

4 students scored big at GM Tech math event

Four eighth grade students from Beverly Hills, Troy and Kalamazoo emerged as the champion "mathletes" in the 1997 MATHCOUNTS State Competition held today at the General Motors Technical Center, where GM hosted this event.

The top four scoring "mathletes" were: first place winner, Ryan Timmons, Berkshire Middle School in Beverly Hills; second place winner, Mike Asmus, Bouldan Park Middle School in Troy; third place winner, Edith Hines, Gagie School in Kalamazoo; and fourth place winner, Rishi Mukhopadhyay, Detroit Country Day School in Beverly Hills.

The four winners will team up to represent Michigan at the national finals in Washington, D.C. on May 9. This Michigan team will be coached by Jennifer Taylor, who coached the Bouldan Park Middle School team, the highest scoring team in today's state competition.

Winners and coach receive an all-expense paid trip to the national finals. Each winner also received a trophy and a \$500 scholarship from the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers.

Kenneth R. Baker, vice president of GM's Research and Development Center, addressed the nearly 200 middle school students who gathered there to compete. Baker cited the importance in developing strategic problem-solving and analytical abilities through math achievement and teamwork. He encouraged students to strive for excellence in order to bring new skills to companies such as GM.

"In the future, we will be able to engineer a car... around the world through a cybernetic system. The fundamentals you learn today are essential for future jobs," he said.

"Mathletes" competed individually and as teams in written and oral problem-solving math contests. In the final one-on-one oral elimination trial, students solved problems such as, "What is the sum of the cubes of the numbers from one to 100?" They had 45 seconds to answer: 25,502,500.

MATHCOUNTS is a national math coaching and competition program for middle school students designed to build skills, promote strategic problem-solving and sharpen analytical abilities. Team problem-solving is emphasized through challenging and exciting sport-like contests.

Schools register annually to participate in MATHCOUNTS. Four students from each school are selected to contend in local meets in February. Winners progress to state contests in March. Out of 176 Michigan schools that registered, 64 schools took part in today's event, including 46 teams and 11 individuals who achieved the highest scores at the local contests, but whose teams did not make the state finals.

This is the 10th year the GM Foundation has been a national sponsor of MATHCOUNTS. Gary McDonald, head of Operations Research Department of the GM Research & Development Center and member of MATHCOUNTS Foundation board of directors said, "The future of American industry depends on a talented and educated work force with solid math skills. This is especially true for the automotive industry, which employs 6 percent of all engineers and conducts 12 percent of corporate research and development in the United States."

Since the program began, over three million students have participated from schools in all states, U.S. territories and State and Defense Department schools worldwide.

Oakland Journal is a roundup of Oakland County news and notes collected from government, school, civic, community and neighborhood sources. Write: Oakland Journal, c/o Oakland County editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Our fax number is (810) 644-1314.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Oakland County 4-H HorsePower program is in need of caring, enthusiastic adults and

teens as volunteer assistants. Experience with horses is not needed. The program helps disabled children and adults gain confidence and therapeutic benefits from horseback riding under the supervision of a certified instructor. Once oriented, volunteers will walk manicured trails alongside their riders, or help riders develop skills in the big indoor ring. HorsePower holds two one-hour classes each Monday evening. New volunteers are urged to attend an orientation session at 6:30 p.m. on Monday,

OAKLAND JOURNAL

April 7. Spring sessions begin on Monday, April 14, at the Bloomfield Open Hunt, Long Lake at Kensington Road, Bloomfield Hills. For details or to volunteer, call Carol Hill at (810) 626-9023.

SECONDHAND SALE
The Farmington Area Community Women will hold its Mom's Secondhand Sale from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 5, at the Activity Center (formerly the Mercy Center) at 11 Mile, between Middlebelt and Inkster Road, in Farmington Hills. Enter at Gate 4, Door A. The

sale will feature children's clothes, toys, furniture and maternity items. Admission is \$1, and refreshments are available. All proceeds support the Farmington Emergency Fund. Table rental is \$25. For information, call (810) 489-0803, or (810) 788-2735.

TRUSTEES APPOINTED

Gov. John Engler announced the appointment of Beverly Papai of Bloomfield Hills to the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees, which helps to determine policy for the Library of Michigan.

Papai is director of Farmington Community Library and replaces Margaret Auer of Warren. Papai's term expires on Dec. 15, 1999.

FLOOD RELIEF

The Salvation Army's regional headquarters in Southfield will dispatch two disaster service centers to southeast Indiana. These units will join the Army's extensive relief efforts which have been in operation in portions of Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio since torrential rains caused flooding.

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