



VOD

Three advance in annual VFW speech competition

Three Lincoln Park students have moved on to regional competition in the annual American Legion "Voice of Democracy" contest after coming out on top at the local VFW Post 552 event Nov. 5.

Naofal Bashour, Megan Miller and Laura White finished in the top three spots — out of a field of 65 high school students — to earn a chance to compete against other youngsters from throughout the VFW's District No. 4.

Those who win at the district level move on to the state competition, set for Jan. 31.

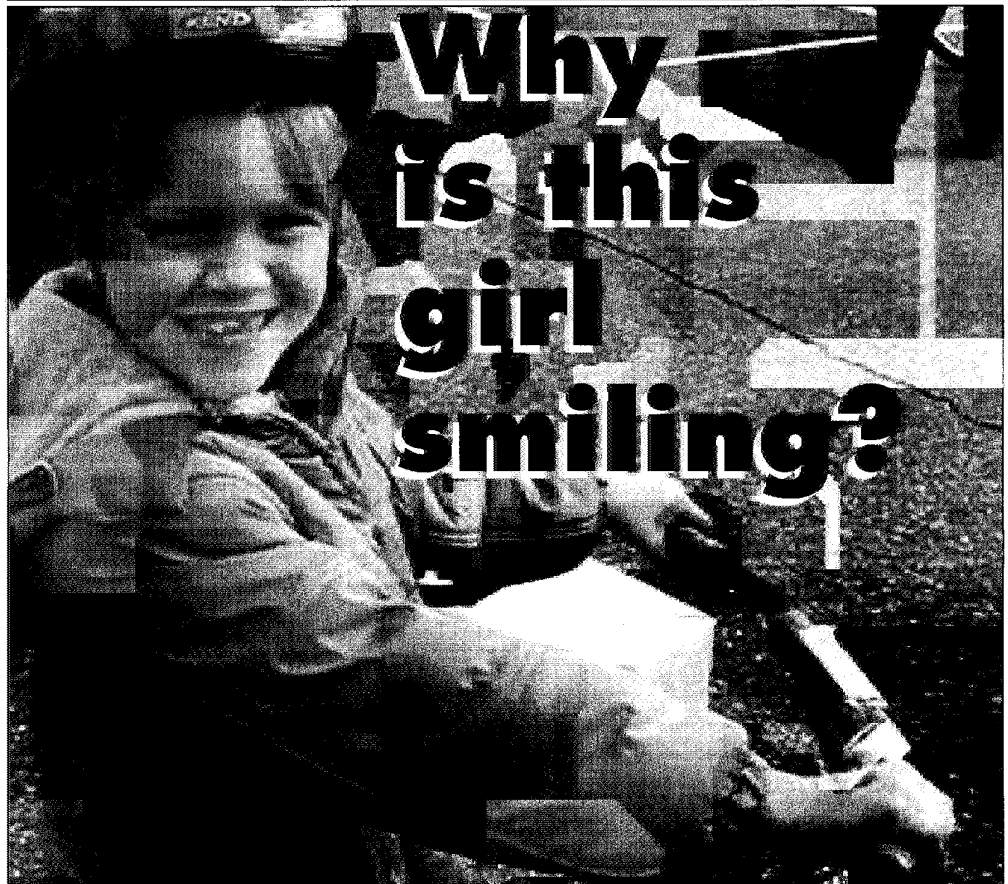
This year's theme for the contest was "My Commitment to America's Future." Each contestant was required to produce a three- to five-minute taped speech on the subject for judging.

The judges in this year's local competition were Lincoln Park Schools Supt. Randy Kite, Lincoln Park Mayor Steve Brown, Councilwoman Virginia Mondon and John and Marlene Baluci.

(John is a special education director with the South Redford School District; Marlene is a retired principal with the Taylor School District.)

From your... LINCOLN PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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This young Carr Elementary School student was all smiles last fall as she participated in the school's first-ever Bike Rodeo. For more on the event, see the story and photos on Page 4.

Alternative success

District's new high school gets off to great start

The Lincoln Park School District's new Alternative High School program completed its first semester of operation and, according to its new director, Tara Randall, is already creating a self-image that should last for years to come.

Housed in the Hamilton school building on Goddard Road, the program is aimed at the "non-traditional" high school student in the community. The program offers students a regular high school diploma

and/or the opportunity to earn credits that can transfer to LPHS.

