

**Main St. Parlor**  
Candy & Soda Shop  
**HUGE Black Friday Sale**  
November 24-26 Open 7 a.m.!  
*Almost everything on sale, including gift items & stocking stuffers!*  
218 E Main St. Hoopeston

**Rossville Family Restaurant**  
will be open  
**Thanksgiving Day 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
Serving a traditional Thanksgiving dinner starting at 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.  
Regular menu also available  
*Reservations recommended*  
217-748-6201

Paxton Area 217-841-4728  
C/U Area 217 566-5005  
  
**DOGTOWN**  
Heating, Air & Plumbing  
*"Your Home's Best Friend"*  
Dogtownheatingandair.com

**Hoopeston Area Women's Club**  
**TACO NIGHT & BAKE SALE**  
Wednesday, November 22  
4:30-8 p.m.  
**The Legion**  
502 E. Penn St., Hoopeston  
Carryouts available • Raffle Baskets



Email: [publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net) Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348  
**Just the Facts** *Lourdine Florek, Owner*  
**Monday, November 20, 2023**  
*Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!*  
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

**Council accepts demolition bid, overturns cannabis ordinance**

Demolition on dilapidated downtown buildings is expected to start November 29 after Hoopeston City Council approved a bid for the work.  
The city had sent out packets seeking one bid for demolition of 215-229 E. Main, 209-213 S. Market, 308 E. Main and 210 E. Penn, with alternate bids to reside buildings sharing a common wall with those to be demolished. Due to an injunction, a separate bid was sought for de-

molishing 222 E. Main.  
Lee Farms Excavating, of Paxton, was awarded the contract after the council approved the company's \$424,900 base bid in a 7-0 vote, with Ald. Joe Garrett absent. The action was taken at the council's November 7 meeting.  
Lee Farms also submitted a \$48,500 bid to take down  
**See DEMOLITION on other side**



**Chatting away**  
Seven-year-old Michaela Bilbrey visits with Santa at Saturday's Holiday in Hoopeston (formerly Magical Express) at the McFerrer Park Civic Center. The activity, formerly sponsored by Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce, is now under the direction of Project Success.

**Cheeseburgers for Paradise**  
From 5 p.m. - close Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays, we're donating \$5 of each dine-in cheeseburger to a local church or school. Tuesday's recipient is **John Greer SPED - C. Huffman**  
*Kids Meals not included, Limited to 1 cheeseburger/person*  
**Rossville Family Restaurant**  
715 S. Chicago, Rossville (217) 748-6201

**The PIT STOP at EAST LANES**  
**Thanksgiving Week Specials**

- Monday: Spaghetti, Taco Salad (beef or chicken), and grilled or breaded Tenderloins  
**OPEN BOWLING ALL EVENING**
- Tuesday: Chicken or Beef & Noodles potato, corn, and Speedway Burger/choice of potato  
**Open Bowling until 6 p.m.**
- Wednesday: Ribeye Steak sandwich/potato or Pork Chop/potato  
**9 Pin Doubles Tournament 7 p.m. Limited Open Bowling**
- Thursday: **Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!**
- Friday: Cod Dinner or Sandwich/potato or Rib eye steak/potato  
**OPEN BOWLING ALL DAY**
- Saturday: Breakfast Buffet 7-11 a.m.  
Prime Rib & Rib Eye, choice of potato  
**OPEN BOWLING ALL DAY**
- Sunday: Breakfast Buffet 7-12  
Grilled Chicken Breast Dinner Special until 1:30 p.m.  
**Open Bowling until 4 p.m.**

**719 W. Elm, Hoopeston (217) 283-6505**

## Demolition continued from other side

222 E. Main.

A lower bid was received but not accepted. Allen Decker, owner of ARD Farms & Contracting, of Wellington, submitted a \$410,000 bid for the bulk of the work and \$50,000 for 222 E. Main.

After the meeting, Ald. Kellie Ferrell, civic committee chair, said Decker's bid was not accepted. "Unfortunately we had to throw out Decker's bid because we did not get his signed confirmation sheet of receiving the alternate bids and he didn't have bids listed for alternate bids 1-4," she said.

No action was taken on the alternate bids to side the buildings because officials want to see what the abutting buildings look like when the neighboring buildings are down. "The price could increase some for the city and/or the building owners depending on what we find," Ferrell said. "We'll move forward with those alternate bids with each owner on an individual basis." For example, she said, once exposed, water damage from a leak could be

## Obituaries

**BOGEN** - Harry F. Bogen, 76, formerly of Connecticut, died Thursday, November 16, 2023, at OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center, Danville. He will be cremated. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until the 10 a.m. funeral Mass Wednesday at St. Paul Catholic Church, Danville. Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Schlarmann Academy Development Office. Blurton Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at [www.blurtonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.blurtonfuneralhomes.com).

**FRIGO** - John Frigo, 70, of Goodwine, formerly of Chicago, died Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at Rush Hospital, Chicago. Visitation will be 1-4 p.m. Tuesday at Baier Funeral Home, Watseka. Memorials are suggested to family wishes. Condolences may be shared at [www.baierfuneralhome.com](http://www.baierfuneralhome.com).

**SCHMITZ** - Karen Jean "Jeanie" (Laird) Schmitz, formerly of rural Milford, died October 18, 2023 at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Rortvedt Funeral Services, Tilton, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at [www.rortvedtfuneralservices.com](http://www.rortvedtfuneralservices.com).

## Death Notices

**WINTERS** - Debra Ann "Debbie" Williams, 70, of Abilene, Kan., formerly of Hoopeston, died at 2:11 a.m. Thursday, November 16, 2023, at Memorial Hospital in Abilene. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

found to have damaged the standing wall. That expense would be on the building owner. Or, if an owner refuses to pay half the cost of residing a building, "there's no need to approve the alternate bid."

