

Hoopeston Fire Department's 84th Annual
FIREMANS BALL
 Saturday, March 21 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
 Doors open at 7:30 p.m.
 McFerren Park Civic Center
 Music by **Generation II**
 Tickets \$5/person
 Must be 21 to get in

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 6/7 Mackinac Island \$555. pp - 5 Nts.
 9/13 Deadwood, S.D. \$570. pp-6 Nts.
 10/4 Cherokee, N.C./Gatlinburg, TN \$800. pp-6Nts.
 Movies, Bingo, Comedians & Music on the Bus!
 Pick up flyers at L&M or Hennings for list.
 Call Carolyn for details 217-283-7406

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Community leaders learn about changing rural economy

PEORIA—Rural Illinois is changing and can no longer depend on traditional economic development methods. Community leaders must look for new and innovative practices that take advantage of local assets. Entrepreneurship and new technologies are being put to use in rural areas to build new models of prosperity.

Community leaders, including Gail Lane, Tami Goin, Carol Hicks, Jean Minick, Judi Benjamin and Dana Goodrum from Hoopeston, recently learned about these approaches at the 20th Annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference: *Promoting a Rural*
 See **ECONOMY** on other side



Photo courtesy of Carl Ankenbrand

Inducted

Hoopeston Area High School inducted new members into the National Honor Society on Sunday. Pictured are, front row, from left, Erica Ramos, Katana Byers, Elizabeth Ballengee, Katelin Sheppard, Ashley Stebbins, Shelby Olson, Betsy Wagoner; and back, Nick Grant, Tate Compton, Sam Umbanhowar, Brad Lawson, Clayton Snyder, Jason Leigh, Garrett Smith, Matt Morgeson and Jonathan Haley. Not pictured: Matt Warner.


Kelley's Pub & Grub
 Great Food, Great Fun, Good Times!
Join us Tuesday for
Corned Beef & Cabbage!
 225 E. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-7900

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Masonic Lodge 709 AF & AM

BREAKFAST
Saturday, March 21
5:30 a.m.-11 a.m.
Serving Eggs & Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy
Juice; Coffee or Milk
\$5
Masonic Temple, Rt. 9 & First Ave.

FLAME in CONCERT
 March 21, 2009




Reserve your tickets NOW!!

Where: Danville High School Auditorium
When: 6:30 PM (Doors open at 5:30 PM)
Tickets: \$5.00 in advance/\$7.00 at the door—Tickets can be purchased at the Danville Family YMCA's front desk.
For information/tickets, contact:
 Kimberly David: (217) 822-2580 / kdavid@vcprojectsuccess.org
 Janna Durkee: (217) 431-0987 / Janna@womens-careclinic.org
 Check out Flame at www.flame314.com or <http://www.myspace.com/flame314> **Sound by MB Music & Sound**

Briefly

Open house/After hours
 The Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce would like to invite everyone to attend the Chamber After Hours and Open House at the Hoopeston Regional Healthcare Center on Wednesday, March 18 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in the Community Room. This will be a great opportunity to meet the new CEO Harry Brockus and his staff. Refreshments will be served and everyone can sign up for the \$25.00 Chamber Bucks give away.

Storm spotter training
 A storm spotter class will be offered from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday, Mar. 21 at Hoopeston City Hall,

Police News 

A **58-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 3:32 p.m. Sunday that the light to her garage was on and the door unlocked when she awoke. It is unknown if anything was taken.

A **set of keys** was found at Hoopeston Convenience Friday and turned in to police Sunday. The owner may identify and claim them at the police station.

Economy continued from other side
Renaissance held in Peoria.

The conference featured speakers on rural development from across the country. Sponsored by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University, the Governor's Rural Affairs Council, and Rural Partners, the conference attracted more than 300 participants from throughout the state.

"The conference offered a unique opportunity to hear from national experts in rural development and, at the same time, network with practitioners from throughout Illinois," said Christopher Merrett, IIRA director.

Don Macke of the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship opened the conference with a discussion of community foundations. David Ivan, Michigan State University Extension, presented three sessions on ways to make small towns "cool" to build long-term sustainability. Sam Cordes of Purdue University addressed the anticipated changes in rural policy

301 W. Main. The class is free and open to anyone wanting to be a volunteer storm spotter in Hoopeston and Vermilion County.

Baked potato/salad fundraiser
 Hoopeston United Methodist Church, 403 E. Main, will host a Baked Potato Dinner and Salad Bar from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, March 22. Freewill donations will be accepted to benefit Hoopeston Area Appalachian Service Project Youth Group.

BB/BS starts new program
 Each year many children in Vermilion County are being raised by a single parent or grand parents due


Obituaries

DANIEL - Jessie B. "Boots" Daniel, 89, of Hoopeston, died at 3:55 a.m. Sunday, March 15, 2009 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Visitation will be one hour before service at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave., Hoopeston IL 60942.

in the wake of a new presidential administration.

Other conference sessions featured discussions of entrepreneurship, TIF districts, business succession, and financing infrastructure projects.

The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs was created in 1989 to help community leaders find ways to improve the quality of life in rural areas based on research, education, and technical assistance initiatives. It is funded with state, federal, and private support. Information about IIRA and its programs, including upcoming training events is available on the IIRA Web site, www.iira.org.

Weather 

Breezy today. High 70. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 49. Tomorrow, chance of showers. High 62, low 39.

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

to one or both parent's incarceration. Big Brothers Big Sisters can help. We have special provisions for children who are in this situation and who are in the fifth grade or below. Children must attend Honeywell, John Greer or Maple grade schools in Hoopeston or Bismarck Elementary School. One or more parents must be incarcerated in a state or federal penitentiary.

If your child falls under these guidelines please contact Big Brothers Big Sisters at (217) 446-6601 for more information.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

FOR RENT: Hoopeston-Newer Adult complex. 2 bedroom 1 bath. Full basement. Washing machine, refrigerator, stove. Walk to stores. Quiet surroundings. Immediate occupancy. \$475 + deposit, references required. No pets. 217-260-2546.

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking applications for AmeriCorps VISTA Program Coordinator. Review Job description and apply online at www.hoopestonchamber.com under employment opportunities. Applicants MUST apply online by March 30, 2009. Questions? Call 217-283-7873 / 217-377-6705.

HOUSES FOR RENT

East Orange, Hoopeston. 2 BR, garage. No pets. \$475/mo + security deposit. (217) 304-3477

FOR RENT: East Young, 4 bedroom, 1 bath, newly remodeled, large yard, new appliances. \$525 per month + security deposit. For application call 217-283-5475 leave message.

3 BR, 1 bath, garage. Available immediately. \$450/mo. (217) 304-2145

2 bedroom house for rent in on McNeil. Stove and Fridge furnished, no pets. \$425 per month. Deposit and References required. Call 217-304-6547 for application.

2 bedroom house for rent in Rossville. Very nice, new paint, high efficiency furnace, great location. No pets, No Smoking. \$450 per month. Deposit and References required. Call 217-304-6547 for application.

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