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and — best of all — maybe as soon as this weekend, may be transferred from Central DuPage Hospital to Marionjoy Rehabilitation Center in Naperville.

"The Lord," Vaughn said "matter-of-factly, "is looking after her."

She added, "She has already proved them (doctors) wrong by the fact that she is here and doing anything. It has impressed the doctors. We're just so thrilled with what we're seeing. And a couple of the nurses said to me in the last couple of days, 'It's a miracle what we're seeing in her.' And they deal with patients all the time. For them to realize this is beyond the ordinary," points to the miraculous.

Vaughn was air-lifted from Costa Rica April 8 to Central DuPage, still on a ventilator and in a coma. There was a teaser of hope, though, Vaughn said, because Joy opened her eyes just slightly the day before the flight.

These days, however, Joy opens her eyes, recognizes family and close friends, smiles at jokes and teasing and listens as cards and letters are read to her. The change happened about 10 days ago and improvement has been steady.

She is also struggling to speak, but can't because of a trachea tube. Vaughn said doctors would be putting in a smaller tube before the transfer which may allow her to speak. The tube is still necessary because she is getting oxygen.

"Speaking is something that would help her a great deal emotionally," Vaughn said, "because we don't know how to read lips, it's frustrating for her. She's trying to say something and we'll catch one word out of a whole sentence."

A side issue is she has some infection that doctors are struggling to control. "She swallowed part of a river," Vaughn said. As soon as they get one type of infection under control a new one crops up.

"The nursing there has been so wonderful," Vaughn said of Joy's stay at Central DuPage. "The nurses are so attentive, so caring and helpful in every way possible."

And there is the mail. The

cards and letters, contributions to the Harris Bank's Joy Vaughn Fund — set up to defray medical expenses — has been a tremendous source of support for Joy's parents as they and other family members spell each other at the hospital.

"People have been so loving and caring and generous, it just blows us away," Vaughn said. She asked that people continue to pray for Joy's recovery — and to send cards and letters as it is helpful for Joy to have them read to her. She said cards may be sent to the Vaughns at 939 Creekside Circle, Naperville, Ill., 60563.

Vaughn and foreign language teacher Julie Johnson were on the trip with nine students over spring break. It was not a school-sponsored event, but a trip the teachers arranged privately. On April 1, they were in two boats on a river excursion when the first boat hit a rock and capsized and the second boat ran into the first boat.

Nearly everyone was dumped into the water. A Costa Rican man drowned and Joy was found face down in the water, according to news reports there.

One of the nine students on the trip, Dan Bauer, is a member of the Batavia High School Key Club. Through the Key Club, Dan is the main organizer of a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser to help with Joy's medical bills.

Batavia High School teacher Susan Bauer — Dan's mother — is the Key Club adviser. She said Dan put up posters and talked to all the banks about selling tickets, "and what he can't do, I do," to get things ready. Key Club members are busy hustling donations and 60 to 80 students are expected to volunteer to help seat, serve and clean up.

The dinner will be held from 5 to 8:30 p.m. May 17 at the Lincoln Inn, 1345 S. Batavia Ave., Batavia. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12, available at the door and from any Batavia bank or school and at the Batavia Park District.

Bauer said Batavia students donated 240 pounds of pasta — so far — and innumerable cans of tomato sauce for John Ajazi of the Lincoln Inn to make the spaghetti sauce.

They are prepared to feed 1,400 people, but Bauer said some no doubt will buy tickets and won't attend, so their working number is 800.

"I'm going off the 800 number," Ajazi said. "For 800 people, we'll need around 240 pounds of pasta. We'll have extra on hand in case we need it. The sauce itself, we'll make 40 to 50 gallons, 40 for sure, and as much as 50 if we need it. The thing is, we're not just making 40."

The sauce will be meat-based in 20-gallon batches. The whole enterprise will take 80 to 100 pounds of ground beef. They will boil the pasta 60 to 80 pounds at a time, "so we won't stop the flow. We'll always be ahead of the game, so people won't be waiting."

"I'd love for them to do 1,500," Ajazi said. "The more the merrier."

Ajazi owns the Lincoln Inn with his brother, Nick. Their time, cooking expertise, use of their restaurant and staff is their donation to the cause, Ajazi said. "My brother will be helping in the front to flow the people through, and I'll be in the kitchen with the kitchen staff."

