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Applicants are required to be tested prior to  
acceptance into the class. Mandatory testing  
is scheduled for Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00  
AM at Hoopeston Regional Health Center

Lourdine Florek  
owner/publisher

**Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>**

**Thursday, July 12, 2007**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942**

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## Local pipsqueaks don't thwart rehearsal of ART's 'Pippin'

*Editor's Note: Lourdine's evil twin has been given her very own column. This is Sardine's debut column.*

Greetings and salutations, one and all. I'm sure you've missed me, but you know how Lourdine is about letting me write. On the plus side, the old stick-in-the-mud finally broke down and let me have a column of my very own. How cool is that?

As you all know, it's my lot in life to complain about things (hence the title of my column) but to be perfectly contrary, I thought I'd break in my new venture with something nice. Now, don't think I've gone soft because I haven't. It's just that I like to keep people guessing and what better way to do that then by being - dare I say it - nice?

I know it's Thursday and you all probably have your weekend all planned, what with Harry Potter and gardening and mowing and what-not, but if you have a couple free hours, it would be worth your while to check out the Artistic Repertory Theatre production of "Pippin."

Lourdine was invited to attend a rehearsal and for some reason, she asked me to go in her place. I mean, what do I know about the arts? The only culture I get is from yogurt, but I couldn't very well tell her no.

I admit, I wasn't looking forward to it. But things looked up when I got to the McFerren Park Civic Center and I saw police there. I figured maybe one of the actors had gone over the edge and I would have a BIG story. As it turned out, some pre-teen girls got into the civic center and damaged some of the costumes and props and apparently stole a few items, too. The cast was pretty upset about it. You could tell they put a lot of



effort into the production and they mad as hornets that a few little hoo-ligans tried to ruin it. Can't say I blame them at all for being upset.

Despite their anger/frustration at the incident, everyone - from director Kathleen Margevich on down - pulled themselves together to embody that "the show must go on"

saying. Some of the actors couldn't even wear their costumes because the little pipsqueaks had written on them with lipstick or ripped them or gotten them wet but that didn't phase the cast.

I plunked myself down at a table with Carol and Marty Kloska and, quite frankly, thought I could scribble a few notes about the production and leave. I ended up staying through both acts and the after-rehearsal critique and, I'm sorry to say, I took very few notes because I got so caught up in the action.

"Pippin" is the story of a young prince who is certain there's more to life than what he's experienced because he believes he should lead an extraordinary life.

The original Broadway production included a lot of erotica that you won't see in the local offering, which is quite family-friendly. There are, I think, two scenes with (rather chaste) kisses between characters who are couples but except for a couple double entendres, the local production has nothing racy in it.

What it does have are cast members who turn in solid performances, especially in the vocals department.

Doug Deckard of Rossville is wonderful as Pippin, singing his way through the two-act show. Emily Margevich, who plays a soldier, does double duty as Pippin's grandmother, Berthe. The idea of a young woman playing a grandmother (and doing it so credibly) tickles

**See PIPPIN on other side**

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## Pippin continued from other side

my funny bone.

Mike Caparula is hilarious as King Charles (the Great, in more than one area) and can really belt out a tune. I've known Mike for a few years (he's friends with the brother-in-law and all) but had never seen him perform. Wow!

Steve Margevich plays Lewis, Pippin's half-brother, a bumbling mama's boy who hopes to be king. I got a kick out of him hopping around the stage.

But the performance I enjoyed the most was Kristi Hudson's take on the "Leading Character." She does a wonderful job of the sharp-witted, beguiling Leading Character. Whether dressed in a sharp pant suit or glittering dress, Hudson is awesome.

In between, there are characters in horned helmets, body parts flying around the stage and a smidgen of lovey-dovey stuff for those who like such things.

Pippin will be performed at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday at the civic center. Doors will open one hour before each performance for lunch counter purchases, including BBQ, tacos, hot dogs and

(woo-hoo) Dad's Ice Cream.

All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$8 and are available by calling the box office at (217) 283-6553.

Try to go if you can. I think you'll enjoy it. Just don't tell anybody I told you. I wouldn't want to ruin my reputation by carrying this "nice" thing to extremes.

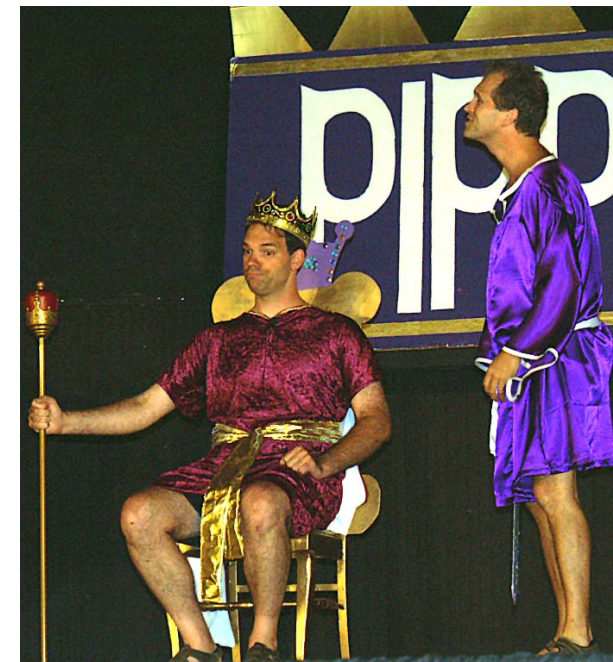
A **33-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 3 p.m. Tuesday that his property in the 500 block of East Young was damaged.

A **64-year-old** Hoopeston resident reported at 4:52 p.m. Tuesday that a home in the 700 block of South Fourth St. had been illegally entered.

A **28-year-old** Hoopeston resident reported at 5:06 p.m. Tuesday that a residence in the 400 block of Front St. had been damaged.

**Donald W. Pickett**, 47, of 427 W. Maple was arrested at 10:33 p.m. Tuesday in the 400 block of West Maple. He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 16-year-old girl.

Pickett was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.



Mike Caparula as King Charles, reacts to his son, Pippin, during Tuesday rehearsals for the production. The Artistic Repertory Theatre will offer performances at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 2 p.m. Sunday at the McFerren Park Civic Center.

## Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today. High 78. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 58. Tomorrow, sunny. High 78, low 57.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.



every Thursday 7 p.m.

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## Classifieds

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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