The alternative program is designed for Lincoln Park students for whom the traditional classroom doesn't meet their needs.

"The teachers relate well to the students and

See ALTERNATIVE — Page 7



Tara Randall



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Supporting achievement opportunities for lifelong success.

1. Students will make progress toward meeting Michigan Curriculum Frameworks benchmarks
2. Students will be prepared to make a contribution to society through academic achievement, participation in career pathways, and community involvement initiatives
3. Students will achieve through the efforts and guidance of a continually trained and highly qualified staff.

From the
SUPERINTENDENT

It's already been a year of dramatic news — and we're only halfway done!

As I write this, the financial situation facing our district is in complete flux.

Within days — if not hours — Gov Jennifer Granholm and leaders in the state House and Senate agreed in principle to a reduction in the size of cuts all Michigan districts had been anticipating

But before I go on, a little refresher: Because of the state's on-going budget crisis, the governor has been forced to make some deep cuts in spending across the board.

She had hoped to protect public education from those cuts, but when state officials realized there was yet another deficit to deal with, public education was on the block.

Her initial proposal would have reduced the state's per-pupil "Foundation Grant" by \$196 per child

In every district across Michigan

With this latest announcement, however, it looks like we may only be cut by \$100 per student, but that's still a hefty amount of money that we won't be getting — and that we budgeted for more than six months ago

Fortunately, we were prepared for the worse-case scenario, so any additional cuts for 2003-2004 will be minimal

And I'll keep you posted about development as soon as I know them myself

Once again I'm proud to say that, thanks to the hard work of each one of our professionals, every one of our schools is NCA accredited for the year

This is great news for our district — and for our students who go on to colleges and universities after graduation. Institutions of higher learning take a long hard look at

accreditation when they evaluate a student's transcripts — so our LPHS grads are in good hands.

In other news, I'd like to tell you briefly about something that's also making an impact on our schools' overall performance

It's called the "KC-4"

The "KC-4" stands for the Kent County 4 content areas that help us align our curriculum with Michigan's statewide standards

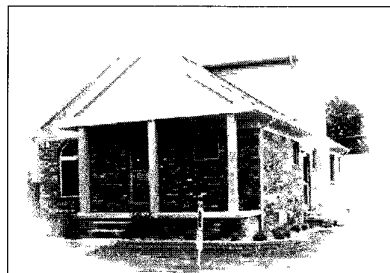
In other words, it's a valuable tool that we're using to ensure our schools meet the requirements established for schools across the state

We've already purchased the materials we're using to train our teachers to better align their classroom lessons with these standards

The bottom line of all this is to improve student achievement at all levels

It's an ambitious goal, but one I know we can achieve

As many of you may remember from our last newsletter at the beginning of the school year, our district had placed a "for sale" sign on a house in Lincoln



This house, located on corner of Russell and Frank, was built by last year's LPHS Residential Construction class students — and was put up for sale last fall with a list price of \$149,900.

The news before the end of the year was that the 1,400-square-foot, three-bedroom bungalow-style home was sold!

Park

It wasn't just any house, however, but the home built by students enrolled in our high school's Residential Construction class

The asking price was \$149,900 — and the news is that the house was sold last fall!

Now that the house is gone — and the weather has turned colder — those same students have turned their attention to other projects

Only this time, they include a "home improvement" project right here in the district. Specifically, they're already at work renovating the storage area in our Administration Building to accommodate a new tenant. (More about that in a minute.)

In addition, the students worked prior to the holiday season on a special "mail

See KITE — Page 7



NEWS NOTES

Girls swim to 1st place

The LPHS girls' varsity swim team took first place in the Michigan Mega Conference Relay Swim Meet held last fall.

The Gold medal winners were Katie Zengraft, Joann Gogolowski, Kim Balogh, Kelly Wilson, Sam Gniewek and Jessica Brown.

Other medal winners were Sheana Rossinski, Monica Harrison, Natasha Burk and Amanda Jacob.

Career night = success

Lincoln Park High School's annual "Career Night" was held Nov 20 in the school's large auditorium — and was once again a huge success, with hundreds of students and their parents attending

Open to the entire student body of the high school, the event featured speakers from dozens of professions, talking about careers in their respective fields.

A new language program is now being offered for non- or limited-English speaking adults in the Downriver area

To enroll, fill out the form below and mail it to St Paul Lutheran Church, 2550 Edsel Drive, Trenton, 48183.

