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Everyday find a reason to celebrate

By BERTHA PARSONS

Here we go into a great adventure, 2016! I love the beginning of a new year. For me it's a brand new life, no looking back, no "what-ifs," just what I can do better and find more reasons to celebrate with family and friends.

When I told a dear friend the title of this article for 2016 she said, "Oh no, you're really making me think." I smiled and said, "We can do it." Many of us have been celebrating, still aware of all the joy and love this Christmas season has given.

Every day is one of 365 days this awesome year. Perhaps make a chart of the reasons to celebrate on our calendar. The first is to be alive in 2016. Second is having someone to love that loves me. Third is being able to get up and get going. Fourth is enjoying friends far and near. Fifth is being free to go when and where I want.

If you were to ask my family you'll find I like to make any event a celebration. My grandson turned fifteen. We hung a large "Welcome" sign on the garage when he came for his party. Just because my son, Matt, made stuffed French toast on Christmas Day, I celebrated! A reader told me at the grocery store how much she enjoyed my articles. "Just because," I celebrated for days with an extra cup of coffee and a huge smile on my face.

Our life this awesome year matters. Remember each day only comes once a year, so there is no "do-over," it's today or never. This is our chance to be all we can be, help a stranger, call a friend, tell your family how much you love them. Never let a day go by that we are not grateful for all we have.

Together hand in hand we go into 2016. We will not be discouraged by fear, hard times, sickness or the events in the news. We will keep finding reasons to celebrate every single day. We may have to take the time to look, listen and find our own reasons. I'm counting on us.

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Lourdine Florek, owner

Just the Facts[©]

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Photo contributed

Hoopeston Public Library director Tricia Freeland, center, accepts a check from Carol Hicks and Tami Goin, members of Hoopeston Historical Society, to pay for one year of Ancestry.com at the library to allow patrons to research their genealogies. The gift is in memory of Jean Minick, who joined the society as a researcher, then served as president, secretary and treasurer of the organization. Mrs. Minick died October 27, 2015.

Genealogy workshops set at HPL using memorial gift

Interested in climbing your family tree? Hoopeston Public Library can help!

The library will hold two genealogy workshops at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 14, and Saturday, Jan. 16, for area residents interested in family history research. Assistance will be available for beginning genealogists as well as those who are interested in taking their search to the next level. Specific instruc-

tion will be provided on the library's many online genealogy services, including Ancestry.com.

To help beginners get started, the library has several forms available now that participants can use to compile their basic information to prepare for the workshop. These can be picked up at the front desk during regular library hours.

For more information, call or stop by the library.

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Letters to the Editor

Lights committee thanks Hoopeston

The Committee for the Lights in the Park would like to thank all our great sponsors who made the second year of lights in the park a huge success. Based on the comments that we have received and the number of cars that have gone through the park, it appears that people have come from all over to see the lights.

Those businesses who are major sponsors who have given over \$500 a year to the lights

- City of Hoopeston
- Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation and Heritage Health
- Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center
- Family Health Center of Hoopeston and Gibson Area Hospital
- Anthem Chevrolet
- Russell Leigh & Associates
- Birkey's Farm Store
- Robinson Chiropractic
- McDonald's
- First Farmers Bank & Trust
- Anderson Funeral Home
- Kesler, Nelson, Garman, Brouger & Townsley PC

Thank you for your investment.

The list of other businesses, organizations and individuals who donated is quite long and we thank you for your support, as well. These donations are very important to us, as well. Because of these donations, we were able to add more displays and lights to the park.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time in putting up the lights. It is great that all of you are willing to help. Also a special thanks to the Parks Department for all the work that you did to make the park look great. We couldn't do it without you.

For all those who drove through the park, we hope you enjoyed the show. Plans are underway for more lights and displays next year.

The Committee for Lights in the Park

Christmas programs organizers are thankful

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Miracle Tree, Santa Cares Too and Toys for Kids a success! A special thanks to all the individuals, businesses, social clubs, churches, civic organizations, school groups, youth groups or anyone who helped with gifts or donations. You made Christmas a happier time for many children within the community.

Thanks to Dolores Crabtree, Lisa Kinney, Megan Deck, Robin Lawson and her helpers at Global Fashions and Teresa Adwell and her staff at Shopko for their time and effort in handing out name tags and handling gifts as they were returned. A special thank you also to Callie Huffman and all of the Jaycees for coordinating their Toys for Kids gift giveaway with the Miracle Tree event.

These programs would not be the success that they are without the publicity provided by WHPO, Just the Facts and the Chronicle. We sincerely thank you all!

Our community never ceases to amaze us through their generosity throughout the Christmas season as well as throughout the year. We are very thankful to be a part of this effort and appreciate all of the contributions and support of every kind.

Sincerely,

2015 Miracle Tree Workers
Santa Cares Too Staff
Jaycee's Toys for Kids

Obituaries

November 5

Deono Zamarripa, Hoopeston, status hearing December 3.

Natasha Longest, Hoopeston, status hearing December 3.

Jennifer Gredy, Hoopeston, status hearing December

3.

Brian Smith, Hoopeston, status hearing December 3.
Kodi Gonzalez, Hoopeston, status hearing December

3.

Brianna Rivera, Hoopeston, status hearing December

3.

From the Blotter

Responding to a 911 hang up call at 5:37 a.m. Monday, police were told by an 82-year-old Hoopeston man that someone tried to enter his garage, damaging it.

A set of keys was found Monday near Market and Penn. The owner may identify and claim them at the police station.

Robert A. Duncan, 59, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called Monday to Downtown

Motel, 200 E. Main. He was charged with battery on a complaint from a 43-year-old Hoopeston man and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 39. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 29. Tomorrow, chance of rain. High 41, low 35.

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