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## **Reorganization** <u>allows more contests for boys of summer</u>

The boys of summer have games to play this year, thanks to a reorganization effort by the Hoopeston Colt and Pony leagues.

The Hoopeston Summer Baseball Association, combining both leagues, was formed after last year's season, said Tom Spear, association vice president of the Pony League and team coach. Declining participation in

meant last year's four teams played each other three days each week. Organizers met with representatives of other teams in Watseka who "were all in the same boat," Spear said. "Baseball, for whatever reason, is not as popular in the

summer as it used to be."

tral Illinois Pony League, al-

lowing the 13-and 14-year-old players a chance to face off against teams from Milford, Cissna Park, Rossville, Chebanse, St. Anne, Clifton, Gilman, Watseka, Sheldon and Martinton/Donovan. Instead of playing the same teams week after week, "you see different people pretty much every game," Spear said.

Colt League teams face similar competition from teams in Watseka, Gilman and Tri-Point, he said.

Facing different teams means traveling to their

Photo by Lourdine Florek

Association officials ap- Tom Spear, far right, explains leading off to the Hoopeston Express Lube Pony proved joining the East Cen- League team, part of the Hoopeston Summer Baseball Association.

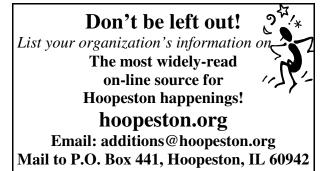
> fields, some of which are better than Hoopeston's McFerren Park diamond, while others are worse. "It makes you appreciate what we have, what the community has to offer," Spear said. A strong point for Hoopeston's field is that the concessions stand, ample parking and restrooms are close to the field.

> The association is doing well in its inaugural season, which Spear credits to strong parental support. "We have parents who know they're going to have to See CONTESTS on other side

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### **Contests** continued from other side

drive their kids sometimes three and four times a week," he said. "Even when gas was close to \$2 a gallon, they didn't complain."

The association also has a dedicated board of directors, led by Vickie Means, president; Dave Musk, treasurer; Donna Spear, secretary; Spear; Lenny Davis, Colt League vice president and coaches/board members Al Carl, John Smiley and Rod Burkett. Long-time sponsors help, too, with Hoopeston Express Lube and the Hoopeston AMVETS post sponsoring Pony League teams and Fence-It-In and Ravens Trucking sponsoring Colt teams. With dedicated volunteer parents, coaches, directors and sponsors, the only thing the association is short on is cash.

To meet that need, the group recently held a pancake day. It also receives funds from the Grant Township United Community Fund. Plans are underway to sell signage space at the field. A 2/x4' sign with a business logo is \$75 for the first year and \$50 annually after that, Spear said. So far, 25 to 30 businesses have expressed interest in the signs but the field has room for about 75, he said.

Money raised will be used to improve the diamond.

Although the field is in a city park, limited municipal resources means more improvements will fall to the association. For example, this year, the association hopes to fix the backstop to stop foul tip balls from flying to the veterans' memorial. "We're trying to be financially responsible to the community," Spear said.

The association accepts donations which may be sent to Vickie Means, 707 E. Washington, Hoopeston, IL 60942 or Tom Spear, 701 S. Fourth St., Hoopeston, IL 60942.

Anyone with questions about the association may call Means at 283-6372 or Spear at 283-9529.



Dana's Valley by Janette Oke (inspirational) Move to Strike by Perri O'Shaughnessy Looking Back by Belva Plain Slightly Shady by Amanda Quick The Barrens by Rosamond Smith (mystery) Lone Eagle by Danielle Steel

### **Correction**

Fiction:

The address given for Carroll D. Blakey in Monday's police report was incorrect. Blakey lives at #5 Baer's Trailer Court.

Just the Facts regrets the error.

## In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital May 31 Admitted: William Green, Dora Lyons, Hoopeston. Discharged: John Lee.

June 1

Admitted: Dolores Brown, Hoopeston. Discharged: Marveleen Miles. June 2

Admitted: Fred Edwards, Hoopeston. Discharged: Robert Dalton. June 3

Admitted: none. Discharged: Dolores Brown.

## New Books at the Library

Spring Break by Barbara Steiner (youth) Jerusalem's Heart by Bodie Thoene (inspirational) Bad News by Donald E. Westlake (mystery)

#### Non-fiction:

Astrology: a Beginner's Guide by Graham Boston Wining Every Day by Lou Holtz Life Makeovers by Cheryl Richardson The Genesis Trilogy by Madeleine L'Engle The Prayer of Jabez by Bruce Wilkinson The Right Moment by Matthew Dallek Everything Hot Careers Book by Ronald A. Reis Bilingual Dictionary of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Terms by Norma C. Connolly Orphan Trains by Stephen O'Connor Fodor's Weather Guide by E.A. Pearce Weather: How it Works and Why it Mattersy by Arthur R. Upgren

Scanning the Skies by Marlene Bradford Griffith's 5-Minute Clinical Consult 2001 (reference) 16 Myths of a Diabetic Diet by Karen Chalmers Diabetes Burnout by William H. Polonsky 100 Motorcycles, 100 Years by Fred Winkowski

## Weather

Mostly cloudy, chance of showers, thunderstorms today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 75, low 62. Tomorrow's high 72, low 60.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston** Weather Line at (217) 283-6221.

Quick Home-Cooked Meals by Maryann Zepp Secrets of the Baby Whisperer by Tracy Hogg Reader's Digest Complete Photography Manual by Ailsa McWhinnie

Sports Quotations

Encyclopedia of Illinois Indians, 2 volumes (reference)



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