



## Ranch burgers

Mondays 5-8 p.m.

## Tacos



Wednesdays, 5-8 p.m.

Wednesday drink Special - Coronas \$2 each

## BJ's Pump



Bar & Package Liquor Store

1023 W. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-5700

## Payless Tours, Inc. [www.paylesstours.com](http://www.paylesstours.com)

Escorted Round Trip Motorcoach Price is PP

Dbl. Occupancy. Bus leaves from Hoopeston!

3/21 Biloxi/New Orleans \$320 5 Nts. 7 Meals, \$25 Cashback

Biloxi: City & Shrimp Boat Tours;

New Orleans: City Tour, Fr.Quarters

4/5 Bally's - Tunica- \$129 3 Nts. 6 Meals \$50 Cashback

4/25 Casino, Bingo-Green Bay, Wi. \$260 2Nts.Radisson \$110

Cashback, \$5 Matchplay Cont. Breakfast, City Tour

Call Carolyn Gress for details & info on new Trips!

(217) 283-7406 Or 1-800-726-5730

Have you had your  
**Seasilver** today?

100% risk-free  
money back guarantee!



*Try a Bottle!*



## KOSHER CERTIFIED

Kosher Supervision of America

ENDORSED BY



## USGFA

United States Golf Fitness Association

## PGFA

Professional Golf Fitness Association

[www.icanfeelgreat.com](http://www.icanfeelgreat.com)

or call Hugh at 800-640-7172

**The leader in foundational health!**

Lourdine Florek  
owner/publisher

# Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

Phone/Fax:  
(217) 283-9348

Email:

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

**Monday, March 1, 2004**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

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



Rossville firemen fight a blaze that gutted the 100 block of South Chicago St. Friday night while the Danville Fire Department's 100 foot aerial truck fights the fire from above.

## ROSSVILLE SEES OWN GREAT CHICAGO FIRE

ROSSVILLE—Firefighters from 21 departments converged on Rossville Friday night to fight what is believed to be the largest, most costly fire in the village's history.

The blaze, which started shortly after 7 p.m., is believed to have begun in Royal Line Pizza, 112 S. Chicago. Witnesses reported an explosion, which may have been caused by a gas line leak. Investigators from the Illinois State Fire Marshall's Office sifted through the

wreckage Saturday to determine the exact cause.

The fire is believed to have started in the back of the building, which also contained apartments. From there, flames danced to buildings north and south, eventually engulfing the entire block, turning the stores, many of which housed antiques, to ashes.

Store owners, village residents and others converged on the downtown area to watch one building, then an-

**See FIRE on Page 3**

# HUGE Grocery Auction

Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

## Huckleby's Auction



208 N. Market, Hoopeston

Looking for a bank that's  
customer friendly and on the go?

**That's Us!**

*Community Bank*

Hoopeston, Illinois

Your hometown bank since 1913 Member FDIC

221 Bank St. (217) 283-7733 Rts. 1 & 9 283-9723

221 E. Main, Wellington (815) 984-3130

**Owe taxes?  
Their deadline:  
April 15th.  
Our deadline:  
July 15th.**

Qualify for an Easy  
Pay balance due line  
of credit and your  
tax bill, up to \$8000,  
is covered for 90  
days.\* You'll have  
more time to find  
the money you need  
to pay your taxes. It's  
just another part of  
the H&R Block  
Advantage. Call  
1-800-HRBLOCK or  
visit [hrblock.com](http://hrblock.com)



just plain smart<sup>™</sup>

110 E. Main St. 9 A.M.-6 P.M. Monday-Friday  
Hoopeston, IL 9 A.M.-5 P.M. Saturday  
(217) 283-5178 Appointments available or walk in

**Hablamos Espanol**

\*No finance charges will apply if the line of credit is paid in full within 90 days after the April 15 due date for your return. An annual account fee of \$19.95 applies. ©2004 H&R Block Tax Services, Inc.



# SAVE NOW AT THE EARLY BIRD FIRESTONE FARM TIRE SALE!

JOIN US FOR A FREE LUNCH AND REGISTER FOR DOOR PRIZES!

FARMER APPRECIATION DAYS

**MARCH 5TH & 6TH**

## Farmer Appreciation Days!

ALL FARM TIRES ON SALE!

