


**Hoopeston Rock Service** 

Rock: ¾" 1¼, 2". Plus landscape rock, pea gravel, sand, road pack. Delivery/spreading available. Hours by appointment.

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 Email rstipp1949@yahoo.com

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303B E. Main  
 Hoopeston  
 Teresa Sollars Owner (217) 283-9552

**Hoopeston Multi Agency Ham & Bean Dinner**

Oct. 3, 2002 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Tickets \$4

206 S. First Ave., Hoopeston  
 Carry-out meals available  
 Cost: \$4.50  
 Dinner includes ham & beans, cornbread, drink & dessert

Lourdine Florek  
 owner/publisher

**Just the Facts** ©

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**School joke becomes career of choice for new postmaster**

When Connie Drake was a high school senior, during career day activities, she had to write down her career goal. She didn't know what she wanted to do but a relative, Don Frazier, was the Rossville postmaster so on a lark, she wrote down that she wanted to be a mailman.



**DRAKE**

"It was a joke," she said.

It turned out to be her calling. And on Sept. 21, Drake officially became Hoopeston's new postmaster.

Drake has been with the post office for the past 13 years. She spent the first eight years as a letter carrier in Danville before being promoted to delivery supervisor, a position she held for four years.

On April 1, she was named Officer in Charge of the Hoopeston office when former postmaster Paul Ziemnisky retired. She applied for the postmaster's job and was notified in about mid-September that she was selected. However, her start date wasn't until Sept. 21, so she tried to keep a lid on the news until then. "Now I

know I get to stay," she said.

She will be officially sworn in later this month.

Drake went from an office of 43 city routes and six rural routes in Danville to Hoopeston's four city and two rural routes. "It's less stressful here," she said. "It's a smaller town, more laid back."

A less stressful work environment has been a blessing for the 38-year-old Drake, whose son, Deric, was diagnosed with leukemia earlier this year. She interspersed learning postmaster duties with taking her son for chemotherapy treatments.

Drake credits Hoopeston's postal employees with making her job easier, both in helping her learn the ropes and in making sure the work got done during a stressful time. "Everyone here has really pitched in," she said. "They


have a lot of great people here."

Drake can't say enough good things about her employees or the townspeople who have made her feel welcome. "Everybody has been wonderful," she said. "I mean wonderful!"

Drake plans few changes at the post office since most of the job is "by the book." One area she has been working on is safety issues, like fixing garage doors and installing safety strips on steps.

Drake and her family, including husband, Tim, an Illinois State Police sergeant, live north of Danville. The 20-mile drive is no problem for Drake, who sees the trip as a small price to pay for having such a great job.

"I think I'm absolutely going to love it here," she said.

**Police News** 

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 10:14 a.m. Sunday in the 600 block of West Washington.

Police said Diane Collins of Hoopeston, pulled a 1997 Jeep into a driveway and hit a parked 1998 Ford truck owned by William F. Crose, also of Hoopeston.

A 33-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Sunday  
**See POLICE on other side**

**Essence of Fall**

Swags, wreathes & center pieces; Lang Halloween boxes; potpourris - Autumn Spice; Miss Fiona's Stupendous Pumpkin Book; Lang Crow boxes & mugs; apple topiaries; Yankee fall fragrant candles & tart burners; Clair Burke's Apple Jack & Peel.

**Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert**  
 702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days

Every Tuesday is  
**SENIOR CITIZENS DAY**

Take \$2 OFF our already low price! Our professionals are here to serve you. Quality Service You Can Trust!

**Hoopeston Express Lube**  
 Hoopeston Plaza Rtes. 1 & 9

 **Stop. Go. Pennzoil.**

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- \*Clark \*Pizza King \*Price-Less Foods
- \*Pla-Mor Lanes \*Hoopeston Public Library
- \*Hoopeston Express Lube \*Downtown Motel
- \*Oat's Bait Shop/BJ's Pump

**Rossville**

- \*Ole Country Inn \*Minuteman \*Feedbag
- \*Bray's General Store

**Milford** **Wellington**

- \*Minuteman
- Coffee Corner

and on the Internet at **www.justthefacts.net**

Letter to the Editor and the Hoopeston Community:

More than 125 years ago, two railroads created a crossroads in northern Vermilion County. Early settlers had a great vision for this crossroads. This vision became known as Hoopeston and a thriving farming community soon emerged from the middle of the prairie. A number of years later, two major state highways were laid through Hoopeston and a second crossroads was created. The vision grew and Hoopeston became an industrial hub providing well-paying jobs to hundreds of people.

Now, decades later, a vision of modern-day technology and enhanced fiscal focus are driving today's business. Somehow, that vision seems to have bypassed this community. Industrial decline and loss of jobs are all too common in northern Vermilion County. Currently, our community faces a dissimilar crossroads. This time WE are the only people who can decide where those roads will take Hoopeston. Will this new crossroads be an exit ramp or will the residents of this community view it as an access road to new opportunities? Are we going to keep living in

the past, waiting and wishing for new factories and the hundreds of jobs they might produce? Or are we going to face reality and search for realistic alternatives to insure the continued growth and prosperity of one of the best small towns in rural Illinois? What vision do you have for your community?

Our school district, the second largest in Vermilion County, is currently our largest employer. Serving over 1,000 students from five communities, it provides our children with a solid-well-rounded educational foundation. The district boasts award-winning music programs available to fourth through twelfth grade students, and offers a variety of athletic and extra-curricular opportunities to young adults in the middle school and high school levels. Most school districts our size cannot afford to give their students what we so often take for granted.

