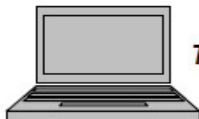


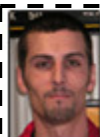
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Monday, January 16, 2012

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348

Lourdine Florek, owner

www.justthefacts.net

Police News

Angela Peters, 31, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 11:05 p.m. Thursday at Main and Market. She was ticketed for operating a vehicle when registration is revoked, canceled or suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle.

Peters was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County Circuit Court.

Dennis M. Venecia, 21, of Rio Grande City, Tex., was arrested at 2:12 p.m. Friday in the 600 block of West Orange. Wanted by the US Marshall for possession of cocaine, he was released to a U.S. Marshall.

Ralph Plecker, 41, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 1:16 a.m. Saturday in the 500 block of East Main. He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 37-year-old Hoopeston woman.

Plecker was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Briefly

Nominees sought

Anyone who has had an experience with an exemplary Hoopeston EMT is asked to nominate that person for the EMT of the Year award. Email Tanya McVicker, Tanya.mcvicker@hoopestoncmh.org or call (217) 283-5531, ext. 255. The award will be presented at the Community Awards Night January 25.

School weather information

Hoopeston Area parents are reminded that in the case of inclement weather, information about early dismissals or closures will be sent via Alert Now. Information will also be broadcast on area radio and television stations.

Parents are also reminded to dress youngsters appropriately for winter temperatures and weather conditions.

Coaches sought

Hoopeston Area Softball Association is accepting coaching applications for the coming summer season. Forms are available at league lineup.com/hasa. Click on "handouts" or calling Leah, 304-4369. Applications will be taken through January.

Meetings

Rossville Village Board, 7 p.m. Monday, village office

Hoopeston City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, city hall
Hoopeston Area School Board, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, high school library

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Cultra: last year's 67 percent tax hike fails to shore up Illinois' faltering finances

Cultra's Capitol Clips
By State Sen. Shane Cultra

ONARGA—This week, Jan. 13 marked the one year anniversary of the state's 67 percent tax hike passed by Democrat lawmakers during the 2011 lame-duck session. State Sen. Shane Cultra (R-Onarga) said that while the increase was packaged as the way to pull Illinois back from financial collapse, a year later the state is still faltering financially.

Just last week, Gov. Quinn released budget projections showing that even with the tax increase, the Fiscal Year 2012 budget is on target to spend more money than state will generate. In fact, according to the Governor, Illinois will still see a \$500 million shortfall at the end of this fiscal year—not including \$2 billion in deferred obligations.

Aspirations to reduce the state's overwhelming debt have gone unrealized. Currently, the state still cannot pay its bills in a timely manner, continuing to balance the budget on the back of the state's employers and Medicaid providers. At this time, the Governor's ad-

ministration estimates a \$7 billion bill backlog, while the Comptroller believes the backlog could be as high as \$8 billion; it currently takes the state an average 75 days to issue repayments to the state's Medicaid providers.

Influenced by the systemic budget problems highlighted in the Governor's recent report, recently one major credit rating agency lowered the state's credit rating to the worst in the nation. Two others issued stern warnings that future downgrades could occur unless changes are made.

However, it's not too late to change course. Illinois is a great state with an abundance of assets and resources. But without a plan to reduce spending and improve our economy, it is clear that by the time the tax increase is scheduled to expire, Illinois will still be drowning in red ink—even with the majorities' mas-

Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: No school

TUESDAY: Chicken patty/bun, corn, peaches, milk

WEDNESDAY: Maple-Pizza Hut (pepperoni), salad, pears, milk; H & JG-Taco Max Snax, salad, chips & salsa, milk

THURSDAY: Maple-Taco Max Snax, salad, chips & salsa, milk; H & JG-Pizza Hut (pepperoni), salad, pears, milk

FRIDAY: Mini corndogs, curly fries, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area Middle/High schools

MONDAY: No school

TUESDAY: Grilled cheese or cheeseburger, beef vegetable soup, peaches, juice, milk

WEDNESDAY: Ravioli or pork BBQ sandwich, salad, pears, milk

THURSDAY: Turkey roast or Hot Pocket, mashed potatoes, green beans, pineapple, hot roll, milk

FRIDAY: Cheese pizza or fish sandwich, salad, mixed fruit, milk

Weather



Areas of rain today. High 43. Tonight, rain likely. Low 32. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 33, low 14.

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

sive tax increase.

This week's 'Only in Chicago'

Organizers for the upcoming G8 and NATO summits in Chicago are estimating the conferences will cost \$65 million. We can only hope that Illinois taxpayers will not be saddled with any of this fiscal burden.

Already the demonstrators have begun applying for permits to protest the summits. One would also wish that the professional protesters would refrain from destroying businesses and the community like their predecessors in Seattle in 1999.

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