

Back buying Gold, Silver
this Saturday in
Global Fashions


Gold's higher so our cash offers will be highest to date. We itemize each piece. Sell us one piece or all.

No appointment required. Bring the whole jewelry box! Gold, broken, wearable, outdated, sterling, old coins 1964 (earlier), paper money, pocket watches, costume, vintage, western jewelry

**"IT'S NOT ABOUT COUNTING THE YEARS,
IT'S ABOUT MAKING THE YEARS COUNT"**

**LICENSED PRESCHOOL
COMING OCTOBER 2009
APRIL JONES & ROBYN LANE**

208 S. 6TH ST.
HOOPESTON, IL 60942
(217) 504-1335 or (217) 304-6183



**The PIT STOP at
EAST LANES**

Tuesday	Chicken & Noodles
Wednesday	Open Bowling All Day
Thursday	Ribeye Sandwich
Friday	Open Bowling All Day
Saturday	Swiss Steak
Sunday	Cod & Ribeye
	Limited Bowling until 9 p.m.
	Prime Rib & Ribeye
	Open Bowling after 1 p.m.
	Open at 1 p.m. Open
	Bowling 1-4

Coming September 26 - Standard Issue
Oct. 3 9 Pin Fundraiser for YOUTH LEAGUE
starting at 6:30 Maui Club starting at 8:30
Black Light Bowling at 9
Oct. 10: ADULT 9 PIN JACKPOT
Signup 6:30, bowl at 7. Pot is \$445!

Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

Just the Facts[©]

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 **www.justthefacts.net**

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348
Email: publish@justthefacts.net

Letters to the Editor

Costly crisis: our collapsing infrastructure

All of us enjoy conveniences this country affords us: running water, easy access to food and goods that make our lives better, electricity and gas to run our convenient appliances, vehicles (cars, trucks, planes, boats, and trains) to take us places on roads from coast to coast, and safety from rising waters. What would we do if these conveniences were not available?

The American Society of Engineers issues an infrastructure report card every three years. These are the results of the last one: solid waste C+, bridges C, the grid (electrical) D+, dams, transit, and schools D, and drinking water, levees, roads, waste water, and inland waterways D-.

If your child came home from school with Ds on their report cards you would be upset. This society estimates that it would take \$2.2 trillion over the next five years to bring our infrastructure up to acceptable levels.

Of the 660,000 bridges in this country, it is estimated that 27% are structurally not functional or obsolete. Most were built 50-70 years ago, with a life expectancy of 50 years. Today these bridges are rusting and crumbling away, and many will collapse in the next 10 years. Bridge building and maintenance has been put off for many years and there has been great erosion by ice, salt and rust. The increase in volume and weight on these bridges is more than they were designed for. We do not have enough safety bridge inspectors to examine these bridges. When our infrastructure was built 50 or more years ago, the budget for it was 11%. For many years we have budgeted only 2-3% to maintain it, so it will be necessary to budget 10 times that amount to bring things back in order. China allocates 9% and India 8%, both have far less infrastructure to maintain than the USA does.

One such bridge across the Mississippi at I-35W in Minneapolis collapsed in 2007 and was rebuilt last year. The first one, like so many other bridges in this country were built with materials that were not up to code, even for low traffic in that era and definitely not for the amount of traffic today. The new bridge was built with a new concrete additive that is supposed to strengthen the bridge (it is expected to last more than 100 years) and there are 300 sensors to collect data that will record how it is handling the stresses/strain, so maintenance can be performed when it first becomes a problem.

There are 4 millions miles of road across this country, and 47 thousand miles are interstate roads built in the 1950-70s. Americans drive 3 trillion miles each year, a 500% increase since 1955. Thirty three per cent of these roads are in poor or mediocre condition. If we allow our interstate system to collapse, not only will we suffer from the lack of speedy purchases from coast to coast, but perishable produce will not be available throughout the year. We will revert back to the way it was before the 1950s when the interstate system was built, which made our nation the leading supplier of goods throughout the world.

