

Community Corner

This week's question:
Power Middle School was noted as one of several overcrowded schools in the Farmington district. What can be done to overcome this?

We asked this question Monday at Power Middle School.



"I think we've got to get some portable schools (classrooms). We've got to expand."
— Donald Boyer
grade eight



"Building a new section."
— Joe Addy
grade eight



"Move the borders, I guess. I was at East last year. There's more kids here, but it's a bigger school."
— Gary Lesperance
grade eight



"I don't know. I hardly have any people in my classes."
— Melissa Sevrer
grade six



"I'm not sure, but we could add to our school. We could cut down on a lot of classes we really don't need."
— Naha Trivadi
grade eight



"I don't know if building on would help. They're not (overcrowded). Not the way it seems this year."
— Kathy Foessel
grade eight

Hills student to join search for lost ships

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Thomas K. Pool, 12, of Farmington Hills, is one of two Detroit-area students selected to participate in an upcoming exploration of two warships lost during the War of 1812, at the bottom of Lake Ontario.

Pool is a winner of the Junior Argonauts competition sponsored by the Detroit Science Center's Aetna Scholarship fund. The contest is in conjunction with the JASON Project, an underwater investigation of the sunken American schooners Hamilton and Scourge, conducted by Dr. Robert Ballard.

Pool, a seventh grader at Roeper City and County School in Birmingham, will join Ballard on his ship Star Hercules from May 10-12.

Pool was chosen from 30 area school nominations. He was nominated by his teacher, Sandy Shansoni. His class had been doing a project on oceanography and submarines.

"Our class had an extra section that we could do for our science year," Pool said. "We had to do some kind of project and I chose submarines. My teacher heard about the JASON project and could tell I was real interested and a dedicated person. I said (in the essay) that this would mean something to me. It would not be just another field trip. I try real hard."

Submersibles are manned or unmanned vessels capable of operating or remaining under water.

POOL, WHO plans to become an ocean-

graphic engineer, will fly alone to Buffalo, N. Y., where he will be met by chaperones.

"We were happily delighted," said his mother, Linda Olsen. "He's very interested in meeting some of the real people who are actually doing the work. He'll be traveling with a group of nine kids and will stay in a hotel near Niagara."

Tom's father is Ken Pool of Farmington Hills. He has a sister, Cara, who is a sophomore at North Farmington High.

Don G. Bennett, vice president for education at the Detroit Science Center and a judge, said each nominee submitted an essay on their goals and dreams to become a scientist and how the Junior Argonaut trip will affect them.

Bennett, a former Toledo principal for 20 years, said he liked Pool's essay because it was

"very sincere and real personable. He told about his interest in science and his career. I could tell he wrote it himself. After meeting him Friday, I think he will represent us well," Bennett said.

The exploration will be transmitted live to 15 museums and centers throughout the U.S. and Canada, including the Detroit Science Center. Ballard will use his robot submarine, JASON, to explore the sunken vessels.

Ballard also used JASON for his discoveries of the R.M.S. Titanic in 1985 and the German battleship Bismarck in 1989.

For more information about the JASON project, contact the Detroit Science Center at 577-3400.



Thomas K. Pool
seventh grader

Officials renew threat of lawsuit

By Darrell Clem
staff writer

Walled Lake school officials Monday renewed a threat to file a lawsuit challenging the city of Walled Lake's plans to create a Downtown Development Authority.

Schools Superintendent James Geisler, accusing city officials of failing to compromise, notified Walled Lake City Manager Michael Dornan that the school board will file suit "unless an agreement in the public interest can be reached between the school district and the city."

Dornan said Tuesday he remains "optimistic" the two sides will resume talks and avert a court battle over the city's plans to create a DDA aimed, in part, at making major road improvements.

Geisler, in a tersely worded one-page statement, accused the city of "suddenly and without warning" proposing a DDA plan on April 26 that triples the cost of an earlier proposal "which was in the process of being negotiated."

"Obviously, this new action by the city disavows any spirit of compro-

mise, without which agreement in the public interest is impossible," he said.

Geisler issued the statement Monday after meeting with Dornan earlier in the day.

Geisler contended the city has expanded the DDA plan to \$20 million from earlier estimates of \$6 million, increasing the number of municipal projects from three to 10.

Dornan disputed Geisler's statement and pegged the cost at \$13 million.

Geisler said that Walled Lake School District residents will pay more than half that cost of the DDA project, which would be funded by tax revenues from future property assessment increases in the DDA district.

Except for his meeting with Geisler on Monday, Dornan said school and city officials have not met to discuss the DDA project since April 18. The city is "certainly willing" to continue negotiations, Dornan said, though he did not have a commitment from school officials that they will delay filing a lawsuit.

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