For more information, call Dale Malzahn at (734) 676-1565

English as a Second Language Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, state, zip _____

Primary Language _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Monday Evening Tuesday Afternoon

Class Preference _____

Child care needs _____

Transportation Needs _____

Paintin' the town

Mixer students' banners fly on LP's streets, thanks to city's special grant

By JASON ALLEY
THE NEWS-HERALD NEWSPAPERS
(Reprinted with permission)

Loren Vassey had enjoyed drawing for years, but until this past fall, had never had a place to display her talents

Anyone driving through the city last fall could look up and see the 11-year-old's latest masterpiece flapping in the wind

Loren, a sixth-grader at Mixer Elementary School, was one of hundreds of children who drew and painted several banners that hung from light poles in the city's downtown area.

JoAnn Moran, a world-renowned artist, oversaw the project that had youngsters constructing environmentally themed hangings. She guided them on color and style, but left all of the painting to the youngsters.

"Keep our waters clean," read one banner at the corner of Southfield and Fort Park. Next to it was one that said, "I like my fish with 2 eyes, not 4"

The banners kicked off a \$200,000 grant the city received early in September from the Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan.

The money was used to help create a 10-mile greenway fully encircling the city, primarily along the Ecorse Creek but also down parts of I-75 and Electric Avenue.

The project is designed to connect most of the city's parks, schools and neighborhoods and tie them together with other assets in the community, including the band shell. Seven schools and 16 parks will be linked

Every pupil at Mixer Elementary School was involved with creating the banners, whether coloring their backgrounds, stenciling a message or outlining what was drawn.

"This is a project where we can involve kids of all ages depending on their talents," Moran said.

Mixer was chosen as the school to host the event because it's only a few blocks away from the Ecorse Creek.

Early in the semester, the children were taken on a field trip to Council Point Park, which borders the creek, to show them the area that's being eyed for cleanup.



Mixer students work on some of the banners that flew over the city last fall.

Principal Carol Knight said Moran's visit to the school taught the pupils about ecology as well as art

"Everyone learned quite a bit from Ms Moran," Knight said "She did a wonderful job tying everything in with expressing themselves with art"

Days before the project began, Diane Vassey said it was all her daughter, Loren, was talking about. "She'd come home and talk about JoAnn and about how excited she was that she'd be able to draw with her"

Twenty banners in all were completed. They were double-sided, so 40 pieces of artwork were made

Walking around looking at some of the creations last fall, Diane Vassey said she was proud of not only what her daughter created, but also of all of the other children's work

"It doesn't surprise me how nice my daughter's is because I know how well she can draw," Vassey said at the time "But I think they all did such a great job"

Besides drawing messages about the environment, the children also got a lesson in recycling along the way. The banners were made of vinyl that previously was used on roadside billboard advertisements



Artist JoAnn Moran oversees the work of Mixer students.



DISTRICT CALENDAR

Dec. 22 - Jan 2:

Winter break

Jan. 23:

Students a.m. only

Jan. 26:

Students p.m. only

Feb. 20:

K-12 Mid-Winter break,
no school

Feb. 23:

K-12 Mid-Winter break,
no school

April 9-16:

Spring break

May 24:

Memorial Day, no school

May 28:

Special elementary conference
No school PM

June 9:

Last day of school,
report cards to be mailed



Teachers wanted

Substitute instructors needed

Lincoln Park Public Schools is seeking substitute teachers for all grade levels

To qualify, an applicant must have 90 hours earned from an accredited college or university.

For more information, contact the Personnel Office, located at 1650 Champaign, or call (313) 389-0200.

Bike Rodeo

Carr Elementary School

First-ever event is project of parent and university classmate

In late October, the rodeo came to Carr School — the first of its kind at the school — but it didn't have horses and bull rides

Instead, it was a bike rodeo for students in Kindergarten through second grades

The rodeo, a community service project, was put on by Carr School parent Debra Whyte and her study partner, Samantha Lange, as a requirement for their master's program Whyte has two children at Carr

The event began with a bicycle safety video to teach kids all about the do's and don'ts associated with their bikes.

