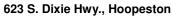
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#### Letters to the Editor

#### Baseball MOMS say thank you

The Hoopeston Area Youth Baseball MOMS Group would like to thank everyone who participated in the Community Day Event at Monical's on April 9th. We would also like to thank Monical's for allowing us to host this event. The support is much appreciated.

#### Playground Project 2007 needs help

Summertime is around the corner, and with thoughts of picnics, reunions, and outdoor parties we can all appreciate the playground and beautiful open area of McFerren Park.

In 2003 Beta Sigma Phi-Psi Iota, a women's group in Hoopeston, along with the City of Hoopeston raised the funds necessary to purchase new playground equipment, and safety mulch. The generous members of our community banded together with Beta Sigma Phi to volunteer time, supplies, and physical labor to build the playgrounds that all of our children enjoy today. Since that time Beta Sigma Phi has continued to contribute to the beautification of the playground, and park with a gazebo and patio area. McFerren Park has become an aesthetically pleasing, restful place to get together for those picnics, reunions, outdoor parties, or just a fun afternoon

with the kids.

In order to make sure that the park continues to be a friendly environment for all ages the time has come to add more safety surfacing to the existing playgrounds, and a handicap accessible ramp to the larger playground. The estimated cost of adding the new safety surface and the ramp is \$2,900.

Currently Beta Sigma Phi has raised \$800 towards this project with various community fundraisers. The rest of the funds will be raised through grant applications and the sale of engraved bricks and tiles.

Beta Sigma Phi invites the community to get involved with Project Playground 2007 by purchasing bricks and tiles which will be added to the existing ones located at McFerren Park. Lee Cox has generously donated his time and materials to do the engraving. All labor, tools, and equipment for this project will be completed by Beta Sigma Phi members, community volunteers, and in-kind donations. Beta Sigma Phi is committed and determined to have Project Playground 2007 completed by July 2007.

Order forms for the bricks and tiles can be picked up from any member of Beta Sigma Phi or from Iroquois

See LETTERS on other side



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## HAMS runners have victories at Vermilion County meet

#### By RICH STIPP

The Hoopeston Area Middle School track team had an outstanding effort on Saturday at the Vermilion County track meet in Catlin. The 8th grade girls finished second, the 8th and 7th grade boys returned as County Champions.

The 7th grade boys won in convincing fashion, setting 3 records. Every relay record was rewritten by a quartet of boys. The 4 X 100 or 400 meter relay team of Robbie Irvin, Joseph Mann, Matt Watson, and Terrance Poke ran a 53.3 second race eclipsing the old mark of 54.03. The 4 X 200 or 800 meter relay team of Dillon Siedel, Wes Rush, Hayden Siedel, and Tyler Obenland set a new mark of 1 min. 55 seconds. The old mark was 1 min. 56.6 seconds. And in the 4 X 400 or 1600 meter relay, Andy Fraunkey, Joseph Mann, Terrance Poke and Robbie Irvin shattered the old mark of 4 min 33 seconds by running a 4 min and 16 sec race.

The 7th grade boys dominated the day by placing two people in every event but three and had a place in each of those as well.

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The 8th grade boys were in last place after the field events with five points but with a tremendous effort in the running events managed to squeak out a first place finish. They also set a record in the 4 X 400 meter relay. Trevor Rush, Matt Benjamin, Brock Ramos, and Kraig VanWieringen set a new event record of 4 min and 5 seconds, erasing the old record which was held by Hoopeston. (Michael Silver, Jordan Stipp, Zach Sage, and Todd Crawford) The old record was 4 min 7 sec.

The second place finish of the 8th grade girls took an outstanding effort from all involved, They didn't dominate but had very steady performances and came home with a much deserved second place finish.

The north end of the country dominated all competition throughout the day as Bismarck-Henning won the 7th and 8th grade girls competition and Rossville-Alvin place fourth in the 7th grade.

## **Briefly**

#### Smoking cessation program offered

Hoopeston Regional Health Center is offering a sevenweek smoking cessation program starting Tuesday, May 1. Classes meet every Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. The program is free. The weekly classes meet in the Community Room of Hoopeston Regional Health Center. Call Mary Ann Piercy at (217) 283-5531 for more information.

#### **Letters** continued from other side

Federal Savings and Loan in Hoopeston. Orders can be mailed to Project Playground c/o Beta Sigma Phi, 846 E Penn St, Hoopeston, IL 60942 or dropped off at Iroquois Federal Savings and Loan in Hoopeston, until the end of May. Questions can be referred to Suzi Root 283-7754, Emily Carter 283-7554 or Tammy Dixon 283-4256.

Sincerely, Nicole Gregory Beta Sigma Phi-Psi Iota

#### Weather



Heavy rain today. High 61. Tonight, thunderstorms. Low 52. Tomorrow, showers likely. High 64, low 46. For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

#### **Obituaries**

**ALDER** - Robert R. Alder Sr., 82, of Winter Haven Fla., formerly of Rossville died Sunday April 22, 2007 in Winter Haven. Arrangements are incomplete at the Wolfe Funeral Home, Rossville.

**ERVIN** - Oliver Frank Ervin, 89, of Hoopeston died at 3:05 p.m. Sunday, April 22, 2007 at VA Illiana Health Care System, Danville. Graveside service will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston, with military rites by Hoopeston American Legion and VFW posts. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Thursday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

**KAUFMANN** - Laurine M. Kaufmann, 86, of Cissna Park died at 12:45 a.m. Monday, April 23, 2007 at Heartland Health Care Center, Paxton. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Apostolic Christian Church, Cissna Park. Burial will be in Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Cissna Park. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park. Memorials are suggested to Carle Hospice or a charity of the donor's choice.

SHERMAN - William "Bill" Sherman, 74, of Rossville died February 4, 2007 in Watseka. Graveside memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Sunset Memorial Park, Danville. Wolfe Funeral Home, Rossville, coordinated the service.

## **Classifieds**

#### FREE STUFF

Used couch. Needs a little work. May be picked up on porch at 402 E. Seminary, Hoopeston.

#### HELP WANTED

City of Hoopeston will accept applications for part time seasonal help at the cemetery. Applications may be picked up at City Hall. Return completed apps to City Hall by 4 pm. Thursday, April 26. EOE

#### **LOST & FOUND**

Lost: man's wedding band. Lost Tuesday, April 17. If found, call 283-5310. Reward

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