

The PIT STOP at EAST LANES

Tuesday: Chicken or Beef & Noodles
 Wednesday: Turkey Manhattan, Ribeye Sandwich
 Thursday: Swiss Steak
 Friday: Cod, Rib eyes
 Saturday: Prime Rib, Rib eyes

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Tuesday: all day
 Friday & Saturday: 12-close
 Sunday 12-4

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Hoopeston American Legion
 Saturday, March 22

Wine Tasting

starting at 6 p.m.

Wine with us during a casual evening of tasting. This event will feature six sweet wines, two of which will be complimented with cheese or protein. If you prefer hops & barley, we will offer a variety of beers.

Deb Hackman will be our featured speaker. \$20 per person before March 14th or \$25 after the deadline. Payment may be mailed or dropped off at the post home, 502 E. Penn/ P.O. Box 423, Hoopeston IL 60942.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres to follow.

Entertainment by JMT Trio

Admission after 8 p.m.

\$3/person, \$5/couple

For more information, call Randy Carter, (309) 825-5939 or email rcarter560@aol.com

Email:

publish@justthefacts.net

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Lourdine Florek, owner

www.justthefacts.net

Organizers look to make Festival fun, financially sound

Organizers of the 2014 National Sweetcorn Festival hope to return to the event's roots, both in terms of this year's logo and in what is offered at the festival.

A public forum about the festival, held Wednesday at the American Legion post, drew current Jaycees, who sponsor the Labor Day weekend event, and some previous festival chairmen to brainstorm ideas for the event.

A tentative schedule shows some new entertainment will perform, including the Sweet Adelines and Doc Ashton and the Root Canals. Both will perform on stage being brought to the McFerren Park Civic Center for the festival, said event chairman Brad Hardcastle.

On Sunday, gospel music will be featured on the stage as State of Grace and The Allens are scheduled to perform.

Ideas discussed for other music included country western, perhaps with a mechanical bull for added entertainment, and blues.

As always, animals will be on hand, but with a new twist. Rather than the petting zoo which has been available for years, the Jaycees are tapping Hoopeston Area FFA to host Barnyard Days on Saturday, Sunday and

See FESTIVAL on other side



Brad Hardcastle, 2014 National Sweetcorn Festival chairman, talks about plans for the event at a public forum last week. The festival logo is displayed behind him.

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CHOICES HAVE CHANGED

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Festival continued from other side

possibly Monday, said Hardcastle.

Also, Indiana-based Mark's Ark will bring a collection of reptiles, amphibians and other critters for three shows on Monday.

One thing organizers would like to add is more activities for young children. Carolyn Eyrich-Mastin, who chaired the festival in 1986, said in the 80s, the festival used to offer a kiddy afternoon on the tennis court, with pedal tractor contests and other events for children.

Randy Carter, 1976 festival chairman and current alderman, said this year, a splash pad will be available during festival. The splash pad will replace the current kiddy pool.

New Books at the Library

Fiction

Supervolcano: Things Fall Apart by Harry Turtledove
 (Science Fiction)

The New Countess by Fay Weldon

Plain Peace by Beth Wiseman (inspirational)

Hardcastle said discussions are ongoing to bring a truck pull to the park annex Friday night. "There's going to be something going on in the annex," he said.

What will not be in the annex this year is the beer tent, which is being moved back inside the park. However, a beer garden will be available in the annex for those who attend demo derbies and other activities there, he said.

Jaycee souvenirs, including t-shirts and other items, will be moved to the display tent this year. Also, the Jaycees will do the annual Miss Hoopeston posters differently this year, bidding the project out and paying a photographer a flat fee, Hardcastle said.

Changes are being implemented to increase attendance and the festival's bottom line, which has run in the red recently. That affects the Jaycees' ability to

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 27. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 17. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 29, low 17.

United Fund of Grant Township

BARSTOOL golf

March 15
 starting at Noon
\$60 per foursome
 Sign up and pay at

**American Legion
The Pump
Phil and Mary's Uptown Saloon
VFW
Fast Lanes**

do the chapter's two big Christmas projects, Toys for Kids and Underprivileged Kids Christmas.

Hardcastle said festival proceeds are used to fund both programs and that when the festival does not make a profit, the Jaycees must do other fundraisers in order to have them.

The 71st National Sweetcorn Festival will run from August 28-September 1.

Obituaries

MEADOR - Stanley Meador, 100, of Hoopeston, died at 8:55 a.m. Saturday, March 1, 2014, at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Graveside service will be at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

REETZ - Michael John Reetz, 50, of Milford, died Friday, Feb. 28, 2014, at Kindred Hospital, Peoria. Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be in Amity Cemetery, Goodwine. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Tuesday and 1-2 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation or donor's choice.

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