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Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

Mayor says motel project on hold due to lack of funding

A proposed motel at the intersection of Routes 1 and 9 is on hold due to a lack of funding, based on the economy.

At Monday's Hoopeston City Council meeting, Mayor Bill Crusinberry told the council that the developer has been unable to secure funding for the project. Crusinberry said funding for motels is not available, adding he spoke with Bill Nicholls of Community Bank and Mike Drollinger of MainSource Bank, both of whom said their institutions are not currently lending for motel construction.

Banks are not lending and some motel chains are not planning new construction either, according to Crusinberry, who said a representatives of Jamison Hotels, a chain of smaller motels, said that while the Hoopeston proposal sounds promising, the corporation is not building new motels.

The news is causing the city to "look in other directions" for the property, Crusinberry said. "We're not shutting down. We're still looking."

In other discussion, Crusinberry said he and other officials heard from a representative from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency at a recent meeting of area mayors. Hoopeston officials were particularly interested in why Hoopeston's request for a loan to refurbish the city's aerial and ground water storage tanks was axed by the IEPA last year. "I was a little concerned how we got bumped," he said, adding he believes the project meets criteria for the stimulus program, including being located in a city that has lost jobs and the project being "shovel ready."

"The only bright spot is interest rates went down in a year," he said.

Hoopeston hopes to get project funding approved this year but if it is rejected again, the city may seek a U.S. Department of Agriculture loan.

At the same meeting, Illinois Rep. Bill Black addressed officials, talking about the state's dire financial straits. "He basically said if Illinois was a business, it'd be flat broke. It would be in receivership," Crusinberry said

The mayor said Black told the group that personal income tax, sales tax and utility tax revenues are all down and added "anybody who tells you they're not going to raise taxes to get a vote (Tuesday), basically, they're lying."

In unrelated business, the council:

- Heard from Crusinberry that it is time for committee chairmen to start work on department budgets. "It could be a tight year on budgets," he said. "We might really have to tighten down."
- Heard from Crusinberry about the need for residents to complete the 2010 census because state and federal funding is based on population numbers determined by the census.
- Heard from Jean Minick that fewer than 100 income surveys are still needed for a hoped-for infrastructure grant. Minick said the surveys may benefit more than the infrastructure, as information gleaned form them is good for five years and may be used to apply for funding in other areas.
- Heard from Crusinberry that a couple people have toured the former FMC building in the last 30-60 days and that material has been delivered to fix the hole in the wall facing Route 9. He added that the building is one of only two in the state that has so much square footage under one roof, so it would be perfect for a company who needs a large building.
- Heard from Alderwoman Susan Comstock who set a civic committee meeting for 6 p.m. February 11. The meeting will be to discuss contractor registration and is open to the public.

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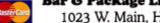
(217) 497-3916

(217) 497-7307



9 p.m.-1 a.m. No Cover





1023 W. Main, Hoopeston





A pair of prescription glasses was turned into police at 12:20 p.m. Sunday after being found in the area of Hoopeston Foods. The owner may identify and claim them at the police station.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 8:20 a.m. Monday at Route 1 and West Thompson.

HAMS eighth grade girls mark celebrate volleyball victory

Karena Colunga's four aces and Shelby Holzinger's four kills helped lead Hoopeston Area Middle School's eighth graders to their first volleyball win of the season.

The team kept Jamaica from having a home court advantage, besting the team, 18-25, 11-25, Monday

The win brings the team's record to 1-9.

HAMS seventh graders were also victorious against Jamiaca, winning 17-25, 25-23, 16-25.

On January 28, the eighth graders took on St. Paul in away action, losing 25-15, 25-21. There was no seventh grade match that evening.

Police News

Police said John M. Gonzalez, of Hoopeston, in a 1975 Chevrolet truck owned by the City of Hoopeston, was stopped westbound at the intersection when he began to back up for a semi turning east on Thompson and backed into a 1999 Pontiac, driven by Story M. Niccum, also of Hoopeston.

John A. Jackson, 52, of Hoopeston, was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident at 9:07 p.m. Monday.

Police said Jackson, in a 1992 Oldsmobile, was

-Briefly

Sweetheart Banquet

Hoopeston Area High School student council will host the 19th annual Sweetheart Dinner for senior citizens beginning at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11 in the high school gym.

Reservations, with name and number of people in the party, must be made no later than February 5 by calling the Superintendent's office, (217) 283-6668.

Obituaries

HAYSLETT - Barbara P. (Doud) Hayslett, 77, of Milford, died Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010 at Danville Care Center, Danville. Visitation was 4-5 p.m. Tuesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Funeral service was at 5:15 p.m. at the funeral home. Cremation rites were accorded. Burial will be at a later date in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland. Memorials are suggested to Milford Chamber of Commerce, Alzheimer's Association or a charity of the donor's choice.

HEEREN - Evelyn M. (Smith) Heeren, 90, of Milford, died Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010, at Iroquois Residence Home, Watseka. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at St. John Lutheran Church, Schwer. Burial will be in St. John Cemetery, Schwer. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, and one hour before service Thursday at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church or a charity of the donor's choice.

KROUT - Darla S. (Henke) Krout, 47, of Danville,

formerly of Milford, died at 9:35 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010 at home. A Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Sunset's Tribute Center (formerly Lakeside-Barrick Funeral Chapel), Danville. Burial will be in Sunset Memorial Park. Visitation was 3-7 p.m. Tuesday at the Tribute Center. Memorials are suggested to Provena Regional Cancel Center.

WEBER - Anna Weber, 96, of Hoopeston, died at 10:20 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home, Hoopeston. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopes-

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 35. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 22. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 39, low 26.

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

Market southbound in the 700 block of North when he struck a parked 1995 Dodge, owned by Ellsworth Watts, of Milford.

Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

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