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# The PIT STOP at EAST LAMES

Monday Tuesday Taco Salad Chicken & Noodles

Open Bowling all day

Wednesday

Ribeye Steak Sandwich &

**Turkey Manhattan** 

Thursday Friday

Saturday

**Swiss Steak** 

Cod & Ribeye Prime Rib

Bar Stool Golf starts at noon Saturday Big Brothers/Big Sisters at 1-2:30 & 4 9 Pin Tournament at 7 with sign-in at 6:30 The Greely Witt Band, back by popular demand 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Come early and enjoy Prime Rib before Benny, Billy & John take you back to the early years with their fine music!

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

Lourdine Florek owner/publisher

# Just the Facts®

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348 Email

publish@justthefacts.net

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

## HPL hosts 'Meet the Artist,' Lillian Betka, on Wednesday

Hoopeston Public Library is hosting a reception to give area residents an opportunity to meet the artist whose works are on display from March 9 (after 2 p.m.) to March 20.

Lillian Betka has always loved color—especially pinks, blues, and reds. Before she began painting, Betka used her artistic talent in sewing, quilting, and knitting.

Her husband's death, a move to a smaller home, and two surgeries were indirectly responsible for Betka's decision to paint. A friend suggested she take an art class as therapy. She began with oils and later discovered that she loved the freedom provided by watercolors. Her work is multi-faceted, for she uses a variety of mediums.

On Wednesday, March 11, from 1 to 2 p.m., you can meet Betka and enjoy her art in the area near the upper level circulation desk. You might ask which



Photo contributed

Lillian Betka next to one of her works, which will be displayed at Hoopeston Public Library.

pieces are her favorites, what provides inspiration, or if she has advice for aspiring artists.

The library is located at 110 N. Fourth St.

# Hoopeston Area sets parent-teacher conferences March 19-20

Hoopeston Area schools will conduct parent-teacher conferences from 3-7 p.m. Thursday, March 19 and 8-11 a.m. Friday, March 20.

Due to numbers, parents of students in kindergarten through sixth grade need to make an appointment with their child's teacher to insure time available for their conference.

Parents of students in grades seven-12 do not need to make appointments.

Parents/guardians who cannot arrange their schedules to attend during the set times are urged to call their child's school to arrange an alternate time for a conference.

Grade reports will not be sent home with students. They must be picked up by parents at their child's attendance center during the set times.

Students will be dismissed early on March 19. Grades K-six will be dismissed at 2:05, followed at 2:20 by grades seven-12.

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## Louise Lawson

03/11/08 When someone you love becomes a memory that memory becomes a treasure.

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### **Letters to the Editor**

# $\searrow$

### **Economy - fixing both ends**

When your family's economy (budget) isn't working and you are falling behind, you have to make some changes. You may have to cut down on some things that you have become accustomed to having, and you must try to choose wisely how you spend your available funds. Would you agree?

There is really no difference between a family's budget and that of our federal government, with one exception. Your family budget is run by your funds that you have worked hard for. Your federal government's budget is run by funds collected in the form of taxes on your income and possessions. Although those choosing how your tax money is going to be spent may only be in the government for a short time, you and your descendants will have to pay the consequences for how that money is spent for many decades.

Since we taxpayers are footing the bill for all federal spending, shouldn't we have a bigger say in how it is allocated?



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There are a number of spending projects about to implemented to try to create employment. How many of you would like to see our government improve the spending on projects that are already in the works, before we begin new ones?

There is one glaring project that has needed changes for decades, but we keep flushing money down the drain, with the same old ideas that have never worked.

The United States has five percent of the world population and 25 percent of the world's inmates. The 2.2 million inmates, half of whom are between the ages of 18-35, have increased 1,000 percent in the last three decades. Half of the state prisons are filled beyond capacity, the rest are close behind. What is our answer? Build more prisons. There are 1,600 gangs in prison, 25 percent of inmates are in gangs, and they make money by protecting other inmates and selling drugs. Drug trade in prison is estimated at \$300 million. Eighty percent of inmates are drug users, and 35 percent are drug addicts.

