

**Tuesday Special**  
Meatball Sub  
Lunch served 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Dinner 5-8 p.m.

**DJ/Karaoke tonight!**

 **The Pump**  
Bar & Package Liquor Store  
1023 W. Main, Hoopeston

 

Tuesday is  
**Senior Citizens & Ladies Day**  
Now save **\$7 off** your oil change at

 **Hoopeston Express Lube**  
Rtes. 1 & 9, Hoopeston 283-5373  
[www.quicklube4u.com](http://www.quicklube4u.com)

**The PIT STOP at FAST LANES**

Monday: Taco Salad or Speedway Burgers  
Tuesday: Chicken/Beef & Noodles  
Wednesday: For New Year's Eve, we're serving Prime Rib, Ribeye Steaks, Chicken Cordon Bleu and Grilled Chicken Breast  
Thursday: Swiss Steak  
Friday: Cod, Rib eyes  
Saturday: Prime Rib, Rib eyes

**Celebrate New Year's Eve with us!**  
**7-8-9 Pin Tournament 8 p.m.**  
starts at 8 p.m.

**Open Bowling**  
New Year's Day 4-close, Sunday 12-4  
**Back Paiges**  
returns to Fast Lanes on Jan. 11,  
8:30-12:30

Email: [publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net) Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348  
Lourdine Florek, owner

**Just the Facts®**  
Tuesday, December 31, 2013

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication  
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## Tire fire, generosity top list of 2013's biggest local stories

The top local story for 2013 didn't happen until the middle of the year, but its effect will be felt into 2014.

The June 19 tire fire at J&R Tire Recycling leads this year's list of top area stories.

The fire, which officials said was caused by a spark, was reported at 5:20 a.m., by employees working in the southern end of the business, located in the former FMC building that spanned from Maple to Route 9. Twenty-four fire departments sent men, equipment and supplies to fight one of the largest fires in Hoopeston history.

J&R opened in 2011 and had about 30 employees, five



of whom were in the building when the fire started. They escaped unharmed.

The business brought in used tires and recycled them into various products, including rubber mulch. A paint line had just been installed to allow the mulch to be painted different colors for landscaping purposes.

Lance Smith, the company's general manager, estimated the company's loss to be \$10-\$15 million.

Hoopeston firefighters remained at the scene until June 21, when the fire was declared extinguished; however, the fire department was recalled to the scene sev-

See 2013 on other side

## Public invited to 2014 Miss Hoopeston speeches, coronation

Miss Hoopeston 2014 will be crowned on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014 at 4 p.m. at the Hoopeston Area High School Auditorium. The public is invited to hear the candidates' speeches, which will then be followed by the naming and crowning. The Hoopeston Jaycees are very proud to announce the following young ladies as candidates for Miss Hoopeston 2014:

- Gabrielle Carter, 18, daughter of Wayne and Emily Carter
- Katelin Crabtree, 18, daughter of Clifford and Michelle Crabtree
- Cayla Davis, 18, daughter of Todd and Marlo Davis
- Sarah Dixon, 18, daughter of Phil Dixon and Nikki Dixon
- Aly Nicholls, 19, daughter of William Nicholls and

Linda Nicholls

- Ashley Powell, 18, daughter of Larry and Jane Powell
- Erika Samet, 19, daughter of Greg and Tina Samet
- Terra Scharlach, 18, daughter of Tim and Denise Scharlach
- Taylor Sullivan, 18, daughter of Shawn and Christine Sullivan
- Kaaryn Wyss, 19, daughter of Lynn Wyss and the late Brad Wyss

Miss Hoopeston 2014 will act as a representative for Hoopeston and the surrounding area during her year while being the official hostess for the Hoopeston Jaycees and the 71st Annual National Sweetcorn Festival and National Sweetheart Pageant, to take place August 28-September 1, 2014.

**All Christmas**  
**Half Off**  
**at Molly's famous**  
**After Christmas Sale!**

*Flowers & Gifts by Mully Culbert*  
702 W. Main, Hoopeston (800) 523-1344 Open 7 Days!

**Closed for Inventory**  
December 30-  
January 1  
**Happy New Year!**

*Unger's Jewelry*  
314 E. Main St., Hoopeston Hours M-F 9-5, Sat 9-3



*Phil & Mary's*  
**UPTOWN SALOON**  
306 E. Main, Hoopeston

**Mardi Gras New Year's Eve party**  
December 31st at 8 p.m.  
Drink specials, food, prizes, and giveaways!  
Mardi Gras/New Year's apparel is encouraged!  
**Come celebrate the NEW YEAR**  
with Phil and Mary!

 **Hoopeston**   
**American Legion**

G, A, M, E, N, I, G, H, T,

**December 31st**  
**Bring a snack!** 



eral times over the next few weeks to extinguish flare-ups.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency was on site from the day of the fire, to monitor air and water samples. Residents near the fire were evacuated and shelters were set up at Hoopeston Multi Agency and Chestnut Street Church of Christ, among others.

