

# Band marches to honors

Harrison High Marching Band blew away the competition in the first competition this season at Westland John Glenn High Sept. 27.

Harrison topped the Flight III competition with a score of 65.85; Redford Thurston was second with 51.77.

Harrison captured all the caption awards in marching and mneuvering, auxiliary, percussion and winds.

Following the big win at John Glenn High, Harrison traveled to Clinton for an invitational where the band posted a 64.15 score in Flight III.

Farmington High was second in Flight II with a 56.12 score.

Harrison took all four caption awards and received a standing ovation from other high school band members.

"It was our first competition of the season, the band was ready and, and the kids felt great about the show and the performance they gave," said Mark Phillips, Harrison High band director. "Because we played in the morning, we were able to review the tapes of the performances, fine tune it, and the band had an even better performance in the evening."

Harrison High, which captured the state championship in Flight III in 1996, performs the music of Jethro Tull: "Locomotive Breath," "Bourree," "Living in the Past," and closes the show with the FM-radio staple "Aqualung." The band includes elements of classical, jazz, baroque and rock in its repertoire.

Farmington High Marching Band presents a program that

includes "Peter Gunn," "Someday," "Night of the Living Chili Pepper," and "God Bless the Child That Has His Own." Norm Logan directs the Farmington High band; Nora Laneski is assistant director.

Phillips directs the Harrison High band with assistant director and percussion arranger Joe Kuerzi. Sarah Lachowski in the major and Jason McIntosh is color guard designer.



**Drill skills:** Members of the Harrison Marching Band, including Susan Estes, center, perform during competition.

Drill design is done by Pat Ruddy with music arrangements handled by Jerry Kelsey. Harrison High takes part in

the Michigan Invitational in Flint Sunday, Oct. 12; Great Lakes Invitational at Plymouth-Canton High Saturday, Oct. 18; half-time festivities at the Detroit Lions game Sunday, Oct. 19; and state finals at the Silverdome Saturday, Oct. 25.

# Observer, staffers capture state press recognition

The Farmington Observer and members of its staff netted several awards in the 1997 Michigan Press Association Better Newspaper Contest, which were announced this week.

Coverage of last fall's outbreak of Legionnaire's Disease in Farmington garnered the Observer third place among Class B newspapers (circulation of 10,001 to 25,000) in the local news reporting category. Reporters Larry O'Connor, Bill Coutant and then-editor Tom Baer were praised by judges for going "beyond the usual reporting to thoroughly explain this strange disease."

Photographer Sharon LeMieux captured an emotional courtroom sentencing in December 1996 that was good enough to win second place in the spot news picture category among Class B newspapers. According to judges, the reaction of a victim to Arthur Cayce's sentence "puts

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emotion into the courtroom scene. Also, getting a shot of the murderer and waiting for the reaction shows a thinking photographer." Also, current Farmington Observer reporter Tim Smith was part of the West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric staff that captured "Newspaper of the Year" for a Class B weekly, as well as a second place for general excellence in that category. The Eccentric was cited for news enterprise reporting and "turning ordinary stories into extraordinary ones." Smith transferred to the Observer in July.

Photographer Bryan Mitchell, filling in on the Farmington Observer staff for LeMieux while she is on maternity leave, won first and second place in the best picture story category (Class B) for the South Lyon Herald and Northville Record, respectively.

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# The Beatles

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# Tax cut from page A1

50-percent owner. City officials have been told that American Lighting is reportedly in an expansion mode and could eventually hire more than the 36 employees working there now.

"My thinking is we shouldn't give abatements; On the other hand, we're not God. We should tell another community what to do," Anhalt said.

The decision is up to individual communities, an Oakland County Community and Eco-

nomic Development official said. Troy, for instance, doesn't grant exit permits. Others provide them routinely, said Jeff Kaczmarek, Community and Economic Development director.

"What we tell communities is this: It maybe them today granting an exit permit. On the other hand, tomorrow they could be approached by a company coming from another community that needs an exit visa to come from that community to Farm-

ington Hills," Kaczmarek said. Troy, to look at it in a larger context."

Companies are encouraged to exhaust all options - including the search for another site in the community - before moving. "It (exit permit approval) does send a message whether or not a community is pro business," Kaczmarek added.

Plymouth Township offers a 50-percent tax break for a maximum of five years, a township official said. That doesn't include the 8 mills levied by the state, though.

Plymouth Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen-McCarthy refused to speak specifically about Hella. She's not aware if

the company has made a formal application, but said the name sounded familiar.

"Any company can apply that wants to move here, but if they don't have a release from their current city, we can't offer them an abatement," Keen-McCarthy said. "They have to have the release."

Tax abatements are not the only reason companies relocate, Kaczmarek said.

"In the end, though, companies move all the time for a variety of reasons: Not just tax reasons," Kaczmarek said. "In many cases, the tax abatement is not the driving factor but a piece of puzzle when trying to calculate the bottom line."

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