

Adopt a school

Power sixth-graders extend their help to Peruvian students



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL REED

That's a good idea: Power Middle School teacher Carol Czajkowski's sixth-grade class brainstorms fund-raising ideas. The class hopes to adopt a school in Peru. Their goal is \$350. Stephen Simowski, Andrew Kasper, Caitlin Donovan and Darcie Buckler work on ideas with their teacher.

BY TIM SMITH
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Imagine a school where the only educational resources are the teacher and a chalkboard. Without books, maps, pads of paper or pencils, learning can only take place by listening. Such schools exist along the Amazon rain forest in Peru, and

were visited this summer by Power Middle School sixth-grade teacher Carol Czajkowski. She and other sixth-grade teachers are organizing their classes to help raise a total of \$350 to adopt one of those Peruvian schools and help bring youngsters the basics. The Adopt-A-School Program is sponsored by the Alabama-

based ACEER Foundation and Conapac, in Peru. Czajkowski said the goal is to raise the money and submit it by the end of February.

"I'm hoping that by raising this money, we'll be able to help them get basic resources," said Czajkowski, who called her trip a life-changing experience. "It's difficult to learn by memory."

Earlier this school year, Czajkowski showed students slides from her visit, showing pictures of the one-room rural school-houses. Some of the schools don't even have windows or screens. Those slides, and the teacher's reminiscing, made a big impact on students, such as Josh Roma, 11.

"It'd be difficult to learn without paper and pencils," Josh said. "It'd be sort of hard. Miss Czajkowski said they want to learn and I like school. So it'll help them learn better."

Robert Escott, 10, said it would be good to help the Peruvian students. "It's important to raise this money. Their educational system isn't funded by the government. Paper, pencils, all the supplies they could use there we take for granted."

"They deserve as good an education as we do," said 11-year-old Christine Osimowicz.

Czajkowski said she is confident that the money will be raised, particularly since the Farmington district school's entire sixth grade (comprised of nine sections) is involved.

The project is off to a good start. Late last month, students decorated pumpkins and collected about \$100 toward the endeavor. Last week, in Czajkowski's class at least, more fund-raising ideas were kicked around for consideration.

"If it's starting out this good," Robert said, "maybe we'll get enough (money) to adopt three schools."



Finishing touches: Students Robert Escott (left), Kevin Boskey and Andrew Kasper decorate pumpkins as part of a Power Middle School project to raise money for a Peruvian school.



Good job: Both Dana Nuccitelli (left) and Kaylin Connors are proud of the pumpkins they decorated for the fund-raising cause.

Dwyer: Recent busts put damper on local drug trade

BY LAURIE O'CONNOR
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Last week's drug arrests that stopped a 50-kilo shipment of cocaine will put a serious dent in the drug trade here, Farmington Hills police Chief Bill Dwyer said.

The question is: For how long? "That's why I say we have effectively interrupted the flow of drugs by this organization," the police chief said.

"In saying that, we know that there are other dealers who are willing to step forward to take over where this organization has left off. It's a supply and demand thing."

They'll first have to get past SONIC, a newly formed undercover operation involving Hills, Novi and West Bloomfield police. SONIC is short for South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium.

The 12-member undercover

unit tracked the cocaine trail from a mid-level dealer in Farmington Hills to Los Angeles. Police stopped an expected shipment of 50 kilos from California — believed to be "muled" in a car — by arresting a supplier and bringing him to a Roseville hotel to complete a transaction with a local dealer who was taken into custody after buying four kilos.

SONIC and DEA agents later arrested two Mount Clemens men, ages 28-20. They face felony drug charges that if convicted are punishable by up to life in prison. More warrants and arrests are expected.

Police seized more cocaine, several pounds of marijuana, weapons and \$32,000 cash in raids Nov. 6-8.

"That's very significant," Dwyer said. "Normally, you knock one place down and that's all. This took significant players out of operation."

The haul was part of a produc-

tive month for SONIC officers. They seized eight pounds of coke, three vehicles and \$12,712 in cash during a four-day period Oct. 23-27.

SONIC has conducted 10 search warrants and made six arrests during that time in Southfield, Melvindale, Taylor, Clinton Township, Roseville and Melvindale.

For the arrests Nov. 6-8, SONIC used DEA and Detroit police aircraft and other surveillance techniques. All tools are needed since drug arrests are up in Farmington Hills and surrounding communities, Dwyer said.

Farmington Hills has averaged 320 drug arrests a year during the past two years and is expected to surpass that in 1998. The city averaged 201 narcotics arrests from 1990-95.

What's more disturbing is the trend is finding its way into schools, Dwyer said. Police found

marijuana in a student locker at North Farmington High Thursday.

Police intend to be relentless no matter the amount or drugs involved, Dwyer said.

"We target all levels when it comes to narcotic dealers," Dwyer said.



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Big winds force school closings

BY TIM SMITH
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Several schools in the Farmington district were forced to close due to the heavy winds of Tuesday and Wednesday. But various school construction sites apparently went unscathed, said James Myers, executive director of K-12 instruction and student services.

"We got no reports of any damage from the winds," said Myers Friday. "It looks like our new construction is holding up pretty good."

There are six schools with major construction projects in various stages of completion, including Farmington and North

high schools and Dunckel Middle School.

Funding for the expansion and renovation effort was made possible by the September 1997 approval of a two-part bond issue, totalling \$93.1 million.

But the district didn't totally escape damage from the gusts of anywhere between 40-to-60 miles-per-hour.

Myers said five schools were closed on Wednesday because of downed electrical wires. Those were Beechview, Eagle and William Grace elementary schools, and Dunckel and East middle schools.

Beechview also was closed on Thursday, because a Detroit Edison pole was knocked over by the

wind and could not immediately be replaced. Myers said the pole was fixed — and power restored — in time for Beechview to re-open for Friday's classes.

The storm did plenty of other damage in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area.

Police blamed the winds for fueling a Wednesday morning fire that destroyed the Wash Hut Dry Cleaners/Coin Laundry on Grand River near Orchard Lake. The adjacent Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant also was severely damaged.

The cause of the fire was still being determined, according to police.

Prostitution from page A1

with an escort service.

Police are honing in on the operators, who are believed to work out of hotels in Canton, Novi, Livonia, Southfield and Farmington Hills.

SONIC and Michigan State police raided a Detroit house that operated as a switchboard center for numerous escort services. (SONIC is the South Oakland Narcotics Intelligence Consortium.) Police also searched a Southfield apartment where they confiscated records and an illegal pistol.

Acting on complaints from hotel operators, officers set up a

sting at a Farmington Hills lodging facility Thursday. An undercover set up at 4 p.m. appointment advertised as a nude massage. Massage rates are \$85 for a half-hour and \$150 an hour but can go up to \$200 if sex is involved.

When the undercover officer arrived, he phoned a woman who told him to report to a particular room. The officer was told to direct by a young girl, who then offered sexual services.

She was taken into custody without incident. Officers also found two pen knives in the room, which the teen said she

had in case a customer got rough with her.

Police asked the clerk who rented the room and found that it was one of three registered to a Southfield man, who was questioned. Cases will be turned over to Oakland and Wayne County prosecutors and more arrests could result, police said.

"People say prostitution is a victimless crime; that's not true," Dwyer said. "These girls are naive and young and they get hooked on drugs."

"They're used and abused and thrown away."