

# inkwell

Inkwell provides information about primary and secondary education issues and students from the Farmington area. Send information to: Inkwell, The Farmington Observer, 21899 Farmington Road, Farmington, 48336. Items will not be taken over the phone.

**• MEA WINNERS**  
Two Michigan Education Association affiliates in the Farmington Public Schools were recently lauded for their community relations efforts.

Both the Farmington Education Association and the Farmington Education Support Personnel units were awarded the Dale Kennedy Award for outstanding public relations programs. The awards were presented on Jan. 31 at the MEA state Negotiations and Public Relations Conference in Dearborn.

**• HUMOROUS ASSEMBLY**  
Longacre Elementary students roared with approval as comedian Bill Barr and sidekick Bruno performed a humorous assembly about ecology recently.

Students were invited to perform in several skits which drove home the point that students can take steps which will help save the earth.

A cafeteria recycling program was introduced by the Ann Arbor-based comedians with help from Longacre first grader Andrew Edmondson. Andrew played the role of a sharp-shooting Detroit Piston and managed to stuff foam cafeteria trays into the recycling container, despite defensive efforts by Bruno.

Longacre principal Bill Smith got into the act as he was cast as the Wicked Witch of the Garbage Dump. Students ganged up on him to stop the witch from littering the landscape.

The Longacre PTA sponsored the assembly, and added a special touch to the day by presenting an Earth flag to the school. It now flies proudly over Longacre School.

**• BEST BRIDGE**  
Steve Pennywitt's bridge was judged as an example of the best craftsmanship.

The bridge that held the most weight — 805 pounds — was built by Jason Rotenheber.

Chris Diecco's held 625 pounds earning him a second place, and Curt

Everhart's held 605 pounds weighing in at third.

These Farmington High School students participated in a bridge testing contest in Don Batten's Metal Technology class first semester, during which the bridges were constructed as part of a problem solving unit to see whose could hold the most weight.

Students had about three weeks to design and build the bridges according to predetermined specifications. They were made of one-eighth-inch welding rods.

To test the bridges, weights were hung from the center of the bridge, where they were added until the bridge collapsed.

After seeing such excitement and enthusiasm, the contest can get nothing bigger and better, Batten said. "Besides, now the students have a goal to shoot at; they all think they can beat 805 pounds."

**• GEOGRAPHY BEE**  
Missy McDonald, a seventh grader at Power Middle School is the schoolwide champion for the National Geographic Geography Bee.

She will now take a written exam to qualify for state competition. The next step will be national competition hosted by Alec Trebek of Jeopardy! in which contestants vie for \$25,000 in scholarship money.

The schoolwide competition was sponsored by DELTA coordinator Barbara Rebbeck, classroom specialist Theresa Schlatter.

**• JOURNALISM AWARD**  
Senior Jon Fitzpatrick of Farmington High School was a co-winner in the second-place award for column-writing in the Michigan Press Women's 1990-91 High School Journalist Contest. His name was inadvertently left off of a press release from the organization which recently ran in the Observer.

Fitzpatrick shares the honor with classmate Bryan Baral. Kara Kurtz, also a senior at Farmington, won first place in the column-writing category for her "Editor's Corner" feature. She is the editor of the school paper, the Blue and White.

The Farmington students were three of 22 students from throughout Michigan who won honors in the contest, which was judged Feb. 9 at Michigan State University.

The writings of Kurtz and other first-place winners will now be sent to the National Federation of Press Women to vie against winners from other states.

**• EARNING FOR LEARNING**  
Five area schools have received one computer/printer combination in the Kroger stores "Earning for Learning" program, according to information from the company.

Beechview Elementary in Farmington Hills and Thomas Beahan Junior High participated through the store at 12 Mile and Halsted Road, and Konbrook Elementary in Farmington Hills, Our Lady of Sorrows in Farmington and Oakman Orthopedic participated through the store on Middlebelt in Farmington Hills.

The program allows the stores to collect grocery receipts on behalf of particular schools for a certain period of time, which allows the schools to earn computer equipment.

**• ESSAY WINNERS**  
Three students from Power Middle School in Farmington Hills were named local winners in the 22nd Annual America & Me Essay Contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance.

Sam Latra won first place, Jennifer Sloane second place and Matt Healy third place.

Latra's first place essay detailed our country as "the land of drug and alcohol abuse, where people's lives and dreams are ruined inside a bottle" and as "the land of pollution, because of people who pollute and don't recycle."

In his essay, he said he does small things that make a difference, like showing respect, packing food for the homeless and mowing others' lawns.

"When you go out and help someone, no matter what you're doing, that person is going to help and appreciate what you did," he said. "If most people tried to make a difference, even a small one, America would be a great place, a place we could all be proud of."

First place essays now advance to the state competition, from which the top 10 essays in Michigan will be selected. Those state winners are to be announced in May and will receive U.S. Savings Bonds and plaques and be honored at a banquet in Lansing.

## YMCA highlights

**• T-BALL REGISTRATION**  
Registration for the Y's spring T-Ball program begins the week of March 18. The program is open to boys and girls currently in kindergarten through third grade. Participants must also be 5 years old. March 18 was member registration day, followed by program members only through 23.

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**• SUMMER CAMP**

The Detroit Metropolitan YMCA will be offering its summer camp program starting in June. Interested parents and children are encouraged to attend the Farmington YMCA's summer camp information session on Sunday, April 14, at 1 p.m. for more details regarding the camps.

**• SPRING FEVER**

The Y will be offering a three on three Teen Basketball Tournament on April 4. Boys and girls divisions will be offered. Teens 14-18 years old are eligible to participate.

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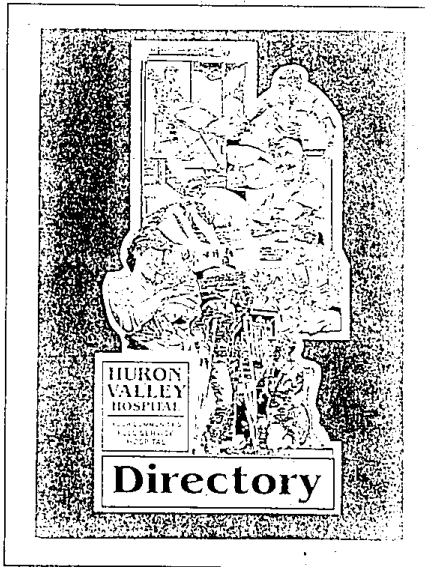
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