



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

## Harrison junior sets sights on Washington

BY JONI HUBBED  
STAFF WRITER  
jhubb@oee.homedom.net

In this election year, Tarin Dew wants to go to Washington — but not to serve in Congress.

A junior at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills, she has been invited to participate in the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, held in Washington, D.C. this summer. In order to accept that invitation, however, Dew has some fund-raising to do.

Tuition alone is almost \$1,900. "That's not even travel or lunches or any extras," said her mother, Faith.

Tarin remains undaunted by the challenge and is eager to get an inside look at national government, which the seminar promises.

"I just want to see behind the scenes and see how government works," she said. "I've been involved in leadership and diversity at school."

During the course of her 11-day stay (provided she's able to raise the funds), Tarin will sit in on Congressional committee meetings, tour our nation's capitol and learn how government really works. A look at the sample 11-day schedule listed on the CYLC Web site ([www.cylc.org](http://www.cylc.org)) shows visits to landmarks and monuments, leadership meetings and presentations about everything from Washington politics to the capitol press corps.

"Right now, I have a government class, with Mr. Lamerato," Tarin said, adding, "He's really into it."

Tarin was nominated to attend based on her record of leadership, extra-curricular activities and community involvement. She's president of Interact, a community service group that has created backpacks full of school supplies and shoeboxes of personal items for needy kids.

Community activities also include working at American House, a home for the elderly,



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Capitol Bound?: Tarin Dew is raising money for a leadership conference in Washington D.C.

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and with classmates, hosting a Turkey Trot to raise money for a needy family.

Since sixth grade, Tarin has been a member of the International Order of the Rainbow, which her mother describes as an organization that "teaches young ladies how to be young ladies." Through ritual work, they learn memorization skills and the presence to be in front of a crowd, Faith said. Community service is also a part of the picture.

To round out her busy schedule, Tarin participates with the Hawks' track and field team,

having been the only Farmington athlete to have finished first in the Western Lakes Activities conference (in district).

Right now, she's taking time out to visit with city officials and others in the community who might help sponsor her trip to the leadership conference. Tarin does so with support from her family, which also includes her father, Roderick II, 14 and Thomas Spradley, 21, and three-year-old niece Taylor Romin.

To add your support to this effort, contact the Observer, 248-477-5450.

## Highmeadow sponsors reading events

Highmeadow Common Campus held their second annual Literature Extravaganza last Friday evening in celebration of "March is Reading Month."

Students and their families explored 13 rooms themed like popular books and authors.

Along with the ubiquitous "Harry Potter" room, students enjoyed a mock rainforest in the media center patterned after "The Great Kapok Tree."

Above, Harrison High School volunteer Shivani Patel quizzes Chad Kalisky on his knowledge of Harry Potter.

At left, Rob Chapell and his daughter Alanna try their hand at reading Braille letters in the Louis Braille room.



## New guide provides resources about Alzheimer's, dementia

For more than four million families affected by Alzheimer's disease, knowing what choices to make when a loved one is in the end stages of life while suffering advanced dementia is a difficult issue.

Because of a partnership between Hospice of Michigan (HOM), the Alzheimer's Association-Michigan Chapter and funding from the Michigan Department of Community Health, caregivers now will have a unique resource to guide them to the answers they need.

On March 18, HOM issued the first-ever guide for families of individuals with advanced dementia and in need of hospice care. The 28-page manual, titled "Caring for a Loved One with Advanced Dementia," grew out of an on-going research program, Palliative Excellence in Alzheimer's Care Efforts (PEACE Project), and is based on with input from HOM experiences in caring for more than

1,500 dementia patients over the past six years.

"One of our physicians working with Alzheimer's patients saw the need that families had for this kind of information," explained Dorothy Deremo, President and CEO of Hospice of Michigan. "This book was developed to help families prepare for and confront the difficult issues they will face as their loved one reaches the advanced stages of dementia."

"This manual guides caregivers in asking the right questions to determine whether or not to treat infections, should they insert a feeding tube, or should CPR be used if the patient goes into cardiac arrest," Deremo explains. "It helps them decide if palliative, or comfort

care, rather than aggressive treatment is the best choice."

Although 100,000 people die of dementia each year in America, only 2 percent of hospice patients nationally have a primary diagnosis of dementia. HOM cared for 500 dementia patients last year, comprising 7 percent of the total 7,000 patients.

Fraser Pomeroy, an individual sponsor of the care manual from Farmington Hills, said the information contained in the manual would have been tremendously useful when he was caring for his wife Margaret, who suffered from dementia for 10 years.

"There are many people who could use this, just as I could have," he said. "I take great satisfaction in knowing that, in some way, I have helped another human being, by supporting this book."

Call 1-800-337-3827 for more information about obtaining a copy.

## Students 'Blast Off' with reading

The students at Lanigan Elementary School celebrated March is Reading Month with the theme "Blast Off With Reading."

Every student was a junior astronaut and signed the Astronaut's Code of Honor, which stresses the life skills of taking initiative to read and to take responsibility for accurate record keeping and honesty in recording their reading times.

By reading every day at home, each child can reach a destination in outer space. Students were told reading consistently enables them to travel to the moon, inner and outer planets

and, finally, to reach for the stars.

A room at Lanigan was converted into a space station with star lights hanging from the ceiling, comfortable cushions, bean bag chairs, and a couch for reading, a space shuttle, posters and books about space. Classes used the space station as a special area for independent reading and as a place to read and learn about outer space and space travel.

"The students had a lot of fun with it," said Jan Tobe, the Lanigan Center Reading Recovery teacher.

The celebration of reading

began with a read-aloud. Other activities were a poetry day, "Reach for the Stars" dress-up days, and a guest reader day. The fifth graders created space station displays out of recycled materials and these were displayed in the Media Center as a space exhibit.

At the end of March, there will be a Celebration of Reading Assembly with prizes, certificates and a special astronaut guest. Lanigan Principal Marva Turner is expected to do a specially created astronaut costume designed in Plymouth, Tobe said.

—by staff writer Sue Buck

## Women of N. Farmington plan Lansing lunch

Are you tired of the Monday blues? Why not join the Women of North Farmington for lunch at Clara's Lansing Station on April 8 in Lansing.

Following lunch, the group will visit the Michi-

gan Historical Museum.

Reservations can be made through Tuesday, April 2, by calling Elaine Rousseau at 248-477-6940.

## CRITTENTON HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER

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To our distinguished medical staff:

We salute you for your commitment and support of the mission and values of Crittenton Hospital Medical Center. It is with sincere gratitude that we thank you for all of your tireless efforts and dedication.

Happy Doctors' Day  
March 30, 2002

