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 **Letters to the Editor** 

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Lee Curry
(217) 304-1084

Theft of prayer may benefit Obama

A note with a prayer written by Illinois Sen. Barack Hussein Obama was stolen by a student of a Jewish seminary, who has since apologized. Obama placed the prayer note into the Western Wall in Jerusalem during a pre-dawn visit Thursday, July 24. He had met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders the previous day as part of his eight-day tour of Europe, Israel, Iraq and Afghanistan.

It is a tradition for prayers and pleas to be placed by worshipers into the 2,000-year old Western Wall.

The theft and an Israeli newspaper's decision to publish the prayer, drew condemnation from a rabbi in charge of the Western Wall, who said, "This sacrilegious action deserves sharp condemnation and represents a desecration of the holy site. Heaven forbid that one should read them or use them in any way."

The contents of the note has also been on web-sites. Although it is unfortunate for Sen. Obama, I hope the revelation of his precious prayer will put the condemnation of his faith to rest.

Vera Crozier
Hoopeston

Compare US history with Iraqi struggle

There has been much discussion about our involvement with the war in Iraq, and their independence. If we look back at the events that took place in our country before, during and after our Revolutionary War, how much can we find that parallels with what has happened in Iraq?

Our Revolutionary War was for more than independence; it was a civil war (against Loyalists/Tories, Indians, plus slaves); it was a world war

against Germans (Hessians) and the British against us and French, Spain and some Indians on our side.

When war did begin with Britain on April 19, 1775, on the greens of Lexington, we did not have any army, arms, food, supplies or a system in place to control and manage an army. This was provided by each individual colony for their own people. Even though we had a Continental Congress, made up by representatives from these colonies, there wasn't any continuity for the whole force and eventually, some colonies cut back on their help.

General Washington's groups of untrained patriots, most of whom signed a one-year contract to their own colony, had to forage around for food and supplies. Many went through the winters with little clothes, no shoes and little to eat. There was much sickness and hygienic conditions were horrendous. There were more casualties from sickness than there were from battle.

There were mistakes made in the beginning. We lost a lot of battles (many deaths and wounded patriots). There were a number of patriot generals that wanted Washington's job, and in most battles, we were outnumbered. Britain ruled the sea and controlled all of our ports. They occupied our main ports of Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Charleston, S.C.

On top of that, nearly 20 percent of the residents were Loyalists (19,000) who fought for Britain. More than 45 percent of the Colonists were neutral and undecided and only about 35 percent of the Colonists agreed with the war. The British had many Indians and paid Hessian mercenaries (29,000) fighting with them. When the theater of war moved to the

See LETTERS on other side

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Photo contributed

Israel Layden, in white karate uniform, finishes a presentation for the Summer Reading Club at the Hoopeston Public Library.

Letters continued from other side

south, in South Carolina alone there were 120 battles between Loyalists and Patriots.

Thomas Paine contributed a couple writings that helped spur interest in independence: "Common Sense" at the beginning of the war and "America in Crisis" a few years later when it was looking really bad for the Patriots.

It wasn't until Ben Franklin convinced the French government to help us out with supplies and sea power that we were able to turn the tide and win.

On August 3, 1783, the Paris Peace Treaty was signed, officially ending the war.

In 1781, a paper was agreed on that all colonies

would accept. That is our Constitution.

The articles within that Constitution were not ratified until June 21, 1788, some 13 years after the Declaration of Independence.

When any nation achieves independence, that is when the work begins. It takes many years for those that become independent to agree how things should be run and it is not easy when there are many people who have different ideas and thoughts about how this should be done.

Our country is a prime example of that.

Thomas Evans
Hoopeston

Okinawan School of Karate does Mini Little Ninjas program

The Hoopeston Public Library hosted a Mini Little Ninjas Karate class for the kids in the summer reading club on July 10th. The class was put on by Mike Webb of the Okinawan School of Karate.

Each child learned skills such as attention, focus

and coordination during the half hour class. Israel Layden, who is one of Webb's students, demonstrated the techniques to help the kids participate in each skill game. Janell Sechrist was also on hand to help run each drill.

HA Class of 1998 announces 10 year reunion information

Hoopeston Area High School graduates of 1998 are getting together after 10 years!

The Class of 1998 reunion will be held over Labor Day Weekend, Saturday, Aug. 30-Sunday, Aug. 31. Classmates and their families are invited to gather August 30 at Cheese Park for a potluck from noon to 3 p.m. Later that night the adults will head to Champaign for more friends, food and fun. We will head back to Hoopeston on August 31.

We are still finalizing all the details in Champaign, but you will want to book your room at the Holiday Inn by July 30 for the discounted rate. Ask for the Hoopeston

Area Class of 1998 Reunion discounted rate.

All the important information is as follows:

Saturday, August 30, 2008 - Sunday, August 31, 2008
Holiday Inn, 1001 Killarney St., Urbana, IL 61801. Hotel Front Desk: 1-217-3287900 | Hotel Fax: 1-217-3287941

Updated information is available on the Class of 1998 Myspace Web site page. For more information, call Evelyn Solis at (830) 237-3307 or Tricia Rayls at (952) 412-3650.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Pizza King . Kitchen help wanted. Daytime 11 a.m.-2 p.m., delivery for night and person with truck or van to pick up supplies on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please apply in person at 111 E. Main St., Hoopeston.

Hoopeston Migrant Head Start is seeking applications for Teachers and Bus Drivers. Bilingual preferred but not required. Send resume to PO Box 136, Wellington, IL 60973 or fax to (815) 984-4500. Call the office (815)984-3706, with any questions. Positions are opened until filled. EOE

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Briefly

Girls basketball practice set

Hoopeston Area 5th and 6th grade girls basketball practice will begin Monday, August 4, from 8-9:30 a.m. at the John Greer gym.

Players must have a physical before they can practice. Please call Suzi Root at 283-7754 with questions.

Police News



The owner of Hoopeston Convenience Food Store, 714 W. Orange, reported at 5:50 a.m. Monday that two people took several containers of alcoholic beverages from the store, then fled without paying for them.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 90, low 70. Tomorrow, high 88, low 68.

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