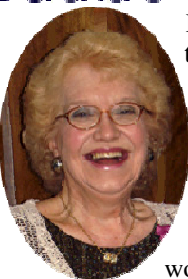


# Bertha's

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## You Be the Difference

By BERTHA PARSONS

Have you ever really thought about what a difference you can make in life? I always taught my children that every person they meet they could make a difference – a positive difference or a bad difference – we never know.

We all need to believe in the magic of tomorrow and what you can do to bring hope and happiness to your life and to others. Believe in your dreams.

Believe in Yourself. We all have gifts we've never opened, now is your time to open some up and be the difference to others.

Believe we can Build a Better World. Oh, how I want to do that; remember something wonderful could happen if it were possible, how about us making it possible.

Believe in Today. Every morning of your life is a fresh start; your life has just begun today. We are all here for a reason, or at least my Mother always told me that.

You can Be the Difference by simply being yourself. Do a kindness, send a letter, say a kind word and stand for what you believe. Because you are the best you can be for all the someones in your life that is all that matters.

I am sure most of us never realize how we affect others....What a difference you make by your words and your actions.

The people like you and me who try to make a difference, are not the ones with the credentials, but we are the ones with the concern. You Be the Difference Today.

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Lourdine Florek, owner

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## Honeywell fourth grade presents wax museum

Fourth graders at Honeywell School presented a wax museum to fellow students, along with school officials, family members and guest.

On May 21, each fourth grader dressed in costume of famous people, including historical figures, authors, entertainers, politicians and others. Walking through the gym, visitors could spot Elvis, Queen Elizabeth, Dick Van Dyke, Cesar Chavez, and Judy Garland dressed as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz.

After researching their character, each student wrote a brief biography to present to visitors to the Wax Museum. "I think most of the kids had their speeches memorized," Principal Linda Sheppard said at the June school board meeting.

Fourth grader Lee Hernandez, as the Cat in the Hat, takes part in Honeywell Grade School's Wax Museum on May 21.

### From the Blotter

A 19-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 12:03 p.m. Sunday that someone had keyed his vehicle at Parkview Court.

Randy S. Dillon, 32, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 2:16 p.m. Sunday at West Lincoln and Fifth Ave. after 30-year-old woman alleged Dillon struck her vehicle with his fist without causing damage.

He was charged with disorderly conduct and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.



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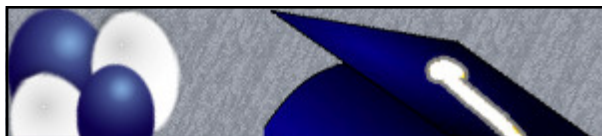
Mon.: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, corn  
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Wed.: Grilled BBQ Pork Chops & potato salad  
Thurs.: Tator Tot casserole, green beans, roll  
Fri.: Ribeye Sandwiches & Broccoli/Cauli Salad  
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**Congratulations**  
**PAIGE**  
**JONES!!!**  
**Hoopeston Area**  
**High School Class of 2015**  
**We are SO proud of you!!!**

**School urged to rethink grad practice action**

Imagine that you are a high school senior, and graduation is finally in sight. I think as most of us raised in a small town, we spend moments throughout our four years of high school imagining what that day will be like. The last year of high school is a culmination of excitement, fear of the future, and reflection over the moments we have spent with our friends and family. For many of us, graduation is a joy-filled moment etched in our memory forever. However, for Paige Jones, a Hoopeston Area High School student and recent graduate, it was anything but that.

Those who know Paige know that one of her many talents lies in her artwork. She has an incredible ability to draw, sketch, and paint in a way that will leave you in awe. Simply put, she is an amazing artist. Through the benefits of social media, her artwork was recognized by Dennis McKinnon, 1985 Super Bowl champion with the Bears.

Another one of Paige's many attributes is her love and admiration for the Bears; she often drew the most life-like portraits of past and current players. Paige was invited to attend a BTB fundraiser for cancer as the guest of Dennis McKinnon. Her artwork was recognized and displayed at this event in Chicago. Can you imagine this opportunity as a high school senior? Can you imagine what possible doors this could open for her future?

Now I want you to imagine, talking to your high school principal and because this event is held on the same day as graduation *practice*, they inform you that you would have to choose between attending that event OR walking in your graduation ceremony. Let me reiterate this point one more time, she was only going to miss *practice*, not graduation, the step, pause, step walk that may take a total of ten minutes to review, considering most seniors have been walking for nearly 17 years at that point.

Instead of championing this student and this recognition of talent, Hoopeston Area High School chose to become a barrier. Instead of highlighting this amazing opportunity offered to a young adult from Hoopeston, they chose to remove her from the ceremony. In fact, her name wasn't even listed in the program at all.

We are constantly striving for students to see beyond

**Letters to the Editor**

the horizon, to dream the impossible, to reach for the stars and yet, when literally the stars are at her door, the school tells her to choose: graduating with your peers, celebrating what you have earned, hearing the cheers of your family or taking the opportunity of a lifetime. How is this acceptable? No matter how you try to digest this information, the bottom line, it is not.

I challenge the community and the school board to not let this situation happen again. It is hard enough for students from a small, rural town to dream about a world they rarely get to experience.

HAHS, I am saddened by how you handled this situation, I am concerned for future students and I can only hope that as you tell your students to dream big and to reach for the stars, you start walking the walk instead of

just placing it on a poster in the hallway or at the end of a speech in the auditorium. Paige is now preparing for her next chapter in life as she will be serving our country in the United States Air Force. If you see her, champion her as she should have been; congratulate her on a graduation she deserved. We must do better.

Sincerely,

Dana Goodrum  
 Hoopeston Area High School Graduate  
 Class of 2001

**Weather**

Sunny today. High 74. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 51. Tomorrow, sunny. High78, low 59.

**Classifieds**

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