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It's our **2** year anniversary  
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 In celebration, we will be offering  
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 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!  
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**Asbestos cleanup finished, dispatching comments continue**

Asbestos cleanup at the former Hoopeston Fertilizer/Joan of Arc site on Thompson Ave. was slated to be wrapped up Wednesday.

At Tuesday's evening's Hoopeston City Council meeting, Mayor Bill Crusinberry said the EPA has been monitoring for asbestos in the area around the property. Along with asbestos, a barrel of lubricant and old pesticides were also found on the property.

Crusinberry said he doesn't know if there is a plan for cleaning up the site but added "it looks better than it did."

The site is safer, too, as first-floor access points into the building on the property have been boarded up. Crusin-

berry said youngsters had been entering the structure and playing there.

In other business, Ald. Brandon Hamilton reported on a meeting last week between city and county officials regarding nonemergency dispatching.

At that meeting, Sheriff Pat Hartshorn and Jerry Davis, attorney for the county's emergency telephone system board (ETSB) said if Hoopeston wants to regain dispatching, a letter had to be send making the request and what information Hoopeston wanted from the county.

Since Hoopeston would operate as a dispatch center  
**See DISPATCH on other side**

**Local girl plans letter-writing campaign against depression**

A Hoopeston girl wants to do something to help people who suffer with depression.

Rosie Gonzalez, daughter of John and Michelle Gonzalez, attended Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting to ask the city to donate use of the McFerren Park Civic Center for a letter-a-thon in February.

At the event, people would come and write letters to people around the world who have depression.

Letter-writing is the impetus behind Letters Against Depression, said Gonzalez, adding she also has the mood disorder.

Letters Against Depression was founded in 2014 by Robert Mason as a way to reach out to those with the illness. The charity has a GoFundMe page to raise funds for paper, envelopes and postage needed to send the letters.

At the letter-a-thon, local people would write letters -



**GONZALEZ**

which can be three or four pages long - which would then be sent to Mason to send on to people who request them. "It's a way to help people and let them know they're not alone," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez has gotten support for her fundraiser from the Hoopeston Jaycees and she and a friend are trying to get Hoopeston Area schools involved, too.

She has scheduled the event for 9 a.m.-6 pm. Saturday, Feb. 18. Along with letter-writing, the fundraiser is also set to include a bake sale and corner collection at Rtes. 1 and 9. She hopes to raise \$1,000.

Gonzalez said she and a friend in Hoopeston Area High School's media department are also working on a video about depression.

Information about Letters Against Depression is available at [www.lettersagainstdespression.org](http://www.lettersagainstdespression.org).

Tune in at 5 p.m. tonight-  
**Hoopeston Happenings**  
**Tom Cici**  
 on Hoopeston Children's Choir  
 on WHPO!

Struggle with any  
**ADDICTION?**  
 Experience Life Changing  
**SUPPORT from REFUGE**  
 Friday evenings at 6 p.m. at  
 1012 E. Orange St., Hoopeston

**LOST DOG**  
 2-year-old  
 Chocolate Lab  
 "Maggie"  
 Lost from East Elm  
 Wednesday. Last  
 spotted southwest of  
 Hoopeston in area of  
 E 3800 N and N  
 1280 E Rds.  
 Saturday morning.  
 She is a rescue dog and extremely  
 scared. She will run if chased. If seen,  
 please call  
**(217) 474-1438 or (217) 474-8326**  
 or contact Hoopeston Animal Rescue or  
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# BINGO

7 p.m. every Thursday

Hoopeston  
American Legion  
502 E. Penn



## Festive the Elf is back! Hunt for him Saturday, Dec. 10!

Pick up a Festive form at

**Simply Treasures**    **The Pink Poodle**  
**Global Fashions**    **Mr. B's**  
**Country Financial**   **Computer Works**  
   **and Better Living.**

When you locate Festive in a business, write on the form where he is. Turn in completed forms at Simply Treasures by 2 p.m. to register for a drawing.

Enjoy the Hoopeston Community Children's Choir at 12:30 p.m. inside Simply Treasures and enjoy refreshments and discounts throughout the hunt for Festive.

End the day at the Little Lorraine for the showing of *The Secret Life of Pets* at 4:30 or 7 p.m.

## Dispatch continued from other side

under the ETSB, local officials want a list of those guidelines, along with costs of training, equipment and other items, some of which had been previously paid by the ETSB.

