

Decorate a tie for Dad at The Shirt Box

The Shirt Box will once again sponsor its annual Father's Day "Decorate-A-Tie" Contest for elementary school kids.

World-renowned tie designer Dominic Pangborn will select three winners on Thursday, June 12, 4-7 p.m. at The Shirt Box, located at 32500 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills. Each winner will receive an autographed tie from the designer himself.

Qualifying students may pick up an entry form at The Shirt Box and use any medium to decorate the tie. The final due date is Wednesday, June 11, 5 p.m. Entries may be mailed to or dropped off at The Shirt Box.

During the event, Pangborn will be on hand to

hand-sign ties from the Pangborn Design Collection, which are available at The Shirt Box.

Since 1979, the Detroit-based Pangborn Design Studio has designed everything from corporate annual reports to baby bottles to designer neckwear. Born in Korea in 1952, Pangborn immigrated to Jackson, Mich., at the age of 10. After graduating from high school, he studied at the highly prestigious Chigago Academy of Fine Arts.

In 1978, Pangborn moved to Detroit and, a year later, opened Pangborn Design.

The Shirt Box was founded by Ron Elkus in 1981 and offers dress shirts, casual shirts, ties, sweaters, sport shirts, formal accessories, and big and tall items.

Harrison's Robohawks earn top honors

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

Harrison High School Robohawks earned first and third place in the Advanced Robot Division April 26 at the Robofest at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield.

The first place team of Jon O'Kins, Guatam Reddy and the captain, Chris Diehl, later learned that they will receive a national award for best overall average time at a June 7 event at LTU.

"We had the quickest and fastest robots," said club advisor Steve Dail. Students who helped with the project were Josh Capler and Christina Maclean.

Mike Lacey and the captain, Colin Chardavoyne were on the team which finished third. Students who helped with this team were Ryan Daro, Dasol Kim, Matt Gibert and Andrew Maclean.

Another team that worked very hard on their project, but had to withdraw prior to the competition, consisted of Troy Brown, Taylor Dotson and Tom Dotson and Andrew Penny, said Dail, a Harrison High science and physics teacher.

The competition involved designing, building, programming and testing

robots so they complete a predetermined task.

"The task this year involved following a course to a simulated nuclear reactor—(actually a trash can with a swivel top), dropping off a package into the reactor and returning to the starting position," said Dail. "Then the robot signals a second robot nearby with an infrared transmitter. The second robot starts and follows a similar course, pushing a barrier to the front of the nuclear reactor before returning to its starting position."

Points are awarded for completing the various portions of the task. The entire process was timed.

"One aspect of the task was unknown to all contestants until the morning of the competition, which meant that the students had to do some problem-solving on site," Dail said.

The robots are completely autonomous, which means that they are not remote-controlled. They have a microprocessor called a Handy Board which uses a computer language that students use to program the Handy Board is a version of C called Interactive C, or IC. They download their program to the robot using a personal computer.

Harrison also entered a third, all-girls team in another division of the competition that was open to middle-schoolers and ninth-graders.

Freshmen Katherine Soave, Courtney Whitmore and their captain, Jenny Smith worked on a robot that uses a LEGO RCX microprocessor.

"Unfortunately, the girls had computer difficulties that prevented them from editing their program at the competition," Dail said. "Yet with the experience learned this year, look for this team to be a competitor in the Advanced Robot competition next year," Dail said.

Dail credited help of Sean Lisse of Soar Technology in Ann Arbor and Barry Bronillette, who is the Robohawks' lead mentor.

"Also, another big thanks goes to the Akebono Corporation in Farmington Hills, whose generous donation helped to defray the cost of running the club and competing this year," Dail said.

To see more specifics of the Robofest competition, including pictures of events, visit www.robofest.net

To learn more about the club, contact Dail at Steve.Dail@farmington.k12.mi.us

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Special Olympics needs volunteers for tourney

Team Farmington will host the 13th annual softball tournament Saturday June 21 at Drake Park.

Games will start at 8:30 a.m. and run until 4 p.m.

"We are expecting between 24-28 teams which will include approximately 400 athletes and 100 coaches/chaperones from throughout the state," said Ted Stern, the event organizer.

All teams will play at least two games and some will play three, Stern said.

"We have current members of the Farmington Public Safety Department who help us every year with umpiring and score keeping, and one retired member," Stern said.

Current members are Bob Schultz, Terry Purves and Dan Foster. Hilton (Zeke) Hyde is the retired officer.

"This is a very important tournament for the teams as they prepare for the state tournament to be held at Canton Softball Center on July 18-19," Stern said.

The group is looking for more volunteers. To help, call (248) 476-8119.

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