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Email:

publish@justthefacts.net

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Hoopeston heroes honored at Community Awards Banquet

Local men and women serving in the military are heroes, but so are the people who fight to improve Hoopeston. Both groups were honored at the annual Community Awards Banquet Monday night at the McFerren Park Civic Center.

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

Award winners included:

Hoopeston Jaycee awards

Ashley Chezem, 2006 Miss Hoopeston. A graduate of

Hoopeston Area High School and Joliet Junior College, Chezem will reign over the National Sweetcorn Festival and will represent Hoopeston at other area festivals.

Jimmy Polson, named a Jaycee Senator, the highest award given to a Jaycee. Polson joined the group in 1996 and has served on many local chapter projects.

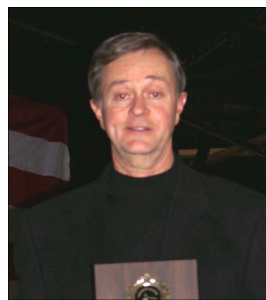
Todd Davis, Jaycee of the year and Jaycee President's Award. Davis joined the Jaycees in 2002 and has chaired several projects. He is the 2006 National Sweetcorn Chairman.

Dolores Crabtree and Bob Byerly, Jaycee Associates of the Year. Presented to "roosters" over 40 years old,

See AWARDS on other side



CHEZEM



READ



POLSON



CULBERT



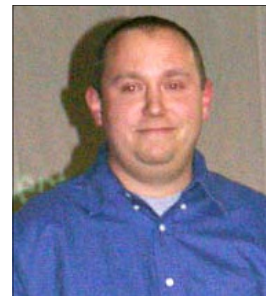
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Awards continued from other side

the award honors those who continue to contribute to the organization.

Kevin Root, Distinguished Service Award, for dedication to family and church and leadership in the community. The winner is selected by past DSA winners and is given to a candidate who is under 40 years old.

Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce awards

Hoopeston Coin Laundry, Service Business of the Year. Owner Tina Buhrmester accepted the award for the business, which has served Hoopeston for 37 years.

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Flowers and Gifts by Molly Culbert, Retail Business of the Year. Jim Culbert accepted the award for the company, which has a 109-year history.

Gene and Mary Hanson, Volunteers of the Year. Several agencies have benefited between the two of them, including Hoopeston Migrant Head Start, Multi Agency, Grant Township Food Cupboard, Hoopeston American Legion and Color Guard and the Well-Baby Clinic.

Hoopeston New Car Dealers, Keeping a Good Thing Growing Award. Accepted by Dick Read and Dave McFadden, the award honored the dealerships' contribution to the Hoopeston Fireworks Fund last year.

Dick Read, President's Award, for his dedication to Hoopeston through the car dealerships and his recent work on the economic development committee.

Chronicle awards

Connie Wilson, Citizen of the Year. Wilson was credited for being a "one-woman bandwagon" and was honored for helping others through a series of columns written for The Chronicle, especially those dealing with the new Medicare drug coverage plan, said presenter, Bertha Parsons.

Molly Culbert, Hall of Fame. Culbert, who was unable to attend the ceremony, was honored for her life-long dedication to Hoopeston. Culbert "loves flowers, loves people and welcomes visitors," Parsons said.

United Community Fund award

Paul Manion, Burt Livingston Award. Manion was honored for his years of service and dedication to the organization, which funds many local non-profit groups. Manion's son, Brian, accepted the award.



HANSONS

Hoopeston Police Department

Quentin Morgan, Officer of the Year. In presenting the award, Chief Mark Drollinger cited Morgan's donation of time and money for the city's canine program.

Hoopeston Ambulance Service award

EMT of the Year was presented to the entire department. Newly-named coordinator Lloyd Smith accepted the award and praised his staff's dedication and skill level.

Hoopeston Volunteer Fire Department award

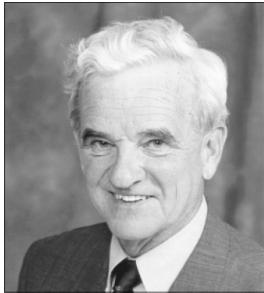
Rick Birch, Fireman of the Year, for seven years of service to the department and "one of our best pump operators," said Chief Greg Shipman.

Hoopeston Education

Association award

Sara Troxel, Educator of the Year. Troxel is a special education teacher at Honeywell Grade School and fits the definition of "educator" as someone to "develops mentally, morally or aesthetically through instruction," said HEA president Barb Garner.

The evening also honored citizens serving in the armed forces. A slide presentation showed each soldier



MANION



SMITH



DAVIS



BUHRMESTER

and the branch in which they serve.

Members of the committee who organized the banquet include Loni Garman, Garner, Pat Bailey, Aly Jackson and Beth Totheroh.

Police News



Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported Tuesday. An unknown vehicle hit a 1978 Chevrolet El Camino owned by Bradley Milton of Hoopeston, parked at 426 E. Honeywell.

Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 12:17 p.m. Monday to a semi on fire in the 200 block of East Main. No injuries were reported.

Weather



Partly cloudy today. High 35. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 20. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 40, low 26.

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

Classifieds

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