented by tennis and ping-pong balls) while not endangering the team operators. Only the device could enter the path or the mine.

Larkshire Elementary placed fourth out of 15 teams competing in this event. Ben Christian, Stacy Foster, Andrea Gradin, Ben Goba, Mike LaCasse and Lisa Derocser were members of the team, which was coached by Bonnie Foster, Jackie Pajus and Bob Pajus.

Competing in the Middle School division of the Miner's Helper problem was the O.E. Duckel team, composed of Lisa Alpinier, Randy Gartenberg, Liz Greenberg, Debbie Weintraub and Yonanda Wu. This team, coached by Rex and Dan Greenberg, placed eighth in a field of 20.

The Wrecking Ball Structure was another long-term problem worked on by Farmington students. This problem required the team to build a lightweight balsawood structure. The structure

was judged by the amount of weight it could hold when a wrecking ball rolled down a ramp and hit its side.

The Flanders Elementary School team, composed of Jeff Birbach, Travis Young, Brandon Cagion and Robert Baker, placed 12th among the 20 competing teams in the elementary division. The team was coached by Frank Baker and Greg Cagion.

A third long-term problem in the 1983 olympics was the Pirates' and Queen's Treasure. Team members had to retrieve the queen's treasure while dealing with pirates. The colorfully garbed Flanders team placed 17th of 34 statewide competitors. Team members were Amy Frontier, Meredith Johnson, Rob Henrikson, Kristopher Shier and Matt De Noyer. They were coached by Carol Shier and Pat Girbach.

Members of teams which competed at the local level but did not advance to state competition were Jay Jensen, Nichole Yezman, Jeremy Marshman, Josh Munter and Valerie Butcher from

Longacre School, with Doris Yezman and Serena Marshman as coaches; Dylan Perkins, Erika Stedon, Kori Davidson, Ryan Dembs, Jena Krupoff, Derek Lents and Ricky Casar from Middlebelt Elementary, with Jim and Cheryl Perkins as coaches; Jami Sanders, Tyabirah Sabbe, Jayson Schwalm, Lisa Goodman, Patrick Towey, Justin Tomblin and John Oros from Middlebelt Elementary, with Gary and Sharon Sanders as coaches.

Also, Scott Krell, Alexis Blizman, Todd Herlitz, Brad Dillaman, Doug Dillaman, Daniel Quirelo and Erin Krell from Woodcreek Elementary, with Shelly Goldberg and Patty Dillaman as coaches; Richard McDaniel, Ken Lipka, Jim Gooder, Kevin Harman and Jason Priest from O.E. Duckel Middle School, with Anne McDaniel as coach; and Julie Smith, Nicole Leveque, Alexis Williams, Lori Kiet, Lisa Girbach and Meghan Clary from Power Middle School, with Jerry Kaplan as coach.

## obituaries

ADA E. DIX

Mrs. Dix, 90, of Farmington died May 13 in Providence Hospital, Southfield.

Mrs. Dix was a homemaker. She was a life-time member of the Eastern Star 239.

Survivors include her sons, Harley,

Willis and Robert; a daughter, Bernice Smith; 12 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

Services were May 16 at Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Charles H. Beynon officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Cemetery, Novi.

GEORGE ROBERT BRUMER

Mr. Brumer, 64, of Farmington Hills died May 17 in Ann Arbor.

Mr. Brumer was a quality control manager for Ex-Cello Corp. He was a World War II Navy veteran and a member of Moose Lodge, Toledo, Ind.

Survivors include his wife, Medelia; sons, Joseph Mahax and Robert; daughters, Kappy Andrews, Georgene Strickland and Carolyn Brumer; brother, Michael; 11 grandchildren.

Services were May 21 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. George Shalhoub of St. Mary Antiochian Church officiating. Burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery, Livonia.

HELEN E. SLUSSER

Mrs. Slusser, 82, of Redford Township, formerly of Farmington, died May 19 in Botsford Hospital.

Born in Canada, Mrs. Slusser was a homemaker.

Survivors include her sons, Albert, Harold and Robert; daughters, Jerrie North, Marie Barber, Helen Saxton, Betty Spicer and June Hunt; three brothers and two sisters; 32 grandchildren, 58 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Services were May 21 at Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington. Mass was said in Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church with the Rev. Thomas Beahan officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

ANNIE MARRISON

Mrs. Marrison, 83, of Saline, formerly of Farmington, died May 19 in Saline Community Hospital.

Born in England, Mrs. Marrison was a homemaker.

Survivors include her sisters, Tassie

Duncan and Nell Swan; two grandchildren.

Services were May 21 at Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington

with the Rev. James MacDonald officiating. Burial was in Beechwood Cemetery of Forest, Ontario, Canada.

## Andrews named to honor society

Nell Andrews of Farmington Hills will be initiated as a charter member at 3 p.m. Friday when Beta Phi chapter of Dobro Slovo, national Slavic honor society, is established at The University of Toledo. The ceremony will be in the Mediterranean Room of the Student Union.

Members are selected on the basis of a 3.5 grade point average in Slavic languages, literature, culture or related subjects, according to Dr. Zemon M. Kuk, associate professor of Russian and German and faculty adviser to the new UT organization. The initiates also must have at least a 3.0 grade point average overall.

## Meet the candidates

The six candidates vying for the one opening on the Farmington Board of Education will be on review during two upcoming meet-the-candidates sessions.

Tonight at 8 p.m., the Farmington Democratic Club is sponsoring a question-and-answer session at the Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River near Eight Mile Road. Most of the candidates are expected to attend.

At 8 p.m. June 2, the League of Women Voters and the PTA Council are co-sponsoring another meet-the-candidates night at Dunckel Middle School,

32800 12 Mile Road, between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads.

The top vote getter in the June 13 election will serve a four-year term on the board.

The candidates, all newcomers to elective politics, are Michael J. Barnard, Todd S. Bates, Clarence M. Gabel, Elizabeth A. Mihelich, Susan C. Rennels and Dr. Leonard M. Stein.

The Farmington school district includes Farmington, most of Farmington Hills and a small portion of West Bloomfield Township.

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