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Friday, December 29, 2017
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
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A look back at 2017

For the second year in a row, a single word to describe the year almost ending could be "loss."

Loss of beloved people in the community were two of the biggest events this year.

Brian Hodge's death on May 17 left a hole in the Hoopeston Area school system, as the passing of the 47-year-old athletic director affected both staff and students.

It also affected the community at large as Mr. Hodge was remembered as one who lent a helping hand whenever needed, especially when it came to youngsters.

Hodge graduated from Hoopeston schools and returned after graduating college to teach, coach and eventually lead the athletic department.

As the community worked to come to terms with Hodge's death, it was hit by another loss, this time of Police Chief Mark Drollinger on July 6.

Chief Drollinger, 54, lost his battle with oral cancer that was diagnosed in March 2016. Although the cancer and subsequent treatments ravaged his body, neither touched his indomitable spirit, his acerbic wit or his admonition to "be nice to each other."

Chief Drollinger used his stature to teach others about oral cancer, spreading the word through print, radio and other media, all the while focusing on living, spending time with family and friends who gathered to support him.

Sgt. Jim DeWitt was named acting chief and continues to serve in that role as officials see a permanent chief.

This year saw less dramatic losses, as well, as Hank Hornbeck retired as Hoopeston Area Superintendent; Larry Maynard resigned after a decade at the helm of Hoopeston Area High School; and Honeywell School

closed its doors after hosting a remembrance open house in May.

The flip side of that, of course, is newness, as Suzzette Hesser was named new superintendent and Marc Campbell as high school principal.

One loss that occurred last year resulted in a resurrection after residents took action.

Hoopeston Police dispatching was ended in 2016 with little fanfare but that changed in January, when residents complained of longer wait times for officers, firemen and ambulances that were then being dispatched through Vermilion County.

Citizens - sometimes as many as 50 - attended Hoopeston City Council meetings, asking aldermen to bring dispatching back. Their wish was granted on March 17 when, after being gone for six months, dispatching was returned to the city.

On the economic front, Hoopeston lost its major department store when Shopko closed in February, but gained two new business, Bricks and Ivy, a sports
 See 2017 on other side

Rossville Family Restaurant
 715 S. Chicago
New Year's Eve Special
Premium Seafood Alfredo
 also available
Our Prime Rib and XL Hand-Battered Shrimp
 Regular menu selections also available

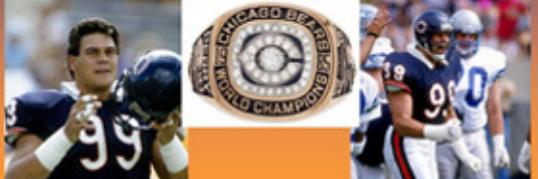
Ring in the New Year at
Hoopeston VFW
 New Years Eve Specials:
 Domestic beer \$1.75 Bloody Mary
 \$1.50 Corona \$2.50 Margarita \$1
 Free Food & DJ 8 p.m.-1 a.m.
 428 W. Orange, Hoopeston



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 1985 Chicago Bears Super Bowl Champion and NFL Hall of Famer is coming to Bricks and Ivy Sports!
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Obituaries

CARL - Raymojean "Jean" Carl, 80, of Cissna Park, died at 9:52 p.m. Monday, Dec. 25, 2017 at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Burial will follow. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Animal Shelter 901 W. Main St. Hoopeston, IL 60942 or to the Christian Bible Church 1202 E. 200 North Rd. Cissna Park, IL 60924.

DAIN - Evelyn Marie (Dailey) Dain, 91, of Hoopeston, died at 12:33 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2017 at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Saturday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at Park Cemetery in Ogdenburg, Wis. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston United Methodist Church, 403 E. Main St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

GARRELTS - Lavern K. "Putt" Garrelts, 81, of Milford, died Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017 at Danville VA Home. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will follow in Maple Grove Cemetery. Memorials

are suggested to the Danville VA Home.

LONGEST - Eric Longest, 52, of Hoopeston, formerly of Rankin, died at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24, 2017 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until the 11 a.m. celebration of his life Friday at Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery with military honors by Hoopeston American Legion.

VANHOVELN - Margaret Ann (Bruns) VanHoveln, 89, of near Schwer, died Monday, Dec. 25, 2017. Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Watsika and 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Saturday at St. John Lutheran Church, Schwer. Memorials are suggested to the church Choir Ministry.

