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Louridine Florek, owner

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

Letters to the Editor

Pogo says 'Smile'

Why don't the people of Hoopeston smile more? Perhaps we need to initiate a virtual "smile creation engine" amongst our citizens.

Have you ever noticed how a smiling, enthusiastic server at a restaurant can turn an average meal into an excellent epicurean dining experience? I have enjoyed such servers. I know of places right here in Hoopeston where I feel better just by going there. Such places are run by people who smile and are friendly. They make you happy. I think of our post office. I think of CVS. I bet you have your own favorite places where the people just seem to "make your day." You depart with a little more bounce in your step.

We should do more of that to each other. There is a simple little formula: make eye contact, smile and say "hi." The rest will happen naturally. Students, do that to someone outside your close group of friends. Look for someone who is having a bad day. You can tell by the look on the face. Just follow the formula. Little cups of joy will overflow for both of you.

If, as a community, we cause more little cups of joy to overflow by making eye contact, smiling and saying "hi," we will see the way-too-many forlorn looks on the street turn to smiles. Hoopeston will indeed have a decidedly different feel. You may laugh at me, but it is true. Just try it! Be a "smile creation engine" yourself.

If tomorrow you pass a possum on the street and it makes eye contact, gives you a big smile and friendly "hi," don't be surprised. It is just me, Pogo. (Don't worry, I won't hug you, because we possums often have fleas.) It is then your job to pass it on! (No, not the fleas, the spirit!)

It's our town! Together we can make Hoopeston a genuinely friendly place. **We have met the enemy and**

he is us!

Pogo

Exercise freedom of religion

I wish, no, I pray that more folks would appreciate going to God's "House of Prayer," as our glorious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ Himself, said that it should be called.

We are not immune in this country from persecutions suffered now and for centuries by other Christians. Someday those door may be closed permanently and we have to meet in "house churches" as others do. Sunday is meant for a day of rest from our labors, worship together, family and friends. It is written that God made the Sabbath for us, not Himself.

If the last decade of certain events in this country and of recent have not caused many to "wake up," what will? I appreciate so much my pastor bringing me and others the Holy Sacraments when we cannot make it. He even offers a service midweek to those who could not attend Sunday. I was able to go once midweek and as I approached the altar I nearly wept. It was as though Jesus was there just for me-and truly He is for each of us.

I realize it is not possible for many to go due to chronic or sometimes infirmities, sometimes a reunion out of town, an emergency of sorts. But those who think it is "ok" to miss and go when "I feel like it," are cheating themselves of a great blessing and need to examine themselves why they go at all.

I can sense already a rolling of some eyes (I used to be very good at that) and "here she goes again." I have no stones to throw. Don't we wish we all were "perfect"? But when we read the police reports in our

See LETTERS on other side

New Shipment of Hardy Mums
Priced \$1.98, \$3.50, \$5.98, \$17.50, \$30

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516 N. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston
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County electronics recycling event to be held September 22 at Advantage Recycling

DANVILLE-A free electronics-collection event will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Sept. 22 at Advantage Recycling, 14 South Henning Road. The event is jointly sponsored by the Vermilion County Health Department, Mervis Industries and Keep Vermilion County Beautiful.

Items will be recycled at no cost to residents. It is now illegal in Illinois for electronic products to be disposed of in landfills.

Briefly

Potluck canceled
 Hoopeston Multi Agency potluck, scheduled for Thursday, is canceled.

English as a Second Language classes
 DACC English as a Second Language classes start September 18 and are offered from 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Hoopeston United Methodist Church. For more information, call Maria G. Linares, instructor, (217) 283-7838.

Items accepted include cable/satellite receivers, cell phones, smart phones, computer peripherals (keyboards and mice), computers, consumer printers, copiers, CRT monitors, CRT televisions, digital converter boxes, DVD players, fax machines, flat panel monitors, flat screen televisions, gaming consoles, iPod/MP3 players, network devices, notebooks (laptops), PDAs, scanners, small servers, stereos, VCRs, wire (cords from compliant devices), zip drives. Also, small kitchen appliances such as toasters, toaster ovens, blenders and kitchen mixers will be accepted, but not microwave ovens or large stand-alone speakers.

Electronics can contain toxic materials such as lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium and beryllium that must be

Letters continued from other side

local newspapers and see the same people over and over fighting or.....and we know that many young people hang around downtown at night!- midnight! As in what in the world are they doing?!, etc., etc. we surely know we have a serious on-going problem.

Are we so used to having an abundance of God's Holy Book in this country that we take it for granted? And many of us have several in our homes of different translations.

We took all our freedoms for granted too long in the USA, how much longer do we have for our freedom of-not from-religion? Yes, many are of other faiths or choose to be atheists or agnostics; that is their choice.

I know there is a "spiritual revival," going on now and we pray continues. "Let us not grow weary in well doing, for in due time we shall reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Grace, peace and mercy to all,

Alice Lawrence Fink
 Hoopeston

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 83. Rain tonight. Low 59. Tomorrow, chance of rain. High 70, low 50.

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

properly managed to prevent soil and groundwater contamination. But obsolete electronic products can also contain valuable materials that can be recycled for reuse such as copper, gold and circuit chips.

Retirement Open House for
Pat Foster
 Celebrate 45 years of nursing,
 42 at Hoopeston Hospital
Saturday, Sept. 15
2-5 p.m.
St. Anthony Parish Hall
 Please come share
 memories & best wishes!

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Clean, quiet 2 BR, 1 bath apt. 717 W. Orange. \$385/month + utilities. Security deposit and application required. Available Now. 217-816-9030

Cozy 2 bedroom 1-bath apartment. Full basement. Walk to shopping. Available October 1. No Pets, No smoking. 626 S 8th Avenue. Do Not Disturb Tenant.\$475 + deposit. 217-260-8762.

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 has openings for the following coaching positions:

~ 5th Grade Boys' Basketball

~ 7th Grade Girls' Volleyball

~ 8th Grade Girls' Volleyball

~ MS Youth Wrestling

~ 9th Grade Boys' Basketball

Applications are available online at Hoopeston Area CUSD's website, www.hoopeston.k12.il.us

If interested, you may contact Athletic Director, Kevin Root, at 283-6661.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Wooden bunk beds \$150 OBO. Roll-a-way bed \$75 OBO. Call (217) 339-2441

Frigidaire, Whirlpool dehumidifiers, only used a few times, \$100 & \$150. Utility light in unopened box and bulbs. \$40. Will consider offers. (217) 495-1128

Burn barrels. Call (217) 283-6857