Bid documents were prepared by Smith/Burgett Architects, Inc., of Urbana.

Lee Farms will begin documenting in pictures and notes, starting before demolition begins and going throughout the entire process, Ferrell said.

Demolition is expected to start with the former food locker at 210 E. Penn and the back side near the alley of the former Countryside Mall, 217 E. Main to remove asbestos, Ferrell said.

Debris containing asbestos will be taken to the landfill. Other debris will wait until after January 1. "We've been advised that waiting until January 1 will save us \$100,000 in landfill fees because they have a limit with the EPA of how much they can take," she said.

What will happen with the cleared properties has not been determined. The council is considering a green space downtown, perhaps with farmers market shelters, a stage/pavilion for music or hosting events or a large community space, Farrell said, adding, "We're open to suggestions."

The corner of Main and Market, where Bzzz Bar, Rod's Home & Auto and the Chronicle were located "would make a decent sized lot for anyone that has a business proposal," she added. "I think after we get to see the buildings cleared, we'll have a better idea of exactly how much space we'd like to use for a community area and whether there are any lots we'd be willing to part with."

## Lunch Menus

### Maple/John Greer

MONDAY: Mini corndogs, fries, cucumber slices, applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: BBQ/bun, green beans, celery sticks, peaches, milk

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY: No school

### Hoopeston Area Middle School

MONDAY: Chicken .strips, green beans, veggies, applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: Cook's Choice

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY: No school

### Hoopeston Area High School

MONDAY: Popcorn chicken or hot ham & cheese, green beans, salad bar, applesauce, milk, juice

TUESDAY: Cook's Choice

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY: No school

Again, it would be someone that has a plan and the means to make something happen."

In other action, the council rescinded an ordinance passed in November 2019 that barred cannabis-related businesses in the city. The ordinance was passed after recreational marijuana was legalized in the state.

Ferrell first brought up the possibility in May and had mentioned it a couple of times since, receiving little feedback from aldermen. She stated the item would be on the November 7 agenda for action.

"I wasn't a fan of the council banning cannabis sales originally," she said, citing reasons for allowing sales, which include:

- Taxes generated by cannabis sales could help the city.
- Buying cannabis from a dispensary is safer than buying it off the street, where it could be laced with something. The customer would be dealing with someone who isn't going to push more malicious and addictive drugs on them.
- People are buying cannabis in Danville and Tilton and bringing it here. Banning sales doesn't stop it from coming to town. It just makes the drive longer and gives people more reason to do some shopping while they're out of town. "Sales ban or not, it's still here," she said.
- Cannabis is also prescribed to people for different ailments.

## From the Blotter

**No tickets or injuries** were reported in an accident at 3:51 p.m. Thursday at West Main and South Sixth Ave. Stella E. Smith, 62, of East Lynn, was eastbound in a 2018 Ford and struck a southbound 2009 Ford driven by Joel A. Nosler, 19, of Hoopeston. Police said both entered the intersection without seeing the other.

**Joaquin Cardenas**, 22, of Hoopeston, was ticketed after an accident at 1:28 p.m. Thursday at South Second Ave. and West Penn. Police said Cardenas, in a 2015 GMC SUV, was westbound, tried to turn southbound and struck an Ameren utility pole. Charged with disobeying a traffic control device, reckless driving, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, illegal transportation of alcohol and no valid driver's license, he was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

## Weather

Chance of rain today. High 48. Tonight, rain. Low 41. Tomorrow, rain, then cloudy, blustery. High 49, low 30.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit [justthefacts.net/weather/](http://justthefacts.net/weather/).

ments. Allowing sales opens the door for people to buy their medical marijuana in town, rather than driving to another city.

Mayor Jeff Wise called the action "a first step." The city plans to approve an ordinance spelling out conditions under which a dispensary would be approved in the city. Meantime, if anyone is interested in opening a cannabis business, "come in and talk," he said.

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Kitchen help needed at Fast Lanes. Some weekends. Apply in person at 719 W. Elm. No phone calls.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is hiring for 2<sup>nd</sup> Production Machine Operators, \$18/hour. Apply at [www.full-fill.com](http://www.full-fill.com) Applications available onsite. EOE

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for a part time animal control officer. Applicants must have a valid driver's license, must be comfortable handling aggressive animals, must be willing to attend required training at city's expense and must be willing to be employed on an on-call basis. Candidates will be required to enforce State, County and City codes, ordinances and laws governing animal control, animal identification, recognition of illness, habits and behaviors of various animals and the techniques and equipment used in capturing, restraining, receiving, feeding, caring for, grooming and releasing domestic and wild animals. Job functions include, but not limited to: capture domestic and wild animals; may require chasing, climbing fences and crawling under houses, etc.; inspect animal facilities to ensure animals have adequate food and water and have sanitary and appropriate living conditions; issue citations, warnings and/or legal notices. Applications available at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main or [www.cityofhoopeston.com](http://www.cityofhoopeston.com). For questions call (217) 283-5833.

East Lynn Fertilizer is looking for a full-time custom applicator. Competitive Pay. Health Insurance & Retirement Plans. Apply in person at 41284 S Main St. East Lynn, IL.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at [silgancontainers.mua.hr.department.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13827](http://silgancontainers.mua.hr.department.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13827)

Silgan Containers is hiring an Electrician - Industrial/Maintenance Technician. Please apply online at: [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13392](http://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13392)

Aquality Solutions is looking for men or women to deliver its products to area businesses and residential customers. This position offers benefits and incentive bonuses. Apply in person at 102 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.