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TWO NIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS
A CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS MUSICAL
DECEMBER 17 AT 10:30 A.M.

We warmly welcome you to our Christmas program!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
323 E. Seminary Ave. Hoopeston

Email:
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Just the Facts

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348
Lourline Florek, Owner

Thursday, December 14, 2023

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www.justthefacts.net

Hoopeston Christmas Day dinner canceled, church to host Christmas luncheon December 23

When one door closes, often, another opens, and so it is with Hoopeston's free community Christmas dinner.

Susan Comstock started the tradition in 2012, wanting no one to be alone on Christmas. Tapping into the community, she found volunteers to cook turkeys and make casseroles, side dishes and desserts. Others donated paper products for the dinner, which was first served at the Hoopeston Multi Agency and later moved to Hoopeston United Methodist Church.

Even COVID could not stop the Christmas Day Dinner from happening. Barred from meeting in a group, volunteers bagged meals and delivered them to

residents all around the town.

This year, Comstock wrestled with whether to hold the dinner. Having had hip replacement surgery earlier this year - and having a hard time slowing the frenetic pace at which she does things - Comstock did not feel up to the challenge, but didn't want to disappoint those who looked forward to the event. "This would have been the 12 straight years," she said. "It was very hard to come to not doing it as still have some that have come ever year," she said. "A lot have died, which is sad."

She had not started working on this year's dinner, then learned she didn't have to.

Instead, Micah Mobley, pastor at Hoopeston First Church of God, announced on the church Facebook page that it would hold a free Christmas lunch at the church, 1004 E. Orange.

Mobley, who returned to Hoopeston a couple of months ago from Huntington, Ind., said after learning a Christmas dinner had not yet been scheduled this year, felt led to do one. "That kind of started all of this - what can we do to be a light in the community just to bless people, so here we go and much ore to come because God is good!" he said.

The dinner will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, Decem-
See CHRISTMAS on other side

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Briefly

Christmas services

Just the Facts will print a list of Christmas services at area churches. If you would like your church included, please email information to publish@justthefacts.net by Monday, December 18.

At the library

Steam Lab for Kids, 3:30 Thursday. Enter the realm of youthful magicians at the Sled and Slope STEM Challenge!

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called for mutual aid at 7:07 a.m. Tuesday. Rossville Fire Department requested a tanker to transport water to a structure fire. The department cleared at 7:57 a.m.

Firefighters were called at 8:04 p.m. Tuesday for the smell of gas in a residence in the 500 block of East McCracken. No injuries were reported.

From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 6:44 p.m. Tuesday at North Market and East Thompson. Police said Ross Swartz, 74, of Wellington, in a 2017 Chrysler van, failed to yield the right of way to a 2014 Ford Explorer, driven by Kristen Compton, 41, also of Hoopeston.

Christmas continued from other side

ber 23, with 500 meals planned to be served. Dine in and carry out will be available and, Mobley said, limited delivery will be available to shut-ins and some people in the church. He hopes to be able to take meals to Heritage Health and Autumn Fields, as well as Carle Hoopeston Hospital, but will not be doing delivery upon request. "The logistics of that would be too tough, especially for year one," he said. "We also don't want people to miss the opportunity to come out and have community as they eat, as well."

Along with the dinner, the church will have 50-100 mini stockings for local kids and have background music playing during the event.

First Church of God is covering the expenses of this year's meal, Mobley said, but is looking forward to joining with other churches, organizations and individuals for future dinners. "We would love to partner with others, he said. "Absolutely we are about that."

For more information on the dinner, call (217) 283-6301.

The Ho-Ho-Holiday Book Sale is going on now in the upstairs north youth room. Everything is for sale by donation.

Family Scavenger Hunt, 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 28. Up to five people of all ages (one must be an adult 18+). Each team gets 90 minutes to find 20 Christmas-themed items and bring the item or a cell phone photo back to the library.

Each item has a point value. The team with the most points wins. There will be treats for all and some fun ways to earn extra points. Pre-registration is suggested but not required. To sign up, call (217) 283-6711 or stop by 110 N. Fourth St.

P.E.P. Party

Hoopeston United Methodist Church will hold its

Sports

Wrestling

Cornjerker wrestling went 2-0 Tuesday night, making the team's record 4-3 on the year. In a match with Rantoul, Hoopeston Area won, 80-0. The team also defeated Central, 51-30.

Hoopeston Area will host North Vermilion Thursday.

Basketball

Hoopeston Area whizzed past Westville, 54-37, in basketball action Tuesday. The Cornjerkers were led by Trenton Montez with 21 points, followed by Owen root and Kendrick Sigerill with 11 each. Wyatt Eisenmann had four points, while Brayden Walder and Zach Huchel had one from three-point land and Mason Rush had one.

Sigerill had 11 rebounds during the game, followed by Root with 10.

The Tigers easily defeated the Cornjerker JV, 51-30. Nick Cardenas had 13 points and Huchel had seven in that contest.

The Cornjerkers have their first foray in the Watseka Holiday Tourney Thursday, facing Illinois Lutheran at 5:45 p.m. at Watseka Community High School. Other opening night matchups include Cissna Park vs. Bishop McNamara at 4:30, Central vs. Cissna Park at 7 p.m. and Illinois Lutheran vs. Watseka at 8:15 p.m.

Weather

Sunny today. High 49. Tonight, clear. Low 29. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 52, low 35.

For real time Hoopeston weather information, go to justthefacts.net/weather/.

monthly People Enjoying People potluck party at 5 p.m. Monday at the church, 403 E. Main St.

Main dish, drinks and table service provided. Those who want to bring a side dish or dessert to share are welcome to do so.

There is no cost. All are welcome to come.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Public Library needs dependable part-time custodian, approx. 10-15 hrs./week, daily Mon.-Fri. Early mornings or after 6 p.m. Tasks include cleaning public and staff restrooms, mopping and/or vacuuming public and staff areas, emptying trash, cleaning glass doors/windows and other duties as needed. Must have reliable transportation, be able to work independently, lift up to 40 lbs. and manage stairs. References required. Applications available at the library, 110 N. Fourth St.

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 2nd Production Machine Operators, \$18/hour. Apply at www.full-fill.com Applications available onsite. EOE

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.

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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 1st 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.

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