After the video, two of Lincoln Park's finest police officers gave some instruction and told the kids about the job of a bicycle police officer

The rodeo ended with all of the kids riding their bikes through an obstacle course set up on the blacktop portion of the playground

The students had a terrific time, and every student left with a bag full of goodies donated by AAA, Al Petri's bike shop and other local businesses



Heading the school event — as a project for one of their master's degree classes — was parent Debra Whyte (right) and her classmate, Samantha Lange.

Carr teacher Kupser (right) helped the students working the outdoor portion of the school's Rodeo. Al hand were bicycle police officers from Lincoln Park Department (left)

Rodeo

chool



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DISTRICT DIRECTORY

CENTRAL OFFICE

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

CARR
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3804 HAZFI
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HAMILTON
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1584 GODDARD
DIRECTOR: TARA RANDALL

Simply the best

*LPHS CAD students
take top honors
in design
contests*

Two Lincoln Park High School CAD (computer-aided design) students took top honors in two separate drafting competitions last fall

Charles Palermo finished first in the 75th annual MITES (Michigan Industrial and Technology Education Society) regional competition, with Nick Reich, Jacob Parker and Christian Contreras winning third place awards.

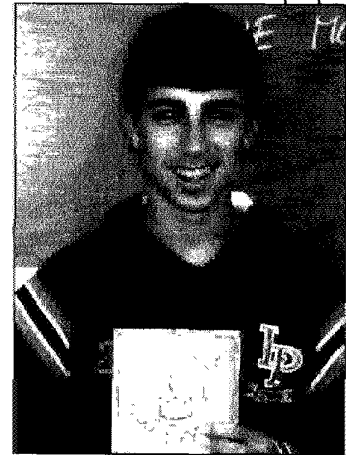
The school entered the largest number of drawings ever entered at the regional meet, and had more than 40 entries qualify for the state contest in Battle Creek

Other students placing in the top 10 of their categories were Dennis Burke, ninth place, Ian Skuta, fourth and eighth place, David Gasorski, ninth place; and Sheana Rosinski, sixth place.

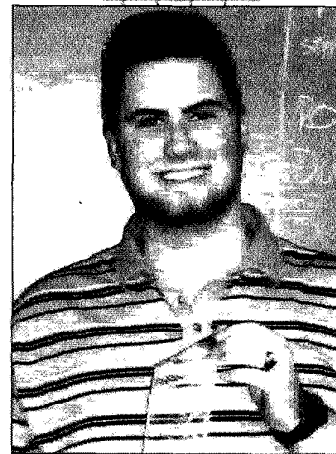
In the first-ever Henry Ford Community College CAD competition, Joe Roberts earned first place and the school itself took overall second place

Students took qualifying tests and completed a drawing at the high school for submission to the judges in a set time. The top five qualifiers from each school — Kyle Martin, Joe Roberts, Emory Murphy, Steve Korpela and Dennis Burke from LPHS — then went on to the finals at HFCC.

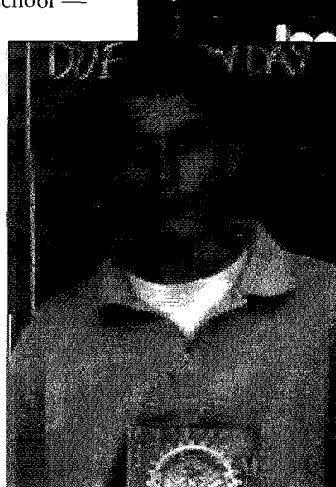
The final competition required each student to complete a drawing within two hours.



Charles Palermo



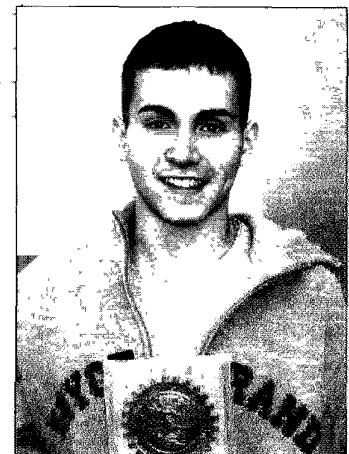
Joe Roberts



Christian Contreras



Jacob Parker



Nick Reich

JROTC performs well in competition

BY CAPT. CHRISTINA CARLSON
LPHS JRJROT

The Lincoln Park High School JROTC has been extremely busy this year, not only holding fund-raisers, but also going up against other units in head-to-head competition

This past fall, the JROTC took fourth and fifth place in the annual ROTC Color Guard Competition held in mid-October. Both the varsity and the first-year cadets competed, with the varsity taking fourth place and the first-year students taking fifth



Members of the Lincoln Park High School JROTC.