IEPA also monitored clean-up efforts at the site, to make sure any contaminants remaining are satisfactorily cleaned. Final results of those efforts will not be known until next spring, Mayor Bill Crusinberry has said.

The second most important story of the year is directly related to the first - it is the care that people - both residents and not - showed to Hoopeston during the time of the fire.

From the firemen, who battled not just the fire but fatigue from hours on the front line, to volunteers who set up a food stand at the Grant Township building for firemen to eat and drink, to citizens and businesses that donated food, beverages and supplies, Hoopeston and people from nearby towns pulled together to get through a crisis as only people in a small town do.

Social media was used to spread the word of things that were needed at the makeshift aid station and people met those needs, supplying food for breakfast, lunch, supper and snacks for firemen.

Paige Brown oversaw that effort and when it was over, praised people and businesses for their kind-heartedness.

The Red Cross also provided help in the form of an air conditioned tent with cots to allow firemen to cool off and get a bit of rest.

Following the fire, several groups held fundraisers to help pay for fire equipment damaged in the fire and other related expenses.

The search for a missing woman is third on the list of this year's top stories. Amanda Walters-Pentecost, formerly of Watseka, was reported missing after she was last seen in Hoopeston on February 1.

Family and friends held a press conference on February 10, asking anyone with information about her whereabouts to come forward.

The investigation was started by Hoopeston Police

Department and then included the Vermilion County Sheriff's Department after Ms. Walters-Pentecost's body was found February 24 in a wooded area one-half mile south and one-half mile east of Hoopeston. An autopsy showed Ms. Walters-Pentecost died of exposure.

Coming in fourth was approval for Hoopeston to receive an EPA loan to refurbish the city's ground and aerial water storage tanks.

Officials tried to get a grant or loan for the project for a couple of years before the loan was finally approved in September.

In December, Hoopeson City Council learned that the city qualified for principle forgiveness in the amount of \$729,197, based on the city's median income.

Related to the water tower story, the council approved five percent water rate increases for the next five years to fund infrastructure improvements. Increases will be added September 1 of each year.

Fifth on the list of this year's top stories is a local group's efforts to save the Lorraine Theatres.

The Save the Lorraine Foundation was formed to allow the group to take ownership of the theaters, which were returned to MainSource Bank after a former owner defaulted on the loan.

The theaters were sold at auction to an unnamed buyer who agreed to donate them to the foundation. The gift was finalized in December and after Christmas, movies were shown at the Little Lorraine.

Much work needs to be done at the main Lorraine, including tuck pointing, roof work, mold remediation and making the theater compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Additionally, about \$3,000 is needed monthly for utility and insurance expenses. The City of Hoopston is donating water to the theater, Mayor Bill Crusinberry said.

To raise funds, the foundation sponsored a spaghetti dinner at Fast Lanes and have established memberships, which are copper \$5; quartz \$25; bronze \$50; silver \$100; gold \$500; and platinum \$1,000. Memberships

## Weather



Partly sunny today. High 22. Tonight, chance of snow. Low 19. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 33, low 19. Thursday, chance of snow. High 21, low 1.

expire annually.

Memberships are available from foundation board members, including Debbie Benjamin, Frances Burke, Keith Catron, Sue Comstock, Jeremy Green, Carol Hicks, Jim and Betty Richards and Susie Sheppard.

Ongoing information about the theaters is available at [www.savethelorraine.com](http://www.savethelorraine.com), which is set up to accept donations or Save the Lorraine Foundation on Facebook.

— *Briefly*

## Holiday closings

●Hoopston Public Library will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday and reopen with regular hours Thursday.

- Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Clinic will close at noon New Year's Eve, and be closed New Year's Day.

- Just the Facts will not be printed Wednesday or Friday this week. The office will be closed Wednesday-Friday.

## Obituaries

**GONZALEZ**—Mary Gonzalez, 84, of Hoopes-ton, died at 9:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, 2013, at home. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopes-ton.

# Classifieds

## APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Newer cozy 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment in a 4-Plex. All appliances included. Full basement (not for sleeping). Walking distance to shopping. Hook-up for washer and dryer. Yard. Handicapped accessible. Available now. \$475 +deposit. References checked. No Pets. (217) 260-2546.

## HOUSES FOR RENT

Large 2 BR, new kitchen and bathroom, new paint and flooring. \$400 a month, \$400 deposit available immediately. Call 217-278-0980

House for rent in Hoopeston. 3 bed, 1 bath, many updates. \$520 per month, deposit and references required. No smoking or pets. Realtor owned. Call 217-304-6547 for application.

**Call (217) 283-9348 or email**

**[publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net) to place your ad!**

**It's not too late  
to sign up for our  
Snow Removal Service**

**T&L Lawncare**  
**(217) 283-7214**

A red-handled snow shovel stands upright in a snowy field. The shovel has a long, dark metal shaft and a red D-shaped handle. The blade is partially buried in the snow. The background is a vast, flat, white expanse of snow under a pale, overcast sky.