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Mondays 5-8 p.m.

## Tacos



Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m.

## BJ's Pump



Bar & Package Liquor Store  
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## Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

Phone/Fax:  
(217) 283-9348

Email:

[publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net)

**Monday, December 8, 2003**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

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

## Hoopeston FMC plant to be sold, closed by new owner

Approximately 35 jobs will be lost when Hoopeston's FMC plant is sold and closed.

FMC announced Friday it is selling the local agricultural harvester operation to OXBO International Corporation, headquartered in Byron, NY.

The sale is expected a close Dec. 15, when OXBO International is expected to transfer production to its Byron facility and close the Hoopeston plant.

Currently, 35 people work at the Hoopeston facility. A

small number them may be offered jobs by OXBO, according to a press release issued Friday by FMC.

Employees were told of the plant closing Friday, prompting a weekend meeting of leadership of the local PACE International Union, AFL-CIO, CLC.

Local president Tim Lane said a committee was to meet Sunday with a union representative to discuss what things the union would like to see included in the sever-

See FMC on other side



## Away in a manger

Members of a live Nativity scene reenact Jesus' birth during Rossville's Christmas celebration Saturday. Pictured are, from left, shepherds Kenneth Mikels and Dick Stump, Cathy Douglass and Jerry Douglass as Mary and Joseph and Elizabeth Booher as a shepherd. The scene also featured live sheep and a calf.

## There's nothing like the fragrances of Christmas

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## Police News



**Bruce L. Eldridge**, 29, of 310 Dale, Rossville, was arrested at 10 a.m. Thursday at city hall, charged with contempt of court.

Eldridge was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to perform 32 hours of work.

**Rudy O. Martinez Jr.**, 24, of 859 E. Seminary, was arrested at 10:27 p.m. Thursday in the 300 block of West Thompson.

Martinez was charged with driving on suspension

and operating an uninsured motor vehicle after police alleged Martinez was trying to turn his vehicle around after having gotten in stuck in a ditch.

Martinez was released on notices to appear.

**Tina M. Lile**, 39, of 105 Donovan, Wellington, was arrested at 6:04 p.m. Friday in the 200 block of Main.

Lile, wanted on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear, was also charged with driving while license suspended.

She was released on \$328 cash bond.

**Two people** were charged with battery on a complaint from a 21-year-old Hoopeston woman.

Natosha N. Savage, 26, and Todd E. Mayberry, 27, both of 1101 S. Second Ave., were arrested at 12:44 a.m. Saturday, charged with battery after an altercation at BJ's Pump, 1023 W. Main.

Each was released on a notice to appear.

**A 40-year-old** Rossville man reported Saturday that a temporary license plate was taken from his

2002 BMW while it was parked in the 600 block of West Penn. The plate is 1415231.

**James D. Brown**, 48, of 218 E. Lincoln, was arrested at 12:08 a.m. Sunday in the 200 block of East Lincoln.

He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 38-year-old Hoopeston woman, who alleged Brown struck her in the face.

Brown was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville, to await a hearing.

**Your event**  
*can be listed*  
**FREE on**  
**hoopeston.org**  
**Email: additions@**  
**hoopeston.org.**

### Briefly

#### Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: Monday, Hoopeston/Rossville shuttle; Tuesday, Kankakee (leave at 8 a.m.); Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday,

Danville. For more information or to arrange a ride, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Community center activities include: Monday, ladies bridge, noon; Tuesday, ladies euchre, noon; Thursday, men's coffee 9:30 a.m.; community potluck and men's euchre, noon; Friday, ladies cards, noon.

#### FMC continued from other side

ance package.

Approximately 18 of the 35 people affected by the plant closing are union members. The union local includes additional members who are former FMC employees.

Lane, who has 24 years at the plant, said he would like to see another employer purchase the building. "We've got a good workforce and a good plant," he said.

Lane is not the only one who would like to see a new industry in Hoopeston.

Mayor Chalmers Flint said Sunday that the closing, while bad for FMC workers, may end up being a good thing for the city. "Maybe somebody will come in and

employ 100-200 people," he said, adding the plant, which was extensively redone after a July 2001 tornado, "is in tip-top shape."

While Flint has no leads now, he said the building could be used as an assembly plant for products manufactured overseas. He plans to check with Illinois officials about possible tenants.

The plant's closing was not a shock, Flint said, because about six months ago, the company turned down a five-year contract to produce cotton pickers for a Rockford business. "It's not a shock but it still hurts," he said.

FMC has been part of Hoopeston since 1928 when the John Bean Manufacturing Company acquired the Sprague-Sells canning facility and changed the name to Food Machinery Company. The local plant designed and manufactured specialty vegetable harvesters and, at its heyday, employed about 400 people.

### Weather



Breezy today. High 47. Tonight, rain likely. Low 40. Tomorrow, rain likely. High 47, low 34.

For current weather conditions, call (217) 283-6221.

#### Music Booster winners

This week's winner in the weekly Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: Dec. 8, Terri Hambleton; Dec. 9, Kathy Franklin; Dec. 10, Merle Eisenman; Dec. 11, Bob and Cookie Galloway; Dec. 12, Will Bramblett.

The Music Boosters will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the chorus room. Everyone is invited.

#### Meetings

Rossville TIF Board of Review, 7 p.m. Monday, village office.

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Hoopeston**