

Bertha's C o r n e r



By
BERTHA PARSONS

Life is a lot like a Camera

We just enjoyed Thanksgiving with family and friends. We ate, we laughed, we ate, we talked, we made memories. Now as I check my calendar, December is here! Can you believe it? 330 days of living our life has passed! Where did it go? What did I do?

Most of us have a phone with a camera or an old fashioned, "hold in your hand camera." One needs to be careful what we do because someone may be taking our picture. It should make us behave better knowing anything we do wrong or illegal may wind up on Facebook!

I'm one of those Mamas that want pictures of my family, even when they think I've taken enough. My Mother's life and mine are about pictures taken with a camera. A picture I can hold in my hand and feel the memories of that moment in time.

If you are like me, you have a box of pictures or albums filled with memories. Every time I open an album is a great adventure of my life. I know some of you are great travelers, trips that have taken you to other countries and sights that fill your mind with zeal and joy in every picture.

Our camera can tell us only so much about the picture it takes. What matters most to me are the people and places in the picture. Is it a family at Christmas opening gifts? Is it my neighbors enjoying lunch at our house? Next month is their turn. Is it a wedding of my friend smiling at her husband?

I hope you drag out some of those albums or box of pictures or those stored "on the cloud" and raise a ruckus the next time someone says, "No more pictures, you've taken enough."

Now that Christmas, my favorite time of year, is coming, beware! I have my camera and I know how to use it! You could say, "I'm chip off the old block." I'm following in my parent's footsteps. But today our children are finding other ways to do things, that's OK. We all make changes as our life goes on.

You hold the camera and you decide what pictures to take. Because life is really short and the people we love, both family and friends will not always be here. When you have a chance use that camera to focus on what really matters!

Life is a lot like a camera. Let's find the time and make memories as we focus on what's truly important. In our busy, fast paced life, it's family and friends!

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Lourdine Florek, Owner

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Land planned for a hotel in Hoopeston was put on the market last week by its owners, Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation, leaving potential investors scratching their heads.

'For sale' sign stands on land planned for Hoopeston hotel

When Russ Leigh learned last week that a "for sale" sign had been placed on land planned for a hotel, he was left with several questions, including why property owners didn't tell him about it.

Leigh and Harry Brockus, former Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center CEO, had, for several years, been working on projects to boost Hoopeston's economy.

Leigh and Brockus - a member of the HRVF board - appeared in tandem at several city meetings to talk to officials about the First Farmers Bank and Trust move, a planned truck stop on the southeast corner of Rtes. 1 and 9 and the planned hotel.

Now, however, "we're not on the same team," Leigh said, adding he learned about the land being for sale last week and called Brockus, who, as of late Monday afternoon, had not returned the call.

According to information online, the property at 725 W. Elm was listed on November 26. Purchased by HRVF in 2017 for \$40,000, the asking price is \$70,000. Jerry Urich is the listing agent for the property.

Asked about the land in an interview Monday on a separate matter, Brockus said he has been out of the loop of the motel project since he left Hoopeston in

See HOTEL on other side

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Tickets are
 \$10
 and can be
 purchased at
 Treasured Roots
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 Hoopeston IL



Hoopeston Public Library kicks off Food For Fines program

Hoopeston Public Library is once again offering its annual holiday gift to the community in the form of "Food for Fines," an opportunity for patrons to pay off their library fines and help the Grant Township Food Cupboard.

Through December 28, patrons may bring in canned food items or other packaged non-perishable items and receive \$1 per item off their library fines.

Food for Fines donations are good only for overdue fines and cannot be used to pay replacement costs on lost items or other fees.

Obituaries

COON - Daniel Edmond "Danny" Coon, 69, of Hoopeston, died at 12:08 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. funeral Thursday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery, with military rites by Hoopeston American Legion Post #384. Memorials are suggested to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis TN 3105, or donor's choice

Hotel continued from other side

August 2018 to become CEO of Carle Richland Memorial Hospital in Olney. Still on the HRVF board, Brockus said the foundation owns the property but does not have a use for it.

"I wish they had asked me," Leigh said. "I thought I had a deal possible," between HRVF and those who will invest in the hotel project.

A preliminary drawing of the hotel is in the works and Leigh is looking at a USDA loan for the project, so the hotel is "fully on the table. I think it's a very strong possibility."

Smoked BBQ
Rossville Family Restaurant
 715 S. Chicago
Lunch & Dinner
Saturday, Dec. 7th & Sunday, Dec. 8th
Pulled Pork Butt, Pork Ribs & Beef Brisket

All items received must be clean, unopened, not dented and not expired. Some single-serve packages, such as single rolls of toilet paper or single packages of ramen noodles, will not be accepted.

Briefly

Shimkus help desk

U.S. Rep. John Shimkus (R-Illinois-15) will have staff member at Rossville Village Office, 120 E. Attica, from 9:30-11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 9. The aide will assist constituents with any problems they may be having with federal government agencies.

Constituents who need assistance with a federal issue but are not available at either time period can call the congressman's Danville office at (217) 446-0664.

Card shower

Former Hoopeston resident Terry Meador is very ill and friends are holding a cheer or Christmas card shower for them. Cards may be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Meador, P.O. Box 182, Collison IL 61831. Prayers would also be appreciated.

A corporation of the investors has not yet been formed but will be as plans progress, he said.

Core Distinction Group, which provides the hospitality industry consulting services, took a survey in of area businesses in September. The results of survey, along with traffic flow information, a marketing study and interviews with people in nearby communities show Hoopeston can support a 40-50 room hotel, Leigh said.

Information was gained from the owners of Town & Country Events in Milford, as well as businesses in Rossville and other communities as to possible hotel needs. Another factor considered was the planned casino in Danville, which could provide overflow business to Hoopeston. He said a lot of business use of a hotel is expected.

"We're still looking forward," Leigh said. Hopefully, in a few months, more information will be available to announce, he added.

Weather

Sunny today. High 43. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 27. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 44, low 29.

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