Stop by and register for your chance to win in the **FIRESTONE**

*\*Kubota Utility Vehicle Sweepstake and Tire Sale!*

\*SEE YOUR LOCAL NEAL TIRE AND AUTO SERVICE STORE FOR OFFICIAL RULES AND DETAILS

**RADIAL DEEP TREAD 23"**

Enter to WIN a Kubota Utility Vehicle!

Stop by and register to win a Kubota RTV900R, the newest utility vehicle on the market today. Firestone is giving four away, so stop in and enter! Hurry, sweepstakes ends April 30, 2004.

### NEAL TIRE and AUTO SERVICE

FARM TIRES

THE LEADER IN THE FIELD

**214 E. Penn, Hoopeston**

**(217) 283-5571**

Right, Red Cross volunteers take a break from their volunteer efforts. Bottom, Tom Mahoney of Rankin checks the contents of a safe pulled from the rubble of the Rossville fire Saturday. Mahoney's wife, Cindy, ran The Shabby White Rose at 102 S. Chicago. Below, one of two barber's chairs are all that remain of Ralph's Barber Shop, owned by Ralph Larkin.



## Rossville blaze takes more than buildings from residents

ROSSVILLE—Naomi Freeman sat in a building on the east side of Chicago Street Friday night and watched her life go up in smoke.

Freeman, owner of Freeman's Folly, 110 S. Chicago, lost more than most in the blaze that decimated the block of Rossville's downtown. She lost her business, her home and a lifetime of memories.

Until the block was evacuated, Freeman watched from a building across the street as first smoke, then flames claimed all of her possessions.

While a dollar estimate has not been established, the cost in human terms will be immeasurable.

Shop owners poured their money and their hearts and souls into buildings that were turned to charred rubble. Some, like Freeman and barber Ralph Larkin, had been in the village for many years. Others,

like Cindy Mahoney, had only recently opened a shop.

For Mahoney and her husband, Tom, there was a bit of good news. A safe found in the rubble of their building was intact. The safe contained important family papers, such as the couple's marriage license, abstract for their home and their children's birth certificates.

Whether any of the business owners will rebuild is not known.

The downtown was a part of the village's newly-formed Tax Increment Financing district. A part of the village's sales tax revenue went up in smoke with the buildings.

The area was also part of Rossville's history and charm. Watching firemen work Friday night, Mayor Terry Prillaman talked about what was now in each building and the history of each. Shrugging off the moment of reminiscing, Prillaman readied to face the challenges of the fire.

"I'm going to start calling Springfield (Saturday)," he said. "I don't know if anybody will be in but if they are, I'm going to talk to them. I'm going to see about getting some help."



# PRICE-LESS FOODS



**Spring into Savings**  
with these  
**Coupon Specials!**

12/12 oz. cans, assorted varieties

**Coke Products 4/\$8**

3/\$3.99 w/o coupon. Limit 1 coupon per family, 1 coupon per purchase. Subject to state & local taxes.  
Effective 3/1-6/2004 PLU 907

11-12 oz., assorted varieties

**Lay's Potato Chips \$1.19**

\$1.88 w/o coupon. Limit 1 coupon per family, 1 coupon per purchase. Subject to state & local taxes.  
Effective 3/1-6/2004 PLU 908

10 lb. bag

**Dole Russet Potatoes 99¢**

\$1.49 w/o coupon. Limit 1 coupon per family, 1 coupon per purchase. Subject to state & local taxes  
Effective 3/1-6/2004 PLU 909

15-20.95 oz., assorted varieties, Original or 1/2 & 1/2

**Jack's Pizza 5/\$8**

3/\$3.99 w/o coupon. Limit 1 coupon per family, 1 coupon per purchase. Subject to state & local taxes.  
Effective 3/1-6/2004 PLU 910

1 gal. Regular

**Novel Bleach 79¢**

89¢ w/o coupon. Limit 1 coupon per family, 1 coupon per purchase. Subject to state & local taxes.  
Effective 3/1-6/2004 PLU 911

**317 S. Market , Hoopeston**  
**We Accept Illinois Link Cards & WIC**  
We reserve the right to correct printing errors

2 lb. Golden or Dark Brown, Powdered or 4 lb.

