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Paul and Betty Eckert  
have been married for 50 years!  
What a great reason to celebrate!  
Danny & Pat, Diane & Terry and families  
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February 27, 2005 from 2-4pm

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### Indiana police arrest area residents for meth, ingredients

WEST LAFAYETTE, IND—Five Illinois residents, including three from Hoopeston and one from Rossville, were arrested late Monday and early Tuesday on methamphetamine-related charges.

The Lafayette Journal and Courier reported Wednesday that the arrests were made after two unrelated traffic stops. The first stop was made at approximately 11:30 p.m. Monday after an off-duty police officer saw a man acting suspiciously at a pharmacy and reported it to on-duty officers.

A short time later, police stopped a green Ford minivan and allegedly found 110 pseudoephedrine (cold) tablets and other ingredients used to make meth.

See METH on other side

### Hoopeston police release 2004 crime statistics, comparison

Last year was one that saw some crimes increasing and others decreasing in Hoopeston.

Crime statistics for 2004, released by the Hoopeston Police Department, show fewer sexual assaults, thefts, auto thefts, acts of vandalism and traffic accidents.

Numbers for murder, robbery, domestic battery, aggravated battery, burglary and arson rose in 2004.

Increases and decreases were minor in most categories but the number of acts of vandalism dropped markedly, from 116 in 2003 to 86 last year. Chief Mark Drollinger credited officers' strategic patrol with lowering the number.

Drollinger believes there is a correlation between one statistic and meth use in the community. The number of domestic batteries was at 28, up from 24 in 2003. "I

YEAR/CRIME	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Murder	1	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault	3	5	0	4	3
Robbery	1	0	0	1	1
Domestic Battery*	28	24	27	19	16
Aggravated Battery	21	14	20	27	26
Total	54	40	47	45	46
Burglary	48	40	52	52	56
Theft	133	138	176	134	163
Auto Theft	6	12	4	11	8
Arson	2	1	0	1	2
Vandalism	86	116	105	138	165
Total	274	307	337	336	394
Drug Arrests	39	45	35	29	27
Traffic Accidents	131	141	150	174	157

\*Domestic battery that also included aggravated battery not reflected in totals.

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every Thursday  
7 p.m.

**Hoopeston American Legion**  
502 E. Penn



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Bowl**

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the Place for  
**United Community Fund**  
Saturday, Feb. 26

8 -12

\$15 per person  
Music by Sweet Emotions  
(Cory Birch)

Silent Auction

50/50 drawing

For information or to reserve your

See CRIME on other side

### *Crime* continued from other side

have to think domestic batteries goes along with our meth problem," he said.

Police report many crimes on a Uniform Crime Report to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The FBI then releases reports to police departments showing statistics for those crimes.

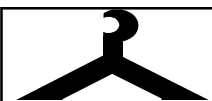
The 2004 Crime Index/Crime Rate Comparison for 2004/2003 shows that:

- Hoopeston's population decreased from 5,874 to 5,825.
- The Total Crime Index rose 1.9 percent, from 211 in 2003 to 215 last year.
- Arrests were up 42.9 percent, with 50 last year compared to 35 in 2003.
- Total drug arrests remained stable with 45 each year. Arrests for violations of the Cannabis Control Act went down one, to 18 last year and down two - to 20 - for the Controlled Substances Act.

### *Meth* continued from other side

Arrested during that stop were:

- Anthony D. Wooten, 25, of Hoopeston, charged with suspicion of possession of meth precursors and dealing/manufacturing meth.
  - Jacquelyn Rife, 23, of Hoopeston, charged with suspicion of possession of meth precursors and dealing/manufacturing meth.
  - Renee M. Chandler, 31, of Hoopeston on suspicion of possession of meth and meth precursors.
- At about 2 a.m. Tuesday, during the investiga-



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### *Briefly*

#### **Birthday Open House**

An 80th Birthday Open House for Jim Good will be held from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 26 at the Masonic Lodge. No gifts, please.

#### **Winners**

February winners in the Women Making a Difference drawing are: \$25, Frances Long and Diane Swartz; \$15, George Jones and Tom Roberts; and \$10, Sue Williamson and Jean Lockhart.

#### **Obituaries**

SWANSON - Frances C. Swanson, 95, formerly of Hoopeston died at 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2005 at Asta Care Center of Ford County, Paxton. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Locust Grove Cemetery near Boswell, Ind. Visitation will be one hour before services Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

tion, police stopped a Chevrolet Camaro and, after using a police dog, allegedly found about 150 pseudoephedrine tabs and other meth ingredients. Arrested in that stop were:

- Justin D. Bernard, 24, of Rossville on possession of meth precursors.
- Jason P. Fairchild, 27, of Danville on suspicion of possession of meth precursors.

All were being held in the Tippecanoe County Jail.

The paper quoted an Indiana police officer saying more Illinois residents are going to Indiana to purchase meth-making supplies because of a new Illinois law that mandates residents must show identification or a doctor's order to purchase products containing

#### **Weather**



Chance of snow today. High 36. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 24. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 37, low 22.

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

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