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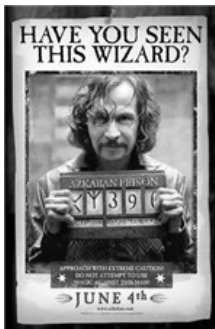


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## Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

**Friday, May 21, 2004**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942**

**[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)**

Phone/Fax:  
(217) 283-9348

Email:  
[publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net)

## Hoopeston Area High School honors students with awards

Several Hoopeston Area High School students were honored at the school's annual Awards Night Monday. Awards and those receiving them were:

IPA Award, Kyle Alt, Erin Spaur; National Merit Scholarship, Zach Spear; VCHSPA Arts and Humanities Scholarship, Erin Spaur; Outstanding Young Citizen Program Award, Ashley Chezem, Zach Spear; Collin Knight Memorial Scholarship, Anthony Cappellano; DAR Good Citizenship, Erin Spaur; SAR Good Citizenship, Kyle Alt; American Legion Award, Allison Musk, Jon Drollinger; Tara Ann Tyler Memorial Scholarship, Kyle Alt; Jerry Schieler Memorial Scholarship, Ashley Chezem.

Also, Hoopeston Awards and Signs Top 10% Scholars Award, Kyle Alt, Zach Spear, Tony Burch, Jon Drollinger, Erin Spaur, Audra Layden, Jessica Brougher, Brent Lockhart; Wilson F. Bessellieu Scholarship, Kyle Alt; Vermilion County Counselor's Scholarship, Zach Spear; EIU Leadership Award, Jimmy Chism; Reynolds-Barwick Scholarship, Kyle Alt; Rosalie Fraley Bard Memorial Scholarship, Erin Spaur; Hoopeston Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship, Holly Howell; Provena Health Care Scholarship, Jessica Brougher; DACC Awards, Curtins Warner, Shelly Gagnon, Sara Morgan, Amber Underwood.

And, University of Illinois Gymnastics Scholarship, Jon Drollinger; Army Reserve Scholarship/Athlete Award, Jimmy Chism, Sarah Franklin; U.S. Air Force Math/Science Awards, Zach Spear, Jessica Brougher; U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence, Erin Spaur, Zach Spear; U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete, Jessica Brougher, Josh Newman; U.S. Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Music Excellence in Band, Elizabeth Coon, Kyle Alt; Army ROTC State Scholarship, Tony Burch; Army ROTC Federal Scholarship, Jimmy Chism; Hoopeston Rotary Club, Ashley Chezem; Doro-

thy Duley Scholarship, Zach Spear.

Also, Louise Hamilton Scholarship, Holly Howell; TRW Scholarship, Zach Spear; Charlotte Russell Memorial Scholarship, Curtis Warner; Women Making a Difference, Shelly Gagnon, Amber Underwood; ICTM Math Award, Zach Spear; ICTM Computer Science Award, Anthony Cappellano; Melvin Weaks Thespian Award, Jimmy Chism; Hoppy Hopkins Scholarship, Sara Franklin; Bob Betka Award, Zach Spear; SVC All-Conference Academic Team, Jessica Brougher, Audra Layden, Brent Lockhart, Erin Spaur, Zach Spear; Glenn Brasel Award, Jimmy Chism; Junior Women's Club, Sarah Franklin; VFW Award, Josh Newman.

And, Hoopeston Education Association Scholarship, Erica Houmes, Alex Hurt; Senior Science Award, Jessica Brougher; Scholastic Bowl Team Awards, Cody Strawser, Michael Mastin, Dominic Zamora, Alex Hurt, Erica Jordan, Sara Morgeson, Scot Sweet, Samantha Meyers; First Team SVC, Cody Strawser; Second Team SVC, Scot Sweet; MVP, Cody Strawser; WYSE Awards, Tony Burch, Erin Spaur, Cody Strawser, Michael Mastin, Zach Spear, Jessica Brougher, Jon Drollinger, Richard Sollars, Mitchell Lankford, Ryan Franklin, Tony Jenkins, Ashley Stadler, Samantha Johnson, Emily overlander.

