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# The PIT STOP at EAST LAMES

Thursday Friday Saturday

Kitchen Closed Cod & Ribeye Prime Rib & Ribeye



New Year's Eve Lunch:

Ribeye Steak Sandwich Supper:

Prime Rib, Ribeye or Chicken Cordon Bleu

Reservations being taken from 4:30-8:30 p.m.

Smoke River Band 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

### Open Bowling

Wednesday: 11 a.m.-Close New Year's Day: 1 p.m.-Close

Friday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m, 9:15 p.m.-Close

Saturday: 1 p.m.-Close Sunday: Noon-4 p.m.

**Generation II Saturday 9-12** 

Youth League will bowl Sat. morning! 719 W. Elm, Hoopeston (217) 283-6505

Lourdine Florek owner/publisher

# Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

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

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

www.justthefacts.net

### A look back at the (almost) late, great



Fortunately for the area, 2008 has not been a year for major (usually bad) news, making a Top 5 list of stories difficult to compile. However, there have been several categories that have been in the news for at least a few, if not many, months and will continue into 2009.

The top category for 2008 is **economic development**, which encompasses many things, including business opening, closings, activities geared to bring people in.

Officials continue to work on what many consider a top priority: getting a motel for Hoopeston. Towards that goal, one potential developer dropped out but a new one, Shailesh Patel, was brought on board. Cleanup work at the corner of Rtes. 1 and 9 was mainly completed this year and included the capping of wells so that ground water would not be used as drinking water. The last hurdle to getting a No Further Remediation Letter from the Illinois EPA is an engineered barrier, which is expected to be done soon, hopefully allowing the letter and a spring groundbreaking on the project.

Also included in the category is a planned workforce housing project, which was started after a survey showed a need for affordable housing in Hoopeston.

The project had been planned for part of Hoopeston Industrial Corporation land on Rt. 9, but after giving a verbal OK on that deal, the corporation sold the land to a private individual. Recently, however, VISTA volunteer Jean Minick petitioned the city council to purchase the entire parcel from the buyer so that the project may be built in three stages.

2008 saw the resignation of the city's first economic developer, Shannon Ruh, who accepted a position in Peoria, and the hiring of Dana Goodrum as the new

Several businesses changed owners in 2008, include Sav-U-Mor Food Store, L&M Lunch and Lorraine Theatre.

Also this year, Gary Dickison made a huge impact in the downtown with the repainting of the McFerren Building, using the city's façade improvement program.

Hoopeston Mainstreet and Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce, along with many volunteers, worked especially hard in 2008 to bring people to new events in the city, including Drivin' the Dixie and the new Fall Festi-

See 2008 on other side

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## Second Chance Rookies

102 N. Market, Hoopeston

## **New Year's Eve Party**

\$2 Domestics & Imports \$2.50 Beam & Coke Champagne & Prizes Come celebrate at the Chancel

Ring in the New Year with Us! Taco Night DJ - Tunes 'N Transit (Josh & Randy) 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

> Champagne at midnight BJ's Pump



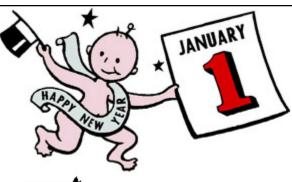
Bar & Package Liquor Store 1023 W. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-5700



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he Facts

wishes everyone a safe, healthy and prosperous 2009! Just the Facts will not be printed Jan. 1 but will resume Jan. 2: however, the office will be closed Jan. 2

#### 2008 continued from other side

val. Combined with the annual Sweetcorn Festival, sponsored by the Hoopeston Jaycees, many people were treated to Hoopeston hospitality throughout the year.

The second category for 2008 is the **weather**. Hoopeston residents proved they were made of hearty stuff, dealing with an unexpected flood in January, strong storms in June and August and ice in December.

**Hoopeston Regional Health Center** is third on the list, with stories that included the ouster of former CEO David Elliott in January, followed in April by news that QHR







had been hired to manage the facility. John Crawford, an interim CEO was appointed until a permanent replacement, Harry Brockus, was appointed in November.

