

Real people.
Real answers.
Real quick®.

COUNTRY

Insurance & Financial Services

www.countryfinancial.com

David Morgan
Shahna Magee

Agents
626 S. 8th Ave.
Hoopeston
60942
(217)
283-7703

Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

Just the Facts®

Friday, December 21, 2007

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

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

publish@justthefacts.net

Reader submits special Christmas poem for local readers

Editor's Note: The following poem, submitted by Tom Evans, is attributed to a U.S. Navy soldier stationed in Iraq. Whether that is the true origin of the poem is unclear but it does remind us of our service people who are away from home at the holiday and is worth printing.

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.
Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, Then the
sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.
My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,

And I crept to the door just to see who was near.
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.

A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.
"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!"
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts..
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light
Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,
That separates you from the darkest of times.
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.
My Gramps died at ' Pearl on a day in December,"

See POEM on other side

China Wok Buffet

113 E. Main, Hoopeston 283-5888

Open 7 days a week - Dine In and Carry Out

Best Madarin, Szechuan, Hunan Cuisine

Lunch & Dinner

Featuring Soup, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Egg Rolls,

General Tso's Chicken, Fried Fish, Shrimp,

Fresh Ice Cream, and much more!

GREAT FOOD!

North Fork Conservation Club Fish Fry

Fish, Tenderloins, Hamburgers,
Chicken Strips, Shrimp and many sides

11 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday

Delivery: 283-4646

A Favorite Thing
A Gift Certificate from Molly
(It'll be worth twice as much at the
Day After Christmas Sale)
Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert
702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days!

It's never too late to start saving for retirement!
Stop in today and learn the facts about
an Individual Retirement Account.

Community Bank

Hoopeston, Illinois

Your hometown bank since 1913

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

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

Santa shops here!

free gift wrapping

Journey Diamond Necklace

\$399

Diamond Rings

starting at \$89

Christmas Eve Hours

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

314 E. Main St., Hoopeston



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

Bobnemmm@cell1net.net

Commercial and
Residential Services
12 years experience
Fully Insured



Watch the

Bears vs Packers

Sunday, Dec. 23

Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Free chili \$1 draft beers

Hoopeston American Legion

502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

**HOOPESTON ROCK
SERVICE**
DRIVEWAY & PARKING LOT GRADING
RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL
NEW DRIVEWAY INSTALLATION
ROCK & DIRT
DAN SHEEHAN
217-304-5052
www.hoopestonrockngrading.com



Fast Lanes & Pit Stop
will close at 1:30 p.m.
December 24.
Closed Christmas Day
New Year's Eve
Open Dining 4-6 p.m.
Reservations not required
6-8 p.m.
Reservations required
Serving Prime Rib,
Chicken Cordon Bleu or Shrimp
with choice of fries or
baked potato, salad, dinner roll
Smoke River
8:30 p.m.-1 a.m.
Tickets \$5 per person
Advance tickets available now!
King & Queen of the Hill
Tournament
January 5 6:30 p.m. Sign up now!
EAST LANES
719 W. Elm, Hoopeston (217) 283-6505

Poem *continued from other side*

Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always re-mem-bers."

My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam',
And now it is my turn and so, here I am
I've not seen my own son in more than a while,
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.
I can live through the cold and the being alone,
Away from my family, my house and my home.
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.
I can carry the weight of killing another,
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother..
Who stand at the front against any and all,
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."
"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?"



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

It seems all too little for all that you've done,
For being away from your wife and your son."

Obituaries

HOLLEN - Naydean Florence Hollen, 85, of Hoopes-ton died at 7:26 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2007 at home. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Antioch Church of Christ.

Weather



Drizzle today. High 45. Tonight, cloudy.
Low 40. Tomorrow, rain, rain or snow late. High 48,
low 29. Sunday, mostly cloudy. High 29, low 17. Mon-day, mostly sunny. High 27, low 17. Tuesday and
Wednesday, mostly sunny. Highs near 31, lows near 17.
For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston
Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.



*Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas &
Prosperous New Year*

firstallied
Member FINRA/SIPC

Sharon D. Dixon
Financial Consultant
sdixon@1stallied.com

207 East Main Street
Hoopeston IL 60942

800-787-4745
217-283-7103

Doc B. and R.V.
The Rossville American Legion
CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 22 5 p.m.
Domestic Beer \$1.50 Shots \$2
Legion opens at Noon!
104 Thompson, Rossville

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.
To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.
For when we come home, either standing or dead,
To know you remember we fought and we bled.
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us."

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

3 BR upstairs apt. Stove, fridge furnished. 1 car garage & base-ment access. \$400/mo., \$400 dep. No pets. References required.
(217) 772-1254

HOOPESTON - COZY 2-Bedroom 1-Bath Unit. Full base-ment. Nearly new. Walk to shopping, quiet area. NO PETS.
\$475 + deposit. 620 S 8th. 217-260-2546. Available now.

CHILD CARE

Little Rascals Daycare now has part and full time openings. Call
Lacey, (217) 504-1344

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

HOUSES FOR RENT

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

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.

SERVICES

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

VEHICLES FOR SALE

'95 F-150 . 6 cyl., extended cab, auto start. \$2500 OBO. (217) 283-7027 days, 283-9611 after 4:30

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