Court Dispositions

November 2

Sandra Woods, Hoopeston, found guilty for general nuisance, fined \$180; status hearing December 7.

Austin Rhodes II, Hoopeston, case dismissed.

Barbara Gibson, Hoopeston, case dismissed.

December 7

William Thomas, Hoopeston, general nuisance, continued to February 1.

Maria Anquiano, Hoopeston, found guilty of preparation and placement of garbage, fined \$180; status hearing January 4.

Belinda Solis, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to nuisance vehicle, fined \$180; status hearing January 4.

Briefly

At the library

Upcoming activities at Hoopeston Public Library include:

Tiny Tots story program, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday. For youngsters ages 0-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Holiday closings

• Hoopeston City offices, except the police department, will be closed January 1-2, 2018, for New Year's. Hoopeston City Council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

• Hoopeston Public Library will be closed Monday and reopen with regular hours on Tuesday.

• Just the Facts will not be printed Monday and Tuesday. Publication will resume Wednesday.

2017 continued from other side

memorabilia store and Sculpt Fitness, the first business to open in the Willdon Building.

Hoopeston was not the only local community to experience loss this year. In Rossville, longtime Police Chief Bill Shannon retired in April. Chris Kelnhofer, former Hoopeston Police officer, was hired in that position.

Rossville also experienced a loss of many of its stately trees and some property after a tornado went through the village in late May.

Some plans from 2017 will carry over into the new year with hoped-for improvements:

• Hoopeston hopes to get a low-interest EPA loan to fund sewer improvements - and perhaps ease flooding - on the city's north side.

• Ownership of the Essex Building has been passed to Justin Acton, who plans to use the structure for retail sales, as well as storage for his construction equipment.

• Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation hopes to spur economic growth along the Rtes. 1 and 9 corridor, with preparatory work being done this year and construction following in 2018.

The foundation purchased land between Hoopeston Marathon and Chrysler of Hoopeston, with the intent of building a motel and restaurant there. The foundation was also the winning bidder of former

From the Blotter

Jackie Carswell, 35, of Hoopeston, was charged after Hoopeston Animal Control responded at 12 p.m. Tuesday to a dog needing medical treatment. She was charged with dog owner duties after she was told by Animal Control to get the dog treated.

Carswell was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Eric Gaffney, 51, was arrested after police were called to a fight at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in the 400 block of West Orange. He was charged with battery and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Weather

Mostly cloudy today, then snow likely. High 18. Tonight, snow likely, with total accumulation of 3". Low 7. Tomorrow, cold. High 9, low -3. Sunday, cold. High 10, low -3. Monday, cold. High 7, low -7. Tuesday, sunny, cold. High 10, low 2.

Baer Motel land on Rt. 1, which will be used for a new First Farmers Bank and Trust facility, as well as retail and another restaurant.

Foundation officials were also in negotiations with Dick Jones, owner of the Dick Jones, Inc., a used vehicle business located at the corner of Rtes. 1 and 9.

Whether a deal has been finalized and plans for the location have not been announced.

New Books at the Library

Fiction

The Cowboy's Family Christmas by Carolyne Aarsen (inspirational)/paperback)

How the Finch Stole Christmas by Donna Andrews (large print)

Shattered Memories by V. C. Andrews

Complicated by Kristen Ashley

The Dark Lake by Sarah Bailey

Dark Signal by Shannon Baker (mystery)

End Game by David Baldacci

Someone to Wed by Mary Balogh

The Kansas City Cowboys by Johnny D. Boggs (large print)

The Indigo Girl by Natasha Boyd

The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyne

Secrets of Cavendon by Barbara Bradford

An Alaskan Christmas by Belle Calhoun (inspirational)/paperback)

The Christmas Baby by Lisa Carter (inspirational)/paperback)

The Midnight Line by Lee Child

Every Breath You Take by Mary Higgins Clark

Comanche Captive by D. Laszlo Conhaim (western)

The Armageddon File by Stephen Coonts

Ragged Lake by Ron Corbett (mystery)

Classifieds

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Full time chiropractic assistant needed for our busy, growing office. A great personality is a must, strong phone and computer skills helpful. Candidate must be a people person and a team player. Please send resume to Box J, c/o Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942.

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