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Dinner Special served Saturday,
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Lourdine Florek, Owner

Just the Facts

Friday, February 16, 2018

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Group offers rental homes to residents, hopes for newcomers

A Hoopeston foundation is sticking its toe into the waters of local property management.

HRVF (Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation) has recently purchased about 10 houses around Hoopeston and is renting some while rehabbing others with an eye toward renting them when work is completed.

Harry Brockus, HRVF board member, said the purpose for the housing effort is twofold. First, while Heritage Health has a positive cash flow, the reimbursement rate for nursing homes in Illinois continues to decline. The properties are part of a diversity strategy to offset that decline.

At least as important - and perhaps more so to Brockus



Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation has purchased several houses in Hoopeston, including the one at 102 N. Third St., and is making needed renovations before renting the homes to local families.

- the second purpose is to "solve the problem of giving people a place to live that's a home."

Saying he didn't want to coin the phrase "it's a wonderful life," Brockus said the goal is to give families a place to live that's welcoming to adults, kids, even pets.

Unlike many rentals, those owned by HRFV will allow cats and dogs, based in part on a life experience Brockus had a few years ago.

A medical episode resulted in Brockus experiencing a dark time in his life. His wife, Chrislaine, suggested they get a dog. Skeptical at first, a boxer/lab mix joined the family and helped coax Brockus out of the funk. "I've seen what a dog can do in people's lives," he said.

The foundation has purchased properties on Main, Or-
See HOMES on other side

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Hoopeston Patriot's Club
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Saturday, Feb. 17 6 a.m.-noon
At Hoopeston VFW Post 4826
428 W. Orange, Hoopeston

Biscuits & Gravy, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs
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50/50 Drawing Advance tickets \$5 adults,
VFW Auxiliary Bake Sale \$3 children 10 & under,

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Chicken & Chicken Tenders
with salad plus choice of
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Briefly

Music Moolah winners

Winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Boosters “Music Moolah” drawing are: February. 8, Teresa Hays, \$25, February 9, Larry Hofer \$25; February 10, Robert Duffin, \$50; February 11, Alejandra Limon, \$25; February 12, Paula McCullough, \$25; February 13, Jessica Kozak, \$25; February 14, LeAnne Stebbins, \$25.

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include: **Tiny Tots** story program, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday. For kids ages 0-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Sensory Storytime, 10-11 a.m. Saturday. Designed especially for children with special needs, activity will include a story and craft.

Tree Climbers genealogy group, 10-11 a.m. Saturday. For beginner or advanced genealogists. Use HPL’s online resources, including Ancestry.com.

Monday Maniacs, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Monday. Wild and wacky fun for grades 3-6.

Cooking the Books, Thursday, Feb. 22. This month, “I love Chocolate.” Select a recipe from the special cookbook section and our staff will copy it for you. Prepare it and bring it to share with others from 6-7 p.m.

From the Blotter

No injuries were reported in an accident at 11:48 a.m. Wednesday at South Market and East Lincoln.

Police said Edna R. Clem, 85, of Hoopeston, in a 2004 Dodge, turned southbound and struck a 2014 Ram truck driven by Jacob D. Haskins, 20, also of Hoopeston.

Police said Clem was at fault; no tickets were issued.

Correction

It was incorrectly reported in Thursday’s issue that David Cannon was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court. His notice is for Vermilion County Circuit Court in Danville.

Just the Facts regrets the error.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 3:07 a.m. Wednesday to a possible carbon monoxide leak in a home in the 300 block of West Washington. No leak was found.

Bowling Scores

Pins & Gutters 61-107
High Team Game: Tucking Ten Pins 844; **High Team Series:** Tucking Ten Pins 2364.
High Men’s Game: Doug Wagoner 259; **High Men’s Series:** Nick Gonzalez 706.
High Ladies’ Game: Jennifer Crawley 225; **High Ladies’ Series:** Jennifer Crawley 627.
Men’s games over 200: Doug Wagoner 259; Kevin Tyler 203; Kyle Richards 228; Ethan Linder 226; Jeremy Lane 212; Ron Linder 227, 205; Nick Gonzalez 258, 224, 224; Cole Strawser 257; Hank Mills 210; Marvin

Dobkins 216; Darrin Eighner 208; BJ Morgeson 208, 203; Geoffery Berlin 209, 234; Todd Rush 247; Barry hall 200.

Men over 600: Doug Wagoner 605, Ron Linder 603, Nick Gonzalez 706, Cole Strawser 616.

