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Just the Facts

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

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Rossville honors community spirit with annual awards

ROSSVILLE—Rossville Community Organization announced its 2007 Community Award members at its annual banquet held on March 7. This year's awards, based on open community voting went to:

- **Citizen of the Year:** Dick Queen
- **Educator of the Year:** Debra Goodwin
- **Village Employee, Fire Department or Ambulance Personnel:** Bill Smock, Lance Deck, and Lloyd Smith.
- **Educator of the Year:** Debra Goodwin

This years Rossville Hall of Fame Honorees were Richard Schlecht and in memoriam, Winifred "Wini" Yeoman.

RCO Members Awards (awarded to RCO members only) went to:

- **Area Organization:** Rossville Historical Society
- **Volunteer of the Year:** Wendy Dunavan
- **Merchant of the Year:** Smith Antiques
- **Presidents Awards:** Bob Danner, Richard vanBurk, Robert Danner III, and Dennis Price
- **Service Business:** Norton Machines
- **Outstanding Project/Event of the Year:** Christmas in the Village
- **Chairman of the Year:** Kathy Collier, Dick Queen, and Kevin Young for Christmas in the Village

The RCO Community Spirit Challenge Award/Scholarship went to Kayla Potter. This award is based on submission of an essay from a graduating senior residing in the Rossville-Alvin School District who will

See AWARDS on other side

Public invited to meeting on Hoopeston Main Street program

The organizing committee for Hoopeston Main Street will hold a public meeting to involve the community in forming this new community-based organization. It is important we have a minimum of 25 people attending to establish the goal, purpose and vision of Hoopeston Main Street. The only way to represent the plans and needs of the community is to involve the community in the process.

The public meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 20 at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main St. For more information, call the Hoopeston Main Street Office at (217) 283-7873.

Main Street is a community-based, volunteer-driven program and seeking community input will most likely enhance every stage of the process.

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6 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Items to be donated to the local Food Cupboard

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to make your appointment

Curves

912 S. Dixie Highway, Hoopeston

Inspiration, deceit in primary election

If Sen. Barack H. Obama doesn't become our next president, we must give him credit for inspiring the country to exercise some of their God-given freedoms once again.

Millions of Americans have ventured out to cast a ballot during the primary elections. It is sad that some registered voters decided to interfere with the democratic process by crossing over party lines. They chose to vote for the candi-

date they thought would be less likely to win against their party favorite in November. It may backfire.

All Americans should not have to suffer the consequences that usually follow such deceitfulness. I am hoping this chain of unfair practices will be broken if or when Florida and Michigan are allowed to re-vote. I will call it a blessing.

Vera Crozier
Hoopeston

Government should fund useful education

I read with great interest the article about the Illinois Institute For Rural Affairs Conference recently attended by local city representatives. It would have been nice to have a more detailed account of just what was covered at this conference.

Briefly

Calendar winner

The \$100 winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Boosters calendar drawing for March 14 was Mary Kay Swim, Hoopeston.

Softball fundraiser

Hoopeston, Paxton and Danville Monical's will hold a fundraiser for Hoopeston Area Softball on Tuesday, March 18. A flier must be used for the

We are aware of the crisis that we face in rural areas as well as the whole nation in economic matters. The problem won't get solved rehashing what is wrong with the system, but as indicated in the title "finding solutions" is the key to improving our economy.

In our nation approximately 70 percent of black males drop out of school and end up on the streets, and/or in our prison system. Hispanic youth are almost as bad. Until we insure that this problem is straightened out, it is always going to be a big tax on our economic system. Like so many other facets of our lives, we will have to pay to cure it or pay to sustain it as it is. If we have to pay either way, why not the former.

There have been many of our jobs shipped off to foreign countries because of cheaper labor. Evidently, the

great NAFTA Law that was suppose to insure that the people in each country would have their jobs protected, didn't work for us (over 500,000 of our jobs have disappeared since it became effective). Most of the jobs left over require people that are good in math and science, to run the electronic equipment. Manufacturers can't find enough qualified operators for this equipment. Why? Evidently not enough concentrated education in this area.

Why do Japan and other countries excel in these areas of education, and we don't? Their governments fund these programs. Why should their children have that advantage over ours?

Shouldn't our government insure that our children have the adequate education that they need to be employed at whatever jobs are available to them? Granted, a general education is necessary, but are we letting our children down if we don't provide an education that they really need to survive? Surely, if business people can recruit our college students, they could do something to help students in high school to be prepare to fill jobs that do not require a college degree.

With the parent/teacher conference coming up later this month, think about what you would like to see the government and schools do to improve our children's education, which ultimately will improve our economy.

Tom Evans
Hoopeston

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Police News

A 15-year-old juvenile was charged with no valid driver's license after a traffic stop at 11:37 p.m. Saturday at Fifth St. and East Orange. He was released to a parent on a notice to appear.

A 42-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 2:05

Awards continued from other side

attend college in the fall. There were seven applications this year for the \$500 scholarship.

In addition RCO officers for the next two years were installed. They are Kevin Young, president; Dick Queen Vice President; Wendy Dunavan, secretary; Mary Jo Ray, treasurer; and Stacy Nunn, corresponding secretary.

a.m. Sunday that someone damaged her property in the 700 block of East Wyman.

A red and blue 10-speed bicycle was found Sunday in the alley of the 500 block of West Washington. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

A 27-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 3:30 p.m. Sunday that someone damaged his home in the 400 block of East Main.

Weather

Heavy rain today and tonight. High 56, low 37. Tomorrow, chance of rain. High 44, low 30.

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

Classifieds

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