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**Just
the Facts®**

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Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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Lourdine Florek, owner

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Hundreds of people turned out at McFerren Park for Magical Express, sponsored by Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce. The event featured face painting and kids' activities, refreshments and visits with Santa. *See related photos on other side.*

Hundreds turn out for Magical Express, debut of new lights

"Merry and bright" accurately describe activities at McFerren Park Saturday evening, as the young and the young at heart converged at the civic center for Magical Express and Light Up McFerren Park.

Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce sponsored the Express, which shuttled children - many in pajamas - from Hoopeston United Methodist Church to McFerren Park to see the new Christmas light display, sponsored by local businesses and the City of Hoopeston.

At the civic center, volunteers offered crafts for youngsters, as well as face painting and refreshments. Santa took center stage, visiting with local youngsters.

Several local businesses had a friendly rivalry in a

Chamber-sponsored tree-decorating contest. Contestants were Family Health Care, Robinson Chiropractic, Pink Poodle/Unique Boutique, Built 2 Last Construction, Carle Hospital, Brenda Crusinberry, Marta Pierce, Anderson Funeral Home, Brownie Bands, Hoopeston Multi Agency, and Olympic Hardware, whose tree was named Best of Show.

The event was not without a snag. The biggest issue was snarled traffic as the bus used to shuttle children was unable to leave at the only exit, on Elm Street, due to traffic trying to get in the same gate. The problem, which caused some complaints, was fixed when a second gate was opened solely to the bus.

Briefly

Food for Fines

Hoopeston Public Library's annual Food for Fines program has started. During December, the library will accept canned goods and nonperishable food items within their expiration dates, along with household paper products, as payment of overdue fines.

Each item or package equals \$1 toward the fine. (Some single items or packages may not qualify.) All items will be donated to Grant Township Food Cupboard.

Needed items include Jello, Jiffy cornbread mix, bath soap, toilet paper, canned fruit, cake mix and frosting, laundry soap and Hamburger Helper.

For more information, call the library, (217) 283-6711.

Donations welcome

Residents or former residents who would like to donate to the Christmas lights at McFerren Park may send checks made out to Light Up McFerren Park to Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main, Hoopeston IL 60942.

Police News

Zacaria C. Sage, 26, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 7:40 a.m. Sunday in the 800 block of East Elm. Charged with disorderly conduct, he was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 37. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 28. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 40, low 23.

Tuesday is
Senior Citizens & Ladies Day
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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Layden Manor Apartments Hoopeston accepting applications for 2 bedroom first floor apartment. \$450/mo rent with \$450 deposit. Water and electric separate. No Pets. Call 217-304-1761 to leave a message for appointment.

HELP WANTED

Therapeutic special education school serving K-12 seeks qualified Special Education Teacher. CIRCLE Academy prepares and empowers each student for successful experiences in school, at home and in the community by providing a structured, nurturing, and therapeutic learning environment that emphasizes family involvement. We are located in Rossville.

The teacher is responsible for establishing a learning environment that provides the highest quality academic instruction with Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) and mental health stability. Work with small class sizes in a supportive and positive work environment with a Para-Educator and a 1:1 Teacher's Assistant. State of Illinois LBS1 certificate required.

We offer great benefits and opportunities for professional growth and personal fulfillment. Salary is based on education and experience. We are committed to the values of spirituality, teamwork, integrity and respect. EOE Apply online: www.cunninghamhome.org

Now taking applications for full and part positions at new Hoopeston business. We are looking for someone with great customer service skills, an eye for design, creativity, and a flexible schedule. Must be available to work weekdays and weekends from 9-5. Starting pay \$9 for part time and starting pay for full time \$10. Please send all resumes to bens5225@frontier.com

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom house for rent. Available immediately, \$425 a month and \$425 deposit. Call 217-304-2145.

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



Holidays come to Hoopeston

Hoopeston kicked off the Christmas season Saturday with Magical Express, sponsored by Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce, and Light Up McFerrer Park. Some of the lighted features include heralding angels, a Merry Christmas and wreath display on the Penn St. gate and animated Santa's Toy Co. Top left, Natosha Menschel and Harlie walk into the Magical Express, above, an apprehensive Anna Schenk gets assistance from Barb Michels as Curt Ellis paints her face; and right, Anna checks out her painted angel.

Photos by James Eyrich

