



## Tacos

Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m.

## Ranch burgers



Mondays, 5-8 p.m.

## BJ's Pump

Bar & Package Liquor Store

## Huge Food Sale

Wednesday, Jan. 7 6:30 p.m.

## Huckleby's Auction



208 N. Market, Hoopeston

All end-date merchandise

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Appointments

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## IDOT proposal calls for parking change on Market Street

The Illinois Department of Transportation is recommending a change in parking for businesses on Market Street between Washington and Main.

The proposal, discussed at a public hearing Tuesday night, will eliminate perpendicular parking at Price-Less Foods and The Bakery Company and angle parking in front of businesses on Market between Penn and Main.

Additionally, the postal drop box on the west side of Market will be removed.

According to engineers Jay Dingee of Sodemann and Associates, representing the city, and Dave Speicher of the Illinois Department of Transportation, perpendicular parking in front of Price-Less Foods, 317 S. Market, has resulted in a "significant" number of accidents.

Figures on the exact number of accidents was not available at the hearing.

Frank Smith, Price-Less owner, asked about accidents at the store, saying since he took over in July, he was only aware of one close call "and that involved me," he said. "We want to do what's right for the city

but if you're just speculating, I don't see where you're going anywhere."

The change in parking will cut the number of parking spaces available. Price-Less will have four spaces instead of nine and The Bakery Company, at 417 S. Market, will go from three to one. Between Main and Penn, the number will drop from 48 to 24.

Dingee said other options, such as widening the street, were considered but were cost-prohibitive.

"What is the cost to us," Smith asked.

The project will go from Rt. 9 to Main and will include street resurfacing, curbs and gutters, repairs to private driveways limited to the right of way and improved drainage.

The project is estimated at \$535,000 Dingee said, adding plans are to seek bids in April, award the contract in May and do the work in June and July.

Much funding for repairs will come from a federal grant, making the program under Department of Transportation requirements, including parking restrictions and removing traffic lights at the intersections. The

## Hoopeston officials accept deed, keys to Willdon Building

The city of Hoopeston acquired a new piece of property Tuesday.

Brent Hoptry, president of Capstone Bank, signed over the deed to the bank's Market Street facility and handed the keys to city attorney William Nelson at Tuesday's city council meeting.

The bank offered to donate the building to the city after the corporation purchased the former Kankakee Federal Savings Bank and combined the operations of the two at the Kankakee Federal site.

Officials will now try to sell the building and plan to work with Vermilion Advantage of Danville to

design advertising to be placed in major publications, such as the Wall Street Journal, said Mayor Chalmers Flint. He hopes to raise enough from the sale of the building to help build a new fire station.

In other business, the council:

- heard from Alderman Bill Goodwine that the city will lose \$139,000 in decreases in its share of income tax, Motor Fuel Tax and photo processing fees.
- will have specifications available after 9 a.m. Tuesday for demolishing the former Baer's Motel and Trailer Park and Carnival Video. Bids will be opened at 10 a.m. Jan. 26.

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# Soldier gets hero’s welcome on return to HAHS classroom

On Tuesday, Kim Burch wore a coordinated sand-colored outfit with a jaunty dark beret. The Hoopeston Area teacher wasn’t making a fashion statement, however.

Burch, in Army Reserve sand-colored battle dress uniform (BDU), was the guest of honor at an assembly honoring her return from Iraq. The assembly drew students and staff from Hoopeston Area Middle School, where Burch teaches English and the high school, where she is the French teacher, for band and choral selections and speeches from student leaders and Mayor Chalmers Flint. A color guard of local veterans also honored Burch.

“I’m honored extremely and humbled for everything you’ve done for me,” Burch told the assem-

blage. “Thank you for everything you’ve done for my family.”

Burch’s tour of duty was a struggle for her family. Both she and her husband, Todd, also a reservist, were called up early last year, leaving their children, Tony, 17, Jessica, 13, and Amanda, 7, behind. The children stayed in Hoopeston with their grandmother for a few weeks but eventually moved to the Champaign area to stay with Burch’s sister.

Burch returned to the area last month after first going to Arizona to see her mother before she died. Todd Burch came home with her but had to return to Iraq.

Being called to serve was a hardship on her family but one that Burch was willing to bear.



Above, scores of Hoopeston Area Middle and High School students wave flags during an assembly for teacher Kim Burch who returned to the classroom this week after spending several months in Iraq. Left, Mayor Chalmers Flint becomes emotional while talking about the community’s gratitude to Burch for serving her country.

“We’re very proud of our country,” she said. “We love the military.”

Love of country was evident in her speech. Talking about the flag, Burch spoke of the “hundreds of thousands of people who have died so we could get that flag, so we could keep that flag.”

The war in Iraq is a joint effort, not only of all the soldiers who fight but of people at home, who think about, write to and pray for the soldiers. “Prayers and thoughts do count, they do matter,” she said.

Burch believes in what the war is trying to accomplish, bringing freedom to the Iraqi people. “It was the right thing to go over there and help those people,” she said, adding that not only did the armed forces bring freedom but also improved living conditions. “I’m very proud to have served.”

## Weather

Increasing clouds today. High 23. Tonight and tomorrow, chance of snow. Low today 18. High tomorrow, 31, low 20.

For current weather conditions, call **Hoopest-**

Hoopeston is proud of Burch, too, said Mayor Chalmers Flint, thanking Burch for her service. Flint’s voice cracked as he spoke of Burch’s “time away from her loved ones.”

The teacher turned soldier is now a teacher again and is planning a presentation of slides and keepsakes from her time in Iraq - “show and tell,” she

## Classifieds

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