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**Thursday, April 3, 2008**

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

**www.justthefacts.net**

## Shell station likely to remain closed without liquor license

The Hoopeston Shell station at Rtes. 1 and 9, closed since October, is likely to remain that way.

The Hoopeston City Council did not act on a request from store owner Kenneth Gomes to issue a liquor license to the business.

On the meeting agenda, Alderwoman Nancy Stipp was slated to bring up the matter. However, "I really don't wish to discuss it again," she said, "unless the council has something it wants to discuss."

A few months ago, Gomes, along with Rocky Palak of Convenient and Frank Smith, then of Sav-U-Mor Food Store, asked the council to increase the number of liquor licenses. That request was denied.

Mayor Bill DeWitt told the council that Gomes was in attendance and allowed him to tell the council why he wanted the license.

Gomes, along with his banker, Ike Bokhari, told aldermen that a beer license would mean more sales for the store, along with more sales tax revenue for the city.

Gomes said he could not rely solely on gas and convenience store items to make his store successful. Someone who might want to buy alcohol and finding none, would not buy anything at his store.

He added that, to boost sales, he tried to get a restaur-

ant to occupy the space once used by Burger King but had been unsuccessful.

Bokhari said another of the men's stations had no trouble getting a license and that increasing the number of licenses did not mean increased liquor consumption.

Gomes said more than half of his business came from out-of-towners, with only 20 to 40 percent from residents.

He added that it is "not financially viable to open the store without having all the produces available" and accused the council of "killing a prime spot" by failing to grant a license.

Bokhari said had they known a license was not available, they would not have purchased the business.

The council was not swayed by their arguments, countering with points of their own.

Alderman Ed Lotz said other businesses had been turned down for liquor licenses and that granting one to Gomes might result in a lawsuit against the city.

Alderman Brandon Hamilton said another outlet could hurt existing businesses that already sell liquor, that Gomes had not shown a commitment to the community by maintaining regular hours at the station and that liquor sales would not be a major financial boost. "Even if it brings in \$100 a month, I don't think that's going to pay all your bills," he said.

Residents agreed with the council. Max Page suggested that alcohol sales wouldn't help business much, but adding a dentist or a veterinarian might.

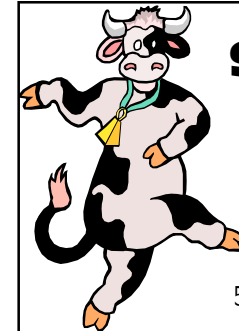
Gomes asked whether one of two existing on-site consumption licenses could be converted to a packaged beer license and was told no.

He then asked whether the council would reconsider in a few months if he made suggested changes but Hamilton said it would take more than a few months to prove a commitment to the city.

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**Saturday: 12:30-5:30 p.m.**  
**9 p.m.-close**  
**Sunday: Noon-4 p.m.**

719 W. Elm, Hoopeston (217) 283-6505

## Briefly

### Kindergarten pre-registration

Hoopeston Area kindergarten pre-registration will be held from 4:30-6 p.m. Wednesday, April 9 at Maple Grade School, 500 S. Fourth St.

Please bring birth certificate, shot record and social security number for each student.

The event is for parents only.

### Job Fair

Career Connections Job Fair 2008 will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, April 9 in the DACC Mary Miller Gymnasium.

The public is invited to meet area employers who are recruiting for part-time and full-time positions. Participants should dress for an interview and bring several copies of their resume.

The Job Fair is sponsored by DACC's Career & Employment Services Center, Job Training Partnership, Neuhooff Broadcasting, and the Commercial News. For more information, or to schedule a booth, call DACC Career & Employment Services Center, 217-443-8597.

### Alley cleanup

Hoopeston Street & Alley Department will begin alley

cleanup on Monday, April 14, weather permitting. Cleanup is limited to yard waste only.

### Drivin' the Dixie events

Residents may sign up now for events during Drivin' the Dixie Day on Saturday, June 21.

Vendors may sign up for the flea market and garage sales which will begin at 8 a.m., with a 7 a.m. set up time. Fee is \$5.

Also, a Dixie Derby derby race will be held in the Jaycee Shelter in McFerren Park. Registration fee is \$30, which includes a t-shirt, pinewood derby car kits, pit passes and two drink tickets to be used at local food stands in the park that day. Individuals, families and businesses are all invited to participate.

## Police News

A **43-year old** Hoopeston man reported Tuesday that someone damaged his 2003 Ford truck. Police reported a bb size hole in the windshield.

**Carl Goulding IV**, 28, of Danville was arrested at 1 p.m. Tuesday in Danville. He was charged with burglary to auto and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville, to await arraignment.

A **43-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 6:29 p.m. Tuesday that someone took prescription medication from her home in the 900 block of East Wyman.

## Obituaries

**CUNDIFF** - Margaret Irene (Spain) Cundiff, 81, of Hoopeston died at 12:10 a.m. Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Chestnut Street Church of Christ. Burial will be in Potomac Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Friday at Wolfe Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Diabetes Foundation or charity of the donor's choice.

**GRIMM** - Elizabeth C. (Knapp) Grimm, 97, of Cissna Park died at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at Gilman Nursing Center, Gilman. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park. Burial will be in Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Cissna Park. Visitation will be one hour before service at the church. Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park, was in charge of arrangements.

## Weather

Showers likely today. High 50. Tonight, thunderstorms. Low 42. Tomorrow, chance of showers. High 52, low 37.

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



every Thursday 7 p.m.

**Hoopeston  
American Legion**  
502 E. Penn

## Classifieds

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**HOOPESTON** - Newer 2 bedroom duplex, 2 baths, garage, nice yard. Friendly neighborhood. Walk to stores. No pets. 720 W. Elm. \$575 + deposit. (217) 260-2546.

### HELP WANTED

Open applications and interviews for Papa's, Hoopeston's newest restaurant will be held from 9-1 Saturday at 329 W. Main. Interviewing for all positions for shifts covering hours of 5 a.m.-9 p.m.

### HOUSES FOR RENT

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