

Tuesday is Senior Citizens Day



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& Sausage Day**

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Jaycees honor spirit of volunteerism, Hoopeston's finest

The Hoopeston Jaycees honored a spirit of volunteerism, along with two of Hoopeston's finest, Friday at the annual Distinguished Service Award banquet.

Amy Sheppard took home the night's namesake award. The Distinguished Service Award is given to someone under 40 who is dedicated to family, church and leadership in community service. Nominees are chosen by and voted on by past DSA winners.

In presenting the award, Karen Porth spoke of Sheppard's dedication to community, family and church. Sheppard, she said, graduated from Hoopeston-East Lynn High School and Illinois State University.

Sheppard, whose career aids those with developmental disabilities, has worked at Danville Manor, Crosspoints and for the past 11 years, she has worked at a Cissna Park group home for those with disabilities.

During her career, Sheppard, who enjoys bowling, started a bowling league for people with developmental disabilities but that is not the only sport she is interested in. As a mother, she is also involved in the Danville Youth Hockey League.

Sheppard joined the Jaycees in 1990 and since then has served as a director, supervising director, treasurer and project chairman for such things as Toys for



Above, Mike Blankenship, left, gets a laugh while presenting Richard Rush with a Jaycee International Senatorship award. The award is the highest in the organization. Blankenship was president of the local chapter in 1970. Rush was festival chairman in 1975 and has been involved with Jaycee activities since he was 16 years old. See more photos on other side.

Kids and the Underprivileged Children's Christmas. She has also served as second vice and chaplain of the Hoopeston American Legion Auxiliary and is active in the Hoopeston United Methodist Church.

Other Jaycee awards and winners included:

Rookie of the Year: Ashley Castillo. The award is presented to a newcomer in the organization.

Odell Crabtree Memorial Award/Associate of the Year: Dean Grimes. Named in honor of long-time Jay-

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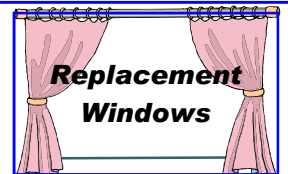
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See JAYCEES on other side

Jaycees continued from other side

cee Odell Crabtree, the award honors a member over age 40 who has contributed to the local chapter.

Jaycee of the Year: Gene Thompson. The award honors a member who has made great contributions to the club during the past year.

Jaycee Senator: Richard Rush. The award, the highest in the international Jaycee organization, marks a lifetime of achievement in the organization.

Miss Hoopeston 2005 was also named. Liz

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Coon will represent Hoopeston at fairs throughout the summer and will play hostess to the National Sweethearts during the National Sweetcorn Festival on Labor Day weekend.

“I have wanted to be Miss Hoopeston since I was like four,” Coon said. “Just to be nominated was an honor. I can’t wait to go to all of the fairs. It will be fun.”

Approximately 15 girls were invited to interview for Miss Hoopeston. Of those, 10 accepted. Coon was chosen from the field which, she said, included two of her relatives.

The new Miss Hoopeston graduated from Hoopeston Area High School in 2004 and currently attends Danville Area Community College. After earning an associate’s degree, she plans to study fashion marketing at the Illinois Art Institute.

Hoopeston’s pubic service sectors also honored their own at the banquet.

Hoopeston Police Officer Adam Watson was named Officer of the Year, chosen by fellow officers. Chief Mark Drollinger presented the award, saying Watson underwent “kind of an amazing transition” from citizen to officer. Drollinger spoke of the “peer pressure in your own town” that new officers face. Watson “has shown far and above what we ever thought,” Drollinger said, adding the winner has “a very good community spirit.”

Watson has been on the department since 2002.

A two-year member of the Hoopeston Fire Department was also honored. Chad Yaden was named Firefighter of the Year for his dedication.

This was the first year the department selected an individual firefighter for the award. In previous years, the entire department was named.

Briefly

Tiny Tots

“The Three Little Pigs” is the theme of this week’s Tiny Tots story program in the Hoopeston Public Library Children’s room.

Tiny Tots is held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays and is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.



Above left, Ashley Castillo, Rookie of the Year; middle, Chad Yaden, Firefighter of the Year; far right, Dean Grimes accepts Jaycee of the Year from Larry Baughn; bottom left, Adam Watson, Officer of the Year; right, Amy Sheppard, winner of the Distinguished Service Award.

Yaden responded to 103 of 110 fire calls in the last year, said Fire Chief Greg Shipman. Additionally, Yaden is currently attending classes at the University of Illinois Burn House and should receive his Fire Fighter II designation in a couple months. “It’s a huge amount of schooling,” Shipman said. Yaden also serves on the department’s grant writing committee. “This decision on Firefighter of the Year is not just on the scene,” Shipman said. “It’s all the time we volunteer.”

Shipman thanked the Jaycees for the

Weather



Partly cloudy today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 43, low 30. Tomorrow, high 39, low 17.

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



We would like to introduce our new Lead Technician, Troy Hafner. Troy has 20 years of service experience.

We’d also like to congratulate Jared Rayls for 1 year of service with us and Joel Stiger, our Service Manager, for 27 years of Service experience!

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