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 Lourdine Florek, owner

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It's fun to stay at the...
 "YMCA" gets youngsters dancing at the Hoopeston Junior Women's Club's annual carnival Sunday at the McFerrer Park Civic Center. DJ Chad Coffey provided music for the event while on the stage, members of Star Lodge #709, assisted by Hoopeston Police Explorers, offered IL Chip, a Masons-sponsored child identification program. The day also featured a bounce house and several games and a large collection of food donated for Grant Township Food Cupboard.

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From the Blotter

Department history sets memories ablaze

As an old former Hoopeston resident, I enjoyed the recent article about the history of the Hoopeston volunteer fire department.

That story reminded me that when I was a boy the then two fire trucks were stored in part of what was the former Sim's auto dealership and garage across Main St. from the Lorraine Theater. I remember that very clearly because my dad had his car serviced at that garage and sometimes I was allowed to climb on and play on the fire trucks, ring the bells, etc while my dad waited for his car. Such fun!

That building itself later burned down, but I think the fire trucks had previously been moved into separate structures after I was older.

Downtown Hoopeston has had more than its share of disastrous fires, as we all know, and I remember some of them. I watched the former Universalist Church, a grand building across from the post office, burn to the ground, and also remember an earlier fire when the old

Town Hall building, with its big clock tower, also burned to the ground. That has to be one of the largest fire losses in Hoopeston.

The library has a lot of information on that building, I know, and I remember it because our family doctor (Dr. Kline) had his offices there on an upper floor. There was a ballroom on the second floor, as I recall, and after an appointment with the doctor, my mother and I were walking downstairs and I heard dance band music coming from the ballroom and persuaded my mom to let me see it and listen to the live band music.

It was the first time that I, as a young boy, ever watched dancers and listened to live big band music. It made such an impression on me that I even remember that first tune I heard..."It was Only a Shanty in Old Shantytown."

I think that is what inspired me later in my teenage years to become a dance band musician (a drummer), which I did until after I graduated from college and went to Chicago to work in a big bank.

Had to join the musician's union in Danville and then in Champaign. Dance band work was profitable and fun, too! Ah, memories.

Art Murray
Inverness, Ill.

IHRC decision equals tyranny

Outrageous! The Illinois Human Rights Commission has fined a Christian business owner \$80K for refusing to violate his conscience regarding hosting an event for a same-sex ceremony. And to make matters worse, they are mandating that he do the very thing that violates his religious beliefs.

This is the epitome of tyranny!

This bigoted decision is the latest strike in the war against religious liberty. Intolerant lawmakers and bureaucrats are now forcing citizens to do, say and act in accordance with a decidedly liberal worldview,

Briefly

National Library Week activities

Hoopeston Public Library is celebrating National Library week with a week of activities. Today, coffee and doughnuts will be served. At 10:30 a.m. Jim Richards will give an update on the Lorraine Theatre.

For more information, call the library, (217) 283-6711.

Hoopeston Head Start registration

Registration is going on now for Hoopeston Head Start, open to children who will be three or four years old by September 1, 2016. Head Start provides half day programs meals, access to free medical and dental services; and is for income-eligible families. For more information, call Casandra Avalos, (217) 283-6474.

The Gathering

Rossville senior citizens will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday at Rossville Fire Station for their monthly get-together. The gathering is sponsored by Rossville Community Organization.

Weather

Freeze warning in effect from midnight-9 a.m. Tuesday. Sunny today. High 50. Tonight, clear. Low 31. Tomorrow, sunny. High 58, low 36.

and enforcing their dictates with the heavy hand of government.

Six years ago, Leftists in Washington D.C. decided to force all Americans into socialized health insurance, whether they wanted to or not.

Last year here in Illinois, Gov. Bruce Rauner joined with Leftists to pass a law to censor professional counselors and clergy from helping needy children suffering from unwanted same-sex attraction or gender-confusion.

Today, there is a bill pending in the Illinois House which would quash rights-of-conscience protections of pro-life medical professionals by forcing them to refer patients to abortion providers.

How have we come to a place where we allow government to tell citizens what they can or cannot do or say despite their moral objections? No American should be forced to do something that violates their sincerely held beliefs.

David E. Smith
Executive Director
Illinois Family Institute

Save the Lorraine Foundation

Trivia Night?

Saturday, April 16 6 p.m. \$10 per person
At the Little Lorraine Theatre
214 E. Main St., Hoopeston

Limited to 12 teams of up to 5 people each
(or you can come alone and join a smaller team)

Free Popcorn, cookies and a small drink.
Additional concessions available for purchase.

Winning Team Members will receive refund of entry fee & a door prize.
Reserve your table or ask questions by calling Marilyn Tyler
(217) 397-2211 or Betty Richards (217) 304-5308

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Seasonal Help Wanted, CDL helpful, but not required. Please inquire at Crop Production Services Hoopeston. 19052 St Rt 9 Hoopeston IL 60942 EOE

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is accepting applications for a teacher qualified classroom teacher and classroom aides. Please can Nicole or Terri at 217-748-6370.

Church pianist/organist, First Christian Church, Hoopeston, IL. Sunday AM, Wednesday 4-5 p.m., and occasional Saturday PM. Traditional Worship Format. For additional information, please contact/leave message 217-283-6691 Church Office; 217-304-2415 Anita cell phone.

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