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Tuesday, May 18, 2010

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

### HAHS Lorraine Theater documentary to debut May 26

TV production classes at Hoopeston Area High School have produced a video exploring the history of Hoopeston's Lorraine Theater.

The theater, which was building in 1922 and remodeled in 1936 into the then-relatively new Art Deco style, has remained relatively unchanged for decades. It features one of the largest screens in the area, as well as a state-of-the-art sound system.

The documentary traces the history of the theater from its beginnings in 1922 to the present, and includes an interview with the present owner, Josh Caudle, as well as a tour of the theater. A reading of emails and letters from former employees, some of whom worked at the theater as far back as the 1930s, and patrons of the theater, along with a discussion by members of the community about the theater, are also included.

The documentary will be shown at 6:30 p.m. May 26 at the Lorraine Theater. Admission will be \$3 per person, with proceeds going to the Michael Symmonds Memorial Scholarship at Hoopeston Area High School. DVDs of the documentary will also be available for \$10.

# Author to recount genealogy adventures at library program

Author John Kilgore Sr., will share stories and conduct a book signing from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, May 20, at Hoopeston Public Library, 110 N. Fourth Street.

"Echoes From the Past: A Memoir of Family Heritage," is Kilgore's personal memorial detailing his adventures in amateur genealogical research over the past 20 years. It recounts not only his reunions with distant cousins, but also his acquaintances with country music stars Johnny Cash, June Carter Cash, Hank Williams Jr., Merle Kilgore and many more.

Part travelogue and history, "Echoes from the Past" is also a tribute to family heritage and the unexpected discoveries that make it so important to remember those who've come before and to preserve the story for future generations.

Experiences or amateur genealogists will enjoy Kilgore's entertaining stories and tips on navigating the family tree. Unique memorabilia Kilgore has collected will also be available to view.

Refreshments will also be served.

ees, some of as the 1930s, discussion by

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### Former resident Don Shields authors 'Growing Up Doughnut' about life in Hoopeston

A Hoopeston native will publish his first book this summer.

Don Shields, who was born and raised in Hoopeston, coached in Paxton for 30 years, and now lives in Phoenix, Arizona, calls the story a bit of "autobiographical creative non-fiction."

"What I've done is take mostly stories from my life from the time I was five until I graduated from Hoopeston High School and headed to college at Eureka College, and then thrown in some embellishments."

Unlike most memoirs, it is not a tell all, but rather a reminiscence of his life growing up in the back of a restaurant called the Do-nut Shop which was at 219 S. First Avenue, then out on West Penn St. across from the park. Because of this, and his rotund stature as a youth, Shields and his brother Jim were given the nicknames "Doughnut." He said that the nickname was never used to put him down, but rather a term of affection, much like someone might call a tall person "Shorty." No one, he said has to worry about being put down or about being in a negative light, "All my memories of Hoopeston,

even my breakups with girls, are good ones."

Thrown in for good measure is a story about George Halas coming into the shop for "doorknobs" and the advice that Shields' mother Alta gave Halas on coaching his team. The novel abounds with stories of local history, including how the Cornjerkers got their name.

And he doesn't hold anything back when discussing the pungent odor of the "Sweet Corn Capital of the World," noting that the town was once bounded by two cattle stockyards filled with hundreds of cattle, and the westerly and southerly winds often blew into town.

The story also tracks the events of Shields' life from his first bicycle to the struggles getting a girlfriend and the lessons he learns along the way. He offers some selfdeprecating humor and really does not take himself too seriously.

Shields credits his wife with allowing him to take a year of retirement to write the book, and the work of his friend Susie Dayton for editing the book. Dayton is also mentioned in the book as someone whose parents would not let her date the author because he was "probably one

of the hippie communist reds."

Writing the book was no easy task. Shields said that there were many friends and stories that he wanted to include, and the hard part was cutting them out. He said that writing the book was like giving birth... a long labor, very painful, and "you're not really sure how it will come out." If nothing else, he said, it was good therapy.

"I still have enough material for other chapters of my life, should this one be met favorably."

"Growing Up Doughnut" is an easy read and perfect for a lazy summer afternoon. It is already available at Authorhouse.com, and should be available through Barnes and Noble.com and Amazon.com soon. Shields is hoping to have it available on the shelves of Barnes and Noble and other stores in the area. He is hoping to get back to the area during the Sweet Corn Festival to promote the book. To keep track of happenings with the book, followers can go on Facebook and search "Growing Up Doughnut."

#### Weather



Chance of storms today. High 62. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 48. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 69, low 51.

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

# Classifieds

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## Ride the Corn Cruiser to Danville!

On May 24th, The service is being expanded to THREE round trips per day (Monday through Friday). Buses leave Hoopeston at 6:45am, 11:00am & 3:00pm Call CRIS for exact times and schedule information