

# Harrison brings winning show to Grand Nationals

BY DIANE HANSON  
CORRESPONDENT

The Harrison High School Marching Band was among 88 top bands from 24 states competing at the Bands of America Grand National Championships in Indianapolis on November 15, bringing to close a spectacular competition season for the Hawks.

Their delightful, colorful, fast-paced performance of "Gazebo Dances" musically and visually took their audiences on a sweeping change through all four seasons at local, regional and national competitions for the last three months.

"I'm really pleased," said a smiling Peggy Babcock, Harrison co-director. "In many ways that was probably our strongest performance, certainly musically."

Co-director Joel Yoder agreed

totally. "It was the best show of the year," he said. "There is nothing more that you can ask than to have this be the best show of the year because this is our culminating event here."

Reaching that level of performance involved considerable practice since the band captured the second spot in the state in Flight III at the State Championships two weeks earlier. "They put in many hours despite a little bit of cold weather and wetness," said Yoder.

"The season went a week later this year," he explained. "This state in November and it gets a little miserable some days. But they rose to the occasion and made the best of it."

The difficulty with the cold weather, explained Babcock, is that "the instruments go flat while the pit goes sharp."

But the intense practice during the week paid off for the

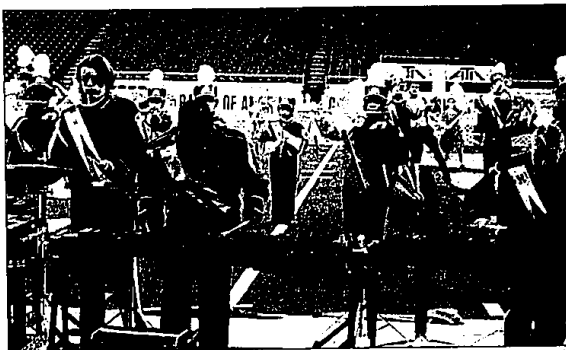
hometown marchers with a performance to be proud of. "I thought this was their best performance of the year," said color guard instructor Jason McIntosh. "The group really bonded today and had a great rehearsal and an emotional out-pit."

Senior tuba player Taylor Dotson agreed. "I think we did really well. We kept improving after states."

Sara Kirsten, a senior flutist, said it has been different this year with so many props, "but it also adds to our general effect and people understand the show much better."

"Today's show went really well and I feel very good about that performance," she added.

While the show was also a feat for students who are interested in international business. The corporate sponsors of the Automation Alley Trading Company are: Butzel Long is one of the state's leading law firms; America Bank, among the 20 largest banking companies in the U.S.; and Moore Stephens Doenen Mayhew, a Troy-based accounting firm that is an independently owned and operated member of Moore Stephens North America, Inc.



Harrison High musicians put their all into a performance at Grand Nationals. They were among 88 marching bands from across the country who participated in the Nov. 19 competition in Indianapolis.

standing ovation, the band didn't advance to the semi-finals competition.

Only one of the eight Michigan bands at the competition advanced to semi-finals and finals. The Plymouth-Canton Educational Park

Marching Band, Canton, placed ninth with the top three spots going to Lassiter High School, Georgia; Lawrence Central High School, Indiana; and Marian Catholic High School, Illinois.

Junior color guard member

Nako Mashimo summed up what most band members felt: "I think it was our best show," she said. "I did my best and everyone did their own personal best and tried so hard. I love color guard and I love this band!"

## Hills woman speaks at Automation Alley

Automation Alley, Oakland County, Michigan's nationally renowned technology consortium, announces the first quarterly meeting of the Automation Alley Trading Company.

The Trading Company is designed to help area companies succeed in developing, maintaining, and expanding their international business.

The meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3, at the Centerpoint Marriott. The meeting is free of charge, as is membership in the Trading Company.

"The Automation Alley Trading Company provides an opportunity for small and medium size businesses that have international interests to network and benefit from one another's experience," said Automation Alley Executive Director Ken Rogers. "Members are able to exchange information and ideas in regards to global trade."

The agenda at the Trading Company's quarterly business meetings includes networking, panel discussions and expert

speakers on international business issues. These gatherings will form lasting relationships for members to succeed in the international arena," explained Rogers.

Special guest speaker at the Dec. 3 meeting is Dixie Eklund, vice president of Hills-based international distributor of beauty products.

"We are very pleased to have Dixie speak at our first quarterly meeting," said Hayes W. Jones, export manager, Automation Alley.

"She can bring first-hand experience on global trade and the global marketplace to our members."

Eklund's role with FPO, Inc. is international distribution for their products. Eklund is a frequent worldwide business traveler, setting up distribution channels and providing technical

background and support for FPO products.

In keeping with Automation Alley's commitment to education, the Trading Company is also a forum for students who are interested in international business.

Students have the opportunity to meet with practitioners and benefit from existing knowledge and expertise of Trading Company members.

