

Longacre principal earns first humanitarian award

By SUE BUCK
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"He puts the pal in principal." That was one of the accolades bestowed on Longacre Elementary Principal Bill Smith who was honored with a special award June 10 — Farmington Public Schools' humanitarian award. The award is a first for the district.

"We checked," said Chris Brueck, a teacher at Longacre School.

Brueck puts in a lot of his own time, she said. He drove a staff member to the hospital when her husband died.

He's driven kids home during family emergencies and also has ridden home on a bus with students, she said.

"For those of you who don't know what a humanitarian is, it's someone who does lots of nice things for other people" said teacher Nancy McCoy.

When YMCA Prime Time after school program supervisor Janie Freeman died, Smith made sure parents were informed so they could talk to their children. Also he ensured a special counselor was available. There isn't one staff member



Kind heart: Longacre Elementary principal Bill Smith is known for his compassion and willingness to help students and staff.

who hasn't received moral support, McCoy said.

It's a comfort and a relief for a staff member who is out during a

family crisis to hear the words, "Don't worry. We will take care of everything here. You take care of yourself and your family."

Listening skills: Longacre students sat patiently during the ceremony honoring their principal.



McCoy said. Farmington-area officials were also on hand including, Farmington City Councilwoman Mary Bush, who filled in for Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell, Jon Grant, a YMCA board member, Marybeth Hetrick, a YMCA employee and Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

Smith, who entered the assem-

bly expecting to hand out awards to the children, found himself to be the surprise recipient.

Smith received a special plaque and a T-shirt and cap from the YMCA, where he is a board member.

"This is part of the uniform we wear when we go out and do special volunteer projects," Smith said.

"The YMCA is something

which is very meaningful to me."

Smith summed up his philosophy. "You try to do the right thing as we go through life," he said. "What we do with our students here is try to set an example of the things to do to lead your lives. Part of that is doing things for other people."

He quoted writer Mark Twain. "I could live for two months on a nice compliment."

Chamber rates county, state candidates

By GREG MCGLORE
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The Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce gave preferred ratings to three candidates in its evaluations of local races for the state representatives, state senate and Oakland County Commission Monday.

Valerie Knol, who is running for the 37th district state house seat, Mike Rogers (14th district Oakland County Commission) and David Moffitt (15th County Commission) got the Chamber's most favorable rating. All three are Republicans.

The Chamber looked at 10 candidates in four races, giving them ratings of preferred, qualified, somewhat qualified, not qualified or no opinion.

A three-member endorsement

committee of chamber members rates the candidates on their positions on business growth and development, tax reform, transportation and education.

"This process provides the Chamber an opportunity to vocalize its positions on issues that positively and negatively impact business progress," endorsement committee chairman Andy Halliwell said. "Our purpose is to place the interests of business at the forefront of each candidate's policy agenda."

In addition to Knol, four other candidates were evaluated for the 37th district seat. Republicans John Akouri and Terry Sever each received qualified status. Democrat Aldo Vagnozzi was deemed not qualified and the committee had no opinion on Charlene Heath.

With the Chamber about mini-

mum wage.

"I don't think anybody in this community thinks I'm unqualified," he said. "I know the legislative process. I know the issues."

Democrat Gilda Jacobs (not qualified) and Republican Marc Wilkins (no opinion) were evaluated in the 14th district state senate race.

Jacobs said the rating was not a good understanding of the role of the seat.

"I thought their non-endorsement of me was ridiculous because it doesn't reflect the political sophistication of the seat," she said. "I'm certainly qualified."

Democrat Ryan Gesund was given no opinion in the race for 14th District Oakland County Commission.

The committee said it was unable to interview James Nash

(Democrat) for the 15th Commission district.

The candidates that received preferred status had platforms most similar to the goals of the Chamber.

"We're looking at the candidates with how strongly they go along with our business issues," Chamber President/CEO Carleigh Flaherty said. "Their positions are most closely aligned with our positions on those issues. There was no gray area."

The Chamber did not rate judicial races because it does not believe they have a direct impact on the local business community.

Register for Jaycees' golf benefit

The deadline is July 22 to sign up for the Farmington Area Jaycees Golf Outing Benefit held Saturday, Aug. 10 at Fox Creek Golf Course, 36000 Seven Mile, in Livonia.

Registration begins at 10:15 a.m. with tee times starting at 11:00 a.m.

The cost is \$380 per foursome and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, lunch at the turn, two complimentary beverages, tickets, dinner, and a goody bag. There will also be a \$10,000 Hole in One, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, door prizes, and a silent auction.

The outing is limited to 25 foursomes. The golf committee

is also looking for sponsors as well as contributions for prizes and silent auction.

Proceeds benefit community projects such as Spring Eggs Hunt, Citizen of the Year, Children's Shopping Spree, and Holiday Food baskets.

To register for the golf outing, become a sponsor, or for more information, contact Betty Ference or Holly Hintz, by mail: Farmington Area Jaycees Golf Committee P.O. Box 33 Farmington, MI 48332 by hotline: (248) 477-JCCS, or by email: golf@fajc.org or visit the chapter's website at www.fajc.org

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