CARRIER OF THE MONTH: FARMINGTON

Dave Caza of Farmington Hills was named July Carrier of the Month for the Farmington Observer. A student at Power Middle School, Caza's favorite subjects are social studies and science. He is a Buy Scout and eploys fishing, baseball and video names.

games. Caza likes the advantage of having his

If you want to be a Farmington Observer carrier, please call **591–0500**



CLARIFICATION

In the July 25 edition story "Attendance booms for Founders Fest," it should be clarified that quoted glass artist Bruce Lanier was not part of Art on the Grand, the fine arts portion of the festi-val. His booth was part of the Masonic Temple crafts show.

Hills teen takes Mr. Dance title to nationals

BY CHRISTINE BRODA STAFF WRITER

Lars Haglund knows the meaning of fancy footwork. Since he was 8 years old, the Farmington Hills resident has cultivated his passion for dance in every style from tap and jazz to lyrical and ballet. Now, at age 17, Haglund is preparing to hone his dancing talents at the national level. On July 31, the reigning Mr. Dance of Michigan will perform at the Dance Masters of America National Competition in Orlando, Fla., for a shot at becoming the next Mr. Dance of America.

of America.

Beginning July 25, the competition will feature an array of dance classes taught by professionals, as well as interviews and a tuxedo presentation.

Haglund will participate in both the opening and closing numbers with other contestants in addition to his solo performance, for which he has chosen to perform a tap dance with a twist.

"It's a more funky kind of dance, not like Broadway tap," Haglund said of his routine. "The music for the tap dance comes from an instrumental Beastie Boys song that Haglund said he chose because the fast-paced drums and acoustics provide good tapping beats and rhythms.

Tapping since he was 10, Haglund said he would consider this particular style of dance he enjoys most.

"It just gets me," he said of

his specialty, or at least the area he enjoys most.

'It just yets me,' he said of the beat-filled, rhythmic patterns of juzzy tap-style music. According to mom, fora, Haglund got his start in dance when she entrolled her son in his first hip hop class at Annette and Company dance studio in Farmington Hills. She said one day when she was taking his younger sister, Kristen, now 13, to ballet, Haglund announced,' Mom, I want to take a dance class.'

'I said, 'You do? Well, O.K.' lora explained. 'He loved it he kept becoming more and more interested in dance. Every time he heard music, he couldn't stop dancing.'

After two years of hip hop, Haglund moved on to tap and juzz. He later added ballet so he could compete in competitions requiring that style of dance.

could compete in competitions requiring that style of dance.

While growing up, Haglund and his sister frequently danced in community venues, including holiday programs at the Costick Center and Masonle Temple. Most recently Haglund, who also sings and acts, performed at the crowning of Miss Farmington Hills.

"I love to perform and entertain people – it really gives me a rush," Haglund self. "And it keeps me in shape, that's for sure."

a rush, Hagund saib. And it keeps me in shape, that's for sure."
Haglund trains almost every day, Mom explained that, during the school year, the rson logs more than 15 hours in the studio per week while weekends are spent attending either music festuals or dance competitions.

So far this summer, Haglund has kept busy taking dance classes and preparing for nationals at Broadway Bound, the Livonia studio where he has danced for the past three years. Traveling to other areas is another reason Haglund said he enjoys dancing. Competitions and training have taken him to cities such as Las Vegas and New York, where he has had the opportunity to learn from experienced dancers and tour local sights. During the week of July 15, Haglund danced at Retters Dance Academy in Los Angeles on a

scholarship he won at the Encore Performing Arts
Competition.
Although he is good on his feet, Haglund's voice is another reason he excels in the area of performing arts. Haglund sings with four different choirs at Walled Lake Western High School, including the eightmember group he formed called "Goya."
And the talented senior-to-ties no stranger to the athletic field either. Haglund has played varisty golf for Western for the past three years, in addition to having played soccer up until his freshmen year.
Haglund said he would like to spend his first summer out of high school looking for small performing jobs in the Los Angeles area.
Although still undecided about plans for after graduation, Haglund said he is looking at universities with strong musical theater programs because he would like to con-

at universities with strong musical theater programs because he would like to continue dancing and singing. As for his fancy footwork, Haglund said, 'I'm proud that dance, People used to say, 'Oh isn't that for girls' Now people think its cool - (they) accept it... I feel confident.

PAUL J. The Clear Choice for 47th District Court Judge

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