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February's Rossville fire tops local Top 10 stories of 2004

On Feb. 27, many dreams for the village of Rossville went up in the smoke that soared skyward from a fire in the 100 block of South Chicago St.

The fire and its aftermath join to become Just the Facts' number one story of 2004.

Nearly 25 fire departments were called to the village for the fire, that started shortly after 7 p.m. that night. Fire spread to nearly all the buildings on the south side of the block, including the shop and home of Naomi Freeman.

Cleanup of debris began the following week but was halted in May by environmental officials when it was determined that the debris was not considered clean and was being improperly dumped in a private pit. Cleanup continued and refuse was taken to an area landfill.

The cost of taking debris to the landfill raised the cost of clearing the site, a cost born by property owners. Early on after the fire, many said they would not rebuild. However, at the Nov. 15 village board meeting, resident Nancy Dickison said she plans to rebuild and hopes to have a structure that will include a restaurant, community center and shops.

This year's other stop stories include:
2.) After going more than 30 years without asking for



On Feb. 27, members of the Rossville Fire Department battled a nearly block-long blaze on South Chicago St. The fire is this year's top local news story.

one, Hoopeston Area schools asked for - and got - a 90 cent per hundred tax hike.

The board voted in July to seek the referendum and a citizens' group worked to get it passed in the Nov. 2 election.

The money will go into the district education fund, which pays for such things as teacher salaries and educational materials.

3.) The Rossville-Alvin board also put a referendum on the Nov. 2 ballot, asking voters to deactivate the high school. The board voted in August to put the measure on

Hubbard Trail Country Club

New Year's Eve Special

2 rib eye dinners
2 drinks
\$30

Illini Party in the Bar



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School themed bracelets

Blue with Jerker, red with R-A Bobcats, orange with Ill.

Don't go back to school with out them on.

Get them in Global Fashions open Tues-Fri 10-5pm
or Sat 10-2pm or
Country Way Gifts 110 Attica (next to hair place),
open Mon.-Sat. 10-5pm and Sun. noon to 5pm,
usually closed from noon to 1pm for lunch.

New Year's Eve at the Pump!

Win 2 tickets to the Illinois/Ohio State game Jan. 5 & a Hooters gift certificate!


Chances given out free until 11 p.m.

Drawing after midnight. Must be present to win

Maui Club 9-1

Drink Specials

BJ's Pump



Top 10 continued from other side

the ballot. Voters decided 746-418 to allow deactivation. On Dec. 15, R-A students chose which of two high schools - Hoopeston Area or Bismarck-Henning - they would attend. Of 124 students, 90 chose Bismarck-Henning and 34 selected Hoopeston Area.

The issue is far from decided, however, because at the December Rossville Village Board meeting, a group of citizens requested assistance in getting a referendum on the April ballot trying to overturn the previous vote.

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303B E. Main Street
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**Just the Facts
will not be printed**



**Monday, Jan.
3.**



**American Legion
New Year's Eve Party**

with Joe Thrasher & Takeover

8 p.m.-1 a.m.

\$4/person, \$5/couple

American Legion

open New Year's Day at 2 p.m.

Euchre Tournament

4.) Local man Sgt. Brandon Shuler, 22, was injured while serving in Iraq. Schuler was taken to Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he underwent several surgeries on his hip and internal organs. Schuler was later transferred to Georgia to be closer to his unit. He received a Purple Heart for his valor.



Photo submitted

Brandon Schuler receives a Purple Heart from an unidentified Army official. Schuler was wounded in Iraq.

Obituaries

BERRY - Helen Aileen Dalton Berry, 65, of Hoopeston died at 6:32 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 25, 2005 at home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 9-11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Carle Hospice, 2300 N. Vermilion St., Danville, IL 61832.

GADDIS - Visitation for Norville R. "Butch" Gaddis Jr., 57, of Hoopeston will be 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Mr. Gaddis died at 4:23 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, 2004 at home. Burial will be private.

5.) Hometown hero Thad Matta received national and local recognition this year. In July, Matta was chosen as the Ohio State head basketball coach. In October, Matta was the featured speaker at the annual Community Awards banquet. Matta called his welcome a "humbling experience."

6.) The cornerstone of economic development at the intersection of Rtes. 1 and 9 failed to materialize this year when a developer opted not to build a motel there, choosing instead to construct a motel in a larger city. Getting a motel in the city was one of Mayor Chalmers Flint's goals when he ran for office. He called the developer's decision "sad for the city of Hoopeston."

7.) A group of area men showed true neighborliness in September when they harvested Dick and Sandi Wilson's crops around the Rossville area. Mr. Wilson was being treated for cancer at the time and subsequently succumbed to the disease.

8.) Drug stores were in the news in 2004 when Roger

Police News



A **73-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Monday that someone damaged his mailbox in the 700 block of Trego Dr.

Weather



Chance of drizzle today. High 44. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 34. Tomorrow, chance of rain. High 49, low 40.

For current weather conditions, call **Hoop-**

Ball announced in May that Weber's Drug Store would close after 88 years in business. Ball moved to Pamida which added a pharmacy. Also this year, CVS opened a new store in August at the intersection of Rtes. 1 and 9.

9.) After 104 years in Hoopeston, the local Order of the Eastern Star closed, its membership merging with the Watseka group. Chapter 448 was formed in 1900.

10.) For the first time in its history, National Sweetcorn Festival officials crowned two women Miss Hoopeston. Brittany Buss was crowned in January at the annual DSA Banquet. She resigned and Anna Reutter was crowned in March.

WALLY'S PUB

119 S. Chicago, Rossville

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New Year's Eve Open Noon-1:30 a.m.

Dinner 5 p.m. Now taking reservations

Prime rib, Fillet Mignon, Grilled Whole

Lobster, Fish, Chicken, Seafood

Radacal Express Karaoke/DJ

Classifieds

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