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Lourdine Florek, owner

Thursday, December 29, 2011

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

Year in Review

Economic news leads top stories of area

Investment in the community by local businesses tops the list of stories for 2011.

At the forefront of the list is Hoopeston Regional Health Center's announcement of plans for a new nursing home on Route 1 across from Anthem Chevrolet. In February, USDA officials announced a \$6 million low-interest loan for the 75-bed nursing home.

Coming in second, and related to the nursing home, was Hoopeston officials application for and reception of a \$750,000 grant for a new water line from the Main Street water plant to the site of the new nursing home.

Earlier this month, the Hoopeston City Council approved Cross Construction's \$595,000 bid for the work, which will be done during the winter months. The water main project will benefit not only the nursing home, but also other businesses and residents on the city's north side.

Hoopeston Regional Health Center is back for the Number 3 spot with its announcement in March that Hoopeston Regional Hospital, as well as Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center and clinics in Rossville and Cissna Park will join Carle Foundation in March 2012. The move is expected increase local residents' access to Carle's advanced technology and medical care.

The fourth place entry was 19 years in the making, as fugitive Dennis Catron was arrested in Thailand and returned to the United States.

The Top 10 of 2011

Catron was arrested in Hoopeston in 1991 after allegedly molesting a 13-year-old boy. He skipped bond, then turned himself in. After being released on bond a second time, Catron

was convicted in absentia of sexually abusing the boy and sentenced to 12 years. After his June 30 arrest in Bangkok, Catron flew to Los Angeles County, where he was erroneously released, then apprehended again, and was returned to Vermilion County on July 25.

Classified as a sexual predator, Catron is appealing his conviction.

Rounding out the top five is the announcement that after more than 30 years, Hoopeston would be the recipient of a new McDonald's restaurant.

Owners Don and Deanna Witzel announced the new store would be the first "street retail" model in Illi-

See 2011 on other side

New Year's Eve is

GAME NIGHT

at Hoopeston American Legion

502 E. Main

Open at 3 p.m. Games start at 6 p.m

Dominos•Dice•Euchre•More

Bring a covered dish

Party favors will be provided

All Christmas Half Price!

Includes Willow Tree, Candles, Ornaments, Ribbon, Branches, Trees, Wreaths, Centerpieces, Santas, Angels, Reindeer, Bells, Skates, Bears

Flowers & Gifts by Mully Culbert
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Blue Moon Seltzer **Ring in 2012 with us!**

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Lots of Drink Specials

306 E. Main, Hoopeston

Urich Motors DEAL OF THE WEEK



2005 Dodge Neon SXT Sedan.

Brilliant Blue. Cloth interior. Fully loaded. Telescopic steering, CD player, power locks, windows, mirrors. Automatic Trans. Only 65,000 miles! New car trade in. Absolutely like brand new!
Was: \$7,900

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Rt. 1, Hoopeston

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 Gallon zip lock bags stuffed full
 50-150 pieces of NEW jewelry per bag
 Just \$10 a bag, 75 + bags to choose from
 Great teacher, church, babysitter rewards!
Global Fashions this Thursday Only
10am-5pm
PS: BRING YOUR OLD JEWELRY, COINS TO SELL

Bring in 2012
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Free Champagne at Midnight
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BJ's Pump
Bar & Package Liquor Store
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Mike Webb cares about kids:
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 •Provided seminars for all of Hoopeston's Grade Schools
 •Teaching kids ages 4 and up for 15 years, Mr. Webb has been recommended by several public school teachers for his expertise in teaching kids with ADD, ADHD and mild Autism.

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 208 E. Main St., Hoopeston

2011 continued from other side

nois, featuring not only the McDonald's, but two spaces for other retail ventures.

The new McDonald's opened in October and tenant for one of the two spots in the building has been found. A developer is also looking for a tenant for the former restaurant.

The remaining top 10 entries include:

6. In January, Rossville-Alvin officials announced that a referendum would appear on the April ballot asking voters whether the board should be allowed to consider reactivating the high school, which was deactivated six years ago.

In April, voters gave their permission, approving the measure 353-296. Despite getting the green light, R-A officials continue to meet with representatives of both Hoopeston Area and Bismarck Henning, which have a tri-party agreement covering tuitioning R-A high school students to the other districts.

7. After much heated discussion and a rebidding, Rossville officials approved a new sewer line extending from Summit to Earl Court.

8. Local residents were notified in April that Rossville's ConAgra plant would close, cutting 170 jobs, including management. A majority of those jobs - 150 - were kept in the county when Full-Fill Indus-

tries, LLC, of Henning, announced it entered into an agreement with ConAgra Foods to produce the cooking sprays made at the Rossville plant.

9. Hoopeston officials learned in August that developers planned to build a 32-unit upscale assisted living complex on Route 9 near Casey's. Ground work has already started on the project, which is expected to be completed in 2012.

10. Hoopeston Area students provided much positive news this year. Currently, marching band students are in Memphis, Tenn., for their New Year's Day appearance at the Liberty Bowl. Earlier this year, Felipe Martinez took third place in IHSA wrestling finals and Lauren Houmes finished sixth at HISA cross country finals. And on the field, Hoopeston Area's football team won their first Homecoming game in recent memory, defeating Danville Schlarmann 20-6.

Obituaries

ALLEN - Delbert E. Allen, 88, of Milford, died Monday, Dec. 26, 2011 at Iroquois Resident Home, Watseka. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford, with graveside rites by Watseka American Legion and Iroquois County VFW posts. Visitation was 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home, with Masonic service at 7 p.m. Memorials are suggested to Milford Methodist Church or charity of the donor's choice.

New Books at the Library

Fiction

Treasuring Emma by Kathleen Fuller (Large Print/ Inspirational)

The Nightmare Thief by Meg Gardiner (Large Print)

Lady of the Rivers by Philippa Gregory

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 45. Tonight, chance of rain. Low 36. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 46, low 32.

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

Police News

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 1:58 p.m. Monday in the 400 block of North Ninth Avenue.

Police said Scott A. Lackey, of Hoopeston, in a 1995 Ford truck, struck a 2003 GMC truck driven by Shane A. Thompson, also of Hoopeston.

Barry E. Moore, 50, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 3:10 p.m. Monday in connection with a December 24 incident at Second Chance Saloon, 102 N. Market.

Moore was charged with criminal damage to property and theft from a coin operated machine after allegedly took money from a poker machine.

A **70-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 11:26 a.m. Tuesday that someone damaged her residence in the 400 block of North Market by shooting it with a BB gun.

New chiropractic office, in the Hoopeston area, is seeking team oriented, multi-tasking, energetic and dependable assistant. Computer experience a must along with customer service, and phone skills. Position involves assisting with therapy, x-rays, and patient care. Previous experience with insurance/ collections desirable but not necessary. Attention to detail and a positive attitude are essential. Send resume to: Office Manager, 7 Boiling Springs Rd., Danville, IL 61832

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Greene Galvanized Stairs is seeking qualified applicants for full-time Production and Packaging positions. Fabrication and/or order fulfillment experience is a plus. Send resume to PO Box 191, East Lynn IL 60932 or jobs@greenebinsstairs.com.

HOUSES FOR RENT

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Call (217) 283-9348 or email publish@justthefacts.net to place your ad!

VFW
 Orange & 4th Ave., Hoopeston
New Year's Eve Party
Saturday 8:30-12:30
Scott Wallace DJ
Free Champagne at Midnight