

3 local Odyssey teams head for state finals

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Three of 15 Farmington-area teams participating in this year's Odyssey of the Mind will take their creative teamwork to state competition in April.

Teams from Highmeadow Common Campus Elementary, Warner Middle School and O.E. Dunkel Middle School head for Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant April 28 for statewide competition in the creative OM process, which involves student-designed team solutions to selected problems.

The two middle school teams took first place awards and Highmeadow took a second place in regional competition in Rochester Adams High School on March 16.

Those winning first place at the state will move ahead to the University of Iowa in May for World OM competition.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international event, in which students are taught problem-solving skills. It stresses team dynamics and creativity and is open to all students in the Farmington Public Schools and area private schools upon request.

NEW IN Farmington OM this year was the involvement of two PTA

groups at Gill and Larkshire elementary schools, where team organizers promoted the OM program, said Joette Kusse, a district OM coordinator.

"Schools who had a PTA person had lots of teams and lots of interest," Sylvia Kambouris from Gill and Judy Geary from Larkshire both encouraged interest and participation in OM this year at their respective schools.

HEADING TO state competition are:

• Highmeadow team members: Andrea Platt, Lauren Helisek, Jenny DeYoung, Marchelle D'Anna, Danielle Jacques, Annemarie Scario and Erin Roeder. They are coached by Ruth Platt and Cindi Helisek. Their category was "Seven Wonders of the World," in which the team creates and performs a skit showing the audience the ancient wonders and the team's suggested replacement. These could include a great undertaking by a group of people, an architectural or artistic achievement, or something the team chooses.

• Dunkel team members: Mario Conatti, Mike Cyrulik, Scott Lord, Mike Sands, Dave Sands, Rob Still and Arvind Surendran. They are

coached by Sue Giannotta and Diane Sands. Their category is "Omitron Humor," in which the team develops and performs a comedy routine or comedy skit. The team must also design, build and operate an animated character that will smile, shed tears, look surprised, look bored and show two other emotions of the team's choosing.

• Warner team members: Jen Krause, Amy Roberts, Carrie Rodan, Samantha Howland, Gordon Eick, James Haynes and Marie Tripp. They are coached by Dee Krause. Their category is "Geographic Odyssey," in which the team designs and creates a vehicle propelled by a rowing motion and to portray three different countries using no written or spoken language.

OTHER PROBLEMS students could choose from were: "Recycle," a non-linguistic problem in which a team guides blindfolded team members to collect trash and put it in specific locations; and "Structures in Harmony," in which the team designs and builds a prefabricated structure of balsa wood and glue to hold a maximum amount of weight.

The aforementioned teams, plus two third-place teams from Gill Elementary, won medals at the regional competition. Gill medal winners in-



The Highmeadow Common Campus Elementary team is one of three Farmington-area teams that will compete in the state-level Odyssey of the Mind games in April. Erin Roeder (right) and teammates Lauren Helisek (left) and Marchelle D'Anna (center) prepare for local competition at Farmington High. The Highmeadow team took a second at the regional competition in Rochester.

cluded: Dana Haupt, Rick Kay, Jeff Kotrba, Chad Kotrba, Alton Ormond, Matt Ostach, Amber Stephens, Maureen Carolan, Liana Kambouris, Kristin Trest, Danielle Hasan, Ni-

cholas Katherineian and Michael Gobry. Teams from several other Farmington-area schools sent teams to the regional competition. They included:

St. Paul's Lutheran, Kenbrook Elementary, Longacre Elementary, Eagle Elementary and St. Fabian School. No Farmington-area high schools participated in OM in 1990.

1 killed, 2 hurt as car hits tree

By Brian Lysaght
staff writer

A car carrying three close friends ran off a Bloomfield Township subdivision street and struck a tree Saturday, killing one teenager and injuring two others.

Andrew Schol, 16, of Woodview Drive in Bloomfield Township, died soon after the accident at 4:15 p.m. Saturday.

Schol was sitting in the front passenger seat of a 1988 Hyundai driven by Jeffrey Hong, 17, of Farmington Hills, when the crash occurred on Sunningdale north of Hampshire.

Accidents on township roads this year have killed two people — both teenagers.

Hong was listed in stable condition

Tuesday at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, a spokeswoman said.

THE HOSPITAL would not release the condition of the second youth, Sung Hoon Lee, 15, because he is a minor, the spokeswoman said.

The car struck a tree about 20 feet from the road on the front lawn of a home on Sunningdale, police said, south of Long Lake and east of Telegraph.

Police were still investigating the cause of the accident Tuesday and wouldn't speculate about why the car left the road. The car was traveling higher than the posted speed limit, said traffic officer Norman O'Brien. But O'Brien said he didn't know how fast the car was going.

