

**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



**Start your Christmas shopping now!**  
**IN STOCK:**  
 The hard to find Nintendo Wii and Wii Fit.  
 Affordable Asus GPS systems  
 New and used Desktops, and used laptops.  
*Cooketech High Speed Internet available.*  
 **217-283-9552**  
 303B E Main, Hoopeston

**The Shop Around**  
**BOGO!**  
 Buy one regular priced Christmas item  
 & get the second 1/2 off  
*(excludes items reduced)*  
 Boxed Christmas Cards 50% Off  
 Ornaments 40% Off  
 Tea Pots & Accessories 30% Off  
 Snowman Sweatshirts 20% Off  
**Holiday Hours**  
 Closing Noon Dec. 24,  
 Reopening Dec. 26  
 Closing 5:00 p.m. Dec. 30,  
 Reopening Jan 5, 2009  
**Christmas Merchandise**  
**50% off on Dec. 26**  
 10 E. Lyle St., Milford (815) 889-4900

the Corner

Lourdine Florek  
 owner/publisher

**Just the Facts** ©  
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## Council asked to purchase land for housing development

Hoopeston stands to lose housing development project, valued at over \$2 million, if the city council doesn't purchase land for it.

At Tuesday night's Hoopeston City Council meeting, VISTA volunteer Jean Minick, who has spent the last year working on the workforce housing development, presented a petition to the council, asking aldermen to consider purchasing 31 acres of land formerly owned by the Hoopeston Industrial Corporation.

According to the petition, HIC verbally agreed to sell 10 acres for the first of the three-stage development for \$6,500 per acre, but then approved selling the property

to an individual. The unnamed buyer has agreed to sell the land at the same price, but only if all 31 acres are purchased.

If the council purchases the land, the Illinois Community Action Development Corporation has agreed to put an option on the property. If all three stages are completed, the state would end up paying \$180,000 of the \$201,500 price tag, leaving a total city investment of \$31,500.

The land could be purchased with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds, according to the petition. Each of  
 See COUNCIL on other side

**Open All Weekend**  
**Lots of Specials**  
**Gift Certificates**  
*Flowers & Gifts by Mully Culbert*  
 702 W. Main, Hoopeston (800) 523-1344 Open 7 Days!

**Our Gift to You!**  
**Holiday Special**  
**\$8 OFF**  
**Full Service Lube, Oil, Filter**  
 MUST PRESENT COUPON Expires 12/31/08  
**Hoopeston Express Lube**  
 Rtes. 1 & 9, Hoopeston 283-5373 www.quicklube4u.com



**25% Off**  
**all Eco-Drive watches in stock**  
 Dec. 18-24  
**Extended Hours**  
 M-F 9am-7pm  
 Sat 9am-5pm.  
 **Unger's Jewelry**  
 314 E. Main St., Downtown Hoopeston  
 We buy scrap gold!

**Rossville American Legion**  
 104 Thompson  
**Tacos**  
 serving 4-8 p.m. Wednesday  
**Come Join Us**  
 in welcoming **Andrea** back  
 at the Friday Fish Fry  
 serving 5-8 p.m.




**See you this Friday**  
**to sell your gold jewelry in**  
**Global Fashions!**  
 We buy from 20-40 people each time.  
 Last buy this year & maybe till spring  
 depending on winter weather.  
**End the year with some cash in**  
**your pocket!**

**Kathleen**  
 Welcome to  
**OVERTHEHILLVILLE!**  
**Happy 50th**  
**Birthday**  
*(ya old woman)*  
 Love,  
 Your family & friends



**Special Buy!**  
 While Supply Lasts!  
**\$17<sup>97</sup>**  
 39 pc.  
**Drill and Drive Set**  
 313887



**Olympic Hardware**  
 516 N. Dixie Hwy. Hoopeston  
 (217) 283-5186 Open Sundays



 **Thursday is  
\$1<sup>25</sup> beer night  
at V.F.W.**  
**Also serving our BIG TACOS!**  
**Starting at noon**  
**Public Welcome    Benefits welcome!**  
Corner of Fourth Ave. & Orange, Hoopeston

**B I N G O**  
every Thursday 7 p.m.  
**Hoopeston  
American Legion**  
502 E. Penn

**Art Extravaganza**  
open to youngsters ages 8-12  
**Wednesday, Dec. 31 9 p.m.-2 a.m.**  
T-Shirt Painting Portrait Making  
Only 5 spots available! Movies & Popcorn All for only \$45! Ride home provided  
**ANC Art Studio**  
204 S. Market, Hoopeston

 **Chicken Wings**  
Serving 5-8 p.m. Thursdays  
Use our drive-thru for your carryout order!  
**Our Gift Certificates make a great gift!**  
**BJ's Pump**  
Bar & Package Liquor Store  
1023 W. Main, Hoopeston  
(217) 283-5700

 **Letters to the Editor** 

**Willamina's family says 'thank you'**

It was only six months ago that Will and I found ourselves sitting in the Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center in Hoopeston across from Dr. Frescoln as she told us that Willamina had a very large tumor on her liver. Our seemingly perfect lives came to a screeching halt at that moment. I still do not have the words to explain exactly how we felt or how we moved through that day.

