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**PLEASE**  
 2-year-old Chocolate Lab "Maggie" Danner



Is still missing but hasn't been spotted lately. Maybe someone has taken her in because of the cold weather and doesn't know she's missing. If you have our Maggie, please call and let me know she's ok or drop her off at a local vet or shelter. We want our baby home.  
**(217) 474-1438 or (217) 474-8326**  
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**Tuesday, January 10, 2017**  
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**Watseka hospital plans to close obstetrics service in July '17**

WATSEKA—In its entire 101-year history, Iroquois Memorial Hospital has been a place where generations of women have given birth.

That tradition is expected to end this year.

Hospital officials announced last week that they plan to file a certificate of need with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to close the obstetrics services unit effective July 31.

According to a statement issued by the hospital, the difficult decision was made after years of sustained losses, increased costs, lower reimbursements and the demands of maintaining an obstetrics program.

IMH has one birth every four days, according to the statement. Over the past three years, IMH has lost more than \$2.5 million just in OB, said Jim McRoberts, hospital marketing director.. Last year's loss in the department was just under \$875,000.

In recent years, more than 300 rural hospitals across the country have closed their OB departments, McRoberts said.

Currently, 11 nurses serve the OB department. They will be offered the opportunity to move into open positions. Plans are also being made to recognize and honor physicians, nurses and those who began their life's journey at IMH.

Going forward, officials continue to focus on providing the very best primary care to patients in the



**Iroquois Memorial Hospital in Watseka plans to close its obstetrics unit in July, citing fewer births, higher costs and increasing demands of running an OB unit.**

service area, through satellite clinics in Milford, Gilman and Kentland, Ind., technologically-advanced diagnostics, surgical services and specialty clinic, which is made up of providers in 10 different specialties, including dermatology, gastroenterology, nephrology, oncology, orthopedic surgery, otolaryngology, podiatry, urology and wound care.

Iroquois Memorial Hospital is an independent partner of Presence Health.

**Fire Calls**

Hoopeston Fire Department and police were called at 5:44 a.m. Sunday for a report of a vehicle on fire in the south end of the IGA parking lot, 1030 W. Chestnut. The fire was extinguished with no injuries.

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**Mon.:** Ham & cheese & curly fries  
**Tues.:** Pump Bowl  
**Wed.:** Broccoli Cheese Soup Bread Bowl  
**Thurs.:** Italian Beef  
**Fri.:** Ribeye Sandwich & Broccoli Cauliflower Salad  
**Evening:** Ribeyes and new Bacon Wrapped Filets  
**Sat. Jan 14th:** The Fringe 9-1 a.m.  
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**Let's put Hoopeston to work!**

### Lights, improvements are Christ-like

For 25 of my 35 years, I plotted my escape from Hoopeston. I watched factories lay off employees or even close their doors. I watched schools close from 12 and six miles away, then wonder if ours would be next. I've watched drug busts from my bedroom window. I even saw the exchange of these so-called "goods" happen in front of me, in my favorite watering hole. Opportunities to better oneself seemed to be 30 or 50 miles away, at

minimum.

Today, I am more hopeful for Hoopeston than I was then. Yes, the Lorraine Theater is closed, older buildings have collapsed, and Shopko (it will always be Pamida to me) is closing, but I have seen the investment city officials and the people of Hoopeston continue to make. A brand new McDonalds, a remodeled IGA, and Carle keeping a hospital in town, something I am definitely thankful for now living 1,000 miles away from my folks.

Yes Ms. Schuske, this includes the Christmas lights in McFerren Park, and the folks on Penn Street who have joined in the spirit. I am far from the perfect Christian, and this is certainly not the venue to debate religion; however, I do think Hoopeston has put their money where their mouth is. While those of us who have moved away will always call Hoopeston home, it's not up to us

## Letters to the Editor

to decide what investments in the community are best. That's for the mayor, city council, and current residents to determine, and I believe they have done a wonderful job, with nothing but the best interest of our hometown at heart. Just look at the effort being put forth today to return a 911 dispatcher to the area. If all this is not Christ like, then I don't know what is.

I, for one, thank the mayor, city council, school board, business owners, and residents for these continued efforts. Because of this Hoopeston, remains our home. A home I take pride in showing my children. A place I now look forward to coming back to, rather than escaping. Without these efforts, I'm not sure I would be writing this letter today.

Matthew Lacy  
 College Station, TX

## Obituaries

**FELLER** - Arthur "Art" Feller, 94, of Cissna Park, died January 6, 2017 at home. Visitation was 10 a.m. – noon Monday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park. Graveside service followed at Cissna Park Cemetery with military rites by Cissna Park American Legion. Memorials are suggested to Cissna Park Peace Meals or Cissna Park FFA.

**GALBERT** - Glen Edgar Galbert, 73, of Danville, formerly of Crawfordsville, Ind., died at 3:44 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017 at Gardenview Manor, Tilton. He will be cremated. No service is scheduled at this time. Blurton Funeral Home is handling arrangements.

**GRIMES** - Mary F. (Probasco) Grimes, 79, of Summerset, SD, died Thursday, Jan. 6, 2017 at Rapid City Regional Hospice House, Rapid City, SD. Visitation will be 2-4 p.m. Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be held at a later date in Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford.

**SCHROEDER** - Arthur "Arkie" Schroeder, 76, of Milford, died Saturday, Jan. 7, 2017 at Watseka Reahab

& Health Care. Graveside service was at 1 p.m. Monday at Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford. Memorials are suggested to family wishes. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, is in charge of arrangements.

## Classifieds

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### SERVICES

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## Weather

Today, showers likely, breezy. High 45. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 29. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of showers. High 48, low 41.