Also, Illinois Student Assistance Commission Awards, Kyle Alt, Tony Burch, Jon Drollinger, Erin Spaur, Zach Spear, Cody Strawser; John Philip Sousa Band Award, Kyle Alt; Patrick Gilmore Band Award, Josh Newman, Zach Spear; Louis Armstrong Band Award, Jimmy Chism; Woody Herman Band Award, Jon Drollinger, Erin Spaur, Lucas Sturm; Denise Hodge Memorial, Tony Burch, Emma Garabedian; Choral Awards, Jamie Silver, Brent Lockhart; Show Choir Awards, Tony Burch, Jimmy Chism, Allison Musk,

**See AWARDS on Page 3**

Wait until you see how many  
choices we have waiting for you of  
silk hanging baskets, monument  
saddle and vases for the cemetery.

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### KARAOKE CONTEST

**Friday, May 21**

**\$100 in Cash Prizes 1st-2nd Place**  
**Judging begins at 12 a.m.**

Large selection of hanging baskets, stone top saddles, hearts, crosses & wreaths for the cemetery in the Flower Shop. New shipment of bedding plants at the Garden Center.

*Schuler's*  
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**SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE**  
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**Come see what your**  
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**SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE**



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## April tense time for soldiers in Iraq with increased fighting

*Editor's Note: Army Capt. Brock Zimmerman writes a monthly column on the war in Iraq.*

April was an extraordinary month ranging from Muqtada Al-Sadr declaring Jihad (holy war) on all coalition forces, to Al Fullujah, and increased attacks. Our battalion has suffered casualties from combat operations, but fortunately no deaths have occurred. To give one an insight on the situation in Iraq I have asked our assistant intelligence officer for 2-63 Armor, 1LT Philip R. Berry, to give a brief overview of what is happening throughout Iraq.

The situation in Iraq, without giving any operational details, is rather tense right now. The Shia are the predominate religious group here in Iraq, while the Sunni are the minority and former regime holders. These two groups have been at odds for many years in this region and nothing has changed. Let me explain to you all what each believe and what the differences are in the two. Both Sunni and Shia are Muslims and practice Islam. However, the difference is that the Shia believe that "Ali" was the true successor to the Prophet Mohammed after he died. The Sunnis believe that the successor should have been chosen from the list of Caliphs (religious leaders) in his inner circle rather than from the bloodline. That is the main difference and to this day has remained the main dispute between the two.

The fall of Saddam and his regime has left a certain void for many people here. Imagine being under a ruler that gave nothing and took all, telling you what to do and how to do it. And if you didn't he would torture or kill you. After the fall of the regime the people of Iraq have, for the first time, the chance to do what they want and be who they want to be. Some here are having troubles with this. They were used to being ruled with an iron fist and don't know what to do with their freedom. That is what we are here to help with: to help them realize the benefits of democracy or at least the benefits of not living under a dictatorship and to control their own destiny as a nation.

On a daily basis I deal with the local populace and discuss with them the issues they have. Most of the

## Tales from the Front

By  
Brock Zimmerman



discussions are related to information that they provide to us concerning insurgents or foreign fighters in the area. But sometimes I do get a chance to discuss with them ways to improve their quality of life here. Trust me when I say that they have come a long way since the fall of Saddam. Electricity/water is inter-

mittent at times but is improving rapidly. If anyone tells you that they are worse off now than when Saddam was in power, he is either a former regime benefactor or a liar.

One man causing a brunt of the problems for us right now is Muqtada Al-Sadr. He is a radical Shia cleric. He doesn't have the most influence in Iraq, thank goodness, and his support base is losing solidity at the present time.

His call to attack Coalition Forces and drive us out is not the view of the majority of Iraqis, although he knows that propaganda goes a long way in the Arab world and thus he doesn't necessarily need the majority on his side at first. He uses this propaganda machine (i.e. Arab media) as the forefront of his campaign against the Americans. Only within the last month has he resorted to having his militia physically attack Coalition Forces. The month of April, particularly the first two weeks in April, were the heaviest fighting with the insurgents and Muqtada's militia. The Sunni-based fiery situation in Fallujah contributes some, but that is another topic entirely.

Muqtada Al-Sadr has been trying to convince the Shia-majority populace that the Coalition and U.S. forces are here to stomp out Islam and destroy their holy sites, which is far from the truth. One of our goals here, just like it was in Kosovo, is to get everyone to live with his neighbor peacefully no matter what religion or ethnic background they are. To be honest, that goal might be a long way off, but I think it is an important goal and one that cannot be ignored if the people of Iraq want to move forward in life and as a nation.