Our experience, unfortunately, is not uncommon. Many of you have been in unexpected situations where your 'everyday, as you know it life' has just stopped—maybe just put on hold as you focused your attention in another direction. A diagnosis, a job loss, a financial burden, a death-it all results in unexpected pain and suffering.

There are days when you don't know how to get up in the morning. There are nights spent sleepless as your fear takes over. "How do I do this?" "Why did this happen to me?" "What do I do next?" Valid questions in a life that is unpredictable. You venture through a grieving process: anger, fear, resentment, bargaining-valid emotions in a life that is unexplainable.

Then, one day, as you venture outside yourself again, you open your eyes to see people surrounding you. You find kind cards with kind words. You find compassionate smiles. You find hugs in unexpected places. You find prayers from unexpected people. You open your eyes to discover that your pain isn't exclusive to you anymore. Your pain is shared by family and friends, acquaintances and strangers alike. You realize that you are being held on the shoulders of an entire community. You find your hope through the hope of others.

I cannot let this Christmas season pass without acknowledging the most important gift that our family has been given this year. It is a gift that is easily over-

**Council** continued from other side

the first two stages would result in 25 housing units, which would add to the TIF fund through property taxes.

In unrelated business, the council announced a retirement party will be held for Sgt. Jim Goodrum from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. January 2, 2008.

looked...the gift of community. It is because of you that we are able to be strong parents for Willamina. You have cared for us. You have loved Willamina. You have given us encouragement and hope on days where we needed encouragement and hope. You have lifted us up in prayer. You have always believed...and you still believe...that the best is yet to come for Willamina.

Dear community, we thank you. We thank you for what you have done for the Clayton/Crouch family in 2008 as well as what you have done for others who have been met with unexpected circumstances. We are not the first family to be so touched by your love and support and we certainly will not be the last.

You are a hope-giving community. Thank you.

Will, Katie & Willamina Clayton

Jim & Janet Crouch

**And Merry Christmas to all**

My Christmas dream: no giant newspapers to lift on Thanksgiving," no mob scenes at stores seen on TV and constant news barrages of statistics of how many are spending less or more on "Christmas."

How sad that business owners look forward to this time of year because they depend on it to make a profit!!

One part-time worker was actually trampled to death by a mob at a Wal-Mart store on Black Friday. He did not even get a change to *open* the door; the barbarians forced it open by sheer force of their weight, bending the steel frame and killing a human being. And over what...? The Prince of Peace? I think not.

People literally fighting over items in stores, passing out from the stress. Worried they don't have enough money or that they have none. How sad, how needless.

This is not a "Seasonal," nor a Winter Holiday. It is a celebration of The Prince of Peace's birth. We call it Christmas. While Christ was not born December 25, this is the time of year we celebrate. It is a time of rejoicing and thanksgiving; time to spend with family and friends,

**Weather**

Freezing rain likely today and tonight. High, low 32. Tomorrow, chance of rain. High 36, low 24.

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

our dearest treasures. It is time for merriment and also reflection on His walk on earth, crucifixion and resurrection; the very reason He was born.

Enjoy this time with me and others in merriment of heart, thanksgiving, singing and enjoying time with family and friends, extending extra goodness's at this time of year to those less fortunate. And praying for peace; and especially for those who need to be reminded what this time of year is all about so they may have peace. Trim a tree, light a candle, talk to God. You will find yourself unstressed.

Peace to you and yours now and always.

Alice Lawrence Fink

Hoopeston

**Classifieds**

**CHILD CARE**

Little Miracles Daycare has openings for 6 weeks to 12 years old. Daily activities, indoor and outdoor play, warm nutritious meals, First Aid and CPR certified. State pay accepted. For more info please call 217-504-1335.

**HOUSES FOR RENT**

Large 2 Bedroom Duplex, stove and fridge, very nice, no pets. \$400 per month + deposit. Call 217-304-6547 for application.

2 Bedroom house in Rossville. High efficiency furnace, fresh paint, very nice, no pets. \$450 per month + deposit. Call 217-304-6547 for application.

Hoopeston, So 4th Street, Clean 2 bedroom house with nice basement & 2 car garage. \$450/Mo. with deposit. Refrig, Range, Washer, Dryer, Central AC & new Furnace. NO pets, Smoke Free. Call 283-7568 or 283-5107 for application.

2 BR house in Hoopeston. Energy efficient furnace & central air. \$425/mo. Deposit, references required. No pets allowed.. (815) 471-3245

Rossville: 206 Church St. 2 BR, basement. \$450/mo.+deposit. No pets. (217) 304-3477

**HOUSES FOR SALE OR RENT**

Hoopeston, 421 E. Thompson Remodeled 2 bedroom, \$400 per month plus deposit. OR Save money by purchasing on contract. Call for details. Realtor Owned 217-304-9140

**PETS**

Free to good home: Chow/German Shepherd mix puppies. Adorable. (217) 597-0926 - Al

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