

Queen for a day



Smiles: The third annual Jana Newton Muscular Dystrophy Fun Fest, held last weekend at Motor City Harley Davidson on Grand River in Farmington, was a success. The noon-to-5 p.m. Saturday event featured food and games with all proceeds to MDA. Jana Newton, 9, who suffers from MD, is pictured here with Miss Washtenaw County Tamera Teets and newly crowned Miss Farmington/Hills Erin Cogswell.

Chorus from page B1

despite extremely grim prospects. Melissa was critically injured when a heavy tree branch fell and struck her on the head at the Farmington Glen Aquatic Center on July 23, 1997. She was knocked to the ground and was considered clinically dead until cardiopulmonary resuscitation from pool lifeguards and paramedics brought her back. Those prayers were answered. Melissa began awakening a few weeks after the concert and eventually improved to the point where she left the hospital and even attended FHS on a limited basis during the second semester. In 1998-99, she plans on attending full-time, with the goal of graduating next June. "It's a miracle that she's here," said Susan Garr after last week's program. "And the feeling

is so much happier this year than it was last year." Following the concert, Melissa also was beaming. "It brings tears to my eyes," said Melissa, speaking in a raspy voice caused by the insertion of a tube into her throat during her long hospital stay. "Everyone was so great. It was just so nice of them." As far as doing her official job as chorus page turner, she did fine, except for one moment where she became distracted and turned two pages at once — only to laugh about it with Susan Garr. "I was looking at two little boys dancing in front," Melissa said. "They were hilarious." Melissa remembered another reason why being at Heritage Park for this year's Farmington Community Chorus concert was very special.

day in the hospital," said Melissa, who recently performed at a piano recital. "It made me cry every day. But I still watched it." Last week, tears undoubtedly welled up in the eyes of audience and chorus members. "I saw her at different points of her recovery," said friend and former FHS schoolmate Nicole Griatzky. "... It gave me chills tonight, just seeing her smile." Chorus member Maureen McGarrigle probably wasn't the only one at Heritage Park last week to call Melissa "the miracle child." I heard someone say that the community willed her to wellness. I think there's a lot of truth to that." Melissa's brother, Adam, smiled and shook his head about how far his sister has progressed in her recovery from near death. "It was a moment I never thought that I'd see again," said Adam, about Melissa's concert appearance. "I had hoped for her, but I never thought she'd find the doctors and she even baffled us. This is quite a moment."

Senior picnic Tuesday

People 55 or older have until Friday, Aug. 7, to buy tickets for the city of Farmington Hills' 22nd annual grandparent/grandchild picnic scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 11. The picnic will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Farmington Hills Senior Adult Center, 28600 11 Mile. Cost is \$3.50. The day will include a picnic, tab, bingo, prizes, games, a story time presented by the Farmington Community Library, and family photos for a nominal fee. The Farmington Hills police and fire departments will be represented as well as the award winning magic of J.R. McAtoe, voted "Best of Detroit" by Detroit Monthly magazine. For information, call 473-1830. Sponsors are the Senior Division and The Grand Court.

Emotional night

"They videotaped (the 1997 concert) and I watched it every

Chat room from page B1

fear, depression, trauma, phobias and worrying. The ADA support group provides a warm, supportive and informative atmosphere to facilitate the recovery process and help people have a better quality of life. It also helps guide people to resources including tapes, handouts, books, referrals and most important, a supportive environment. There are no dues or admission fees. The ADA support workshop can be an anchor during a difficult period, aiding in the search for an understanding and positive approach to anxiety, and related disorders. Linda attends meetings regularly. The people at ADA encouraged her to get her own apartment, get a job and go to school. Before ADA, Linda was lonely. Her only friends were her family.

Today her future goals are to get multiple degrees, learn to drive a car, make more friends and get healthy. Linda wants people to keep informed about mental illness so it's not a surprise when it hits their family. People need to be afraid of her. The more they understand, the more they will be able to deal with mental illness. The ADA motto is: The path for our recovering process is to a quality life through lots of practice, more and more effort, many so-whats, a willingness to take chances with small tasks, and pride in my smallest accomplishments. I will build a better quality of life despite my affliction. Tina Shemtoob is media coordinator for Anxiety Disorders Anonymous. For more information on the group, call (248) 932-3733.

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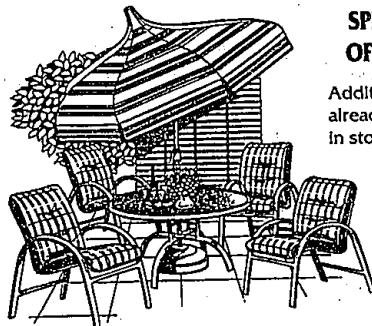
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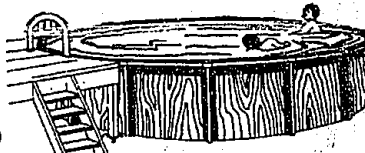
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