The corporate sponsors of the Automation Alley Trading Company are: Butzel Long is one of the state's leading law firms; America Bank, among the 20 largest banking companies in the U.S.; and Moore Stephens Doenen Mayhew, a Troy-based accounting firm that is an independently owned and operated member of Moore Stephens North America, Inc.

Reservations for the Dec. 3 meeting can be made by calling Diane Lee at (248) 975-0607 or online at [leed@ecosokland.mi.us](http://leed@ecosokland.mi.us). For more information about Automation Alley, visit [www.automationalley.com](http://www.automationalley.com)



Eklund

## Chemical abuse dialogue and 'Coffee and Conversation' slated

Farmington High School and the entire Farmington Public School District, in conjunction with the Farmington/Farmington Hills Call to Action Coalition, presents a dialogue on recognizing the signs and symptoms of chemical use and abuse.

Students have the opportunity to meet with practitioners and benefit from existing knowledge and expertise of Trading Company members. The corporate sponsors of the Automation Alley Trading Company are: Butzel Long is one of the state's leading law firms; America Bank, among the 20 largest banking companies in the U.S.; and Moore Stephens Doenen Mayhew, a Troy-based accounting firm that is an independently owned and operated member of Moore Stephens North America, Inc.

Reservations for the Dec. 3 meeting can be made by calling Diane Lee at (248) 975-0607 or online at [leed@ecosokland.mi.us](http://leed@ecosokland.mi.us). For more information about Automation Alley, visit [www.automationalley.com](http://www.automationalley.com)

9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4 at the Farmington High School auditorium.

From 6:30-7 p.m., coffee, displays and networking will be provided with a panel discussion from 7-9 p.m.

The panel is composed of Richard Isaacson, special agent, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA); Jeff Jay, professional interventionist; Nan Reynolds, family educator and

concerned community members.

For additional information, call (248) 489-3408. There is no charge for this event.

As a follow up to the Dec. 4 forum, the Families In Action sector of the Call to Action Coalition will host its first Coffee and Conversation 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11 at the Grand Café in downtown Farmington.

## Learn Leadership in Life at next week's seminar

Learn how to integrate positive, enriching and lasting change into your professional and personal life through Leadership in Life, offered 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3, at Donna Marie Consulting and

Training in Northville. Donna Marie is a former General Motors manager and vice president/partner in a professional and personal growth training company. Marie holds a degree in

organization administration and has 25 years of background in industry/business and professional growth. To register or for more information call (734) 420-2935.

**FITZ AND FLOYD**

July 26 to Nov 1, 2002  
Coke & Pepsi  
by the 12 pack  
\$12.99  
\$11.99  
\$10.99

**Heslop's**  
China & Gifts

**Turkey Sale!**

Model of Christmas Tree  
by Reed & Barton  
\$199.99  
\$179.99

Christmas Tree Pot  
\$19.99  
\$17.99

Save on  
Heslop's  
everyday low  
prices on most  
giftware,  
dinnerware,  
stemware  
and linens.

Ornaments

Friday, November 29 - Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>

Ann Arbor  
Grand Rapids

**SOMERSET COLLECTION**

FOR SANTA UPDATES, CALL SCNN (SOMERSET CASTLE NEWS NETWORK) 248 641 4438  
NORMAN MICHIGAN, 5455 FIFTH AVENUE, NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN 48164  
AND MORE THAN 100 OTHER UNIQUE SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS  
FOR MAKE INTO LOGANS TO [WWW.THESOMERSETCOLLECTION.COM](http://WWW.THESOMERSETCOLLECTION.COM)

HOLIDAYS HAVE ARRIVED.

**SANTA ARRIVAL**

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

**NORTH GRAND COURT**  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22 AT 7 PM

Join us for the magnificent outdoor arrival of the season's biggest, most important person, Santa Claus. We will also kick off the holiday season that night with a joyful sing-along with Santa and the entire Royal Court. It promises to be a magical evening for your children.

**SANTA VISITS**  
NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 24 BEGINNING 8AM DAILY  
Make Castle Check-In your first stop to receive your Santa pass and visiting time. Sorry, telephone reservations will not be accepted.

**ROYAL COURT BREAKFAST**  
SATURDAYS, DECEMBER 7, 14 & 21, 8:30AM - 10AM  
For reservations, please call 248-588-2914 or reserve online at [www.imaginationtheatre.com](http://www.imaginationtheatre.com).

**SANTA SEND-OFF**  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2PM  
Experience a magical afternoon as Santa returns to the North Pole.

**SOMERSET COLLECTION**

FOR SANTA UPDATES, CALL SCNN (SOMERSET CASTLE NEWS NETWORK) 248 641 4438  
NORMAN MICHIGAN, 5455 FIFTH AVENUE, NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN 48164  
AND MORE THAN 100 OTHER UNIQUE SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS  
FOR MAKE INTO LOGANS TO [WWW.THESOMERSETCOLLECTION.COM](http://WWW.THESOMERSETCOLLECTION.COM)