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**Just the Facts
wishes you and yours
a very
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year**

**Just the Facts
will not be printed
December 24-26
for the
Christmas holiday.
Publication will
resume Dec. 27**

Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

Just the Facts

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

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Briefly

Ag Department honors

Two Iroquois County men were among those honored recently by the Illinois Department of Agriculture for their years of service.

Michael McCann Sr., of Milford and Gary Price of Cissna Park were honored for having served with the department for 20 years. They were among 39 department employees honored for their years of service.

Yearbooks in

Hoopeston Area High School yearbooks are in and may be picked up in the high school office. Books may be purchased for \$30 each.

Police News



A **17-year-old** Hoopeston man was arrested after a traffic stop at 3:27 p.m. Sunday in the 600 block of East McNeil. He was charged with no valid driver's license and was released on \$100 bond.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 3:55 p.m. Sunday in the 500 block of South First Ave. An unknown vehicle hit a parked 1999 Ford Windstar owned by Orfelinda Ybarra of Hoopeston.

Court Dispositions



November 15

Cyndi R. Houston, Hoopeston, failed to appear at sentencing, fined \$180; status hearing December 20.

James Allen, Hoopeston, failed to appear at sentencing, fined \$180; status hearing February 7, 2008.

Arnold Martinez, Hoopeston, case nolle-prossed.

Evan L. Hendricks, Danville, found not guilty at trial; case dismissed.

Matthew S. Ray, Hoopeston, failed to appear at trial; sentencing January 17, 2008.

Todd C. Longest, Hoopeston, trials continued to January 17, 2008.

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Gambling expansion proposal, FutureGen top list of week's activities in Illinois Senate

Editor's Note: Illinois State Sen. Dan Rutherford has begun a new column telling constituents what is happening in their state government.

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois House Democrats unveiled their version of a gambling expansion plan during the past week that would generate funding for a statewide construction program and Chicago-area mass transit. Also during the week, state officials were awaiting word on whether Illinois or Texas would be chosen as the site of a new clean coal power plant and lawmakers were advising eligible landowners to file needed paperwork under a new Conservation Stewardship Act for woodlands and other undeveloped property.

State Senator Dan Rutherford (R-Pontiac) said the new gambling plan would more than double the number of gambling positions in the state. The proposal would create a Chicago land-based casino, open two additional riverboat casinos, and expand positions at existing facilities, including thousands of slot and video poker machines at horseracing tracks.

Reaction to the latest gambling expansion proposal has been mixed. Supporters of the plan say it could generate between \$1 billion and \$2 billion to pay for state transportation needs. It also includes key reforms, backed by Senate Republicans and watchdog groups, which would clean up the controversial state Gaming Board by insisting on more scrutiny in the selection of panel members.

Opponents of the measure expressed skepticism about the unpredictability of using gambling revenues to fund key state priorities. In addition, key allies of Senate President Emil Jones (D-Chicago) have criticized the plan's minority ownership provisions.

Regarding the clean coal plant, the FutureGen Alliance and the U.S. Department of Energy are at odds about the pending announcement of the \$1.4 billion power plant. FutureGen officials said they planned on announcing the location of the site on Tuesday, December 18; however, federal authorities warned they would not be ready to give their go-ahead on that date.

In the running for the facility are two communities

Senate Week in Review
 by
Sen. Dan Rutherford



in Illinois – Mattoon and Tuscola – as well as two Texas locations. The state-of-the-art plant would bring approximately 200 permanent jobs and 2,000 construction jobs to the region, and it's anticipated the project would yield more than \$100 million annually in economic output.

As a result of a new law approved this year, lawmakers are encouraging landowners to take advantage of changes that could help reduce property taxes for their wooded and other undeveloped land. Conservation Stewardship Program applications are now available online at www.dnr.state.il.us/Stewardship/index.htm.

The new stewardship program is aimed at fixing problems that resulted from a 2004 change in state policy that significantly increased assessments for woodlands, prairie, wetlands and other undeveloped properties.

The new program will apply to 2008 tax assessments, which are payable in 2009. The deadline for applying for the program is January 1, 2008.

Also during the week, Governor Rod Blagojevich made changes to legislation requiring outdoor football stadiums, soccer fields, baseball fields and other outdoor facilities to have an automated external defibrillator (AED) on hand to help save lives in the event of a medical emergency. House Bill 1279 adds outdoor physical fitness and sports facilities to the list of facilities currently required to have defibrillators.

Weather 

Mostly sunny today. High 34. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 25. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 46, low 29.

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

The Governor used his power of amendatory veto (AV) to change part of the legislation to ensure that both indoor and outdoor park district facilities are covered by the law. Because of the amendatory veto action, the measure must now return to the General Assembly for a vote on the Governor's changes before it can go into effect.

Classifieds

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Dana Burk's licensed child daycare in East Lynn will have full-time openings available in late-January. (217) 304-5356

HELP WANTED

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

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