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THURSDAY  
May 22, 2003  
75 cents

# FARMINGTON Observer

**Electric**  
Detroit's  
Electronic Music  
Festival begins  
Saturday at Hart  
Plaza.  
Arts, B1



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**Pardon us**  
Dear readers,  
Due to press  
problems, today's  
Observer is printed  
in black and white.  
We appreciate your  
patience. We are  
working to restore  
color.

Susan Roslek  
executive editor

**DEPT. OF TOURS**

Favorite



Time with

We want to hear about your favorite outing with your father, whether it be a camping trip, a baseball game or a quiet morning spent together fishing at a secret watering hole. If you have pictures of the event, great, because we'd love to see them. We plan to publish these stories on Father's Day, June 15. Please send your stories and pictures to Renee Skoglund, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150; fax: (734) 591-7219; e-mail: rskoglund@oe.hometown.com. Call her at (734) 953-2128. Please respond by June 2.

**Food drive**

Acting Farmington Postmaster Don Dombrow delivered letter carrier Sherry Belobradich's route on May 16 in honor of her bringing in the most food donations for the Farmington Post Office NALC Food Drive. The annual food drive brought in 29,370 pounds of food, the most in the drive's 15-year history. Donations were distributed to the Oakland County Food Bank, the Salvation Army, a local church and a local youth organization.

**Fiber art exhibit**

A variety of modern and traditional fiber art created by members of the Michigan Weaver's Guild is now on display through June 27 in the City Gallery at the Costick Center, 28600 W. 11 Mile in Farmington Hills. Called "What's New with Fiber?" the juried exhibit features works by over 20 Michigan artists, including tapestries, baskets, sculptures, scarves, beading and hand-painted and woven cloth. The art is created using yarn, sticks, twigs, feathers, flowers, beads, paper, paint, glue and wood. The City Gallery is open 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and during special events at the center. Call (248) 473-1856.



Catholic Central Quiz Bowl teammates strike their deep thinking poses. Front row from left, Charles Drummond, Joel Knight, John Sovinsky and Nick Galea. Back row from left, Mike Warren, Joe Rancour, Daniel Crawford, Pete Troyan, Frank Patino, Steve Budde and David Budde.

## State champs compete with 'speed,' power

BY MATT JACHMAN  
STAFF WRITER

The Ancient Order of the Hibernians. Anthracite mining. Scranton, Pa. The question hasn't been asked, but if you don't have the answer by now, step aside. (Answer: The Molly Maguires.) This is the world of Catholic Central High School's Academic Team, where speed, "power" timing and a broad knowledge are essential. "I really want you to focus on timing, timing, timing," said coach Howard Weinberg as the state champs began a Wednesday scrimmage in preparation for the National Academic Quiz Association finals. Weinberg then launched into a series of toss-up questions, reading them dramatically and in rapid succession. Team members hit their buzzers when they knew - or thought they knew - the answers. Most of the responses

were on the mark, and many were "for power," that is, worth 15 points because they were answered after few clues had been dropped. By the time the actual questions are read, correct answers are only worth 10 points. Topics included igneous rock (formed by heat), Alexis De Tocqueville (French sociologist), Linus Pauling (Nobel-winning chemist), the Wilnot Proviso (of 1846 and 1847, which would have banned slavery in territories acquired from Mexico), and Hammurabi's Code (laws in ancient Babylon). Weinberg often punctuated quick, on-the-mark responses with "Yes!" or "You're a genius!" and occasionally slowed the flow to call for better timing, or to criticize "low-percentage" answers. In a question about an author, some clues seemed to indicate Ernest Hemingway would be a sound answer, but team members held back. It took until Weinberg mentioned the novel

"Manhattan Transfer" and started talking about the U.S.A. Frigoly that a player came up with the right answer - John Dos Passos. "That's too slow. Let's move it," Weinberg said. Conversely, another question that began by mentioning Tom Clancy, and the movies some of his books spawned, lulled a student into quickly, but wrongly, answering "Harrison Ford." Low percentage, Weinberg said. The question took a different direction, and the answer was "Clear and Present Danger," a Clancy novel and later a movie. The drills are mainly for technique and timing, Weinberg said; team members gain the knowledge mostly on their own. "It helps to be well-read, and he also gives us study sheets on different subjects," said senior Joe Rancour of Northville. Rancour has been on the Academic

PLEASE SEE QUITZ, A7

## Legion honors military mom

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Susan Klotz of Michigan Military Moms will be the Honorary Parade Marshal for this year's Memorial Day Parade, which begins at 10 a.m. Monday at the Uptown Plaza on Grand River, west of Orchard Lake Road. The parade route ends at Memorial Park on Grand River, west of Farmington Road. Klotz is credited with starting the organization, which provides support to families of men and women serving in the Armed Forces. "She will be presented with a plaque by the Farmington Area Veterans Parade Committee as the Military Mom of the year for her efforts of starting this organization," said Wally Christensen, of the Groves American Legion Post in Farmington. "She started with only eight members and today it is in the hundreds." Christensen annually organizes the parade. Awards will also be presented to

PLEASE SEE MOM, A10

## Even battling cancer, Harrison custodian takes no sick days

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Hector "Bud" LeBlanc, a head custodian at Harrison High School, hasn't used any sick days for 15 years. He was the only person honored for that achievement at the May 15 Employee Recognition Reception at the Farmington Training Center. "I took this job as temporary employment and I've been here ever since," LeBlanc said. He's worked at Harrison the entire time. He's responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the building and is one of 11 custodians at the school. "Prior to this, I usually was at a job for five years and then I changed," said LeBlanc, a Farmington resident since 1954. He taught emotionally disabled children at Boys Republic in Farmington Hills when it was a United Fund agency in the 1970s. "I have been a licensed building contractor, an electronic technician, managed a home warranty company for Century 21, worked with home inspection companies, there's been a number of things," LeBlanc said.



Hector LeBlanc was honored recently for having taken no sick days in 15 years of employment with Farmington Public Schools.

What's the secret behind his good attendance at Harrison? "I had some very understanding supervisors who understood situations," LeBlanc said. LeBlanc prefers to use personal and vacation days instead of sick days. "They understand that I would rather take a vacation day, because I don't use vacation days," LeBlanc said. "I have five weeks of vacation left for this year and that ends in July. I have to take them or else I lose them." He said he's neither overdedicated

PLEASE SEE CUSTODIAN, A10

## Social workers first to be charged with neglect in child's death

BY PAUL R. PACE  
STAFF WRITER

For the first time in state history, two social workers have been criminally charged with neglecting to oversee the care of a boy who prosecutors say was allegedly killed by his foster mother. The social workers are employees of

Farmington Hills-based Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has charged the women with second-degree child abuse, a four-year felony. Joshua Causey, 4, was killed March 18

PLEASE SEE CHARGES, A10

## Board member accuses PTA of playing favorites with called-in questions

BY SUE BUCK  
STAFF WRITER

Some tempers flared at Monday's school board candidate forum hosted by the Farmington PTA Council, as attention turned to procedure rather than school issues. The forum was held in the board room of the school administration building on Shawanssee. The election is June 9. School board candidate Karen Bolsen strenuously objected to using questions called in prior to the forum by PTA Council members who couldn't attend. After candidates answered four questions included with their invitation letter, PTA legislative chair and moderator Michael Bridges asked questions posed by PTA members before taking the audience questions.

Candidate Karen Bolsen said she was told questions would be submitted on cards from the audience. "Is that the correct procedure for this evening?" Bolsen said. "That isn't how we were told the forum tonight would be handled. Would you like us to do our closing first and then take questions from the audience?" Bridges and Kim Heath, immediate past PTA Council president who made opening and closing statements, agreed to continue despite the interruption. In addition to a list of four questions, the candidates' letters of invitation indicated questions would also be taken from the audience, and question cards submitted during the forum were also used.

PLEASE SEE PTA, A4

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**LOOKING AHEAD**  
Just for laughs  
In Sunday's Arts section: Improv Comedy Works, just ask Kirk Hanley who performs in the show at the Century Theatre in Detroit.

**COMING THURSDAY, JUNE 5!**