Those who attend can have unlimited pasta and one serving of salad. Bauer said they are still waiting for a donation of lettuce, cucumbers and salad dressings. Interested donors may call Bauer at 879-2281 or Donna Phillip at 879-4685.

Jewel donated the meat, Oberweiss Dairy donated ice cream for dessert; the Great Harvest Bread Company donated the garlic bread.

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see on TV," he explained. "It makes you appreciate the law."

Classmate Michelle Covarrubias brought trial experience to the defense team. The Geneva High School student portrayed two witnesses this year and participated in Law Day mock trials last year. Also serving as a witness was Geneva student Denise Miller.

Geneva High School teacher

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"initial investment" as the boat, the parking lot and furniture.

Pund said, however, that he has heard talk of a possible \$55 million hotel to be built in conjunction with the casino.

Pund hopes the casino operators wouldn't consider the hotel part of the initial investment. "That to me is baloney," he said.

At Wednesday's meeting of the finance committee, assistant state's attorney Alex McTavish reported to board members on a discussion he had with casino representatives.

He told board members there is no contract or legal agreement that spells out exactly what can be expected of the casino.

One of the casino partners, Peter Simon, said Friday his firm's agreement with Kane County includes 12 annual payments of \$500,000 to the Kane County Forest Preserve District, with payments beginning 12 months after casino operations began.

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represent abused and neglected children in juvenile court. Once assigned a case, the advocate maintains contact with the child until the court case is complete.

Travers read two letters from CASA volunteers to give the audience of 200 an idea of the personal fulfillment advocates feel, and the courage it takes to stick with a case when court and other government agencies frequently change personnel.

A 22-year-old woman, who had established a five-year

The agreement also calls for a percentage of the profits to be paid directly to the county once the initial investment had been recouped, Simon said.

Bettors started boarding the Elgin riverboat in October last year. Simon said with such a short track record, the investors aren't exactly sure yet what services to provide their customers.

"We don't really know what the customers want," Simon said.

He said, "At this time we don't have plans for additional construction."

But he added, "We will construct whatever is necessary to meet our customers' needs."

When asked if the casino investors felt it necessary to build the hotel in the near future, would the hotel be considered part of the "initial investment," Simon said, "I believe it would."

Simon estimated Kane County's eventual take to be about \$5 million to \$6 million,

depending on revenues. He said the casino's original investment of \$110 million would be recovered in the second full year of operation, meaning about 18 months from today.

Pund said he was hoping for the revenue to begin flowing sooner than that.

"I was hoping from a financial point of view we would start getting money in the first quarter of 1996," Pund said.

McTavish said operating a casino is an expensive proposition, requiring large investments of capital. He said the Aurora riverboat already has replaced its carpeting.

"They can very legitimately spend a lot of capital," McTavish said.

He also said the casino officials are not attempting renege on their payments to Kane County.

"I don't think they're going out of their way to buy an extra chandelier just to get out of paying you," McTavish told board members.

bonding relationship with her CASA, spoke movingly of the support she received. With inspiration and encouragement, the once-abused child was able to pull her life together and is now a college student.

Juvenile Court Judge Donald Hudson, 16th Judicial Circuit, spoke glowingly of the work CASA has accomplished in the court process. "Every CASA can carry his or her head high, for they are well respected in the court system," he said.

Travers introduced the Children's Choir of Holy Angels School of Aurora, who sang "Who Will Speak?" CASA's

motto is "A Child's Voice in Court."

Greg Hunt, son of Doris, received an award for his three-year term as chairman of the Board of Directors of CASA-Kane County. Jennifer Hunt, Doris' daughter, received an award for her years of work as a CASA volunteer, as did 108 other volunteers.

Those interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with CASA-Kane County are invited to attend a meeting from 7 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday in the Kane County Chronicle Community Room.

More information is available at 232-4484.

Batavia Senior Music Awards Banquet set

BATAVIA — The Batavia Music Buffs will host the annual Senior Music Awards Banquet at 6 p.m. May 8 in the Batavia High School cafeteria, where graduating seniors will be honored for their participation.

Following dinner will be the

annual Swing Singers Showtime at 8:15 p.m. in the gymnasium. Banquet tickets are \$5 per person and include admission to Swing Singers. For reservations, call Nancy McDonough at 879-3502 by Tuesday.

Read "Sound Off" every Saturday in the Chronicle

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