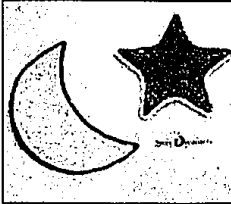


IN THE PAPER TODAY



Sweet Dreamzzz: The moms behind this charity organization are expanding their efforts to help kids in southwest Detroit. See how in our award-winning Community Life section. /C7

OPINION

Endorsements: See who we're supporting in the outstanding field of six candidates for Farmington Public Schools Board of Education and where we stand on the OCC milage renewal. /A10

ARTS & LEISURE

Music under the stars: The summer concert season is about to begin. /B1

Dining: The Valente family's history is visible to any customer who enters Villa Maria Ristorante, new to the family's fine dining legacy. /B8

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Bosch hosts '01 Cornucopia Ball

BY JONI HUBRED
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When Farmington Hills Mayor Nancy Bates walked into Bosch Corporation's newest addition, she thought it looked like the perfect place to hold one of the community's premiere social events. Fortunately, officials at Bosch felt the same way.

The Cornucopia Ball, a glittery gala that benefits the Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation, will be held in the company's cafeteria, part of a \$63 million expansion opened last fall. With its sparkling new accouterments, airy atmosphere and complete kitchen, the facility fits the bill for event organizers — and the company.

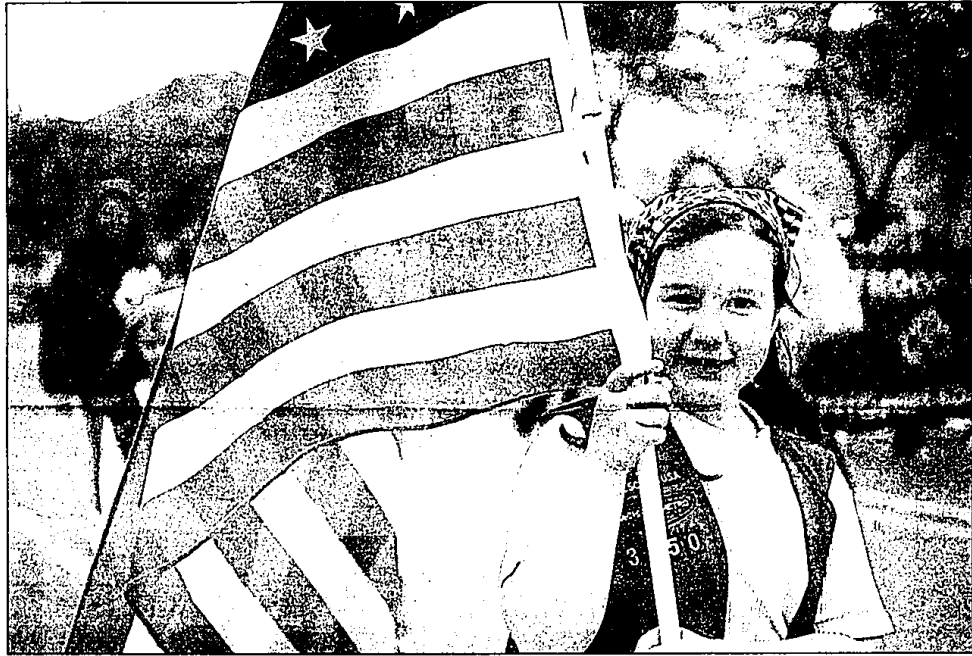


Meeting of the minds: Deborah Grant, Nancy Bates, Becky McDonald, Dick Miller, Rev. Mark Jensen and Joanne Smith discuss plans for this year's Cornucopia Ball at its new home, in Bosch Corporation's cafeteria. The event will be held on Nov. 3.

Please see BOSCH A2

STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

A time for remembering



Scout's honor: Carolyn Forbes carries the stars and stripes for Girl Scout Troop 3650, one of several that marched Monday.

STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LESMUEX

Memorial Day speaker wants holiday kept sacred

BY JONI HUBRED
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Dale Palmer is tired of seeing signs advertising Memorial Day sales and pre-Memorial Day sales. He doesn't want to see stores draw customers based on a holiday that should be a solemn remembrance of those who paid the ultimate price to preserve the freedoms Americans enjoy. So at Monday's Memorial Day service, held at Memorial Park in downtown Farmington, Palmer took a stand.

"We must do something to change the desecration of this holiday," he said in a speech heard by more than a hundred veterans and civilians alike. "I'd like to see a boycott of companies that promote pre- and Memorial Day sales."

Joining a roster of speakers that included Farmington Mayor Bill Hartcock, Hills Mayor Nancy Bates, State Rep. Andrew Raczkowski and Paul Welday, aide to 11th District



Parade march: Oakland County Vietnam Veterans headed down Grand River under a cloudy sky during Monday's Memorial Day parade.

STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LESMUEX

Please see MEMORIAL DAY, A2

School officials ponder S&P data

BY SUE BUCK
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Standard and Poor's refers to its recently released "School Evaluation Services Report" not as a rating, but an improvement tool.

Known for rating and ranking the creditworthiness of corporations, the firm released its first report on Michigan public schools Friday. While Farmington school officials are still poring over the data to ensure its accuracy, they have identified some areas of concern — which is exactly what the report was designed to help them do.

According to Superintendent Bob Maxfield, Gov. John Engler issued an administrative order for data gathering as a way for public school districts to analyze themselves and draw their own conclusions.

"I think he strongly believes schools should be held accountable and he has been looking for some way to do it," Maxfield said Tuesday. "This is the tool he chose to use."

The state signed a \$11 million, five-year contract with S&P to create the full report which can be obtained at www.sea.standardandpoors.com

"It's a powerful Web site," Maxfield

said.

However, he added, the report presents an incomplete picture. "The district is more complex than this," Maxfield said.

Old data

He also notes that the benchmark analysis is based on the years 1997-1999, which makes data out of date especially in reporting the district's MEAP participation and scores.

Maxfield wishes S&P hadn't relied as heavily on the 1999 high school

Please see S&P, A3

Graduation's Sunday, June 3

BY SUE BUCK
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This year's graduating seniors are enthusiastic and hardworking, according to building administrators.

Farmington High School Principal John Barrett told student award-winners last week that they were already successful.

Please see GRADS, A4