Drugs and alcohol were not a factor in the accident. The youths were not wearing seat belts, police said.

Lt. James Anas said that as with any fatal accident, the township would forward a report to the county prosecutor's office, which would review the incident while considering bringing criminal charges.

ANDREW SCHOL was described as a good student, who liked to play sports. He was a 10th grader at Groves High School and was trying out for the school's tennis team at the time of his death, his sister, Lucy, said.

He enjoyed several other sports, including basketball and golf and snow skiing.

The three youths had apparently just left the home of Lee, a Lahser High School student who lives on nearby Ranch Lane.

"All three were like best friends," said Lucy Schol.

Groves principal Robert Lentz said many students planned to attend services Tuesday. The school announced Schol's death Monday, and set aside a place for students to go to talk if they wanted to, Lentz said.

"A lot of people here, his peers, were deeply affected by his death," he said.

Survivors include his parents, Jung Ja and Joe Yung Schol; sister, Lucy; brother, Ray; and grandmother, Sue Yung Chung.

Farmington adopts no-smoking policy

Farmington city employees will say no to smoking anywhere inside municipal buildings beginning June 1, thanks to a new no-smoking policy enacted by council members March 5.

The vote was 3-2, with Richard Tupper and Ralph Yoder casting the nay votes.

They approved of the no-smoking stance but disapproved with that portion of the resolution allowing employees who smoke to get up to \$200 to participate in a clinic of their choice to assist their attempts to quit smoking.

"I'll go along with no-smoking in any city building, but I'll be

damed if I'll vote for a \$200 expenditure to help people quit smoking," Yoder said. "I did it, and they can do it. What are you going to do about those people who drink too much and those people who are overweight?"

The exact number of city employees who smoke is unknown, City Manager Robert Deadman said.

Councilwoman JoAnne McShane said the money could prove to be an incentive.

Currently, employees who smoke must do so only in specific designated areas.



Geraldine Hinzmann
elementary teacher



Bettie Buckler
middle school teacher



Beverly Schmitt
high school teacher

School district honors top teachers of the year

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Three veteran teachers in the Farmington Public Schools were recently named "Teacher of the Year" for their respective grade levels — the second year the district has given such awards.

Elementary teacher Geraldine Hinzmann, middle school teacher Bettie Buckler and high school teacher Beverly Schmitt were the recipients of the awards at a March 6 school board meeting.

Schmitt was also named High School Teacher of the Year for all of Oakland County.

In receiving her award, Buckler said she was "just one of many" excellent teachers in the district, and also gave credit to her students.

"They give me more than I could possibly give them," she said. "They're my high."

Hinzmann promised to share her award with co-workers, and Schmitt said of her calling: "It's a fun job — like it."

THE REGIONAL Teacher of the Year program is co-sponsored by Newsweek and WDIV-TV. Locally, a committee of administrators, teachers and parents made the final selection from a list of teachers nominated by students, colleagues and others. The committee was headed by director of employee relations Sue Zurvalec.

"The bottom line is, we are so proud of the people here tonight," said Superintendent Michael Flana-

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— Michael Flanagan
schools superintendent

gan, in giving the awards. Flanagan used Albert Einstein's quotation about teachers to introduce the trio. "To awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge" — is Einstein's definition of a good teacher," Flanagan said. "It's one of the better definitions of teachers I've seen."

HINZMANN, A classroom teacher with the district since 1969, currently teaches in the transition room at Larkshire Elementary School, for students who have attended kindergarten but are not yet ready for first grade.

"Gerry believes in the 'miracle of learning,'" said a statement from the district, which culled nominating information. "She sees the unique worth and potential of each child, and builds on that."

Hinzmann is active on several committees, including sexual education study, summer school enrichment, district boundary study, early childhood and several others. She is also on her building's school improvement team.

BUCKLER JOINED the Farmington staff in 1972 and currently teaches all subjects to sixth graders at Warner Middle School. She helped

plan the curriculum for the Highmeadow Common Campus pilot, where she taught during the last school year.

"Bettie's energy level and enthusiasm are endless and contagious," according to a statement about her. "Because she wants every child in her class to succeed, she goes out of her way to find a way to reach each child."

Buckler was awarded the Hyper-Media Project during the 1988-89 school year and serves on both the district's gifted board and staff development committees.

"It's hard, but you learn so much from it and feel proud of yourself for doing it," said one student in nominating her.

During her tenure, she built the chemistry program, doubling the number of sections taken. She gets involved as a teacher with national organizations related to her field. She is also a strong supporter of the Detroit Zoological Society and the Detroit Institute of Science.

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