

# Hills native takes on Americorps challenge

She probably never envisioned living in five hours of daylight, surrounded by snow 2,961 miles away from home. But on Feb. 19, Farmington Hills native Lealie Jarvenpaa flew to Anchorage as part of an AmeriCorps team to assist with the Special Olympics World Winter Games.

Since Oct. 3 Jarvenpaa has been serving needy West Coast communities from Indian reservations in Arizona to her home base in San Diego, as a member of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps. She decided to put her education at Iren's Myomassology Institute on hold to assume a challenge that combined service and travel.

She applied to NCCC, the residential component of AmeriCorps (often referred to as the domestic Peace Corps). AmeriCorps NCCC members live and work in groups of 10-15 and are awarded money for college in exchange for 10 months of community service.

Their projects focus on the environment, education, public safety and human needs.

Jarvenpaa is now a proud member of Red Thunder (the self-named "Thundercats"), the group of 12 with whom she will

live and serve until July 28. In her capacity as one of the team's Physical Training Coordinators, she is responsible for keeping her teammates fit throughout the year.

The team (whose members hail from 11 different states ranging from Nebraska to Florida to Maine) thoroughly enjoyed its project in Alaska, where it assisted in areas including volunteer coordination, special events, venue management and housing.

Jarvenpaa's team is just one of 18 that underwent arduous training for 10 months of community service. After rising daily at 6 a.m. to run a few miles, Corps Members would split their time between local service projects and team development workshops.

The teams now comprise the last class to live and train at the Naval Training Center in San Diego, ending a seven-year tradition of AmeriCorps presence there.

For more information on AmeriCorps programs, call (619) 693-9241 or check out the AmeriCorps Web site at [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org).

## Finnish center to host rummage, bake sale

The Finnish Cultural Center in Farmington Hills will hold a rummage, pasty and bake sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21.

The Finnish Cultural Center is also no longer holding bingo on Friday mornings. The center is located at 35200 W. Eight Mile Road.

## Living history



**History lesson:** Lanigan Elementary School fourth graders recently were whisked back to an earlier time in our country's history. They were treated to a visit from "Union" and "Confederate" soldiers of the Civil War era, in fourth-grade teacher Paul Bargardi's classroom. Bargardi, along with brothers Mike and Dave, portrayed Union infantry soldiers. To make sure both sides were able to tell their part of the story, Dan Suwierz and Jeff Berryhill portrayed Confederate artillery men. Students seem to enjoy what is an annual presentation because they can see and touch history rather than just read about it. All five men will travel this summer to various battlefields teaching living history, through recreating the daily life of an 1860s American soldier.

## SCHOOL NEWS

Over 1,450 students from Michigan received 1,750 medals this weekend in Saginaw and Farmington Hills at the fourth Annual Michigan Advanced Student Honor Roll Ceremony.

The ceremonies were attended by over 2,600 students, parents and guests.

The keynote address by Takoo Kashina, CEO of Kumon North America headquartered in Teaneck, N. J., opened the ceremony. A few students were asked to share their experience in the Kumon Math and Reading Program during the program.

Stephen Monnette of the Troy East center thanked his Kumon Instructors, his parents, and relatives that drive him to his center each week, because he felt Kumon allowed him to always achieve 98 or 99 percentile ranking on the standardized tests at his school.

It also allowed him to participate in the Midwest Talent Search program, where he was able to take the SAT at the age of 12 and score as high as the top 25 percent of high school students taking the test.

The Kumon method was developed by Toru Kumon in 1954 and is a method of self-paced study that emphasizes the basics and teaches discipline, concentration and self-confidence. For more information, contact Doreen S. Lawrence or Dale Buras at (248) 541-7780.

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