

G<sub>2</sub> A<sub>1</sub> M<sub>3</sub> E<sub>1</sub> N<sub>1</sub> I<sub>1</sub> G<sub>2</sub> H<sub>4</sub>

December 31st Bring an appetizer!



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Wednesday, December 30, 2015

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Army veteran Tony Johnson models a sweatshirt given to him by Hoopeston American Legion Post 384's Gifts to the Yanks program. Pictured are, front from left, Crystal Bivans, Johnson and Yolanda Yazzie; middle, Marilyn Unger, Denise Bray and Bob Duffin; and back, Steve Unger.

## Local veterans remembered with special Christmas gifts

'Twas the 18th of December and at Heritage Health A group of Christmas elves were practicing their stealth. They roamed the long hallways looking for vets Honoring their service, which nobody forgets.

The above poem will never be as famous as "The

See GIFTS on other side."

#### VFW Post 4826

NO TACOS again until Thursday Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 2016. Thank you for all your support. Happy Holidays from VFW Post 4826 Post Members, Auxiliary Members and Staff!!

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Tues.: BBQ Pulled Pork sandwich, slaw, chips Wed.: Country Fried Steak, mashed potatoes,

green beans

Thurs.: Ribeye Sandwiches & Broccoli/Cauli Salad New Year's Eve: Steak & Chicken Dinners, DJ 9-1

Fri.: NO FOOD. Open at 5 p.m.-1 a.m.

#### **Gifts** continued from other side

Night Before Christmas, but it sums up what a group of volunteers from Hoopeston American Legion did for veterans at Heritage Health and Autumn Fields.

On December 18, Legion members Steve Unger and Bob Duffin, accompanied by Marilyn Unger and elves Denise Bray, Yolanda Yazzie and Crystal Bivans, delivered special packages to 14 local veterans, as part of the Gifts for Yanks program.

At Heritage Health, Army veteran Tony Johnson was first to receive his gifts. Along with personal care items, Johnson received a warm, soft sweatshirt, emblazoned with "Army" and the Army logo.

The other veterans received similar shirts, each decorated with the name and logo of the branch in which they served.

Gifts to the Yanks was started in 1944 to remember hospitalized war veterans, Unger said. The American Legion Department of Illinois has maintained the program since its inception, delivering gifts annually to veteran patients at Veterans Administration hospitals, as well as extended care facilities throughout the state.

Locally, Post 384, along with Sons of the American legion, 40/8 and 8/40 contributes to the program, raising \$800 to \$900 annually to purchase gifts for local veterans and contribute to the state effort. "our local American Legion has been one of the top contributors to this program for many years," Unger said.

Gifts for Yanks is not funded solely by those affiliated with the Legion. Individuals, businesses and other veterans' organizations also donate to the cause.

"We collect all year, but right after Thanksgiving, we make a push until Christmas, with our membership to collect funds," Unger said. Around the Legion, cards are displayed with the names of those who contribute.

All money collected goes to veterans. Volunteers select, purchase, wrap and deliver gifts to veterans.

## -Briefly

#### **Christmas closings**

- Hoopeston American Legion will not have bingo on Thursday and will be closed Friday for New Year's Day. It will be open Thursday night for Game Night.
- Hoopeston Public Library will be closed Thursday through Saturday in observance of the New Year's holiday. It will reopen with regular hours on Monday, Jan. 4.
- Just the Facts will not be printed Friday and Monday.

#### **Obituaries**

BRUNER - Evelyn Joan (Hamilton) Bruner, 80, of Tolono, formerly of Hoopeston and Rossville areas, died at 11:25 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, at Champaign County Nursing Home, Urbana. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until the 11 a.m. service at Sunset Funeral Home 7 Cremation Center, Danville. Burial will be in Potomac Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Alzheimer's Association.

**McCLURE** - David Lee McCluare, 78, of Parsippany, N.J., formerly of Hoopeston, died at 3:05 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27 2015. Arrangements are pending at Blurton Funeral Home. Hoopeston.

#### Weather

Chance of snow today. High 36. Tonight, cloudy. Low 25. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 30, low 18.

A general shopping list is available to choose gifts, including jobbing suits, fleece cardigan, gift bag and fleece blanket. This year, the post chose fleece-lined sweatshirts and supplemented that fit with items like socks, hats, toothpaste, soap, lotion and other items.

Anyone who would like to help get a head start on the 2016 program may mail or drop off checks or cash at the Legion, 502 E. Penn. Checks should include Gifts to the Yanks in the memo.

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