



By
BERTHA PARSONS

Believe in Your Dreams

Here we are, at the end of another year! It's start time again, and what's your dream for the New Year? Remember, this dream what you want out of this brand new, never before seen New Year. It is not what someone else may want you to dream!

My kids ask me in January, "Mom, do you have your New Year to-do list?" "I do," is the answer! I start my list of wants, needs and gotta-haves on December 1. If you stepped into my office, the list is right next to my calendar on the wall above my desk. I'm not in the habit of showing the list to anyone, even my husband! He doesn't come in the office that much! But he does ask, "Bertha, you got your list ready?"

I think a dream is a happy thought, a goal I want to reach or is something I've longed for and now want to achieve or buy. When I make my dream list, I put my future in very good hands - my own! You need to do the same. Sit down with a pencil and a piece of paper and write down your dreams! Believe in something big! Use your imagination to inspire yourself. Smile as you take the pencil and start your dream list.. It can happen, believe me!

Did I get all the dreams I listed? No, but I was motivated to not give up! I alone am responsible for the quality of my dreams, thus my life! Yes your life depends on you, don't

blame your parents, your friends, don't blame anyone but YOU. Ask for help if needed, look everyplace for advice and suggestions both good and bad. Giving up is not an option.

Every one of us, yes, you dear friend, and me, have a secret wish or a silent dream, a special goal that you wish for, hope for and want to happen! Along the way we sometimes lose sight and forget our dreams. I'm here to tell you, never give up on your dreams. Yes, you may have to adjust a dream or two, that's alright.

Write your dream on that piece of paper, then list how you plan to reach that special dream! Take your time, you may need to rewrite the list a few times, before it is just right for you. What happens next is a gift to you from you!

When you make your dream a reality you will fly like an eagle and never look back! Dreams, we all need them now and then. I bet you've got a few dreams hidden, drag them out and put them to life. OK!

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New year brings Hoopeston library 2024 Reading Challenge

Hoopeston Public Library is challenging everyone to take part in the 2024 Reading Challenge.

The challenge starts January 1, but participants can begin reading now. Pick up a Challenge bookmark at the front desk. Each month of the new year will have a specific theme or genre. Pick (and read) a book that fits a specific theme and get a special gift.

Anyone who has a book in mind that matches the monthly theme may choose to read it. Books read do not have to come from the display. The display is to encourage people to join in and help with book choice.

Those who meet all the monthly challenges will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 gift card from a local business.

There are no book reviews to write or club meetings to attend - just a fun way for people to expand their reading horizons in their own time and with a book they choose.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department and Ameren were called at 10:35 a.m. Tuesday for a gas main cut in the 800 block of East Seminary during an excavation.

Firefighters were sent at 5 p.m. Tuesday to an active fire alarm in the 700 block of South Fifth St. The alarm was false.

Celebrate New Years with dinner at
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Briefly

Blood drive

The Red Cross will hold a Community Blood Drive from noon-4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29, at First Presbyterian Church, 915 E. Orange, Hoopeston. To schedule an appointment, call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org.

Donors will receive long-sleeved Red Cross t-shirts while supplies last.

Resident reminders

- Hoopeston trash pickup is running one day late due to the Christmas holiday. Recycling will run one day late, as well, and will be picked up Saturday.
- Hoopeston residents are reminded that blue garbage totes are to be placed five feet away from vehicles, buildings and each other to allow trucks to pick up quickly and safely.

At the Library

Coffee, Craft & Conversation 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays. Crochet, knit, sew and other portable handcrafts are inviting to bring their projects and enjoy a morning of fun and conversation!

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 visit 110 N. Fourth St.

Court Dispositions

November 8

Robert I. Smith, Hoopeston, failed to appear at initial appearance for general nuisance, found guilty by default, fined \$180; status hearing December 13.

Debra S. Winters, Hoopeston, failed to appear at initial appearance for general nuisance, found guilty by default, fined \$180; status hearing December 13.

Weather

Chance of rain/snow today. High 30. Tonight, rain likely. Low 33. Tomorrow, chance of rain/snow, then mostly cloudy. High 40, low 29.

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

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Saturday	10 am-4 pm



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Night lights

While Rudolph and the others are back at the North Pole after their big night, these lighted reindeer reminded passersby that Santa would soon be coming.

Corn Beef and Cabbage

on New Year's Day at

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10:30 a.m.- 7 p.m. or until gone



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Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at silgancontainers.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/silgan/job/Mechanic_R174.

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.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is hiring for 2nd Production Machine Operators, \$18/hour. Apply at www.full-fill.com Applications available onsite. EOE

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.