

# Bertha's

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## Life is short, celebrate!

By BERTHA PARSONS

Yes, I just celebrated my birthday of getting one year younger! Stop laughing, I never think about my age but I realize life is short - each year passes more quickly than the year before.

I love partying all month. I used to be more practical and deny myself some simple pleasures. Then I decided, forget practical, become a joy collector. Start enjoying the little things because one day you'll realize they were big things.

Live enthusiastically. Do something today that will last beyond your lifetime, think about that. Become a hope-bringer no matter what others think. Hope looks for good in people, opens doors for people, sees no color or status of people. Hope sets us free.

Celebrate anything you can think of and do it often. Every day you are alive is worth a party, no matter how many in attendance. Special occasions are everywhere, such as having lunch with a grandchild, receiving a card because someone was thinking of you, getting your kitchen cleaned from top to bottom by your son.

Do things that make you aware of how great it is to be alive. Be outrageously happy. (My grandson says, "You're the craziest lady I've ever known.") Be friendly and rejoice often. Life is short, let's celebrate.

I'm sure many of you have been passionate about a job, a house, an event you worked on, perhaps your garden. Whatever it might have been, I bet you put your whole heart and soul into making it the best. We spend a lot of time on stuff that really matters not and when it comes to our life, it seems to just slip by out of control. Why?

Maybe, just maybe we think life is never going to end. I'll have more fun next month. I'll invite a friend for lunch some time. Next year we'll do more things as a couple, life is crazy right now. I could go on but I'll let you make your own list. Do it before it's too late. Life is short. Celebrate!

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## Firemen, others climb to raise 9/11 awareness, money

The mood of those gathered at Honeywell School for Saturday's Hoopston 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb was jovial as they signed in, chatted with friends and stretched to limber up.

Several Hoopston firemen were among those at the event, laughing and kidding as they donned turnout gear and strapped air packs to their backs.

But sometime between Riah Inman performing an a cappella version of the national anthem and TJ Lane's "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes, the mood shifted.

Looking determined, Hoopston Fire Chief Joel Bird was the first to take to the stairs. He was followed by many of his crew, along with residents spanning from grade school to senior citizen.

The goal was to climb 100 flights of stairs both to remember those who died when airplanes hit the World Trade Center in New York City.

The stair climb was organized by Danny Lane, a Hoopston native who is a fireman for the Fort Leonard Wood Fire Department, and local firefighter Ryan Tyler.

Lane had participated in memorial climbs before, which were



Left, Hoopston Fire Chief Joel Bird leads off Saturday's 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Honeywell School as other climbers wait their turn.

mostly for fire, police, military and EMS personnel and were done in remembrance of emergency workers who died on 9/11, including 343 firemen, 71 law enforcement officers and eight paramedics and emergency medical technicians.

Last year, Lane and Tyler held smaller stair climb on bleachers at Hoopston Area High School but this year they decided to open it up to honor the memory of two local emergency workers: Travis McCall, a Hoopston Auxiliary Police officer, who died in 2015, and Police Chief Mark Drollinger, who died in July.

Proceeds from the climb went to an organization important to both: the Hoopston Explorers post.

Emergency personnel climbed 110 stories - or 2,223 steps - working to save lives at the World Trade Center.

On Saturday, people gladly paid \$25 to for the chance to climb 100 flights.

Laura Lane, Danny's wife, laid out the guidelines before the event. "It's not a race," she said. Climbing counted towards the total, but descending did not,

See CLIMB on other side

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or visit [www.dacc.edu/hoopeston](http://www.dacc.edu/hoopeston)

## Briefly

### Graduation pictures in

Hoopeston Area High School Class of 2017 graduation pictures in. Graduates may pick them up in the high school office.

### At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include: **Coffee and Coloring**, 10-11 a.m. Monday. Supplies will be provided or bring your own. For adults only.

**Mary Hartwell Catherwood Book Club**, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Monday. This month's selection is *The Road to Little Dribbling* by Bill Bryson.

**Homeschool Meet & Greet**, 2-3 p.m. Thursday. Local homeschool families are invited to get ac-

Right, Carl Ankenbrand, Hoopeston fire committee chairman, concentrates on climbing while carrying an air pack. Far right, TJ Lane plays "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes at the start of the climb.



### Climb continued from other side

she added. With flight counters at each of Honeywell's stairways, she reminded participants to give their names so counters could keep track of their totals.

Not that there was a prize for anyone. "Nobody gets anything," Danny Lane said before the climb. For each person's entry fee, they got a t-shirt and the chance to climb as many flights as they could.

The real winner of the event was the Explorer post, who, on Saturday, received a check from Tyler and Lane for \$1,400 raised by the event.

quainted and learn more about library services. Kids welcome. Activities for all. Refreshments.

**Tiny Tots**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday. For youngsters 0-4 who are accompanied by a caregiver.

### Cub Scout signups

Signups for Hoopeston Cub Scouts will be held from 6-7 p.m. September 8 and 15 at Hoopeston United Methodist Church, 402 E. Main. Boys in grades K-4 may join. For more information, contact Jim Pancake, (217) 274-3927 or Christie Pancake, (217) 260-6238.

Vendors wanted

Vendors are being sought for the annual Rossville Fall Festival, which will be held October 7-8. A 10x10



### Weather

Chance of showers today, tonight. High 70, low 55. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 77, low 57.

space is \$20.

To reserve a space or for more information, call 217-433-9056

### From the Blotter

Chase Miles, 25, of Hoopeston was arrested at 10:36 p.m. Monday after police, while on patrol, found a vehicle with stolen license plates at Tedd's Beverage Shop, 101 W. Main.

He was arrested on preliminary charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of stolen license plate, driving while license suspended, operating an uninsured vehicle, illegal transportation of alcohol and unlawful display of registration.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

### Classifieds

#### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

CISSNA PARK: Clean and quiet 2BR/1Bath for rent. /Fridge furnished. Washer/Dryer hookup. Available Now. Rent \$425 plus utilities and deposit. References required. Mike 312-371-8585

#### HELP WANTED

Food Service Department of Heritage Health is seeking an energetic employee to work with our team to help produce meals for our Residents. Ideal candidate has flexibility in working hours to help cover open shifts and must be willing to work every other weekend. Pick up an application today at Heritage Health, 423 N Dixie Hwy in Hoopeston.

#### HOUSES FOR SALE

Property for Sale in Hoopeston: 3 bedrooms, 4 full baths, finished basement, large Great Room, heated in ground pool and much more. Large barn with great rental income. More information at [www.1111eastthompson.com](http://www.1111eastthompson.com) or call 217-304-6547. Asking Price, \$349,000

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