

## Countryside Mall Closeout Sale

Friday & Saturday, Oct. 8,9 9-4  
Paint supplies & silk flowers 75% off  
Wall paper \$4/double roll  
All other craft supplies 50% off  
Come on in for more sales!



**Your event**  
can be listed  
**FREE on**  
**hoopeston.org**  
Email: [additions@hoopeston.org](mailto:additions@hoopeston.org).

## All mowers on sale



**Do it  
Best**

## Olympic Hardware

516 N. Dixie Hwy. Hoopeston  
(217) 283-5186

Lourdine Florek  
owner/publisher

## Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

Phone/Fax:  
(217) 283-9348  
Email:  
[publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net)

**Wednesday, October 6, 2004**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

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

## Hometown welcome is 'humbling experience' for Thad Matta

Ohio State head basketball coach Thad Matta has experienced cheering crowds in some of the biggest arenas in the country. But the hundreds of cheering fans who watched him play in the Hoopeston-East Lynn gym means more to him than the thousands of fans in those big arenas.

Matta was the keynote speaker at Monday's Community Awards Banquet. Approximately 200 people turned out to hear the local boy turned coach talk about his life and career.

"It's easy to come to speak to you tonight because I never left," Matta told the crowd. "I am thankful everyday that I grew up right here in Hoopeston, Illinois. To say it's an honor to stand here...it's probably more of a humbling experience."

Matta, son of Jim and Ellanat Matta, was a shining star of the Cornjerker basketball team in the 1980s. He went on to serve as an assistant at Indiana State, Butler, Miami of Ohio and Western Carolina and was head coach of Butler and Xavier before accepting the Ohio State position in July.

Of that position, Matta said "there's one reason and one reason only" why he took the job: "I want to win a national championship," he said. When he heard the Ohio State fight song - which is the same as Hoopeston's, "that's when I knew this job was meant to be," he said.

Matta credits his years in Hoopeston with giving him the tools to be a successful basketball coach, from his parents' marriage ("the best gift you can give your kids is to love your spouse") to the school system ("I've encountered some great educators but you should know I've never met better teachers than what I had right here") to older players giving a youngster a break.


Matta spoke of his teammates and the



Thad Matta signs an autograph for Joel Bird after Monday's Community Awards Banquet. Matta was the event's keynote speaker.

"character that was grown in that locker room" and the shared experiences. "You can never get back those days of growing up and doing all those things together," he said.

Several core values that Matta learned in Hoopeston are things he tries to pass on to his players now, including humility, unity, servanthood and thankfulness. "The other thing I learned right here in good



**A little  
South of the Border**

**Check us out!  
We have the right account  
for you!**

*Community Bank*

Hoopeston, Illinois

Your hometown bank since 1913

221 Bank St. (217) 283-7733 Rtes. 1&9 283-9723  
221 E. Main, Wellington (815) 984-3130

Member FDIC

Hoopeston Multi Agency  
Annual Ham & Bean Dinner  
Thursday, Oct. 7 11  
a.m.-1 p.m.  
Donation \$5 per person  
Includes ham & beans, cornbread, drink,  
cole slaw & dessert.  
Pay at the door

**Computer on the fritz?**  
**Let Computer Works come to your aid.**  
**Dedicated to offering the most friendly,**  
**reliable, and honest service and support**  
**available anywhere to our customers.**

the  
**COMPUTER WORKS**

303B E. Main Street  
Hoopeston (217) 283-9552



Honorees at Monday's Community Awards Banquet included, front, from left, Earl Drollinger, Debbie Klaber, Cheryl Pugh, Kristi Hudson, Karen Young, Frank Smith and John Haughee and back, Dr. Victor Garber, Dr. John Timmons, Bill Boose, Melissa Bird, Bill Nicholls, Carolyn Eyrich-Mastin and Karen Porth.

## Individuals, businesses feted at Community Awards Banquet

An impressive group of residents and businesses was honored for their contributions to Hoopeston at Monday's Community Awards Banquet.

Awards were presented by The Chronicle, Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce, Hoopeston Area Education Association and United Community Fund of Grant Township.

Kristi Hudson was named Citizen of the Year for her work with Trash Walkers and Keep Vermilion County Beautiful. A nominating letter for Hudson called her "nothing if not determined, endearing, ever-thoughtful and always willing to lend a hand," said Chronicle editor Jillian Duchnowski before presenting the award.

The Chronicle's Hall of Fame award had two recipients this year, Earl Drollinger and John Haughee.

