



Bob Gerrard/Chronicle photo staff
 Judge Bill Murphy monitors the courtroom mock trial staged as part of the Kane County Bar Association's observance of Law Day on Friday. Ken Stalzer grills a witness during a

receiving its cut.

By TOM SCHLUETER

Kane County Chronicle

GENEVA — Any businessman will tell you an investment is like shooting craps — you hope for seven or 11, and pray you don't roll snake eyes.

When the business partners for Elgin's Grand Victoria riverboat casino were planning their venture, they were betting their negotiations, market research and expertise gave them more

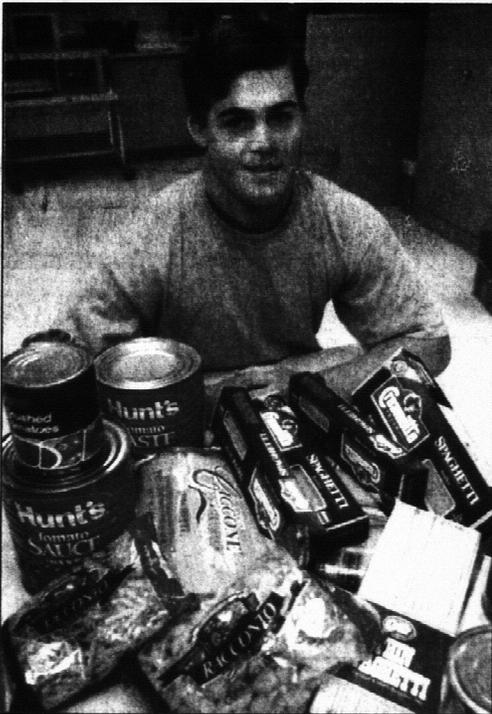
percent would go to the Kane County Board. In return, the County Board would adopt a resolution of support.

The casino would begin paying into that fund once its initial investment had been recouped. And that's the sticking point: What defines "initial investment" and when has it been recouped?

Chairman of the County Board's finance committee Peter Pund, R-St. Charles, defines

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COLLECTING FOR A CAUSE



Randy Pomaro/Chronicle photo staff
 Batavia High School student Dan Bauer has collected 240 pounds of pasta and numerous cans of spaghetti for a spaghetti dinner to help pay the medical expenses of Spanish teacher Joy Vaughn, who was injured in a rafting accident in Costa Rica. The dinner will take place from 5 to 8:30 p.m. May 17 at the Lincoln Inn in Batavia.

Spaghetti dinner will aid critically hurt teacher

■ Proceeds will go toward medical expenses incurred by Joy Vaughn, who is steadily improving after a rafting accident in Costa Rica.

By BRENDA SCHORY

Kane County Chronicle

At first, the news was so bad, it was hard to have hope.

But hope — and an unshakable faith in God — was about all John and Jo Vaughn had four weeks ago. They took an emergency flight to Costa Rica where their daughter, Joy Vaughn, Batavia High School Spanish teacher, was comatose and on life support following a river rafting accident.

"The night the accident happened, the doctor in Costa Rica told us he would be surprised if she made it through the night," Jo Vaughn said.

But that was then and this is now. Bolstered by an outpouring of prayer and support from students and faculty, friends and strangers, Joy's progress is nothing less than spectacular. She is responsive, no longer in intensive care, off the ventilator

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Day in court

Law lessons learned without O.J., Judge Ito

Local high school students stage mock trials as part of the Kane County Bar Association's observance of Law Day.

By JANET McINTYRE

Kane County Chronicle

T. CHARLES — In a courtroom far away in the shenanigans of those all-too familiar lawyers Johnnie and Marcia, local high school students learned about the more mundane aspects of law.

There was no sniping among lawyers, no misconduct and no talk about lawyers' fancy outfits and hairdos. And the judge was in control of the courtroom.

Even better, the trial took only 90 minutes. Seven volunteers from Geneva and Batavia high schools, along with students from five other Kane County schools, spent Friday morning participating in mock trials. The civil cases were heard as part of the Kane County Bar Association's observance of Law Day.

In the case, which was played out four recent times, wasn't quite as sensational as the celebrity charged with double murder.

Instead, Louis Street wanted a jury to award him \$100,000 for injuries he suffered at Bottom Line Super Foods. The fictional Street while climbing a wooden pallet, reaching

for a case of Yummy Cola that featured a \$25,000 contest.

Street blamed the store, claiming the pallet was unsafe and that clerks were not available to help him get the cola from a pyramid-shaped display. He asked a 12-member jury to order the store to pay him for injuries and pain and suffering.

Attorneys for Bottom Line Super Foods countered that Street ignored signs warning customers to stay off the pallet and that clerks were available to help him reach the case of cola. Bottom Line lawyer Andrew J. Cook, a Geneva High School student, told jurors greed propelled Street to reach for that one case of cola and then to sue the store for his injuries.

The jury, comprised of students from Batavia and St. Edward Catholic high schools, apparently heeded Cook's words. After deliberating 15 minutes, the jury ruled Street himself greatly contributed to his injury and was entitled to only \$18,000.

Cook, whose father is a lawyer, volunteered for the mock trial.

"It's almost like a competition," he said, referring to the verbal jousting in court. "I just wanted to see what it was like."

Co-counsel Boyan Petrovic also enjoyed the battle.

"You're putting yourself in the position you

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ward established to honor commitment to CASA

Court Appointed itself as 'a child's voice in court'