We are familiar with the failed levee system in New Orleans - that is just a fraction of the thousands of miles in this country. The best earthen levees are made up of a combination of sand, silt, and clay, and packed down with steam rollers, by the Army Corps of Engineers. Many levees in our country were made by farmers trying to protect their land and were not made properly with the right materials and process. They are all in danger of being saturated and will break down, flooding the area. The Army Corps of Engineers is not certain exactly how many levees we have, because there wasn't a

See LETTER on other side

**Looking for a bank that's
customer friendly and on the go?**

That's Us!

Community Bank

Hoopeston, Illinois

Your hometown bank since 1913 Member FDIC

221 Bank St. (217) 283-7733 Rts. 1 and 9 283-9723

Visit our website at www.hoopestonbank.com!

Hoopeston American Legion
502 W. Penn

Texas Hold 'Em

Sunday, September 20, 2009
Open at Noon, Play at 1 p.m.
\$50 buy-in, \$25 add on

**HOOPESTON ROCK
SERVICE**

**DRIVEWAY & PARKING LOT GRADING
RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL
NEW DRIVEWAY INSTALLATION
ROCK & DIRT**

DAN SHEEHAN
217-304-5052
www.hoopestonrockngrading.com

2nd Annual
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
Saturday, Sept. 26 2 p.m.
Open to 1st 20 teams to sign up - \$15/team
Sign up by Thursday, Sept. 24
\$175 first prize, \$75 second, \$50 third

BJ's Pump

Bar & Package Liquor Store
1023 W. Main, Hoopeston

Letter continued from other side

record of them until the last 10-15 years. They do have a record of 1,776 and more than 100,000 miles in 26 states, many of which are subject to under-seepage because of the permeable mix.

There are 85,000 dams in the USA, with 4,000 being unsafe and, 1,800 of these are high hazard. The state of Texas has 7,400 dams and seven engineers to inspect them, and only 239 dams are inspected each year. Iowa has one full time and one part time inspector to oversee 3,340 dams and they only inspect 128 dams a year. Any dams built on poor lime substrates are subject to water penetrating thousands of feet below or next to the dam, causing the dam's foundation and retaining walls to erode.

There are hidden infrastructure collapses: electrical, water, telephone, aquaduct, and sewage lines underground, and a lot of them we don't know where they are until a break occurs. There are over 860,000 miles of water pipes underground and it is estimated that nation wide 240,000 of these mains burst each year. There are 1 million miles of sewer pipes in this nation that are over 50 years old with many leaks. Nine billion gallons of sewage water is discharged into rivers and waterway across this nation every year. More than 700 cities have inadequate sewer water waste systems that overflow when it rains, sometime as little as one-tenth of an inch. Over 6 billion gallons of water are wasted each day. In St. Louis, when there is a lot of rain in the storm sewers the water overflows in with sewage water and dumped in the Mississippi. This will only get worse as these systems age.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the U.S. has built 10,000 power plants and 160,000 miles of high voltage lines. There are 160 million power line poles in this nation that can tilt, causing the lines to droop, creating a short and power outages. The average American experiences 214 minutes of blackout time each year, compared to 70 for Britain and six in Japan. Those numbers are likely to increase if our power companies don't improve their systems. The demand for electricity has spiked at 15% in the last decade, but construction of new lines has lagged. If the demand for electricity increases 20% in the next 10 years, which it is expected to do, and the super electrical highway carrying electricity only increases 6-7%, then we are going to have a big problem.

Since the year 2000, Deerfield has had nearly 1,400 blackouts, averaging 200 a year. Only 13% of these out-

ages were weather related, and the main reasons were: underground failure, malfunctions, loose connections, deterioration, and transformer failure.

This is the 21st century. We have sent men to the moon, developed medicine to cure some diseases that used to kill thousands, and we can view pictures from places instantly from around the world. If we can do all this electronically, much by computer, why can't we build a monitor for each individual customer, so an outage would be instantly detected by our power companies? Power companies must modernize and become more reliable, then maybe, when they ask for a rate increase, they will have earned it.

