

See **Al Wilson**
for all your
automotive needs!
(217) 283-7729



623 S. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston



Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

Just the Facts[©]

Phone/Fax:
(217) 283-9348
Email:

publish@justthefacts.net

Wednesday, November 28, 2007

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

Letters to the Editor

Former resident wonders 'what now?'

I just returned to my home in Colorado Springs after spending Thanksgiving week with my dad and my family in Hoopeston. I had a great time with my family. I have to say, however, that I am concerned about my hometown. I graduated from Hoopeston-East Lynn High School in 1977. I left for the navy shortly after high school. I retired from the navy in 1997 and have lived all over the western United States. I have always known that Hoopeston was a great place to be from.

In many respects, Hoopeston is still a great place to be from. But after being there this past week, I am concerned, as I am sure many people with family in Hoopeston are. My concern is what happens now? To say that there isn't much happening in Hoopeston is an understatement. Hoopeston, Rossville to the south, and Milford to the north are living examples of what has happened to small town America. I don't need to remind anyone that when I graduated from high school in 1977, there were two canning factories, a factory that made cans, a foundry, a vibrant and growing downtown, two motels, three grocery stores, and many other local businesses that were not only surviving--but thriving. A fairly easy commute to Danville could provide a wealth of opportunity for anyone willing to work. I know that what I have described is the Hoopeston of the past and will never be back. But my concern still has some validity.

So here is my concern in the form of a question: My dad is the last member of my immediate family left in Hoopeston. After he is gone, why should I return? I have good memories of Hoopeston, but it is surely not the place I grew up in. Life goes on and things change, we all know that, but my thoughts are still on the idea that I can't really go home again.

My thinking is sentimental of course, but from a practical standpoint, what is in Hoopeston that would cause me to come there if I don't have family in the area? There is no motel; there are not any tourist attractions to speak of; there isn't any fishing or hunting close by. If I wanted to move there permanently, what could I do for a living? It seems time and opportunity have passed Hoopeston by. From a sentimental point of view, that makes me a little sad; from a practical standpoint it begs the question, what happens now?

Michael Norris
Colorado Springs, CO

Don't complain, get involved

My fellow Hoopestonians,

It was a great pleasure and honor to help work on Santa's arrival in Hoopeston this year. The Santa Committee put a lot of work, time and dedication into making this, once again, a successful event. In fact, we chose to bring Santa back to the downtown area because we wanted to do a downtown scavenger hunt at the local businesses.

For those who participated in the scavenger hunt (about 25 teams) there wasn't a wait in line for pictures and the walking to and from the businesses helped keep the kids and parents warm. I am sorry that the weather inconvenienced some but that is out of our control. In fact, the weather could have been a lot worse but some choose to only look at the negative points.

What about the students I see walking to and from school each day in the cold, rainy, and snowy weather? What about our city employees who graciously hung up the wreaths in time for Santa's arrival? What about the homeless people in the surrounding communities that don't have a warm place to live? Are they mad because

See **LETTERS** on other side

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) 283-7733Rts. 1&9 283-9723

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



Holiday Special

Redeem this coupon worth

\$10.00 Off

any chemical hair service
(perm, hi-lite, lo-lite, hair color)

Nov. 20th- Dec.20th

Call Tiffany (Wolfe) Bruens

at Classic Details

(217) 283-4098

HOOPESTON ROCK SERVICE

DRIVEWAY & PARKING LOT GRADING
RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL
NEW DRIVEWAY INSTALLATION
ROCK & DIRT

DAN SHEEHAN

217-304-5052

www.hoopestonrockngrading.com



Built 2 Last Construction

BOB BROWN

General Contractor

Just in time for Winter!

***Replacement Windows**

***Doors**

***Siding**

Save on Energy Costs!

Also Available:

***Concrete Work**

***Garages**

***Room Additions**

***Remodel**

217-772-1202

Commercial and
Residential Services
12 years experience
Fully Insured

Bobnemm@cell1net.net

just the facts

is available in:

Hoopeston

*Hennings *Schuler's

*Coffee Cup *L&M *McDonald's

*Hoopeston Coin Laundry *Olympic Hardware

*Jerry's IGA *Pamida Pharmacy

*Hoopeston Convenience *CVS

*Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

*Pizza King *Price-Less Foods

*Fast Lanes *Hoopeston Public Library

*Hoopeston Express Lube *Downtown Motel

*BJ's Pump

Rossville

*Merita's *Bray's *Casey's

Wellington

Coffee Corner

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

Letters continued from other side

they were inconvenienced with the weather for an hour or so?

What about the Santa Committee members who were out there from 8 a.m. until around 2 p.m. setting up and tearing down and making sure the kids were entertained from Santa? They had few complaints.

