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Friday, Dec. 22, 1995  
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## Santa Claus hitching up for sleigh ride to Hoopeston area

The reindeer are getting extra portions of hay these next few days in preparation for Santa Claus' annual trip to the area.

Santa will be busy delivering toys and other gifts to lots of local children. "Kids have been pretty well-behaved this year," Santa said. "And they're pretty consistent on what they want."

Especially popular this year are the Holiday Barbie and Teacher Barbie for girls and Power Rangers for boys, "although occasionally, you find a little girl who wants a (Power Ranger) and boys occasionally want a doll," Santa said.

The Barbies are especially hard to find this year, Santa said, adding he has told children there are not enough elves to make all the toys and Santa, like other shoppers, is having a difficult time locating the dolls. "If we can get them, they'll get them," he said.

Santa has seen an average of 30 children per day this year at the Santa house on Main St. and has appeared at other local functions, including the Rotary International Christmas party and local grade schools.

Children have expressed curiosity about life at the  
 See **SANTA** on other side

## Christmas is time to reflect on God's love for each of us

**Editor's Note:** the following was written by the Rev. W.T. Harden of the First Christian Church, a reminder of what the Christmas season is really about.

Christmas Day will soon be here. Many will be glad because it is the day they have been waiting for to share the gifts they have purchased for loved ones and friends. Others are glad the day has finally come and will soon be gone for another year. The day for them has too many memories of bad experiences. It's just not a happy time for them regardless of all the beautiful music and the well wishes - to have a Merry Christmas.

But Christmas is deeper than what we experience each year. Christmas is a journey of receiving the Bible story of how Jesus was born in Bethlehem so many years ago of Mary, his birth mother, and Joseph, God's chosen husband of Mary. It's a beautiful story that tells us that God cares about his

creation and that he will help people, but also to provide a way to a whole life in him.

We have surrounded this beautiful story found in Matthew and Luke's gospels with many beautiful songs and stories - that would draw us closer to the real meaning of God's love found in this one - we call Jesus, the Messiah.

God is continually reminding all of us, regardless of where we are, what is happening to us - it doesn't have to be that way. God is offering us change for a better life, to find joy and happiness even in the smallest things or events or even in a person through love.

So what you may think of Christmas - let its story and its music and its well-meaning enter your life. Seek to find the hope and joy it can bring into your life and into your world.

My prayer is that you will have a Merry Christmas and that it will change your life for the rest of your days.



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## Briefly

### Maple program rescheduled

The Maple Elementary School Christmas program, "Not a Creature Was Stirring," has been rescheduled for 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Jan. 4.

The program, featuring first, second and developmental first grade students, was to be held Dec. 19, but was cancelled due to bad weather.

Guests to the program are asked to attend only one of the two performances.

### Santa's here

Santa will be at his house from 2-4 p.m. Friday

and Saturday. The house is on Main St., between Global Fashions and the Paperhouse.

### Food for fines

The Hoopeston Public Library is offering "Food For Fines" during December. Each can of food counts as \$1 toward a fine. Food will be donated to the Grant Township Food Cupboard.

### Holiday closing

Vermilion Waste will be closed Christmas and New Year's Day. Trash pickup will run one day late next week and the following week.

## Obituaries

### BURGE - Alan F. Burge, 41, of Sussex, Wis., formerly of Hoopeston, died at 6 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, 1995, at his residence. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 6-9 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Vermilion County Underwater Search and Rescue Team.

### LOCKHART - Melvyn E. Lockhart, 53, of Hoopeston, died at 10:11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, 1995, at his home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at the United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Friday at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

## Santa continued from other side

North Pole and the reindeer, Santa said. For example, while at John Greer Grade School for the preschool Christmas party, Santa said he left his reindeer at a farmer's house. Onechild then wondered how Santa got to town. "I told him I borrowed the farmer's car," Santa said.

Some of the children Santa has seen this year are the children and grandchildren of those who also once sat on Santa's lap. And those former children, now adults, remember the joy and love that Santa brought and tell him about it. "It kind of gets to you at times," he said.

While the jolly elf expressed pleasure at most children, he commented on the naughty ones who kicked in the door of the Santa house. "They didn't get in, but they didn't do the door any good," Santa said. "I was a little ticked about that."

### Police News

**Michael W. Morgeson, 41, 504 W. Lincoln,** turned himself in to police at 9:45 a.m. Thursday. He was wanted on a Vermilion County warrant and released on \$100 cash bond.

### In the Hospital

**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**  
**Dec. 20, 1995**  
**Admitted:** Hettie Matthews, Hoopeston.  
**Discharged:** Eugene Neathery, Hoopeston.

### Weather

Mostly cloudy today. High in the mid to upper 20s. Tonight, cloudy. Low in the upper teens. Tomorrow, snow flurries. High near 26, low near 18. Sunday and Monday, partly cloudy. Highs near 35, lows near 23.



### Al Mathison

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