Drollinger was recognized for his 40 years with the Hoopeston ESDA. He has also worked with the auxiliary police and ambulance department and was a 27-year employee of the Illinois Canning Company.

Haughee was nominated for his 37-year teaching

career, including 30 years in Hoopeston schools and 25 years on the Hoopeston City Council. "People have been so kind, so kind to me," Haughee said, choking up while accepting his award.

Other awards and their winners were:

- Educator of the Year: Debbie Klaber and Cheryl Pugh
- Burt Livingston Community Award: Bill Nicholls
- Retail Business of the Year: Frank Smith, owner of Price-Less Foods.
- Service Business of the Year: Dr. John Timmons, president of Hoopeston Emergency Medicine Specialists LTD. The company provided coverage for Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital's emergency room.
- Community Volunteer of the Year: the Hoopeston Jaycees. Carolyn Eyrich-Mastin, Karen Porth and Wendy Thompson accepted the award for the group.
- President's Award: Bill Boose, who won for

See **MATTA** on other side

### *Matta* continued from other side

old Hoopeston is hard-nosed work," he said. "you've got to work."

He talked about watching employees come out of the Joan of Arc plant to watch youngsters play ball and about area farmers who also worked hard. "That's the work ethic that I learned," Matta said.

Those values have stood Matta well as his career has peaked and ebbed. When his Xavier team as 10-9, "the media was killing us," he said. "People were saying 'it's time for Thad to go.'" When the team made the NCAA tournament regional finals in March, "I was the greatest thing they'd ever seen in their lives."

Matta said he barely had time to enjoy the victories. After one win, he would begin planning strategy for the next game, followed by the next and the next. After Xavier's loss to Duke in the finals, "I said to myself, 'what the hell just happened.'" That is something he is trying to change. "As a young coach,

### Police News



A **15-year-old** student at Hoopeston Area High School was arrested at 9:50 a.m. Monday at the school. The youth was charged with possession of cannabis on school property after allegedly smoking cannabis in the restroom.

A juvenile petition was filed on the youngster.

A **62-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Tuesday that her truck windshield was broken Monday night while it was parked at her home in the 400 block of West Washington.

### Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 7:53 p.m. Monday for a fire in the second floor laundry room at Centennial Manor.

### Weather



Sunny today. High 73. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 47. Tomorrow, sunny, chance of rain late. High 73, low 53.

For current weather conditions, call **Hoop-**

I'm trying to learn to enjoy the process," said the 37-year-old. "I hope I can because the process won't be pretty for the next couple of years."

"I can't say thank you enough for who you are and what you've done for me," Matta said. "I mean this: there is no place like home."

After Matta's speech, Mayor Chalmers Flint presented him with a key to the city mounted on a plaque. Future visitors to Hoopeston will also see his name on signs at the city limits proclaiming Hoopes-

## Classifieds

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Rossville: 1-2 bdrs. Riverview Apartments. Completely refurbished, on-site washers & dryers. 1 bdr. \$310/mo., \$310 deposit; 2 bdr., \$360/mo., \$360 deposit. Call (217) 840-3672. 253-294

1 bedroom upstairs apt. Some appliances furnished. \$275/mo. + deposit. References, security deposit. No pets. Available Oct. 1. (217) 304-3477.

### HELP WANTED

Part time custodian, 12 hrs./week. Contact Rev. Keith Michaels, Rossville United Methodist Church, (217) 748-6760.

HOME VISITOR - Family literacy program seeks to fill a part-time/seasonal position to serve migrant families in Hoopeston. Bilingual (Spanish/English) a must. Primarily evening and weekend hours. \$8.45/hr. minimum. D.O.E. E.O.E. Send resumes to: IMC/Project MAX, Attn: Maria Linares, 530 E. First North St., P.O. Box 136, Wellington, IL 60973.

### HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom house for rent in Rankin. Appliances furnished. \$360/mo. + deposit. (217) 283-5329

2 bedroom house, garage, fenced yard. \$400/mo. + security deposit, references. Appliances included. (217) 260-6161

2 bedroom house on Penn St. in Hoopeston. Garage, basement. \$400/mo. + deposit. No pets. (217) 304-3477.

### HOUSES FOR SALE

3 bedroom house. \$22,000. (217) 283-7928  
280-293

### RUMMAGE SALES

820 W. Washington, Hoopeston. Fri. & Sat., 8:30-? Clothing & lots of misc.

### SERVICES

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