The varsity color guard is composed of Aimee Baker, Nicole Burns, Kingsley Westerdale and Miranda Fadden. The first-year color guard is composed of Rose Bermudez, Pasquel Bermudez,

Heather Iricio and Victoria Blizzard

During homecoming weekend, the JROTC participated in the annual parade — and with more than 130 cadets marching, it was one of the program's largest turnouts ever.

In other developments, the JROTC hosted a Raider's competition in early November and a spaghetti dinner fundraiser.

Alternative

Continued from Page 1

are doing an excellent job of teaching," Randall said. "They are excited, energetic and always implementing new strategies to find the most success in our students."

Limited to 100 students to start, the program enrolled 83 in its first semester, with 69 making the honor roll, according to Randall. In addition, eight students have posted perfect attendance.

One of the big accomplishments of the semester, Randall said, was the 15-member Student Council's move to create a school identity.

"The students are becoming a small

family here at Hamilton," Randall said, adding that the council decided on a slogan, colors and a mascot to reinforce that identity.

"They decided we will be named 'Hamilton School Stars,' with the colors being black and silver," she said.

"Our motto is 'Shoot for the moon — even if you miss you will land among the stars.'"

Before admittance to the program, each student had to be evaluated by district officials who approved his or her enrollment. The program offers courses in four major areas of study — language arts, social studies, math and science — plus electives.

Randall, who was hired in June to direct the program, said that once she accepted the position, she visited other similar

programs and researched alternative education in order to design the best possible teaching model.

"I was able to implement the best of what I found," she said, "and am very happy with the results."

"The school is up and running — and the custodians, the painters, the carpenters, electricians, the administrators, secretaries, teachers and myself are committed to developing Hamilton into what it is today," she said.

Randall was graduated from Southgate Anderson High School, and received her BA in secondary education and her MA in Education Leadership from Wayne State University.

After graduation, she taught at Wyandotte Alternative Education and Dearborn Heights Robichaud High School.

Kite

Continued from Page 2

truck and mailbox" display in our city's famous "Fantasyland" attraction.

I hope you had a chance to stop by and see it.

Now for that piece of information about a "new tenant."

Because we had excess room in our Administration Building that was sitting vacant, the Board of Education decided to look into leasing the space to an outside company.

And we have

Moving into the area at the opposite end

of the building from our administrative offices will be the "Children's World" regional headquarters.

Children's World is a professional childcare company that operates our own in-district latchkey program, so it was a perfect fit.

The regional office handles operations in southeastern Michigan and northern Ohio.

Finally, although the elections were held in June, I'd like to welcome those board members who took office Jan. 1.

In both instances, though, it's a "welcome back," since Charles Kaminski was re-elected to another term — and Vernon Wynn was elected to his first full term, after being appointed to finish out another term last year.

In closing, as we enter this new year — the fourth of the new century and new millennium — I want to take a moment to look back on the semester just past, and applaud everyone who's worked so hard to make our district one of the best in the Downriver area.

And now, as we also look forward to yet another year filled with promise and expectations, I want to encourage everyone to participate in our schools, to help our children succeed and to help our district become even stronger in the future.

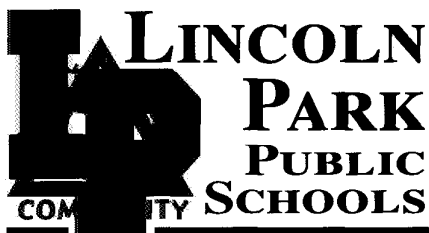
Although Jan. 1 is over, I want to wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2004.

Happy New Year!

- Randy Kite



Carr Elementary School is sporting a unique image on its playground: A map — a very large map — of the United States of America that was painted on the blacktop area. The project was the brainchild of Carr parent, Pennie Dahl, who presented her idea to Principal Steve Massengill last April. She then asked the PTSA to fund the project. Once she received an OK, Dahl purchased all of the supplies and laid out the outline of the country. Next, Dahl and more than 60 Carr students painted each state on the map — a process that took about 15 hours. The map is just not for decoration: Each teacher at Carr received an activity guide full of games, projects, and quizzes to use with their students to familiarize them with the map.



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