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**Hoopeston  
American Legion**

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the Facts<sup>©</sup>**

Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348  
Lourdine Florek, owner

**Thursday, October 13, 2011**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## Memorial ride honors deceased former EMT/policeman

Chris Coon served the area for many years, as Rossville police officer, as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and paramedic in Hoopeston, and as a flight paramedic for Air Life.

Now friends are banding together to raise money to help pay for his sons' education.

Mr. Coon died November 9, 2010, leaving two sons, Caleb and Hunter. A "Wings for Chris" memorial ride and marble run will be held Sunday, Oct. 16,



Chris, Caleb and Hunter Coon

to raise money to pay for the Hunter and Caleb Coon's education.

The memorial is fitting, as Mr. Coon, who grew up in Hoopeston, was a motorcycle enthusiast.

Registration for the ride will be held from 10:30 a.m. until noon at Frasca Airport, Urbana. Cost is \$20 per bike, which will include passenger and one marble hand. Additional hands are available for \$5. While geared to motorcycles, all ve-  
**See RIDE on other side**

**Global Fashions this Saturday 10am-2pm**  
buying scrap gold, coins, Swiss watches, sterling, costume jewelry. No appt needed, love large box collections 2 dig & discover  
Can't make it Saturday? Drop your items off at Global today til 5pm & get a call Saturday w/buy offer.  
Stop back next Tuesday to collect \$ or your items back!  
Selling cosmetics, scrapbooking items  
60-85% off retail on Saturday

## Computer Repair & Upgrades

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To schedule your  
first appointment, call  
**217.283.5644**

Hoopeston Multi Agency  
**Annual Ham & Bean Dinner**  
Thursday, Oct. 13 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
206 S. First Ave., Hoopeston



**\$5/person,**

includes ham & beans, cornbread, drink, cole slaw & dessert

Pay at the door

Carry-outs available-\$5.50

283-5544 for carryouts, information

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516 N. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston  
(217) 283-5186 Open Sundays





**VFW**  
 Orange & 4th Ave., Hoopeston  
**Thursdays:**  
**\$1 beer**  
**Tacos & Quesadillas 5-8 p.m.**  
**Sundays:**  
**Raffle-Bingo 1-4 p.m.**

**Hoopeston Foods, Inc.**  
 102 W. Lincoln  
**DENTED**  
**CANNED GOODS SALE**  
 Friday, October 14 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
*Chili, pinto, pork & bean, butter*  
*Large selection!*  
**3 cases \$12    1 case \$4.50**  
 300 size can



**WINGS FOR CHRIS**  
**MEMORIAL RIDE/MARBLE RUN**  
**Sunday, October 16**  
 Rain or Shine - All Vehicles Welcome!  
 Registration 10:30-Noon. 1st bike leaves at noon  
**\$20 per bike (includes passenger & 1 marble hand)**  
**\$5 extra marble hand**  
**1st place 30% of Pot 2nd Place 20% of Pot** **After the Ride**  
**•Silent Auction**  
**•Food & Soft Drinks**  
 (included with registration or meal tickets available)  
**•DJ by Visions 'N' Vibrations**  
 Available soon at [www.wingsforchris.com](http://www.wingsforchris.com):  
**Event T-shirts & Memorial Wings**  
**Questions? Dale Grimm (217) 202-7858**  
**Proceeds will benefit Caleb & Hunter Coon Education Fund**  
 Sponsored by Frasca Airport, Air Methods, Visions 'N' Vibrations Mobile DJ/VJ Service-Brian Miller (217) 485-3070



## State Senator Cultra co-sponsors legislation to curb Illinois pension system abuses

ONARGA—Pension scandal after scandal continues to rock the confidence of employees and retirees who dedicate their lives to public service. As a result, State Sen. Shane Cultra (R-Onarga) is cosponsoring legislation to curb the abuses.

Using pension system loopholes, high-ranking union officials, who previously worked for governmental units, have collected their public sector pensions based on their final union salary and have been given pension credit for the years they worked at the union.

"Please make no mistake about this proposal – this is not an attack on current employees or retirees. What it is – an attempt to stop some of the abuses that take away pension dollars from dedicated public servants," he said. While Chicago union pension perks have drawn attention recently, similar abuses have occurred at state systems. The second-highest pension benefit being paid by Teachers Retirement System (TRS), covering all suburban and downstate public school teachers, tops \$242,000 a year and is given to Reginald Weaver, who retired in September 2008 as national

president of the National Education Association teachers' union.

According to TRS, Weaver's last state salary was from employment as a public school teacher in Harvey, earning \$60,000 in the 1995-96 school year. Weaver's pension is based not just on public school work but also on 12 years of work for the NEA and the Illinois Education Association, and his final salary at the NEA.

To curb abuses, Cultra and others have introduced Senate Bill 2499 to repeal the union service credit for any new hires in all 10 public retirement systems, including the five Chicago systems, Teachers Retirement System, State University Retirement System, suburban and downstate police and fire funds and the Illinois

### Obituaries

**THOMAS** - Paul E. Thomas, 70, of Cissna Park, died Monday, Oct. 10, 2011, at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cissna Park. Burial will be in Cissna Park Cemetery. Visitation was 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park, and will be one hour before service Thursday at the church. Memorials are suggested to Paul E. Thomas Memorial Fund.

### Ride continued from other side

hicles are welcome.

Stops will include The Oasis in Penfield; Hoopeston Ambulance, Hoopeston; Billy Bob's in Odgen, then back to Frasca Airport.

Vehicles will be at the airport by 3:30 p.m. After-the-ride events will include a silent auction, food and DJ. T-shirts and Memorial Wings will soon be available for purchase at [www.wingsforchris.com](http://www.wingsforchris.com)

For more information, call Dale Grimm, (217) 202-7858.

### Weather



Thunderstorms today. High 68. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 49. Tomorrow, breezy. High 64, low 45.

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

Municipal Retirement Fund. Current union staffers will also be banned earning any more of these pension sweeteners.

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**217-283-6082**

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## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Applications being taken for a part time bartender at Hoopeston American Legion. Applications can be picked up Wed.-Sat., after 3 p.m. Experience not required.

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 is seeking applications for a Freshmen Boys Basketball Coach. Application is available online at [www.hoopeston.k12.il.us](http://www.hoopeston.k12.il.us), click on Vacancy/Application.

### HOUSES FOR RENT

2 BR, very nice on inside. Storage shed. \$450/mo. + deposit. Available Saturday (815) 644-0963.

### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Heavy duty 3 point log splitter w/new cylinder; 6' 3 point blade. (217) 283-7089

Pool table, GE electric stove, couch, room divider plus other items. Please call (217) 283-6857 or (217) 772-1154

### RUMMAGE SALES

ROSSVILLE: 508 S. Chicago. Fri., 4:30-7:30, Sat., 7:30 a.m.-? You won't want to miss this one!

HOOPESTON: 858 E. Maple (in alley) Fri. & Sat. 8-4. Lots of misc.

HOOPESTON: 724 E. Main. Fri. 1-6, Sat. 8-noon. Large multi-family sale!

**Call (217) 283-9348 or email**  
**[publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net) to place your ad!**