The US Freight Railroad System has approximately 200,000 miles of track utilizing about 700 million railroad ties. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates that and average of 17-19 million wood ties are replaced each year. It is estimated that the railroad industry spends \$900 million annually on these replacements, and that nearly \$250 billion has been spent for overhaul of the railroad infrastructure since 1980.

Freight and transit rail companies have purchased and successfully installed more than 200,000 plastic railroad cross ties. This technology was developed by Rutgers University and pioneered by Axion's management team. These crossties have been tested at the American Association of Railroads Test Track Facility in Pueblo, Colo., and also have been in service for over 10 years. Axion crossties, due to their material composition may last up to 800% longer than conventional creosote-treated wood ties. These ties are non-toxic, non-corrosive, and 100% recyclable, reducing a major cost burden for the railroad industry that they experience in the disposal of creosote contaminated wood ties. Size, and thickness is improved also, which lead to easier replacement.

The technology for these ties is one example of what can be done to improve and make safe this country's infrastructure, but we have to spend the necessary funds to insure that these discoveries are found, and that they are used to bring our infrastructure back to a safe level. If our government does not allocate more than 2.5% of the annual budget to fix our infrastructure, it is going to continue to collapse and eventually it will reach a tipping point.

No matter what side of the aisle our senators and rep-

resentatives sit on, this subject must be addressed, and soon. To a common taxpayer it appears that the members of our government have not been thinking long term on most issues they vote on. They want a feather in their hat and are eager to tack their name on any spending bill that is going to build something, but when it comes time to spend money on maintaining what has

Area youngsters compete in state finals bowling tournament

Area youth who bowl on Saturday mornings finished well in state competition. Held in Lockport and Champaign, the youth showed they not only are the future of bowling but are learning at a young age.

Gage Glotzbach, Chase Milner, Savannah Lane and Lauryn Edwards all advanced to the finals in the 11-under division.

Participating in the 12-18 class were Kaylyn Sanford, Ethan Linder, Daniel Linder, Jordan Carter, Shannia Goble, Ryan Glotzbach, Bobby Gossett and Cody Wilson.

Fast Lanes is again starting its Saturday Morning League at 10 a.m. September 19. The league consists of four-person teams in age groups of 6-12 and 13-

Obituaries

GILPIN - Sammie Edward Gilpin, 66, of Claytonville, died at 6:55 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, 2009, at home. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to American Cancer Society, 2509 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820; American Diabetes Association, 30 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2015, Chicago, IL 60602; Iroquois Memorial Hospice, 200 Laird Lane, Watseka, IL 60970; or Cissna Park American Legion, 123 S. Second, Cissna Park, IL, 60924

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 77. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 54. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 76, low 55.

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

already been built, they can't be found. Their short term thinking has only one goal, and that is to just get by until the next election. To that, I accuse all members of our government to be selfish and not really good servants of this nation.

Tom Evans
Hoopeston

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is taking applications for qualified teachers. Applicants are required to have at least two years of college or have equivalent experience and credentials. They also must be at least 19 years of age. Please bring resume and unofficial transcripts to the Rossville High School building. For more information please call Ashley Dobkins at 217-748-6370.

HOUSES FOR RENT

Rossville: 204 Church. 2 BR. \$425/mo.+ deposit. No pets. Available immediately. For application, call (217) 304-3477

HOUSES FOR SALE

3 Bedroom house in Hoopeston. Large lot, 2 car garage, central air, vinyl siding, new roof, updated paint and flooring. Priced well below appraisal at \$48,000.No Contracts. For a private showing and more information call 217-304-6547.

Hoopeston. By owner. Good location. 2 story, 3-4 BR, 2.5 bath. Convenient upstairs laundry & floor plan. Central air, new furnace. \$39,000 firm. (217) 377-6741 for showing.

2 story, 3-4 BR house on corner lot in Rossville. Great neighborhood, 1 block from grade school. Asking \$29,500. Will consider selling on contract. Call (217) 213-1400

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1995 Buick Regal. Runs excellent. Great car for work or teen! Very well maintained. (217) 339-2328

Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!