How many rural towns can boast of a growing health-care system? Hoopeston Regional Health Center is embarking on another phase of growth and improvement. When completed, the facility will provide a new emergency entrance along with improved facilities for physi-

cal therapy and radiology, lab and a Wellness Center. It is also our second largest employer. Have you checked the waiting rooms at other health care facilities? How long does it take to have lab work done or x-rays and mammograms taken? In Hoopeston, you can have your procedure done and be on your way in less than an hour. How many weeks do you have to wait for a doctor's appointment in large cities? If you use the Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center, you will probably only wait a few days for non-emergency appointments.

What else do we have that makes Hoopeston a great choice in which to live? How about our newly-remodeled Carnegie library, TWO movie theaters, bowling alley and parks? How about our professional police force that works so hard maintaining a safe community? These are just a few of the many assets Hoopeston can offer to people looking for a safe, nurturing environment in which to raise a family or retire.

**Police** continued from other side

that someone took a portable stereo from her home in the 500 block of West Washington. The woman said her house was locked with the burglary occurred.

**Alexis N. Leavell**, 15, of 319 N. Sixth Ave., was ticketed following an accident at 2:17 p.m. Sunday at 415 Dixie Hwy.

Leavell was cited for no valid driver's license after she backed from a parking space into a parked 1994 Pontiac owned by Jason R. Jeffers of Danville.

**Jorge Gaytan**, 24, of 504 N. Tenth Ave., was arrested after an incident at 10:31 p.m. Sunday at 502 N. Tenth Ave.

Police said Gaytan was charged with battery on a complaint from a 29-year-old Hoopeston man who said Gaytan struck the side of his face during an argument.

Gaytan was released on a notice to appear.

**Weather**



Partly sunny today. High 88. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 65. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High 78, low 62.

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

So, what is your vision for Hoopeston? Want to help build that access road to a stronger, more self-reliant community? It will not do any good to keep asking when "they" are going to do something. "They" are ever citizen of this community. "They" are YOU, my neighbors! Each and every citizen of this community has a voice in Hoopeston's future. Why not use your voice and become a committee member of the Visioning for the Future organization. Visioning for the Future meets at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in the community room at Hoopeston Regional Health Center. For more information, contact Judi Benjamin, 283-7873.

The fate of this community is in OUR hands.

**Judi Benjamin**  
Hoopeston

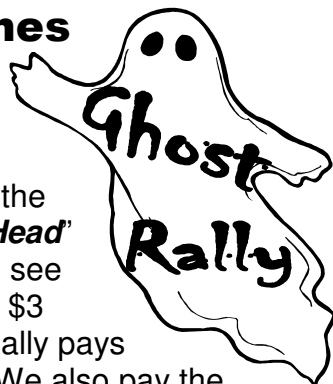
**Aerobics/Interval  
Circuit/Resistance  
Training  
Starts Oct. 7**  
Mon.-Wed.-Thurs.  
5-6 p.m.  
**Betty Shaffer**  
(217) 283-5715

**Pla-Mor Lanes**

4th annual  
Bigger & Better!  
\$7 entry fee also

gets you in to see the band "**Big Giant Head**" (If you just want to see the band, it's only \$3 at the door) The Rally pays the top 3 places. We also pay the top 3 places for Best Halloween Costume. **Sign up starts Oct. 1.** Sign up early for the best start times. If the weather cooperates, we'll be outside this year. Be ready to party!

**Call Pla-Mor at (217) 283-5195 to sign up!**



**Solution to last week's puzzle**

1	S	2	H	3	E	4	D	5	F	6	O	7	A	8	M	9	L	10	A	11	P	
12	H	A	V	E		13	A	B	L	E		14	A	G	O							
15	E	Y	E	S		16	T	E	L	L		17	W	E	T							
						18	P	R	A	Y		20	L	E	N	D	S					
22	S	23	C	24	H	O	O	L		25	F	O	R									
26	P	L	A	T	E			27	C	O	W	A	28	R	29	D	30	S				
31	E	A	T					32	B	A	G				33	O	I	L				
34	D	W	E	35	L	36	L	E	R		37	P	38	L	A	C	E					
				39	A	I	D			40	H	E	A	D	E	D						
41	F	42	L	43	A	G	S		44	S	A	N	D									
45	O	U	R					46	T	47	A	L	L		48	D	49	I	50	G	51	S
52	O	R	E					53	E	X	I	T			54	E	R	I	E			
55	T	E	A					56	N	E	T	S			57	R	E	N	T			

**Classifieds**

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**APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

2 bedroom in Hoopeston. Full basement, appliances furnished, central air. No pets. \$475/mo. Deposit, references required. (217) 283-7996. 269-282

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**AUCTIONS**

Thinking of having an auction?  
Go to [www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com](http://www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com) or call (217) 748-6289!

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**HOUSES FOR RENT**

Two bedroom house, NO PETS, \$350.00 month with \$350.00 Security Deposit. 217-283-7592.

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**RUMMAGE SALES**

708 W. Maple, Hoopeston. Saturday, Oct. 5, 8 a.m. Huge sale. Too much to list!

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**VEHICLES FOR SALE**

1995 Ford Windstar van. New Michelins, remote start. 87,000 miles. \$6,200. (217) 283-6917. 259-273

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