

New Year's Eve Dance Hoopeston American Legion

featuring "Smoke River"

Limited tickets available

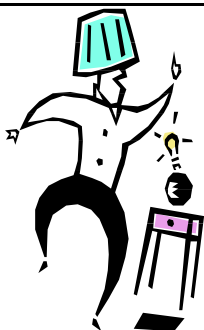
\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door

includes champagne toast at midnight, party favors

For info, call the Legion, (217) 283-6312



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Lourdine Florek
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just

the facts®

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 1996

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

Phone:
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Economic downturn tops leading local news stories of 1996

The loss of jobs - and a town's identity - lead the list of top stories for 1996.

1. Corn canning discontinued

Stokely USA announced in late September that the Hoopeston plant would no longer can corn, switching emphasis to pumpkin canning.

Nine full-time year-round employees were expected to remain at the plant, but 225 seasonal local and migrant workers will not be called to work until mid-September's pumpkin season.

The announcement ended a 120-year plus history of corn in Hoopeston.

2. Silgan to lay off workers

Restructuring at the Hoopeston Silgan Container Corp. plant, announced in September, was to cut nearly one fourth of the plant's workers and half its production lines.

Those most likely to lose their jobs were workers hired after 1987.

Layoffs began late this year and were expected to continue through March 1997.

Silgan Containers purchased the plant from American National Can in August 1995.

3. City to upgrade wastewater plant

Plans to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant began in January with a proposal to purchase approximately 40 acres from Hoopeston Foods. The city purchased the property, which includes a lagoon system, for \$250,000.

The total upgrade is expected to cost \$2.1 million and would increase the amount of wastewater the city treats from 890,000 gallons per day to 1.3 million gallons per day.

The upgrade is on-going.

4. Two students killed in car accident

Two Hoopeston Area High School students, Doug Layden and Andrea Epps, both 16, died Nov. 1 in a car

accident north of Hoopeston in Iroquois County.

Miss Epps, who was driving, lost control of her vehicle on a gravel road.

The deaths sent shock waves through the community. Students gathered at the accident site to place a memorial wreath and hundreds attended funeral services for the youngsters.

5. Chronicle files suit against city

Alleging violations of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, the Hoopeston Chronicle in June filed suit against city officials for closing a portion of a June 3 revolving loan fund.

The suit came after Vermilion County State's Attorney Michael Clary did not rule against the city on a complaint filed by the paper. Clary instead requested an opinion from the Illinois Attorney General's office because the Open Meetings Act conflicts with the state's Small Business Development Act regarding confidentiality of loan applicant information.

A Vermilion County Circuit Judge ruled last week that three arguments for their actions, put forth by the city, are invalid, but gave city attorneys 28 days to present new reasons.

Meanwhile, an opinion will not be forthcoming from the Attorney General's office until the legal issue is decided.

6. Library to share Internet grant

The Hoopeston Public Library is one of five that will share an \$88,000 grant allowing it to become a spot on the Information Superhighway.

The state grant will allow the library to offer information on Hoopeston businesses and organizations and will allow patrons to access the Internet.

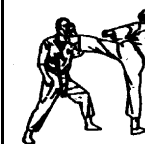
See NEWS on other side

News continued from other side

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Begin the New Year
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Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert

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728 W. Penn, Hoopeston
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Steak Fry

Friday, Jan. 3

5:30-8 p.m.

American Legion

502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

Steak - \$10 Chicken - \$7



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7. Long-time police officer retires

After 35 years on the force, Police Chief Orval Kaag announced in July that he would retire from the force.

Kaag's retirement is effective Jan. 3. Kaag resigned in order to take a job at Schumacher Electric which will allow him to make up lost Social Security quarters.

Sgt. Joe Gaffney, a 25-year veteran of the force, was named interim chief until a permanent replacement is selected.

8. Minister retires, moves to Ohio

The Rev. W.T. Harden, a long-time Hoopeston minister, announced in June that he would leave his flock at the First Christian Church and move to Ohio to be closer to family.

Harden first came to Hoopeston in 1963, left in 1968 and returned in 1978. He spent 40 years in the ministry before he retired.

9. HA drops from reorganization talks

Discussion on school reorganization in the northern part of Vermilion County will not include Hoopeston Area schools.

The district dropped out of talks in August after other

districts focused on reorganization options that did not include Hoopeston schools.

While dropping out of talks, HA kept its options open by wanting to continue discussion with its closest neighbor, Rossville-Alvin. The two districts currently share programs.

10. High tech comes to high school

The second of two high-tech stories to make the top 10, in December, Hoopeston Area officials announced the high school was connected to the Internet. Limited to student use at first, the technology will be open to residents in early 1997.

In related news, officials announced in May that the school will have its own television station, channel 41. Work on that is still underway and the channel is expected to be on the air in early 1997.

Court dispositions



Dec. 19: Titus Barber, Hoopeston, liquor violation, pleaded guilty; \$95 total.

Joseph Cannon, Hoopeston, battery, failed to appear; summons issued.

Everett Ealy, Hoopeston, deceptive practice, \$167.24 restitution, pleaded guilty; \$45 total, restitution paid.

Sandra Esquivel, Hoopeston, disorderly conduct, continued.

Shanna Garcia, Hoopeston, disorderly conduct, continued.

Stuart Galloway, Hoopeston, trespassing, pleaded not guilty; trial Feb. 20.

Obituaries

BURTON - William G. "Buddy" Burton, 48, of Hoopeston, died at 11:25 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, 1996, at his residence. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial, with military rites, will be in Danville National Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour before services at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the Westside Church of the Nazarene.

In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Dec. 26, 1996

Admitted: Virginia Songer, Bennie Blankenship and Alice Sharp, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Dec. 27, 1996

Admitted: Patricia Walker, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Evelyn Beckman, Hoopeston.

Dec. 28, 1996

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Alice Sharp, Hoopeston.

Dec. 29, 1996

Admitted: Lilly Gaston and Mabel Deck, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Mostly cloudy today. High in the mid 40s. Tonight, a chance of rain. Low in the mid 30s. Tomorrow, scattered showers and sun. high near 49, low near 36.

Performance

Diesel Service

7586 E. 4200 North Rd.

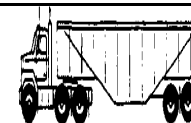
¼ mile north of East Lynn

(217) 375-4429

(800) 229-2417

Greg Samet

Bob Marshall



Wolfe Funeral Home

907 W. Main St.

Hoopeston, IL.

(217) 283-5088

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