In fact, the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce does many activities throughout the year and those include: End of the Year Banquet, Membership Drive, Chamber Golf Outing, Sweetheart Breakfast, Teacher Appreciation Day,

Business After Hours, Drivin' the Dixie, and this year's controversial (to a few) Santa's Arrival.

So, I ask Mr. Palmer, How many of those committees have you been a part of and helped coordinate? Since I have been personally involved in each one of these events, I already know the answer to that. If you would like to see it at the Civic Center next year than you can volunteer to be on this committee. The Chamber is always looking for a few good members.

To conclude, I am tired of reading all of the negative letters to the editor. I understand as Americans, we have freedom of speech and some exercise that freedom to its

fullest. Get involved and try to make this a community for the better, not the worse.

Also, the last time I checked no one is keeping anyone hostage inside the city limits. You have the *choice* to live wherever you choose. My family and I *choose* to live in Hoopeston because we believe in it.

Merry Christmas.....or is it....bah humbug????!!

Jeremy M. Deck

Vice President, Chamber of Commerce

Hoopeston

City did not decide Santa's arrival place

As Coach Jim Matta used to always say" don't believe

everything you hear and only half of what you see."

Mr. Palmer the Chamber originally had the Civic Center BOOKED for Santa coming to town. But they decided to hold the event in Rotary Park. If you would have attended the last couple of "grinch" meetings you would know that nothing was brought up on the council floor about where to hold or not to hold Santa's arrival.

I am the chairman of the parks committee and I usually always wave rental fees when it is something for the youth of our town.

Carl Ankenbrand

Alderman Ward 2

Earl Martin presents

Scrooge



Friday, December 14 7 p.m.
McFerren Park Civic Center
Hoopeston
Free Admission



Earl Martin & Derek Weambi

In consideration of others, please no infants.
Thank you for your cooperation!

Briefly

Tiny Tots

Tiny Tots story program will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room. Tiny Tots is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Milford's Festival of Trees

With the cooperation of the Milford District Library, the Milford High School Education Association is sponsoring the Sixth Annual Festival of Trees at the library from Sunday, December 2 through Saturday December 29.

The library will host a special twilight viewing from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2 from 4-6 p.m. During this special event there will be refreshments and entertainment for your enjoyment.

As visitors stroll through the magnificently decorated trees, please remember to donate a penny (or dollar) into

Obituaries

DECKER—Darlene Decker, 81, of Milford, died Sunday, Nov. 25, 2007 at Iroquois Memorial Hospital. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford. Visitation was 4-7 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Our Savior Lutheran Radio Ministry, Milford of family wishes.



the containers of your favorite tree to help support the designated organization or charity of the tree.

Handling the Holidays

The Pastoral Care Department of Provena United Samaritans Medical Center is sponsoring a program on December 4 for those who may find the holiday season challenging due to the death of a loved one. Participants should be in the lobby of Provena United Samaritans Medical Center, 812 North Logan Avenue, Danville, by 6:30 p.m. The group will then proceed to Conference Room 5 located on 3 North. This program is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. For more information contact Sister Joanne at Provena United Samaritans Medical Center Pastoral Care Department at 217-304-8367.

Police News



Kareem J. Marshall, 27, of 902 Shasta, Danville, was arrested after a traffic stop at 1:55 p.m. at Elm and First Ave. He was charged with driving while license suspended and was released on \$100 bond. His vehicle was towed from the scene.

Weather



Chance of rain today. High 47. Tonight, chance of snow. Low 27. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 35, low 25.

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

Classifieds

HOUSES FOR RENT

Two bedroom house for rent in Hoopeston. Great Neighborhood! No Pets. \$425 per month, Deposit and References Required. Call 217-304-6547 for Application.

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Express Lube has opening for full time lube technician. Will train. Drug screen required. Apply in person.

Local financial services industry seeks administrative assistant. Position available immediately. Part time, may become full time. Successful candidate will be able to deal with the public, maintain confidentiality and have excellent organizational skills. Common sense a plus. Send resume to Box D, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

HOUSES FOR SALE

Country Home south of Hoopeston. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch in a wooded setting. New custom kitchen, interior paint and carpets, maintenance free exterior, all on 1.75 acres. Asking \$179,900. Call 217-304-6547 for more info & a private showing.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Electric lift chair. 1 year old \$1,300 new. Will sell for \$600. (217) 819-8102

Aspen deluxe 4-in-1 sleeper baby crib with Sealy Baby Posturpedic mattress. Like new! \$175 OBO (217) 504-2012

Amana Washer 2speed, 12 cycle commercial quality and a Whirlpool 3 speed dryer. Both items are 5 years old. \$250 for the pair. 309-825-5939

SERVICES

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

Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad