

## Merita's Family Restaurant

Wishing you Happy Holidays  
From Ozzie And Staff



Open Christmas Day  
6 a.m.-2 p.m.




### After Christmas Sale

Save up to **50% off**  
select items

### Olympic Hardware

516 N. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston

*You are cordially invited  
to an Open House in honor of  
Mr. Larry D. Oyler  
in honor of his retirement.  
The Open House will be held  
Tuesday, Dec. 29 from  
10 a.m. to noon and 1 - 3 p.m.  
at the Community Bank Main  
Office, 221 Bank St., Hoopeston, IL*  
**Hoopeston's  
Community Bank**  **Member FDIC**

Lourdine Florek  
owner/publisher

## Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

Phone/Fax:  
(217) 283-9348  
Email:

[publisher@justthefacts.tm](mailto:publisher@justthefacts.tm)

**Thursday, Dec. 24, 1998**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942**

**[www.justthefacts.tm](http://www.justthefacts.tm)**



### Letter to the Editor



### Ghosts of Christmas past bring man home

Editor:

It has been a number of years since I have lived in Hoopeston; however, I have been fortunate to always make it home for Christmas. I have driven through nasty weather a couple of times, I have jumped a last minute flight, and I have driven 15 straight hours, almost falling asleep just outside Champaign. So needless to say it has always been important for me to be at home for the holidays.

One who has always lived close to home may wonder why someone would go to such great lengths to make it home. I guess it is the memories of so many great years that drive me to do whatever it takes to get home. Each year has brought so many fun and fascinating times. Early in life our top priorities were creating adventures in the white shimmering snowdrifts and building the perfect handmade frozen ice block forts in the John Greer parking lot. We would spend all day and night creating up-side down, frozen finger, snot-slinging snowball fights and causing havoc within the neighborhood by pelting innocent, unsuspecting residents with

our frozen weapons of choice. In the younger days it was a time to share all we had with one another. The days following Christmas were filled with the sounds of new electronic gadgets, hours of playing the new board games, and tucking away the new sweat socks and books bestowed on us by our more mature admirers.

As the years went by, the memories involved more people than the close-knit family and immediate neighbors. The new teenage friends acquired through the small-town high school experience added the holiday party schedule to the celebratory agenda. Now Christmas had become a time of some foreign boy and girl activities. These years were filled with sneaking holiday spirits, and straying from the familiar nest of the parental figures in our lives. The short time with family was merely a brief deterrent to the adventures that lay in wait on the icy streets. The gift of choice was stereos or the video game of the day, or possibly one of the new-fangled computers the techno wizards were pumping out.

Then we all were shipped off to the world of higher learning and higher pressure. These years were filled

See LETTER on other side

### — Briefly —

#### At the library

❑ The Hoopeston Public Library will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Christmas holiday. It will reopen Saturday.

❑ The library will accept donations of non-perishable food items, paper products and Ziploc bags through the end of the month during its "Food for Fines" program.

❑ All items will be donated to the Grant Township Food Cupboard.

Join us for some Christmas cheer  
At the

### Hoopeston American Legion

**Open 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Dec. 24**

The Legion is providing the meat and invites you to bring a covered dish and join the fun!

### Call First

Last delivery leaves shop 1 p.m. Dec. 24

*Molly's fantastic*

### After Christmas Sale

starts 9 a.m. Dec. 26

*Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert*

702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days

### New Year's Eve Party

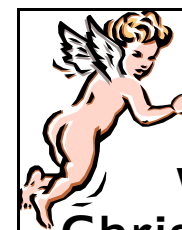
9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Dec. 31

American Legion, Hoopeston

Featuring Smoke River

\$10/person, \$12 at door

Includes champagne at midnight & party favors  
Open to the public



Wishing  
you the  
warmest of

Christmas greetings  
**Susan K. Comstock**

REALTOR<sup>™</sup>

DeKalb Realty dba



**O'Malley Agency**

**Real Estate**

(815) 889-4044 Home (217) 283-9321

Toll-free 1 (800) 843-4044

Pager (217) 260-9029

600 S. Chicago, Milford, IL

Need a last-minute gift  
Or stocking stuffer?


Let Santa's helper Robin help!

All Christmas jewelry 1/2 off!

**GlobalFashions**

305 E. Main, Hoopeston





Internet connection  
busier than you are?

**HTBNET**

Has **36 lines** to the Internet!

Call: Toby Brown & Clayton Hinkle  
**Info@htb.net (217) 339-2489**



Spend New Year's Eve with us!

9 p.m. – 1 a.m. \$20/person

Featuring *Full Circle*

Includes Hot Bar appetizers , champagne  
at midnight, party favors

**Compton's Bar & Grill**

225 E. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-5253

Need a last-minute gift?


Check out our selection of  
stocking stuffers!

**Rhonda's Baskets**


W. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-6717

Open Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-3





**Bowling Scores**



**Friday Mixed League**  
Standings 12/18

1. Pucker Up Chicken Chits	75	44
2. Hoopeston Weather Line	73	46
3. KYJ's	64	55
4. Party Crowd	63	56
5. JRJD	59	60
6. Just Call Us Butter	58	61
7. R&G Services	58	61
8. 10 Pin Alley	51	68
9. 4-Play	48	71
10. The Nobodys	46	73

**High Men's Series:** John Lowe 689, Todd Keith 683, Tony Gress 670; **High Men's Game:** John Lowe 265, Tony Gress 262, Todd Keith 247; **High Women's Series:** Glenda Reed 611, Pati Lowe 591, Lori Keith 521; **High Women's Game:** Glenda Reed 258, Patti Lowe 235, Lori Keith 210.

**Tuesday Night Classic League**  
Standings 12/22

1. Crop Production Service	59	26
2. Ross Electric	53	32
3. Hear-Here LTD	50	35
4. Gress Liquid Waste	47	38
5. Danny's Sign Shop	44	41
6. Skaters Paradise	36	49
7. Knuth's Body Shop	28	57

8. Hummingbird Farms 23 62

**High Team Game:** Ross Electric 903; **High Team Series:** Ross Electric 3,367; **High Ind. Game:** Ken McVicker 264; **High Ind. Series:** Tony Gress 920.

**Games over 225:** Dave Gaddis 227, 257; Mike Dean 227; Ken McVicker 264, 226; Mark Butterworth 228; Bob Reece 244; Bill Nelson 247; Bob Bruens 258, 243; Jeremy Gaddis 234; Tony Gress 236, 233, 236; Chuck Crozier 235; Mike Lawson 236; Art Wagoner 237, 231.

**Series over 800:** Dave Gaddis 902, Mike Dean 832, Ken McVicker 896, Mark Butterworth 803, Bob Reece 818, Bill Nelson 851, Bob Bruens 913, Jeremy Gaddis 800, Tony Gress 920, Chuck Crozier 822, Mike Lawson 806, Art Wagoner 886.

**Letter** continued from other side


with new friends, new lovers, and new ideas that questioned what the sacred holiday stood for. As the world expanded from our familiar brick street and country road existence, we saw the horizon of a new world – a world filled with different religions and spiritual ideas that at times challenged the very core values we had celebrated on the Christmas holiday for many years. These years also brought many of us much closer, as we cherished our times together much more than in previous years. Being away from home, friends and comfortable surroundings has a way of making you appreciate everything you know and love much more.

During these college years, our priorities changed dramatically. It was time to concentrate on our significant others, the perfect gift, and the right tie to wear to the right holiday party and the right plans with the right people. Sometimes our freedom of being in college and no longer having an established relationship with the community let us stumble into great moments in time. In these years, while attending one of the aforementioned holiday parties, I was nominated to go retrieve party supplies from Ted's and was able to drive a Mercedes Benz for the first time. Another moment I will always cherish took place on the porch of the old Singleton house on Washington Street. We got together for an impromptu card game early on the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> that lasted until the early morning hours of Christmas Eve. I paid for all my Christmas gifts that year with money donated from some of Hoopeston's finest young residents.

Now Christmas is about finding my way back to the people who mean the most to me. I have adapted a "whatever it takes" attitude regarding getting home. There are many reasons people all over the world celebrate the holiday. However, for me it is the opportunity to return to the place that has forged so many amazing memories. It is rare that one is able to experience so much joy in one small corner of the world. To all back home who may share my memories or who have a few of their own; I wish you all a very happy hometown holiday.

Matt Parsons  
Atlanta, GA  
MPAR68@aol.com


**In the Hospital**



**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**  
Dec. 22

**Admitted:** none.  
**Discharged:** Valaria Skinner.


**Weather**




Mostly sunny today and tomorrow. Highs 25-3, lows 10-17. Partly sunny Saturday. High 35, low 17. Sunday, chance of rain or snow. High 37, low 24.

For the current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

**Police News**




**No tickets or injuries** were reported in an accident at 2:15 p.m. Wednesday at 623 S. Dixie Hwy. Police said Sarah E. Bell of 610 E. Penn, was northbound when the tire on her 1998 Ford came off. The tire struck a southbound 1988 Ford driven by Antonio Montez of 327 N. Sixth Ave.



**Burger King**

Will be open until 7 p.m.  
Christmas Eve and closed  
Christmas Day.



Routes 1 & 9, Hoopeston

**Classifieds**

**WANTED TO BUY**

Paper money in large and small size national currency notes from First National, Hoopeston National and City National Bank of Hoopeston, IL. Call (217) 283-7419, leave message.

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