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'Twas the weekend before Christmas at BJ's Pump

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Larry "Doc" Baughn DJ
 Steak Fry
 12 & 16 oz. Rib eyes, grilled chicken

Saturday 9-1 No cover
Michael Ingram & Kayla Brown
 Sunday
Free jukebox, free pool
 \$1.25 beer
Bears vs. Detroit Lions

Every Wednesday at Taco Night
 Karaoke with Larry "Doc" Baughn
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 (217) 283-5700




Lourdine Florek
 owner/publisher

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Thursday, December 21, 2006
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Community gathers to say farewell to school superintendent

Hoopeston turned out en masse Wednesday to say goodbye to a long-time educator, principal and superintendent.

Students, teachers and staff, board members, community leaders and representatives of area education groups gathered in the Hoopeston Area Middle School Gym to pay tribute to Mark Conolly, who died Saturday.

"It's going to be a hard time for me not having him around, that's for sure," said Matthew (Mac) Conolly, Mr. Conolly's youngest son.

Mac, a seventh grader, said he wished he could play a game with his father. He said he realized that "people who loved my dad also love us." He urged mourners to "have a very nice Christmas and I hope you will never forget about my dad."

The Rev. James Batchelor, who conducted the funeral service, told of his reaction to hearing about Mr. Conolly's death. "As I hung up the phone last Saturday, I wanted to disbelieve my ears," he said. More telephone calls from church members told him it was not just a rumor. He encouraged mourners to have faith. "Our sorrow is that of those who must say goodbye for a long time...but not forever."

Mr. Conolly served as superintendent for nine years and was a former history teacher and high school principal.

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 Extended holiday hours through Dec. 23
Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat 9am-5pm



Ungers Jewelry
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Holiday Tourney Dec. 23
 9 Pin No Tap Singles
 Check in 7 p.m., bowl 8 p.m. \$15/person
 Dance to Tunes-N-Transit 9-1
 All Bud products \$1.50
 Merry Christmas from 
Pla-Mor Lanes
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B I N G O

every Thursday 7 p.m.
Hoopeston American Legion
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Great Gift Ideas!
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 is \$1 beer
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IT'S A PERFECT GIFT
 This year, give the type of
 present that your loved one
 won't want to return. A
 gift certificate for a
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 for that special someone and they're on
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*is having a Gift Certificate
 Sale just in time for the
 holidays. Packages
 include:*

- Mini Spa \$30
- Full Swedish \$30
- Spa Package \$40
- Hot Stone
 Massage \$60



Council members take exception with bonuses, vacation

Two Hoopeston City Council members wondered who had the authority to allow Christmas bonuses for employees and why police dispatchers were paid for working and vacation time.

Alderpersons Jerry Yonkers and Gail Lane raised the questions at Tuesday night's council meeting.

Yonkers said when he asked about getting handicapped-accessible doors for city hall, he was told to wait until the next budget but employees received \$4,800 in Chamber Bucks. "Why couldn't it be used to fix this door or something more useful," he asked.

Lane wanted to know when money for bonuses was approved. "When we did the budget, I don't remember

the bonuses," she said.

Alderman Bill Goodwine said each employee received \$50 in Chamber Bucks and that bonuses are in a budget line item.

The bulk of the bonuses came from the water department budget, said Alderman Bill Crusinberry, who authorized the expense. The money was given to employees for their extra work in dealing with the Hoopeston Foods lawsuit and the willingness of employees to work with fewer people, saving the city about \$50,000, he said

Reading a draft of a proposed employee handbook, Yonkers then asked why dispatchers worked and were paid for unused vacation. One dispatcher was ill part of the year; others to have to work and not use vacation.

Deputy faces DUI, speeding

A Hoopeston man was arrested in the early morning hours of December 14 charged with speeding and driving under the influence.

Ryan J. Goodner, 28, was arrested by an Illinois State trooper on Rt. 1 near Rossville, said Vermilion County Sheriff Pat Hartshorn.

Goodner, a Vermilion County Sheriff's deputy, was in his personal car and was off-duty at the time, he said.

Goodner did not exhibit erratic driving and did not take a Breathalyzer test, he added.

Under Illinois law, failure to take the test results in six months' suspension of driving privileges.

He was also allegedly driving 21-25 miles over the posted 55 mph speed limit.

Goodner's arrest is a two-fold issue. The case will go through the legal system as any other arrest but also, Goodner will be faced with consequences of breaking department regulations, Hartshorn said, who said Tuesday that he is unsure what actions he will take in the matter.

Police News

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday at 514 W. Washington.

Police said Jessica Huckleby of Hoopeston, in a 1987 Dodge truck, backed from a driveway into a parked 1999 Chevrolet utility vehicle owned by Penny Wilken of Milford.

**Come Party at
 Pla-Mor Lanes **
 with Tunes-N-Transit
 Randy Wallace/Josh Miller
Friday, Dec. 22 9-1
"They Play What You Want to Hear"
 719 W. Elm, Hoopeston

Fish Fry
 5-8 p.m. Friday
American Legion
 502 E. Penn, Hoopeston
Also serving ribs
Homemade onion rings available
Carry-outs available 283-6312



Weather

Chance of rain today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 48, low 47. Tomorrow, high 47, low 33.

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

**Merry Christmas & Happy New
 Year from
 China Wok**
Open Christmas & New Year's Day
 Buffet \$6.95 for adults,
 \$5.25 for senior citizens,
 free for kids 4 and under!
113 E. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-5888



**Children's
 Christmas Party**
 11-2 Sat., Dec. 23
VFW
Visit with Santa 12-1
 428 W. Orange, Hoopeston

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clearance sale on name brand kids' wear. Save 50-75% off retail. Exclusive time limit offer. Log on to www.magickidsusa.com or call 1-888-225-9411 for free color catalog. Mention discount code MK30193.

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3 picture panels of 2001 "Paint the Hall Orange" basketball game. Center panel 7"x3', 2 side panels 3"x3'. Signed by photographer Brad LaPayne. \$500 OBO. (217) 637-6937

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