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Playground Project coordinator named 2004 DSA winner

Hoopeston's spirit of volunteerism was recognized Friday at the Hoopeston Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award banquet.

Cathy Watson received the night's namesake award, receiving the Distinguished Service Award for her dedication to family, church and community leadership.

Watson, a speech and language pathologist at




Kathy Watson, right photo, accepts the 2004 Distinguished Service Award from Dean Grimes, last year's winner, at the annual DSA Banquet Friday. Above, Brittany Buss, Miss Hoopeston 2004, gives her acceptance speech. See related photos on other side.



Bismarck-Henning Grade School, is president of Beta Sigma Phi, Psi Iota, was a coordinator of Playground Project 2002 which put more than \$50,000 in new playground equipment at McFerren Park, is involved with vacation Bible school at the First Presbyterian Church and is a wife and mother.

Watson was surprised by the announcement. She was one of several who attended the banquet only to be named award recipients.

Ross Johnson of the Hoopeston Fire Department, thought he was the department representative for


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Appointments

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Several Hoopeston residents were honored at the Hoopeston Jaycees' Distinguished Service Award banquet Friday. Among them were, from left, Jeremy Welch, receiving the Hoopeston Police Department's Officer of the Year Award from Chief Mark Drollinger; Sharon Dixon, who received a Special Service Award from Jaycee Dean Grimes for her work in raising money to help the Jaycees Christmas projects; and Ross Johnson, who received the Fireman of the Year Award from Hoopeston Fire Chief Greg Shipman.

the
See WINNER on other side
Winner continued from other side

annual Fireman of the Year Award. The last two years, the award was presented to the department as a whole. This year, however, when it came time to present the honor, Fire Chief Greg Shipman strode to the podium and presented the honor to Johnson, who has spent more than 30 years with the department and spends most of his Sundays training new recruits.

Sharon Dixon, too, was surprised when she was honored with a special service award for her work in organizing a raffle, the proceeds of which helped fund the Jaycees Christmas projects. Dixon and her family decided on the fundraiser when she learned the projects were being severely cut due to low attendance at the rain-soaked National Sweetcorn Festival.

The evening's other honorees were:
Miss Hoopeston 2004 - Brittany Buss, who will serve as hostess for this year's festival and will represent Hoopeston at other activities.

Police Officer of the Year - Jeremy Welch, who started with the Hoopeston Police Department in June 2002. He is in charge of the Hoopeston Explorers Post and was recently named coordinator for the auxiliary police. He also helped construct a new firing range for the department and became a range officer, said Police Chief Mark Drollinger.

EMT of the Year - the entire Hoopeston Ambulance Service.

2004 National Sweetcorn Festival chairman - Michelle Gonzalez

Jaycee Rookie of the Year - Gene Thompson
Odell Crabtree Memorial Award/Associate of



Police News



A black watch found Dec. 31 was claimed by the owner Wednesday.

A 40-year-old Hoopeston man reported Wednesday that the left front tire of his truck was slashed. A gun was also stolen from his home in the 800 block of East McCracken.

Shandrica L. Thomas, 30, of 608 W. Lincoln, was arrested at 8:40 a.m. Thursday at city hall. Thomas, wanted on a warrant for failure to appear/rule to show cause, was released on \$68 cash bond.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported Friday at 816 E. Main. An unidentified vehicle hit a parked 1994 Chevrolet owned by Milton Irvin. Irvin's side mirror was knocked off the truck.

A 16-year-old girl reported Friday that

someone stole her purse at Hoopeston Area High School. The purse contained a camera, cell phone and keys to the girl's vehicle.

Two teens were arrested on drug charges at 12:20 a.m. Saturday in the 700 block of West Penn.

A 16-year-old boy and 15-year-old girl were charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of cannabis. Each was released to a guardian. Juvenile petitions will be filed on the two.

Jose R. Garcia Nunez, 31, of 611 Judson was arrested at 1:11 a.m. Saturday, charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 26-year-old Hoopeston woman who alleged Nunez struck her several times. The incident occurred in the 800 block of East McNeil.

Nunez was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville.

A 17-year-old Hoopeston woman reported

Weather



Wintry mix today. High 30. Tonight, snow likely. Low 18. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 29, low 19.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Saturday that someone threw eggs at her vehicle while it was parked in the 500 block of East Main.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 1:57 p.m. Saturday at Third Ave. and West Orange.

Police said Tricia Smith of Charleston, in a 1999 Nissan Altima, was westbound on Orange and

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