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Just the Facts®

Friday, March 29, 2013

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Crusinberry, Dobkins face off in Hoopeston mayoral race

Hoopeston voters will decide April 9 who will lead the city for the next four years.

Incumbent Mayor Bill Crusinberry hopes to remain at the reins but is being challenged by Jeramy Dobkins.

Dobkins, 26, was graduated from Hoopeston Area High School in 2005. He attended Danville Area Community College and Parkland College, studying criminal justice administration. He is currently working on a bachelor's degree in law enforcement administration and a master's degree in public administration through Ashford University online.



DOBKINS

Dobkins was part of the Hoopeston Police Department Explorer program and he has served in the Army National Guard and was assistant manager at J&K Enterprises. He worked as an auxiliary police officer in Sheldon and as loss prevention manager at Sears. In 2007, he joined Hoopeston Auxiliary Police. He was named police chief of Sheldon in 2008 and later that year, was hired by Hoopeston Police Department. In 2012, he began working at Lithgow Automotive.

Dobkins said he is running for mayor "with the sole intent on improving our community to see a brighter future for the children of my generation." Dobkins said he has watched Hoopeston decline – due, in part, to state and national forces—but also because community leaders failed to take advantage of opportunities from which other communities have benefitted.

If elected, Dobkins' "New Generation/New Ideas"

plan calls for spending reductions in spending in ways like having city employees repair vehicles; possibly offering retirement incentives to older employees; and having everyone in city government do their part. Savings realized from his program would be used for infrastructure repair, such as streets and water main replacement.

Dobkins said he will pursue gainful enterprise for Hoopeston. "This is a feat that is detrimental in ensuring we have sustainable population growth and not a recession such as we have seen in the past decades," he said, adding Hoopeston can use its inexpensive real estate as a tool to get business to locate in the city.

Dobkins is married to the former Ashley Lithgow.

Crusinberry served one term as alderman - and was chairman of the water/sewer committee - before running for mayor in 2009. During his tenure in Hoopeston government, he was an active participant in setting Hoopeston Foods litigation; worked to partner the owner of McDonald's with a developer for the new restaurant. That construction, along with Prairie Meadows housing development and Autumn Fields and Hoopeston's new nursing home, were built during his first term. He also helped obtain a \$750,000 grant for a new water main from the Main Street water office to



CRUSINBERRY

See RACE on other side

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 Publication will
 resume **Tuesday**.

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Race continued from other side

the new nursing home on Route 1.

The agenda for a second Crusinberry term include maintaining a balanced budget; maintaining and improving infrastructure, including the challenge of improving the water/sewer system, some of which dates to 1888; obtaining a motel for the city, which

Obituaries

BAIRD - Burneda June (Kelley) Baird, 87, of Rossville, died at 8:35 p.m. Monday, March 25, 2013, at home. She will be cremated. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. memorial service Saturday, April 13 at Rossville United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Mann's Chapel Cemetery south of Rossville. Memorials are suggested to American Cancer Society, 2509 S. Neil St., Champaign IL 61820-7744.

FORD - Scott J. Ford, 52, of Hoopeston, died at 5:42 p.m. Sunday, March 24, 2013, at Presence United Samaritans Medical Center, Danville. He will be cremated and a memorial service held at a later date. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is in charge of arrangements.

has been an ongoing effort over several administrations; and finding a solution for the former Vermilion Iron property.

Crusinberry, 63, was graduated from Hoopeston High School and received an associate's degree in mechanical engineering from Danville Junior College.

He is a member of Hoopeston Church of God, board member of Vermilion Advantage, member of Sons of the American Legion and Lions Club and former member of Hoopeston Jaycees, where he served as National Sweetcorn Festival chairman. He was a member of the local and national Chamber of Commerce.

Crusinberry and his wife, Brenda, have four daughters and eight grandchildren.



MINNIE BYERS CATRON CROTHERS

Hoopeston woman marks 90th

Minnie Byers Catron Crothers celebrated 90 years old in February. She is a long time resident of Hoopeston and presently lives at the new Heritage Nursing Home where she receives exceptional care. She had cake and ice cream with grandchildren.

Chronicle to sponsor forum

Hoopeston Chronicle will sponsor a political forum at 7 p.m. April 1 at Hoopeston American Legion. Mayor Bill Crusinberry and challenger Jeramy Dobkins will answer questions submitted by citizens. The public is encouraged to attend. Anyone may submit questions for the forum by emailing chronreporter@frontier.com, calling 217-283-5111 or by private message to The Chronicle's Facebook page.

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First middle school bowling team makes trip to state finals

Hoopeston Area Middle School competed in boys and girls state bowling finals Friday and Saturday in Joliet.

Members are Mercy Linder, Lauryn Edwards, Jaida Wise, Phoebe Langelier, Savannah Lane. Wes Ravens, Chet Stock, Charlie Warner, Gage Glotzbach and MJ Colunga. Bowlers bowled four games Friday with the top 56 advancing to Saturday's six game finals.

Advancing for Hoopeston Area were girls Mercy Linder, who finished 31st, and Lauryn Edward, who finished 47th. Wes Ravens advanced for the boys.

In team standings, the girls finished 12th and the boys 19th.

This is the first year the middle school participated in bowling and Coach Brian Hodge was very impressed with how the athletes competed against all the Chicago-area teams.

Cline gets win as Hoopeston Area Cornjerkers top AP 8-3


Connor Cline was credited with the win when Hoopeston Area sailed past Armstrong Potomac, 8-3 on March 22.

Cline also had two hits and three RBIs, while Kendall Walder had two RBIs and Andrew Samet had two hits.

The next varsity game is set for 10 a.m. Saturday when the Cornjerkers host Watseka.



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Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 52. Tonight, cloudy. Low 31. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, chance of rain late. High 56, low 42. Sunday, partly sunny. High 55, low 32. Monday, partly sunny. High 40, low 27

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

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