**C&H Granulated Sugar 2/\$2**

\$1.39 w/o coupon. Limit 1 coupon per family, 1 coupon per purchase. Subject to state & local taxes.  
Effective 3/1-6/2004 PLU 912

9-10 oz., assorted varieties

**Green Giant Vegetables 3/\$3**

\$1.85 w/o coupon. Limit 1 coupon per family, 1 coupon per purchase. Subject to state & local taxes.  
Effective 3/1-6/2004 PLU 913

19.76-20 oz., assorted varieties, Italian Sausage or

**Johnsonville Brats 2/\$4.88**

\$3.99 w/o coupon. Limit 1 coupon per family, 1 coupon per purchase. Subject to state & local taxes.  
Effective 3/1-6/2004 PLU 914

14 oz. Lucky Charms, 15 oz. Reg. Cheerios, 14 oz. Honey Nut Cheerios or 13 oz. Golden Grahams

**General Mills Cereal 3/\$4.98**

\$2.29 w/o coupon. Limit 1 coupon per family, 1 coupon per purchase. Subject to state & local taxes.  
Effective 3/1-6/2004 PLU 915

24 oz. Sandwich Loaf

**Blue Seal Bread 69¢**

89¢ w/o coupon. Limit 1 coupon per family, 1 coupon per purchase. Subject to state & local taxes. Effective 3/1-6/2004 PLU 916

1/2 gallon Squares Prairie Farms

**Ice Cream 2/\$2.98**

\$2.49 w/o coupon. Limit 1 coupon per family, 1 coupon per purchase. Subject to state & local taxes. Effective 3/1-6/2004 PLU 917



Rossville firemen hose down the rubble of what once was the 100 block of South Chicago St. Cleanup from the fire began Saturday morning

## Fire continued from Page 1

other, and another begin to smoke, then flame.

No one was hurt in the fire, although three Hoopeston firemen received minor injuries when a backdraft threw them from a doorway.

As the fire spread, officials evacuated the downtown and a surrounding two-block area. One of the families evacuated was that of village trustee Mark Catron. Catron was bowling when he received a call from his wife, Dara. "I never get calls at the bowling area so I knew something was wrong," he said. Mrs. Catron told her husband the family was being evacuated. "I came right home," Catron said. "Fortunately, they were alright."

As departments converged on the village, they were divided to fight the fire in a two-tiered approach, along Chicago Street from the front and in an alleyway from the rear.

Firemen came from Hoopeston, Bismarck, Middlefork, Danville, Rankin, East Lynn, Milford, Lynch, Kickapoo, Wellington, Gifford, St. Joe, Homer, Ogden-

Royal, Westville, Georgetown and in Indiana, West Lebanon, Perrysville, Covington and Hickory Grove (Ambia).

Rossville and Hoopeston emergency personnel also responded. EMTs worked in vain to restrain the crowd of onlookers that gathered at the scene.

Some residents did more than just watch. EMTs and other volunteers took bottled water to thirsty firemen. Dennis Price, local physician's assistant and school board president, was among those who took water to firefighters. Area businesses in Rossville, Hoopeston and Danville donated food and in Rossville, residents cooked and took the food to a shelter for firemen and volunteers.

Hoopeston provided much of the water used to fight the fire. Trucks rotated between businesses and fire stations in Hoopeston and Rossville where they pumped water into holding tanks. The strain proved too much for water mains near Dollar General and Iroquois Federal. The lines broke causing personnel to travel to Rankin and Danville for water.



## Taco Shell

Bring in this coupon for  
**50¢ off**  
a full order of our delicious  
**Biscuits & Gravy 6-11 a.m.**  
Restaurant hours 6 a.m.-8 p.m. M-F  
Sat. 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Closed Sunday.

## Hoopeston Shell

Quality Gas at Great Prices!