Right now there is a tense feeling in the air with most of the locals, due to the impending turnover of sovereignty to the Iraqi government. Since the fall of



## The Coffee Cup

Spaghetti w/homemade sauce & garlic bread today!

Open Sundays 'til 6 p.m., then again at 10 p.m.!

## V.F.W.

is now having

## Sunday raffles

(instead of Wednesday)

Doors open at 11 a.m.

Raffles start at 1 p.m.

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**Tammy Hartley-Schackmann**

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Briefly

Tiny Tots

“Picnic” is the theme of this week’s Tiny Tots story program at the Hoopeston Public Library children’s room. Tiny Tots meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays and is for children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Friday is the last Tiny Tots for the season.

Trash Walkers


Hoopeston Trash Walkers will meet from 9-10 a.m. Saturday at Plaza Commons to pick up trash in the area. The group is still looking for businesses and organizations as sponsors to provide manpower. To volunteer, call Kristi Hudson at 283-4012 or 283-4258.

Swim team sign-up


Sign-up for the Hoopeston Swim Team has been extended to June 1, the first day of practice. For information, call Scot Strawser, 283-6154 or Tina Samet, 283-5993.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for Memorial Day preparations at Floral Hill Cemetery to place flags on graves of deceased military members. Those willing



Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area Grade Schools

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY: Cook’s choice.

THURSDAY: Teacher Institute

FRIDAY: Report Card Day.

Hoopeston Area Middle/High School

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY: Cook’s choice.

THURSDAY: Teacher Institute

FRIDAY: Report Card Day.

Rossville-Alvin Schools

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY: Cook’s choice.

THURSDAY: Teacher Institute

FRIDAY: Report Card Day.

All meals include milk.

CRIS/SAMS Meals


MONDAY: Turkey pot pie, stewed tomatoes, white bread, tropical fruit.

TUESDAY: Baked ham, sweet potato patties, peas, roll, angel food cake.

WEDNESDAY: Turkey sandwich/white bread/salad dressing, potato salad, orange juice, banana.

THURSDAY: Veal steak, au gratin potatoes, spinach, white bread, banana.

Police News



Justin D. Rice, 22, of 41680 Elm St., East Lynn, turned himself in to police at 2:40 p.m. Wednesday. Rice, wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant, was released on \$377 cash bond.

A 21-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Wednesday that someone took items from her 1988 Chevrolet while it was parked in the 400 block of East Honeywell.

Correction

The day of visitation for Ruth Seamann was incorrect in Thursday’s issue. Visitation will be noon-1:45 p.m. Friday. Just the Facts regrets the

Saddam

See SOLDIERS on Page 3

Soldiers continued from Page 2

there had been a plethora of new organizations, political parties, and groups popping up all over Iraq and they all need to learn that democracy is about co-existence and having the ability to tolerate one another.

The Coalition forces are trying to do its best in this regard, however, our main focus is keeping our men and women alive to the job and assist the people of Iraq.

So, we are in a wait-and-see mode right now.

Will the populace embrace the future or will it fall back on what it has known for the past 30years under Saddam? I think it will be the first option, as I have seen the looks in the children’s eyes and these are not eyes of a willingness to be bound again, but eyes of freedom and hope.

The children are the ones who will eventually take over Iraq someday and we can start helping now by

to help should be at the cemetery at 8:45 a.m. on May

Awards continued from Page 1

Josh Newman; Arion Award, Erin Spaur; Prairie State Achievement Awards, Kyle Alt, ARik Bruens, Jimmy Chism, Jon Drollinger, Mike Mastin, Amie Maul, Josh Newman, Erin Spaur, Zach Spear, Cody Strawser; Salutatorian, Jon Drollinger; Valedictorians, Kyle Alt, Zach Spear.

New crop of plants in the  
Garden Center~  
Peppers, tomatoes, sweet  
potatoes, flowering plants, vines,  
hanging baskets!