Ladies’ games over 175: Patty Lowe 208, Jennifer Crawley 225, 192, 210; Karen Porth 210, 177; Leslie Hardcastle 203.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Experienced CDL driver with clean driving record wanted. Local haul occasional over the road work. Contact Brent @ 815 -405-4000

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is growing and needs to hire subs and aides and teachers. Requirements: if you are 18 years old, and love children, you qualify for an aide position. Teachers need to meet DCFS teacher qualifications. We want our children to learn Spanish, art, and music. Preference will be given to applicants with these skills. Call Nicole at 217-748-6370 to apply.

Greene Galvanized Stairs is accepting applications for full-time Production and Packaging positions. Fabrication and/or order fulfillment experience is a plus. Send resume to PO Box 191, East Lynn IL 60932 or jobs@greenebinstairs.com.

Hubbard Trail Country Club is seeking a full time manager March through October. Must be mature, trustworthy, pleasant personality with a positive attitude. Business management, supervisory and bartender/restaurant skills a definite plus. Send resume and qualifications to PO Box 305, Hoopeston, IL 60942 or e-mail to hccgolf@yahoo.com.

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 BR, \$500/mo. No pets. (217) 283-7028

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Solid oak table, double pedestal, 42” wide x 60”-110” long. 4 leaves, 4 chairs. Very good condition. Serious inquiries Only. Call 217-260-4050 after 5:30 pm.

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2015 Ford F150 XLT, 4x4 Super Crew cab, 3.5V6, tow module/trailer hitch, 18” wheels, chrome step bars, bed liner, bed cover. Remote Start. Exterior caribou metallic with camel interior-custom seat covers. 12,000 miles. Excellent condition. Serious inquiries only. Call 217-260-4050 after 5:30 pm.

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Sunday Night Mixed League

	February 11
Tucking 10 Pins	101-67
Get Pumped Up	93-75
Big Dogs	90-78
Miss Kitties Kids	90-78
4 Square Balls	87-81
Bowl Movements	84-84
Last Minute	82-86
Final 4	81-87
Gutter Busters	71-97

Homes continued from other side

ange and Washington, one in the FMC Subdivision and one on North Third St. All will rent for between \$500 and \$700 per month, he said.

Some homes are larger than others. Some are purchased ready to rent while others need to be updated: replacing plaster walls with drywall, updating appliances and décor and installing safety features, where needed.

Brockus shows the homes to prospective tenants and enjoys their reactions to things like spacious closets. He related how one person, when seeing the closets, just said “Wow!”

“That’s what we’re trying to create,” he said.

With a range of home sizes and price points, Brockus tries to match tenants and homes. Recently, two families - a couple, the other with several children - were interested in a large home. After explaining the situation to the couple, Brockus rented the house to the larger family. “My goal was to find the right family for the right home,” he said.

The foundation’s efforts in property management will not compete with another development under construction, Prairie Meadows II, which, as affordable workforce housing, is for “a very defined group of people” Brockus said. HRVF makes their own rules. “You can make \$100,000, you can make \$20,000.”

Hoopeston is “never going to get a manufacturing plant again,” Brockus said. As a community, Hoopeston needs to “decide who we are, then embrace a philosophy to attain (it).” It may be that housing can be a component of economic development, as a bedroom community to Danville and possibly other larger communities, he added.

One draw is Hoopeston’s lower cost of living. Someone with a \$50,000 annual income can do better in Hoopeston than Champaign or Danville, which has high-

er-priced homes and higher sales tax.

For someone in the market to buy a home, Hoopeston is a goldmine of undervalued properties due to its economic status, Brockus said. Additionally, Hoopeston has a lower crime rate and safer schools.

Hoopeston’s full scale of healthcare, including Charlotte Ann Russell and Gibson Area Hospital’s clinics, a hospital with a 24/7 emergency room, Autumn Fields, and Heritage Health - and available in-home and hospice care - could be a draw for everyone from families with children to senior citizens, said Brockus, who is CEO of Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center.

HRFV is hands-on with its housing program. For other projects, including a planned truck stop/truck wash, hotel and restaurants, the foundation board acts as more of a middleman, enticing property owners to sell and businesses to locate in Hoopeston.

Through both, the foundation hopes to help drive economic rejuvenation in Hoopeston, but it will not happen quickly. “It takes a long time to turn a big ship,” Brockus said. In five years, people will see signs of a turn, he said. In 10 years, he expects “a pretty good turn.”

In the meantime, Brockus sees the foundation’s housing acquisition continuing. “I think in five years, we’ll own 50 properties.”

Other members of Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation board are Dave McFadden, Bill Nicholls, Greg Lane and Susan Hanson.

Weather

Clearing today. High 31, then falling. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 18. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of rain. High 39, low 24. Sunday, sunny, chance of rain late. High 45, low 39.