

**Tuesday is Senior Citizens Day**



**Huge Food Sale**  
Wednesday, Jan. 7 6:30 p.m.  
**Huckleby's Auction**  
208 N. Market, Hoopeston  
All end-date merchandise

*Congratulations!*

**Norma**



**Tacos**  
Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m.  
**Ranch burgers**  
Mondays 5-8 p.m.  
**BJ's Pump**  
Bar & Package Liquor Store

Lourdine Florek  
owner/publisher

**Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>**

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### Letters to the Editor

#### 'Thanks' for Miracle donations

Thank you to all who participated in the success of the 2003 Miracle Tree program. Thank you goes to everyone who took a tag (tags0 from the Miracle Tree at Weber's Drug or the one at Pamida and purchased gifts for a child or children. "Thank you" goes to all those businesses, social clubs, civic organizations, churches or any other organization who lent their support to the Miracle Tree in any way. And a special "Thank You" goes to the management and staff of Weber's Drug Store and Pamida for all their help in collecting and recording the gifts.

The Miracle Tree is a success each year because there are so many loving, caring and giving people in the community of Hoopeston and we sincerely appreciate everyone's contribution again this year, when needs were great and local resources were spread thin.

2003 Miracle Tree Workers

#### Group thanks legislator

The Illinois Coalition for Competitive Telecommuni-

cations (ICCT) recently presented State Senator Dan Rutherford (R-53) with the "Friend of the Consumer Award" for his principled fight to protect consumer interests by voting "No" on Senate Bill 885, SBC's anti-consumer, anti-competitive legislation that would have increased phone rates for Illinois consumers by as much as 70 percent.

Led by SBC president Bill Daley (brother of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley) and a group of influential lobbyists, the phone giant launched an assault on the General Assembly. In 96 hours, SBC rammed this anti-consumer bill through the General Assembly. Hours after the measure hit his desk, Governor Blagojevich signed it into law. Recently, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals rejected SBC's appeal of a federal district court's decision to block Senate Bill 885 from being enacted and agreed that SBC's massive rate-hike law was in violation of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

It is estimated that Illinois consumers save roughly \$300 million a year on their phone bills as a direct result

See LETTERS on other side

### Briefly

#### Tiny Tots

"Green Eggs and Ham" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots story program at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room.

Tiny Tots meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays and is for children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

#### Blood drive

Hoopeston Junior Women's Club will host a blood drive from noon-6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16 at the First Presbyterian Church, 915 E. Orange. To schedule an appointment, call Melissa Johnson, 283-4122 and leave

a message.

Donors are eligible to give if their last blood donation was on or before Nov. 21, 2003.

#### Gun safety kits available

The Hoopeston Police Department is providing free firearm safety kits to residents through a partnership with Project Childsafe, a nationwide firearms safety education program.

The kits, which include a gun lock, are available now. Kits are limited to one per person and will be given away until all 200 are gone.

For information, call (217) 283-5196.

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Additional off sale prices

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Bowling Scores



Thursday Afternoon Ladies	
Standings 12/18/03	
1.	Pla-Mor
	31
	17
2.	Carolynn's
	26
	22
3.	Knuth's
	21
	27
4.	Unger's
	18
	20
High Team Handicap Game: Pla-Mor Lanes 862, Caro-lynn's 813, Knuth's 801; High Team Handicap Series: Pla-Mor Lanes 2,352, Unger's 2,326, Carolynn's 2,294; High Individual Scratch Game: Mona Birch 180, Sharon Potter	

Thursday Night City Men's League	
12/18/03	
1.	Pla-Mor Lanes
	70
	35
2.	Team America

3.	Lazer-N-Lights	66	56
		39	49
			Lawson Products
		61	51
	44		54
4.	Con Agra Store Foods		P.V. Snow Removal
	61		41
	44		64
5.	Tax Service Plus		Team 8



New Books at the Library



Non-fiction:	Ortho's Home Repair Problem Solver..Structural Edi-tion by Robert J. Beckstrom
Complete Bike Book by Chris Sidwells	The Baby Owner's Manual...Operating Instructions, Trouble-Shooting Tips and Advice on First-Year Main-
The Encyclopedia of Country Living: an Old Fash-ioned Recipe Book by Carla Emery	

Obituaries

DECKER - Elmer E. Decker, 86, of rural Milford, died at 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, 2004 at his home. Graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday at Amity Cemetery near Goodwine. Military rites will be accorded by the Cissna Park American Legion Post 527. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Tuesday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home.

FRALEY - Dolores Fraley, 73, of Hoopeston died at 7:45 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004 at Provena United Samaritans Medical Center, Logan campus, Danville. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednes-day at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 9:30-10:15 a.m. Wednesday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Memorials are suggested to the American Lung Asso-ciation or Hoopeston Area Healthcare Foundation.

HUFFMAN - Fern B. Huffman, 92, of Dan-ville died at3:06 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, 2004 at Hoopes-ton Nursing Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center, Danville. Burial will be in Sunset Memorial Park. Visitation will be one hour before services at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Nursing Home or a charity of the donor's choice. Mrs. Huffman was stepmother of Leo Huffman of Hoopes-

tenance by Louis Borgenicht M.D.  
Pottery and Porcelain Ceramics Price Guide edited by Kyle Husfloen  
Seabiscuit: an American Legend by Laura Hillenbrand  
The Chicago Manual of Style (reference)  
Jane Austen: a Companion by Josephine Ross  
Grand Army of the Republic: Dept. of IL: Transcription of the Death Rolls, 1879-1947 (reference)  
Bushwhacked: Life in George W. Bush's America by Molly Ivins  
A Series Way of Wondering: the Ethics of Jesus Imag-ined by Reynolds Price  
Strengthening Your Grip...How to Live Confidently in an Aimless World by Charles R. Swindoll  
Girl Wars: 12 Strategies That Will End Female Bullying by Cheryl Dellasega  
Not Much Just Chillin': The Hidden Lives of Middle Schoolers by Linda Perlstein  
GirlSource: a Book By and For Young Women About Relationships, Rights, Futures, Bodies, Minds, and Souls (young adult)

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- \*Pla-Mor Lanes
- \*Hoopeston Public Library
- \*Hoopeston Express Lube
- \*Downtown Motel
- \*Oat's Bait Shop/BJ's Pump

Rossville

- \*Ole Country Inn
- \*Minuteman
- \*Feedbag
- \*Bray's General Store

Milford

Letters continued from other side

of competition in local phone service. Senate Bill 885 would have significantly raised the rates SBC competi-tors pay to access the local phone network, forcing com-petitors to raise their rates or leave the Illinois market entirely.

Faced with strong political pressure, Senator Ruther-ford demonstrated that he puts people before politics. His vote against SBC's rate-hike legislation made it clear that his top priority in Springfield is to vote in his con-stituents' best interests.

Senator Rutherford's constituents are lucky to have such a principled individual in the legislature fighting to protect their pocketbooks from greedy out-of-state, multi-billion dollar corporations.

Sincerely,  
Melia Carter  
Director of the ICCT

Weather



Sunny today. High 16. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 3. Tomorrow, partly cloudy, chance of snow late. High 23, low 18.  
For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Daytime delivery person needed, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Please apply in person at Pizza King.

HOUSES FOR SALE

House for sale on contract. Call (217) 283-6025 for information.

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