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\*Clark \*Pizza King \*Price-Less Foods  
\*Pla-Mor Lanes \*Hoopeston Public Library  
\*Hoopeston Express Lube \*Downtown Motel  
\*Oat’s Bait Shop/BJ’s Pump \*Taco Shell

Rossville

\*Minuteman \*Feedbag \*Bray’s General Store

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2/\$3  
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32 oz. Regular or Light  
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32 oz. Regular or Light  
Kraft Mayonnaise

\$1.99/jar  
24 oz. or 20 oz. Easy Squeeze  
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.99/btl.  
Kingsford Charcoal 20 lb. bag

Prices good May 22-31, 2004  
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12 pk., all varieties  
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OSCAR MAYER  
1 lb. Reg., Jumbo, Lite or Bun Length  
Wieners



Price-Less Foods  
wishes everyone a Happy  
and Safe Memorial Day!  
We will be open from  
8 a.m.-6 p.m. May 31.



New Books at the Library



Fiction:

Shattered Mirror by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes (young adult)  
The Scarlet Letters by Louis Auchincloss  
High Country by Nevada Barr (mystery)  
Loose Lips: A Roman a Clef by Claire Berlinski  
Deception Point by Dan Brown  
Angels & Demons by Dan Brown  
The Ministry of Motherhood by Sally Clarkson

(inspirational)

The Bite: a Luther Ewing Thriller by Michael Crow  
The Hollow Kingdom by Clare B. Dunkle (young adult)

Weather



Partly cloudy today, tonight and tomorrow. Highs 86, low 65. Sunday, chance of thunderstorms. High 82, low 62.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vermilion County Housing Authority is accepting applications for public housing. We have locations in Hoopeston, Ross-ville, Georgetown, Fairmount and Allerton. We are currently taking applications for 3 and 4 bedroom apartments. The VCHA is an income-based rental assistant program. Rent is based on 30% of income. The VCHA pays for water and trash pickup. Stove and refrigerator included. No lawn care required, maintenance department on staff. Some people qualify for more deductions. Deposit and reference required. Applications are accepted at the Rossville office Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and from 1-3:30 p.m., or by calling (217) 748-6812.

Starscapes artist introductory special. Awesome hand-painted night skies. Invisible by day, beautiful & realistic by night. Relaxing, romantic for adults. Children love them. Up to 12x12 ceiling, \$199; skylight \$49. For a free demonstration, please call (217) 722-1933.

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston youth football is now accepting applications for football and cheerleading coaches for the 2004 season. Applications must be turned in by June 11th. Call LEE at 283-7883 or RON at 283-6985.

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bdr. house a 321 Front St., Hoopeston. \$350/mo. plus deposit. No dogs. Call (217) 748-6354.

139-152

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

2 small window air conditioners, \$75 ea.; hide-a-bed, \$45; Cherished Teddies, \$20 ea. (217) 748-6937.

RUMMAGE SALES

631 W. Maple, Hoopeston. Fri. & Sat., May 21-22. 8-4. Large 2 family sale!

417 E. Wyman, Hoopeston. Fri. & Sat., May 21, 22, 7 a.m.-noon.

846 E. Penn, Hoopeston. Sat., 8-12. 3 family sale. Kids clothes, adult clothes, household items, crib race car bed, twin race car bed, Little Tike toys.

502 N. Chicago, Rossville. Sat., May 22, 8-4. Family/friends sale, girls clothing sizes newborn-18 mos., boys clothing, various sizes of women's and men's clothing, lots of nice household and misc. items.

404 E. Seminary, Hoopeston. Sat. & Sun., 8-4. Huge moving sale!

Rossville - Watson St., east side of park. Sat., 8-? Women's clothes, paperbacks, gold rink, 2 Lenox angels, 60s Schwinn banana seat bike, misc., 1988 Volvo 740 Turbo, sun roof, runs & looks good, must sell, \$750.

SERVICES

Pampered Pet Grooming. Lots of TLC. Call anytime for appointment. (217) 339-2340.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1988 Chevy short bed truck. 24,000 miles on new engine. \$1,800. (217) 283-4312.

Super street race car minus motor & tranny. \$1,500. (217) 283-4312.

WANTED

The Hoopeston American Legion would appreciate the donation of a wagon running gear to be used for a parade float. Please contact Jim Crouch, (217) 339-2401.

Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad.