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Community gathers to build new playground equipment



Volunteers at Playground Project's build day Saturday put poles up for a new playground attraction. On Sunday, the almost-finished attraction looked more inviting. The toy 911 rescue vehicle is just part of new playground equipment installed by community members over the weekend. See related photo on other side.



New shades of red, gold and blue are
adorning McFerren Park today.

The colors weren't added with new flow-
ers but rather are part of new playground
equipment installed over the weekend.

Scores of volunteers turned out Saturday
and Sunday for Playground Project build
days, where approximately \$50,000 in new
equipment was brought in to replace toys
that had been at the park since 1968.

The Psi Iota chapter of Beta Sigma Phi
spearheaded the drive to raise funds for the
new equipment. Money came from indi-
viduals, organizations, fund raisers and a
\$13,000 donation from the Hoopeston tax
increment financing (TIF) fund.

"This is going to add a lot to the park,"
said Mayor Chalmers Flint on Saturday as
he took a break from shoveling pea gravel.
"It's a boost to the city."

Psi Iota members are excited about com-
pleting their project, which began in 2001,
and were pleased with the equipment. "It's
HUGE," said member Leslie Shore. "This
is going to be great for the kids."

The equipment includes swings, slides
and several places to climb, crawl and
hang. It is handicapped accessible and is
built on top of specially-made mulch that is
safer for children.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony, complete
with balloons and cake, is planned for 5
p.m. Monday.

The old playground equipment was re-
moved from McFerren Park a few weeks
ago and was installed in other city parks.

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Police News



Mary E. Kissell, 19, of Loda, was ticketed for operating an uninsured motor vehicle after an accident at 12:37 p.m. Thursday.

Police said Kissell, in a 1990 Mercury, was at Parkview Court when she backed into a parked Geo owned by Nicole Swartz of Hoopeston.

Kissell was released on her driver's license.

A **red Huffy** bicycle with training wheels was found Thursday in the 900 block of South Second Ave. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

John R. Gilliss, 27, of 209 Harrison, Rossville, turned himself in to police at 6:08 p.m. Thursday.

Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, he was released

on \$73 cash bond.

Daniel J. Crowley, 23, of 715 E. Thompson, was arrested at 10:33 p.m. Thursday at McDonald's, 1016 W. Orange. He was charged with aggravated domestic battery on a complaint from a 46-year-old Hoopeston man who alleged Crowley struck him in the back of the head with a rock. The man was treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Crowley was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await a hearing.

Jessica L. Roberts, 21, of 201 S. Johnson, Rankin, was arrested at 1:40 a.m. Friday at Fourth St. and East Young.

Roberts was charged with possession of a controlled substance after police said they found several bags of a white powdery substance in her vehicle.

She was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await a hearing.

Two people also taken into custody were released without charge.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 8:10 a.m. Friday in the alley of the 800 block of East Washington.

Police said Tonna G. Hofer of Hoopeston, in a 1999 Chevrolet, backed from a driveway into the alley and hit a Mercury van driven by Donald Martin, also of Hoopeston.

Hofer was at fault for improper backing.

Scott T. Gillispie, 27, of 905 E. Young, was arrested at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the police station. He was

Briefly

Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: Monday, Hoopeston shuttle; Tuesday, Bloomington, (leave at 8 a.m.); Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville. For more information or to arrange a ride, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Community center activities include: Monday, ladies bridge, noon; Tuesday, ladies euchre, noon; Thursday, men's coffee 9:30 a.m., men's euchre, noon; Friday, closed.

Music Booster winners

This week's winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: July 28, Barbara Yates; July 29, Karen and Oscar Young; July 30, Cleo Gill; July 31, Richard and Debbie Swartz; Aug. 1, Jack and Jean Thrasher.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today. High 80. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 59. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 83, low 63.

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

charged with residential burglary, auto theft and criminal damage to property over \$300 in connection with an incident July 4 in the 600 block of East Lincoln.

Gillispie was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Rachel L. Mikel, 16, of Rossville, was ticketed for improper lane usage after an accident at 11 a.m. Saturday in the 800 block of East Orange.

Police said Mikel, in a 1991 Chevrolet, leaned over to pick up something, ran off the road and hit a mailbox owned by Louise Lawson of Hoopeston.

A **silver**, 20 inch Roadmaster bike was reported stolen Saturday from McFerren Park.

Sergio L. Vargas, 19, of 203 S. Sixth St., Ambia, Ind., was arrested at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, charged with retail theft after he allegedly tried to take beer from Convenience, 714 W. Orange.

He was released on \$100 cash bond.

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Sliding in the slide

Volunteer Ross Swartz, lying down, guides slide supports into holes as other volunteers steady the slide. The construction took place during Playground Project's first build day Saturday.