Hamilton said the request has been made and once the information is received, will be reviewed.

Local dispatching was raised again during the public comment portion of the meeting, where the issue is personal for a local family.

Questions and comments were asked by Danny and Judy Brown, of Hoopeston, their son, Toby, of rural Rossville, and his daughter, Jenna, and her aunt, Teresa Hayes, both Hoopeston dispatchers.

Discussion became emotional after Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, said he is still deciding if the difference in the levels of care provided by Hoopeston and Vermilion County is worth the money.

Holding his left hand up and saying that was the level of Hoopeston dispatch, he then moved his right hand just below the left, wondering if that was the level of county service, "or is it here," he asked, dropping his hand to the tabletop.

He likened the issue to buying a new car and wanting it to be safe but not wanting to spend the extra \$50,000 to purchase a BMW. "I have no actual sense of what the response time is," he said.

It's not just initial response time that's important but what happens once the call is being handled. "It's not bad until it's bad," Jenna Brown said.

Brown and Hayes, asked if dispatchers would be losing their jobs, while Toby Brown said the discussion about getting dispatching back had not been about salaries until that moment.

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"Why wasn't this discussed before," Brown asked. "Why wasn't this discussed when you spent \$40,000 for the computer aided dispatching (CAD) system? It makes me nervous that all of a sudden, this thing has taken a left turn."

An emotional Hayes said she bought a house in Hoopeston "because I was told I would never lose my job."

Judy Brown referenced a Rossville ambulance call that resulted in the death of the patient because of dispatching delays. "If was that family, somebody's head would be on the chopping block," she said.

Lloyd Smith, Rossville fire chief, said dispatching issues were not the reason the patient died. Smith heard the call, then called dispatch to tell them the information went out on the wrong frequency. He cautioned the audience, saying "I support getting the deal but let's not exaggerate," he said.

After the meeting, Judy Brown apologized to Hamilton for the false information.

Crusinberry told the audience that the financial questions were the opinion of one council member, while

## Obituaries

**MOHAMMED**—Sheriff Mohammed, 73, of Rossville, died at 1:20 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016 at Hawthorne Inn, Danville. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. funeral Thursday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Mann's Chapel Cemetery, rural Rossville, with military rites by Hoopeston American Legion and VFW posts. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice.

**YOUNG** - Raymond L. Young, 85, of Cissna Park, died Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Thursday at Knapp Funeral Home Cissna Park, and 9 a.m. until the 10 a.m. funeral Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cissna Park. Burial will be in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland, with military rites by Cissna Park American Legion Post. Memorials are suggested to the Raymond L. Young Memorial Fund.

## Weather

Mostly cloudy today, tonight. High 22, low 18. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 23, low 16.

Hamilton said officials would have to look at the costs going forward.

Police officer Jeremy Welch praised Hoopeston dispatch. "Before this change, I was standing at your door in two minutes," he said. "That's a luxury we don't have now." Without local dispatch, "my job is not safe," he added.

Fire chief Joel Bird said a big reason to keep dispatch local is because dispatchers care about firemen and police officers. "They have the ability to worry about us, not 20 different departments. They worry about us the way we worry about the people of Hoopeston."

Asked by Hayes what the deadline is to get dispatching back, "I'm not going to let it sit idle," Hamilton said.

"It won't be exactly what we had," Hamilton said. "I hear everybody's passion. I have it, too."

## Classifieds

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Large 3 BR upstairs. Washer/dryer room \$450/mo. (217) 283-7439

Honeywell Apartments: 2 BR, includes water, heat, pest control, off street parking (815) 984-4513

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Director of Hoopeston Multi Agency  
Organize and manage the agency's social service programs, partnerships, facility, and events. Foster a collegial work environment with staff. Develop and write grant proposals to governmental and community foundations. Develop good working relationships with area residents, businesses, non-profits, and the agency board. Provide brochures, website maintenance, and newsletter. Desired skills: professional communication skills, staff management experience, computer skills, accounting and financial management, and grant writing. College degree preferred. Provide salary requirements if desired. Submit resume to: Wade Meranda, Board Chair, P.O. Box 297, Hoopeston, IL 60942 by December 9.

Full time tire man and mechanic. Apply in person. Smitty's Dual Wheel 8 miles west of Rossville.

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4 BR, washer/dryer room, high efficiency furnace, garage. \$600/mo. (217) 283-7439

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