

Ring in 2017 with us!
Hoopeston VFW
 428 W. Orange, Hoopeston
Lazer & Lights DJ Don Coffey
 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
Dinner 4-8 p.m.
 12 oz. ribeye, choice of potato, roll, green beans \$15 per person or
 Chicken breast dinner \$10 per person

Hoopeston American Legion
 502 E. Penn
NO BINGO
Thursday

LOST DOG
 2-year-old
 Chocolate Lab
 "Maggie"
 Danner
 Last seen over the weekend in the Penfield area on Rt. 136 East of the Oasis, just west of the county line.
 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 Vermillion County Animal Control.



Email: publish@justthefacts.net **Just the Facts** Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348
 Lourdine Florek, Owner
Wednesday, December 28, 2016
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net



Hoopeston Pizza Hut will close its doors for good on December 31 after being in Hoopeston for 40 years. Owner Michael Stegman said less business and mandated upgrades from Yum! Brands Inc. are causing the closure.

As year ends, so does run of Hoopeston Pizza Hut, 3 others

The end of the year will bring an end to one of Hoopeston's oldest restaurants.

Hoopeston Pizza Hut will close December 31, said franchisee Michael Stegman.

Stegman of Wichita, Kan., owns Illinois Pizza Company, will also close Pizza Huts in Watseka, Monticello and Paxton, and last month closed the Pizza Hut in Gibson City.

Stegman cited economic factors as reasons for closing the chain he's had for 30 years. "Business is way down," he said. "The company wants me to do a major remodel and it won't cash flow. It's a really sad deal."

The "major remodel," mandated by Pizza Hut and its parent company, Yum! Brands Inc., includes cosmetic

and structural exterior changes and new equipment, which would cost about \$200,000 just for the Gibson City Pizza Hut.

In November, when Stegman announced the Gibson City closing, he was quoted in news articles as saying employees would be relocated to other stores, but with his entire business venture closing, employees will have to look for other work.

Stegman first became a Pizza Hut franchisee in 1986. After looking at ventures in Wisconsin, Oregon, Alabama and Washington, he settled on buying the then 10-year-old Hoopeston Pizza Hut and its counterpart in Gibson City. He went on to build new restaurants in Watseka

See PIZZA on other side

Your hometown representative is now located next to Mr. B's!
 Let me quote your home and auto and I will buy you lunch next door at Mr. B's
Sandie Smith
 Financial Representative
 309 E. Main St.
 Hoopeston, IL 60942
 (217) 283-4144
sandie.smith@countryfinancial.com
 Auto and home insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company®, or COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company®, Bloomington, IL



Time's running out on the
YADEN FLOORING
Anniversary Sale
 Save on Select Vinyl, Luxury Vinyl Plank, Luxury Vinyl Sheet and Carpet for the holidays!
 509 W. Orange, Hoopeston IL (217) 283-5554
 Special Pricing ends December 31!



START 2017 OFF RIGHT!
FAST LANES
 Reservations are encouraged for
New Year's Eve dinner.
Serving Choice of Prime Rib, Ribeye, Grilled Chicken Breast or Shrimp
 Serving 4-8:30 p.m.
 Also taking reservations for
7-8-9 Pin Tournament
 Come in and sign up your group & reserve your lane!
Family Bowling Saturday 10 a.m.-6 pm.
Music by Yesterday's Country 8:30-12:30
 Open Bowling all day Monday, Jan. 2!
The PIT STOP
 Friday night come in for Cod, Ribeye and RIBS, along with full menu!

Bring your sleigh in for
\$7 off Full Service Oil Change
 10W30, 5W30 or 5W20 w/coupon. Expires 12/31/16
GIFT CERTIFICATES MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

Hoopeston Express Lube
 Rtes. 1 & 9, Hoopeston 283-5373
 www.quicklube4u.com

 **Hoopeston American Legion** 
 G₂ A₁ M₃ E₁ N₁ I₁ G₂ H₄ T₁
December 31st
Bring an appetizer!  

Happy New Year
2017
 We wish you a healthy, happy New Year.
 Just the Facts will not be published Monday, January 2, 2017.

Community thanked for helping youngsters

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,

Briefly

Holiday Maniacs at HPL

Local kids looking for something fun to do over their winter break from school are invited to Holiday Maniacs at 2 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 29, at Hoopeston Public Library. Activities for children in grades K-6 will include crazy games, New Year's Eve-themed crafts and some other fun. For more information, call the library at 217-283-6711.

Court Dispositions

and Shopko for their time and effort in handing out name tags and handling gifts as they were returned. A special THANK YOU also to 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.

From the Blotter

Jacob Mann, 28, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 12:34 a.m. Saturday to The Pump, 1023 W. Main. Charged with assault, he was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Circuit Court.

A **Hoopeston man** reported at 11:44 a.m. Saturday that someone damaged his property in the 400 block of South Fifth St.

Pizza continued from other side

in 1988, Paxton in 1989 and Monticello in 1991.

The Gibson City property was leased, but Stegman owns the property for Hoopeston and the other three restaurants closing this week. There have been "a couple lookers, but nobody has signed on the dotted line," he said.

"I wish we could keep doing it but it's so expensive," said Stegman, who is turning 74 next month and is hoping to start another business venture.

Although he is getting out of the Pizza Hut business, he hopes his customers will not. "There's a Pizza Hut conveniently located in Danville," he said. "As for Abe. He's the manager. He'll treat you right."

Weather

Sunny today. High 43. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 30. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of flurries, breezy. High 36, low 25.

Sincerely,

2016 Miracle Tree Workers
 Santa Cares Too Staff
 Jaycees Toys for Kids

Obituaries

BERTRAM - Ora Lee (Thompson) Bertram, 84, of Stockland died Saturday, Dec. 24, 2016. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. funeral Wednesday at Baier Funeral Home, Watseka. Burial will follow in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland. Memorials are suggested to Clifford Bury Auditorium (Stockland Gym) or Milford Ambulance.

CHRISMAN - Rodger A. Chrisman, 71, of Surprise, Ariz., formerly of Rossville and Danville, died Saturday, Dec. 17, 2016. Services will be held at a later date. Pace Chapel Funeral Home, Phoenix, is handling arrangements.

WITHERS - Leonard Jeffrey "Jeff" withers, 56, of Ellis, died at 1:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 24, 2016. Celebration of his life visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Thursday at Blurton Funeral Home, Potomac. He will be cremated and service held at a later date. Memorials are suggested to Champaign County Humane Society.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Part-time CNA, for all shifts must be able to work Holidays and weekends. Apply in person at Autumn Fields Adult Community 325 E Orange St Hoopeston.

HOUSES FOR RENT

UPPER LEVEL DUPLEX AVAIL: JAN. 1. 726 S. Third St. 3 BR, 1 bath w/large living room, kitchen. In and outside entry. Garage, stove and fridge and water furnished. \$425 plus security dep. References. Call (217) 304-3477.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

2012 red go cart, very good condition, 125cc engine, clutchless 3 speed with reverse, electric start, 4 wheel disk brakes. \$899. Call (815) 984-3741.

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