

IN THE PAPER TODAY



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREXLER

Deep in thought: Preteen Ashley Bess of Westland listens to the pep talk on fulfilling her dreams at the "Girls Matter" conference, held last weekend at Oakland Community College. The complete story is in our Hometown Life section / C1

You call this a sentence?: An Oakland County judge's decision in the case of a woman convicted of child abuse leaves us wondering / A8



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Foundation's new goal: \$100K



The Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation may have raised \$50,000 at this year's Cornucopia Ball, but its board still has a long way to go to meet a new requirement for state certification: a \$100,000 endowment fund.

BY JONI HUBBARD
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In the end, everything went well at the seventh annual Farmington Hills/Farmington Community Foundation Cornucopia Ball, held Nov. 3 at Bosch Corp. in Farmington Hills. More than 170 people attended the event, even though the cost of reserv-

tions shot up \$25 from last year, to \$150. While numbers haven't all been tallied, board treasurer Bob Heinrich expects the total to come in around \$50,000.

He said attendance was "remarkable, given the events of Sept. 11. People are responding not by digging deeper into their pockets, but by reallocating their charitable contributions."

In fact, the board gave some thought to canceling the ball this year, after terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania that took thousands of lives. Because of the delay, organizers had to scramble a little to get invitations mailed and donations secured.

But that was only one of the challenges the foundation has encountered over the past couple of years, on a journey of growth and change fraught with more bumps than a gravel road after a hard spring rain.

The board has undergone a significant change in direction that didn't set well with some members. Since apply-

ing for state certification three years ago, the foundation has broadened its scope, taking dollars away from the program it was originally created to support - the after-school youth program, hosted at four sites by the Hills Special Services Department.

Hills Mayor Nancy Bates said when federal grant aid appeared to be drying up about seven years ago she started talking to people about how to keep the program going. "We needed to raise money. We had to have a foundation."

Consisting of 18 members, the foundation board originally included elected

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Dome Bound



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREXLER

They got game: Harrison fans were pumped up last Saturday for a big win at Flint's Atwood Stadium. The beautiful afternoon was capped by a 31-14 victory over a tough Saginaw High team. Harrison fans will flock to the Silverdome on Saturday evening for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's State Finals. Harrison faces Fruitport in an 8 p.m. Division 3 showdown. See Sports, D1.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREXLER

On the road again: Goodfellows Dick Tupper and Harry Hogue accept the keys to an Isuzu truck from Bob Sellers Pontiac-Isuzu General Manager Keith Wilson and truck manager Karl Hosten. The dealership has donated use of the truck for distribution of holiday donations this year.

Need grows, Observer serves as Goodfellows' collection point

The local need for charitable contributions is growing, and the Farmington Observer is joining with the Farmington Goodfellows to ask your help. The list of families requesting help from Goodfellows has grown this year. To provide a convenient, downtown drop-off site, the Farmington Observer office will serve as a collection point for donated goods.

We are accepting new toys,

unwrapped, for either boys or girls, canned food, or cash donations (make checks payable to Farmington Area Goodfellows).

The Farmington Observer is at 33411 Grand River, west of Farmington Road. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Please drop off goods or checks by Wednesday, Dec. 12.

Cloverdale celebrates with traditional turkey dinner

BY SUZ BUCK
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Thanksgiving Day arrived a week early at Cloverdale Developmental Center in Farmington.

Students, parents, teachers and other staff feasted on a turkey dinner with all the trimmings Tuesday.

"Our family seems to be getting bigger," Principal Roger Martin told the lunch crowd.

Cloverdale's 100 students, who have severe mental and/or multiple impairments, come from 10 surrounding school districts. The school is operated by the Farmington school district. The students range from 3 to 26 years old.

The annual lunch is a cooperative effort by the parent "energy partnership" and the food service staff.

The idea for schools like Cloverdale started in the early 1970s when the federal government said all children must be educated, Martin said. "They couldn't go to regular school, and programs like Cloverdale popped up. Kids come here when local district programs aren't sufficient."

Students aren't classified in grade levels.

"We are able to have a six-year age span," Martin said. "I try to get children as chronologically close as appropriate, but I also pay attention to physical size and cognitive ability. Some of our children are very medically involved; some are ambulatory. There's a lot of difference in disability."

In keeping with the district staff theme this year, "Building a Caring Community Where Every Child Thrives: Aligning Actions With Results," Martin explained how chil-

Please see CLOVERDALE, A2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DREXLER

Cloverdale Thanksgiving: Cloverdale student John Sorisho and his mom Karen are ready for dessert after dinner.