There are 800,000 inmates kept in isolation for two, three or more years. The rising suicide rate, 70 percent, is attributed to the increase of solitary confinement. In state prisons, 25 percent of beds are for the mentally ill, and 50 percent of these individuals are in solitary confinement. These people ought to be in hospitals. Prisons were never designed to house these people, who need special treatment away from hardened criminals.

Ninety five percent of all inmates will be released, and

### **Police News**



A 14-year-old Hoopeston boy is the subject of a juvenile petition filed with the Vermilion County State's Attorney's office. The boy is charged with theft over \$300 in connection with a March 1 incident where a cell phone and wallet were taken from a 15-year-old Hoopeston Area High School student.

The petition was filed at 5:45 p.m. Monday.

A juvenile petition was filed on a 14-year-old Hoopeston boy, charging him with criminal damage to property and assault on a complaint from a 52-year-old Hoopeston woman for an incident at 4:48 p.m. Monday in the 600 block of West Washington.

half are serving a term of two years or less. Only 12 out of 5,000 national prisons have higher education programs. There are 700,000 inmates released each year, and more than 66 percent return to prison within three years, with 34 percent of drug users returning within a year. There are 6.9 million incarcerated, on probation, or on parole.

I know what you are thinking. These people committed crimes and prison is where they should be. Really?

If these people are not rehabilitated in prison, and in some cases made worse, before they are released, what are they going to do when they get out? Yes, commit more crimes. If they were uneducated when they went in, all they are going to learn while in prison is to become better criminals. The facts and the statistics bear this out. Prisons as they are run today, are no more than revolving doors. I dare anyone to question this!

I ask you this: If our system is so good, why is every other country in the world doing better than we are? Our government does no service to the employees at federal or state prisons, and they create a heavy tax and burden on our local law enforcement agencies.

We consider ourselves civilized people, we try to feed less fortunate people throughout the world, but we have no compassion for the less fortunate people right here in our own country. We can do one of two things. We can continue to bury our heads in the sand, and wonder why we can't walk down the street at night, or we can insist that our government straighten up this inhumane treatment of a segment of our population, and help them

### Fire Calls



Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 3:33 a.m. Tuesday to Café Delights, 417 S. Market, for a report of smoke and fire in the basement. No injuries were reported.

## Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 46. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 34. Tomorrow, breezy, warmer. High 59, low 46. For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston

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

become productive citizens of this country.

Tom Evans Hoopeston

## **Classifieds**

#### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

FOR RENT: Hoopeston-Newer Adult complex. 2 bedroom 1 bath. Full basement. Washing machine, refrigerator, stove. Walk to stores. Quiet surroundings. Immediate occupancy. \$475 + deposit, references required. No pets. 217-260-2546.

#### HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Multi Agency seeks assistant Teen Reach director/cook. Must have high school diploma or GED. 5 years experience dealing with children a plus. Must have or be able to get food handler's license. Send resume to Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave., Hoopeston IL 60942

Local professional seeks punctual assistant who practices confidentiality and has people and computer skills. Part time, flexible hours. Send resume to Box C, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

#### HOUSES FOR RENT

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage, completely remodeled with appliances available March 1stsaid\$450 per month + deposit. For application, call 217-283-5475.

204 Church St, Rossville- Available- March 2 BR Ranch- \$425 + deposit. No pets, references- 217-304-3477 for an application.

East Orange, Hoopeston. 2 BR, garage. No pets. \$475/mo + security deposit. (217) 304-3477

#### HOUSES FOR SALE

House for sale in Rossville - 2/3 bedroom, very nice condition, many new updates, needs nothing. Great location, close to school. Asking \$37,000. Call 217-304-6547 for details.

For Sale By Owner - E. McNeil 2 bed, 1 bath, large privacy fence, patio, full basement, 2 car det. garage, corner lot, appliances neg, \$47,000 217-283-4312

### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

4 mo. old large white Kenmore refrigerator. Paid \$469, asking \$300; heavy duty 4 wheeled walker w/hand brakes, seat. New. \$200. (217) 748-6359

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### WANTED

Buying Indian head pennies, pre-1964 silver coins. (217) 499-2800