

YMCA HIGHLIGHTS

These YMCA highlights appear courtesy of the Farmington YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. For more information, call 553-4020.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS
Calling 6, 7 and 8 grade students. Saturday, Oct. 10, is the Middle School Madness night at the Farmington Y. The activities start at 7 p.m. and swimming, basketball, volleyball and volleyball continues until 11 p.m. Call

the Y at 553-4020 for details.

HOOP-IT-UP OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, Oct. 17, is Hoop-It-Up day at the Farmington Y. Special contests, drawings for Piston tickets, refreshments, and building tours will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone purchasing a membership at the open house will also receive a savings of up to \$81. For information call 553-4020.

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Ceausescu was ousted in December 1989. "Facilities throughout the country are filled with children silently rocking themselves without any kind of stimulation," said Dick Headlee, in a letter written last spring asking for support for the project. "Others were shocked to metal cribs since there was no one to care for them."

The Headlees hope to go back to Romania for at least two more years before picking another destination for the family service project, Doug said.

Next year, they hope to work on raising money for a transitional living center, a vocational school of sorts that would allow children raised in these orphanages to learn life skills.

Also, they hope to help a school for deaf children in Romania to publish an international sign language book. Romania doesn't have its own sign language.

Video is shown

Donating to the cause were church groups and some Scouting and other civic organizations from around the country.

The Headlees recently did a video presentation of their trip to one of these groups: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints-Farmington Hills Ward Chapel on 13 Mile. The idea, Mary said, was "to show them the fruits of their labor."

"I think we really did something," she added, discussing her reaction to the trip. "Even if we just create a little happiness for them — that is something."

During their two weeks, family members painted and repaired the orphanage, put donated, handmade quilts on each bed, added brightly colored stenciling to the walls, and taught the children games and songs.

A playground was also built, but without tools the group had to use milk cans to dig holes for the posts.

Mary Headlee said the orphanage care-givers initially discouraged the family from using the musical instruments, saying it wouldn't help.

"They said it doesn't matter, but we just marched in and within two days, the care-givers were singing with them," she said.

Three interpreters worked with the Headlee group, which used the theme "Hearts and Hands — Together We Can Make a Difference." Headlee daughter Kathy Drake pulled the family together through Project Concern International, which is one of the few groups allowed into the country to provide medical care for the orphans with the help of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Drake is a full-time volunteer for the group.

Items taken overseas included 20,000 pounds of food, thousands of articles of clothing, \$7,000 in medicine, a \$25,000 operating table, 50,000 bars of soap, 467 blankets, \$2,000 worth of playground equipment, and countless numbers of musical instruments and toys.

"When we opened a container, it was like gold," Mary Headlee said.

Alexander Hamilton and its parent company, Household International, agreed to match contributions made by their individual agents toward last spring's trip.

Any person or group interested in helping the Headlees on future

trips can call Dick Headlee's office at Alexander Hamilton at 553-2000.

Sledding hill lawsuit is dismissed

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

A lawsuit involving a school district-owned community sledding hill in Farmington has been dismissed by an Oakland County Circuit Court judge.

And the Farmington school trustee who, in August, called for possibly closing the hill at Shiawassee and Farmington roads, said she was now comfortable keeping the hill open for the coming season.

The school district received word last week that the injury suit against Farmington Public Schools and the city of Farmington was dismissed Sept. 23 by Circuit Judge Hilda Gage, who cited governmental immunity in her ruling. News of the dismissal

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was confirmed with the court.

The suit was filed June 10 by Farmington Hills resident Donald Jackson, 35, who broke his leg and fractured his ankle while on

the hill last winter. Jackson was attempting to walk down the hill in an area designated as a walkway at about 1:30 p.m. on January 26, 1992. He was going down to help his son, who had already slipped down the hill, when he slipped, fell and sustained injuries.

Novi attorney Dennis Cleary, who represented Jackson in the case, did not return Observer calls to comment on the case.

School board Vice President Cathleen Webb, who was angry enough about the suit to draft a memo to fellow trustees calling for a possible closing of the sled hill, said Tuesday she was relieved at the dismissal.

"In my mind, my apprehension was that we were being sued —

that we were exposed," she said. "That was my main concern."

Webb said she was comfortable keeping the hill open since the suit was dismissed, but added that the issue had not yet come back before the board.

Administrators will present a study on hill operations to the board in November, said building and students services director Don Cowan. "I was going to do this (report) no matter what, and regardless of legal action," he said. "I think the board still needs to know these things."

The report will address cost factors, number of sledders, injury reports and other information. Cowan said the report would not likely offer the board any specific recommendation.

BOTSFORD GENERAL HOSPITAL



A new addition to your family,
is a welcomed member of ours.

At Botsford General Hospital, you and your baby are welcomed as members of our "family." Botsford's knowledgeable staff of physicians and nurses are dedicated to providing personal, compassionate care for life.

Our pre-natal and childbirth education programs help you prepare for motherhood. You'll learn about proper nutrition, what to expect of your labor and delivery, and you'll keep fit at our water aerobics facility.

As part of our personalized maternity care, we offer traditional delivery as well as birthing suites and family-centered care. In addition, Botsford's neonatologist and pediatric staff are available to care for babies who may need specialized care.



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hospital

Before you leave Botsford General Hospital, you will receive an educational handbook that provides useful information about caring for your newborn. In addition, a registered nurse will visit your home, free of charge, to check on how you and your baby are doing. And if you need assistance at any time during your first days at home, our 24-hour telephone hotline will connect you with a Botsford General Hospital nurse, who will gladly answer any questions you may have.

If you'd like to learn more about Botsford General Hospital, please call Community Relations at 442-7986. If you need a pediatrician, obstetrician or a family doctor referral, please call Health Match at 442-7900.

Reaching out to the people of our community.
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