In September, Rossville physician's assistant Denny Price joined forces with Hoopeston Regional Health Center and in October, the health center held an open house to unveil the second phase of its construction project and honored three local people for their dedication to the facility.

Raymond and Winifred Ervin were honored for their work raising funds for a new helipad, in memory of their daughter, Marti. Also honored was Dick Doyle, for his nearly 20-year tenure on the board. The new radiology suite was named in his honor.

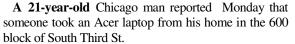
Some people are known at an international level by one name. Locally, there isn't one person who isn't familiar with the story of Willamina.

Willamina Clayton, daughter of Will and Katie Clayton, was diagnosed with liver cancer in June. The news brought an outpouring of love and support from the community. People purchased "Where There's a "Will'amina, There's a Way" t-shirts, cheered on the family, who were grand marshals of the Sweetcorn Festival Parade, and gathered for A Day of Play for Willamina in September.

Not quite one year old when her cancer was diagnosed, Willamina underwent chemotherapy, then received a liver transplant in September. Earlier this month, she had part of her lung removed after spots were found on it. Currently, she is undergoing more chemotherapy.

Rounding out the Top 5 is the Rossville Area Fire

Police News



**Two Hoopeston men** face preliminary charges of residential burglary and criminal damage to property over \$300.

Daniel W. Cobb, 23, and Robert H. Irvin, 18, were arrested for allegedly burglarizing a residence in the 500 block of South Second Ave. The arrest came after police

### **Briefly**

#### Library to close

Hoopeston Public Library will be closed December 31 and January 1 for New Year's.

#### **Open houses set**

The end of the year is bringing the end of careers for a couple local people.

- MainSource Bank will hold an open house in honor of Carolyn Graham's retirement. The event will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday at the bank, 323 E. Main St., Hoopeston.
- The City of Hoopeston will hold a retirement party for Sgt. Jim Goodrum from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday at City Hall, 301 W. Main.

The public is invited to both celebrations.

received a tip from a 28-year-old Hoopeston woman that the men allegedly bragged about the crimes.

Additionally, an Illinois Department of Corrections warrant was issued for Cobb, who is on parole.

Both were taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

**Kurtis J. Simpson**, 23, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 10:58 p.m. Monday in the 600 block of West Elm. Wanted on a Ford County warrant for obstruction of justice, he was turned over to Ford County authorities.

#### **Court Dispositions**



#### December 4

Marie Hartman, Hoopeston, fined \$180; status hearing February 19, 2009.

**Lisa M. Zamora**, Hoopeston, two cases of restraint of dogs by owner or keeper dismissed.

#### Weather



Blustery today. High 28. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 16. Tomorrow, breezy, chance of snow late. High 34, low 24. Friday, chance of snow. High 28, low 17.

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

Protection District's quest to find funding for its new fire station.

Completed earlier this year, the new station was expected to be paid for through a special tax levy. The fire district's board scrapped that plan, which had been endorsed by the board's then-attorney, when the plan was found to be illegal.

A referendum on the November 4 ballot asked residents of the district to approve a bond issue but that was defeated by about 13 votes. Officials hope to put another referendum on the April ballot.

## **Classifieds**

#### HELP WANTED

Position available: Director at Mustard Seed Christian Daycare--full or part-time position. Must be director qualified by DCFS. Resumes are due by mail 350A N Chicago Rossville, IL 60963 or in person by January 6. Call 217-748-6044 for more information.

#### HOUSES FOR RENT

- 2 Bedroom house in Rossville. High efficiency furnace, fresh paint, very nice, no pets. \$450 per month + deposit. Call 217-304-6547 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. Very cute 2 BR, basement. \$425/mo.+deposit. No pets. (217) 304-3477 for applications.

2 BR bungalow. Fenced yard, fish pond. References. No pets. \$465/mo.+deposit. (217) 799-0575

#### PETS

Free small female dog. (239) 293-5853

#### **SERVICES**

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