### Today's Gas (unleaded)

# \$ 1.60

20 oz. Coke (bottles)99¢  
20 oz. Pepsi (bottles)\$1.09  
**Mon.-Sun. 5:30 a.m.-9 p.m.**  
Rtes. 1 & 9, Hoopeston



## just the facts

is available in:

**Hoopeston**


\*Hennings \*The Bakery \*Schuler's  
\*Coffee Cup \*L&M \*McDonald's  
\*Hoopeston Coin Laundry \*Olympic Hardware  
\*Jerry's IGA \*Weber Drugs \*Tater's  
\*Convenient \*CVS \*Wayne's World  
\*Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital  
\*Clark \*Pizza King \*Price-Less Foods  
\*Pla-Mor Lanes \*Hoopeston Public Library  
\*Hoopeston Express Lube \*Downtown Motel  
\*Oat's Bait Shop/BJ's Pump \*Hoopeston Shell

**Rossville**


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

**Milford** **Wellington**  
\*Minuteman Coffee Corner

and on the Internet at [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)



## Police News



A **12-year-old** boy was arrested at 2 p.m. Thursday at Hoopeston Area Middle School, 615 E. Orange. The boy was charged with possession of cannabis on school property and was released to his parents.

A juvenile petition will be filed with the state's attorney's office.

**Jack L. Cunningham**, 31, of 204 E. Young, was arrested at 11:21 p.m. Thursday at his home.

Cunningham, wanted on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear, was released on \$72 cash bond.

**David J. Parr**, 27, of 312 Lobb Bend Rd., Greensburg, Ky., was arrested at 6:42 p.m. Friday in the 700

block of South Market.

Parr was arrested on a Wayne County warrant for deceptive practices and was released on \$100 cash bond.

A **35-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Saturday that someone took a welder from his garage in the 500 block of East Thompson.

## Briefly

### Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: Monday, Hoopeston/Rossville shuttle; Tuesday, Champaign (leave at 9 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.

### Tiny Tots

"Dr. Seuss" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots story program at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room. Tiny Tots meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays and is for children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

### Grave blankets must be moved

Grave blankets and winter decorations at Floral Hill Cemetery must be removed by March 8. City employees will begin disposing of them on that date.

### Career info night

Career Information Night will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 2 Open Computer Lab 2 at Hoopes-

ton Area High School, 615 E. Orange. A Danville Area Community College career counselor will show community members how to access career and employment options.

### Hunter Safety Course

The Vermilion County Sheriff's Department will hold a Hunter Safety Course Mar. 19-20 at the Hoopeston Fire Department. The course will be held from 6-9 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.

A luncheon will be served Saturday, sponsored by Drollinger Insurance Services/Remax 2000 of Hoopeston.

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1980 must complete the course to obtain an Illinois hunting license.

For more information, call the Sheriff's Department at (217) 442-4080.


### Summer sports signup

Summer sign up registration for T-Ball, Little League, Pony/Colt League, Girls Softball and Hoopeston Swim team will be held at the WHPO Business Expo March 13 -14. Representatives will be available from 10-4pm Saturday and 12-4pm Sunday. Contact Vickie Means 283-6372 or John Stewart 283-9781 with any questions.

### Meetings

- Rossville Village Board, 7 p.m. Monday, village office. Reconvened from Feb. 16
- Hoopeston City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, city hall.

## New Books at the Library



### Non-fiction:

American Medical Association Complete Medical Encyclopedia

Tom Patire's Personal Protection Handbook: Absolutely Everything You Need to Know to Keep Yourself, Your Family and Your Assets Safe

The Ultimate Weight Solution: the 7 Keys to Weight Loss Freedom by Phil McGraw

## Weather



Thunderstorms likely today. High59. Tonight, chance of rain. Low 40. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 47, low 31.

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

For all your  
beverage needs

## Ted's Home Beverage

101 W. Main  
Hoopeston  
(217) 283-7213

# Classifieds

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Duplexes for rent. 2 bdr., 2 bath, garage. Appliances furnished. Dishwasher included. No pets. \$550/mo. Deposit, references. Hoopeston area. (217) 283-7996

### HELP WANTED

Day and evening cooks needed. Apply in person at Tater's Bar & Grill, 225 E. Main, Hoopeston.

### HOUSES FOR RENT

321 Front St., Hoopeston. No pets. Washer/dryer hookups available. \$350/mo. plus deposit, references. (217) 748-6354.

### SERVICES

Pampered Pet Grooming. Lots of TLC. Call anytime for appointment. (217) 339-2340.

Western Union Money Orders available at Sheridan's Appliance Center, 224 East Main, Hoopeston. (217) 283-5107.

Dog grooming by Jean. Gentle care. Pickup & delivery available. Also boarding. Gem-Mar Kennels. (217) 283-7426.

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

1995 Chrysler New Yorker. Asking \$3,200. (217) 283-7613.

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