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#### Look up!

Hoopeston has a new look at 225 E. Main. Silhouette images grace what were formerly windows on the second story of the building. The artwork, which features scenes one might see looking in a window, was done by Hoopeston Area High School students in black, white and gray, painted on wood donated by Olympic Hardware. Employees of Jackson Quality Construction volunteered to mount the pictures to the building. The project was the idea of Alderwoman Sue Comstock and Grant/Butler Township Assessor Susie Sheppard.

# **Conference attendees bring home new development ideas**

MACOMB—The economic recession is causing community leaders, especially in rural areas, to take new approaches in trying to stimulate local economic development and job creation because some of the old ways no longer work in the current environment. The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA), located at Western Illinois University, hosted its 21<sup>st</sup> annual conference in Peoria on March 3-4 to explore new development opportunities and to learn from leaders in other regions who have succeeded with innovative approaches. Susan Comstock, Gloria Bush, Tami Goin, and Jean Minick, all from Hoopeston, participated in the conference along with more than 300 elected officials and community leaders from around Illinois and neighboring states. The conference provided an opportunity for participants to learn new strategies to attract businesses and create jobs. It also provided an opportunity for rural Illinois community leaders to discuss difficulties encountered in promoting local development and stem-

See CONFERENCE on other side



# The PIT STOP at FAST LANES

Tuesday:	Beef & Chicken & Noodles
	Open Bowling all day
Wednesday:	Ribeye Sandwich or
	Italian Beef Sandwich
	Open Bowling all day
Thursday:	Swiss Steak
Friday:	Cod & Ribeye
Saturday:	Prime Rib & Ribeye
-	<b>Open Bowling 1-close</b>
Sunday:	Swiss Steak plus ful menu
	1-1:30
	Open Bowling 1-4
Saturday	
BAR STOOL GOLF	
Sign up now!	

Dance to BACK PAGES 8:30-12:30

Coming March 20 Hall of Fame induction ceremony Get your tickets at Fast Lanes! \$15 per person, includes dinner

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

#### Come see us at the

# WHPO Business Expo

McFeren Park Civic Center Sign up to win

BodyBugg personal fitness system

Gift cards

Main Street Fitness

# Visit with our providers

OPEST

Think LOCAL • Thrive LOCAL • Treat LOCAL Gibson Area Hospital Welcomes...

# FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN DR. STEPHEN CLINGMAN

TO FAMILY HEALTH CARE OF HOOPESTON (HOOPESTON CLINIC)

837 E. Orange Street • Hoopeston, IL 60942 • 283-5530

New patients are now being accepted by calling the clinic at 283-5530

The Family Health Care of Hoopeston accepts most insurance plans including Health Alliance Medical Plans

# — Briefly —

#### Senior citizen freeze help

Help for senior citizens in filling our their Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption will be available from 1-4 p.m. March 11 at Grant Township Office, 526 S. Market.

#### Scholarship available

Beta Sigma Phi chapter of Hoopeston is offering a \$500 one-time college scholarship to a young woman attending Hoopeston Area High School. Ap-

Buying old jewelry, coins, watches, DVDs, gold, sterling this Saturday in Global Fashions! Don't delay! Saturday's our last day buying til the end of April! Need some green to complete a Spring project? Haul in your old junk & haul out the green you'll need! plicants must have at least at 3.0 grade point average. Applications are available at Hoopeston Public Library, 110 N. Fourth St., or from Kara Haley at Hoopeston Area Middle School. Deadline is April 30.

#### Meeting change

Grant Township's monthly board meeting, originally scheduled for March 9, has been rescheduled to 4 p.m. March 16.

#### New Books at the Library

#### Children's library

**DVDs** I Want a Dog for Christmas, Charlie Brown Monsters vs. Aliens Strawberry Shortcake Movie: Sky's the Limit

#### Conference continued from other side

ming the outmigration of youth from rural communities. Highlighting the conference were presentations by Will Lamb, University of North Carolina, who described successful new and innovative approaches taken by communities in southern states to revitalize local economies. These small communities, many in rural areas, have adopted entrepreneurial approaches to stimulate business creation, expand local markets, and otherwise help the local economies.

Kim Huston from Bardstown, Kentucky, author of *Small Town Sexy*, told the group that small towns have assets that cannot be duplicated in larger communities and that these strengths are highly-sought after by younger generations. She worked with community leaders to find and identify these assets as well as market them to potential business investors.

The conference provided opportunities for participants

## Weather

in affiliation with Gibson Area Hospital

OF HOOPESTON

Showers likely today, tonight and tomorrow. High 54, low 43. Tomorrow, high 56, low 48.

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



### Pea soup

A Head Start bus waits for a student in thick fog Monday. The area was under a dense fog advisory until 11 a.m. Monday.

to attend formal presentations but also to work on local issues in small groups. In some instances, this participation will lead to continued collaboration, and ultimately to joint projects or strategies.

"This rural development conference offers an opportunity for elected officials and leaders in small Illinois communities to hear new ideas and approaches. The large turnout shows that community leaders are committed to improving the quality of life in their areas. The IIRA is proud to provide this opportunity for local leaders to learn from their peers on this important issue." said Christopher D. Merrett, IIRA director.

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