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Park district program lets people sink roots into Rossville

ROSSVILLE—A special project benefiting the Rossville Park District has a way for people to display their roots in the community.

The park district has established a heritage tree and shrub project to plant memorial trees and shrubs in Christman Park, said Tom Mills, a member of the Memorial Tree Committee.

The project will serve a two-fold project. First, it will raise money for the park district. Second, it will help replenish trees in Christman Park. "There have only been two or three trees planted in the last 50 years so the vast majority are mature trees," Mills said. "One of these days we're going to start losing them and we need to start a replacement program."

A person may honor an individual or entire family with a donation to the program, which is a living memorial to those now living or deceased.

A six foot tree costs \$75 and a shrub is \$30. Donors may choose from among seedless ash, red maple, red but and flowering crab apple. Next year, four different varieties will be offered, Mills said.

Trees will be professionally planted each March and survival is guaranteed.

Donors will receive a card acknowledging the gift and the family will also be notified. Each memorial tree will be tagged with the individual or family name and will be listed along with the date and number. A map will be posted to show the location and species of the trees.

The five-member committee is currently deciding where trees will be placed. Mills said trees will probably be placed along the road and in two or three areas in the border between the park and cemetery. Additionally, a picnic pavilion is planned and the committee will landscape it, along with a garden at the park entrance, Mills said.

The park has room for about 100 trees. So far, 18 to 20 trees and shrubs have been purchased through the Memorial Tree program. "The response has been marvelous," Mills said. "We have over \$1,400 in the bank which means that yes, we are going to plant trees this spring."

See ROOTS on other side



Winning tomatoes

Winners the annual tomato contest at Flowers and Gifts by Molly Culbert are displayed at the store. This year's winners included Art Compton and Cheryl Beebe, tied for best of show; Tom Lane, biggest by measure; Jim Hofbauer, biggest by weight; Evelyn Dain, big perfect; Sapochetti family, most perfect; Tom Gress, best yellow and Jake Sprague, most unusual.

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Police News



A **19-year-old** Rossville woman reported Sunday that someone took an undisclosed amount of money from a wallet. The theft occurred in the 300 block of West Penn.

A **boy's** silver dirt bike was found Monday at Sixth St.

and McCracken. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

A **21-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Monday that someone entered his unlocked vehicle and took a CD player with remote, a pair of woofers, an amplifier and

two CD cases containing approximately 30 CDs. The burglary occurred at Parkview Court.

Phonics makes comeback as tool in teaching children to read

What's old is new again.

Phonics, once considered the best way to teach students to read, is being stressed again under a new program to be used in Hoopeston Area grade schools this year.

The Four Block Program, which combines guided reading, self-selected reading, writing and working with words, was detailed at Thursday's Hoopeston Area School Board meeting by Maureen Spisok, Maple School principal and Linda Sheppard, Honeywell School principal.

The approach is one designed after pushes by former President Bill Clinton and Governor George Ryan to get students reading at grade level by third grade, Spisok said, adding that 38 percent of all Illinois third graders fall below state standards.

After looking at the school report cards, Spisok, Sheppard and John Greer principal Larry Hill, wanted to do something to increase students' scores, Spisok said.

At Thursday's meeting, the principals showed Standardized Achievement Test scores for 125 fourth graders which showed that 67 of those students read below fourth grade level. Seventeen were at grade level and 41 were above the level.

In order to boost the scores of those below grade level, local teachers will implement the new system, which stresses phonics among other things. Phonics, in which students learn letter sounds and learn to sound out words, has not always been taught, Sheppard said. "Many teachers didn't learn phonics in school and had to learn that to teach it," she said.

Sheppard outlined various ways of teaching reading used from the 60s to the present. "Now we've kind of come all the way around," she said.

Some phonics study was already being done locally. "We do all these things," Sheppard said. "This is just a new framework."

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Aug. 16

Nothing to report.

Aug. 17

Admitted: William Moyer, Robert Chesnut, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Aug. 18

Nothing to report.

Aug. 19

Admitted: Harriet Danner, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Partly cloudy, chance of isolated thunderstorms today, tonight and tomorrow. Highs near 83, lows near 67.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Schumacher Electric Corporation is seeking full time, first shift assembly workers for our Hoopeston facility. Job applications may be obtained at 1025 E. Thompson Avenue between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

LOST & FOUND

Lost: white mixed terrier with long legs. Has green Iroquois County tag and dark brown or blue collar. Answers to "Boomer." Last seen Thursday night at Honeywell Apts. Reward. Call (217) 283-4223.

RUMMAGE SALES

DeWitt's moving sale. 846 E. Maple, Hoopeston. Aug. 24, 9-?, Aug. 25, 8-12. Lots of clean household, glassware, miscellaneous, denim clothes, craft supplies, printed fabric Christmas panels, computer desk.

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