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Hoopeston librarian Lou Graham talks about her experience at a Dr. Martin Luther King rally in Chicago at a presentation Monday evening at Hoopeston Public Library. The event also featured Americorps VISTA volunteer Jean Minick and members of the Mayor's Youth Council, pictured along with Graham. From left are Callie Huffman, Jacy Samet, Emily Warner and Elizabeth Booher.

King's service lives on in area youth, those who heard him

Lou Graham was just 22 years old when she and two friends traveled to Chicago's Soldier Field to hear Dr. Martin Luther King speak.

It was hot on July 10, 1966 when Graham and her friends made the trek to Chicago. "We were in our Sunday best because that's how you traveled back then," she told those attending a presentation marking Martin Lu-

ther King Day.

The presentation, sponsored by Americorps VISTA volunteer Jean Minick and the Hoopeston Mayor's Youth Council, was held Monday evening at the Hoopeston Public Library. Approximately 15 people attended.

See KING on other side

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Letters to the Editor

Thank you to everyone who made the 2007 Grant Township Miracle Tree program a success. Churches, students, civic groups, social clubs, individuals, families, businesses and so many others worked together to provide a happier Christmas for children in our community who otherwise may have missed the joy of being a child

at Christmas time. We are blessed to be a part of the community of Hoopeson where loving, caring and sharing are parts of the way of life of those who live here. Thank you so very, very much to all who were a part of the success of this program.

Grant Township Miracle Tree Volunteers

Police News

Cameron R. Prouse, 17, of Hoopeson was arrested after a disturbance at 12:10 a.m. Monday in the 500 block of West Penn.

He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from an 18-year-old Hoopeson woman.

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

Ralph M. Plecker, 38, of Hoopeson, was arrested after an incident at 7:19 p.m. Monday in the 400 block of West Lincoln.

He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 28-year-old woman.

Plecker was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville, to await arraignment.

King continued from other side

Graham remembers hearing Mahalia Jackson and Peter, Paul and Mary perform. "There was also a young man named Stevie Wonder," she said, adding that she didn't remember his performance.

Graham was one of about 40,000 people who braved the 98 degree temperature to hear King speak that day. She remembers him urging the crowd not to be violent, to set a good example and to do the best at whatever job each was called to do.

Leaving Soldier Field, Graham said she was struck by the number of school buses in the parking lot, buses that had been used to bring church groups to the rally.

After he spoke, King urged the crowd to march with him to Chicago's city hall. Graham did not march, but noted that as she and her friends "got back in the Volkswagen and headed out," they saw groups of African Americans marching, and, as they did so, stopping in vacant lots to pick up broken glass, bricks and other debris, making the area safer for children to play.

King, was born Jan. 15, 1929 and was murdered on April 4, 1968. Ordained as a minister in 1947, King led nonviolent marches against segregation in the south. Among those was the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955-56. In 1953, he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington.

Along with promoting equal rights for African Ameri-

cans, King was also a champion of the poor, which is a connection between the civil rights leader and Hoopeson, Minick said. "We know we have impoverished people here but we don't see them," she said. "Martin Luther King did a lot for a lot of people that other people didn't see."

Reservations being accepted for Sweetheart Banquet

Reservations are being accepted for the 17th annual Senior Citizen Sweetheart Banquet, sponsored by the Hoopeson Area High School Student Council.

The banquet will be held beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14, in the high school gym. Any Hoopeson Area or Rossdale senior citizen may attend.

Reservations, including names and how many will attend in each party, may be made by calling 283-6668 on or before Feb. 8.

Weather

Chance of snow today and tonight. High 22, low 3. Tomorrow, sunny. High 15, low 5.

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



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