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Flight canceled, Zobrist drives to local autograph session

A former Chicago Cubs player is getting kudos for kindness off the field.

Ben Zobrist, currently a free agent after his contract with the Cubs ended with the 2019 season, was scheduled to appear at Bricks & Ivy Sports for an autograph session Saturday. The plan was for him to fly from Nashville, Tenn. to Chicago, on Friday, then drive roughly 115 miles to Hoopeston.

Weather issues caused his flight to be canceled. Switching to a Nashville-to-Indianapolis, Ind., flight was discussed, but Zobrist was concerned it, too, might be canceled and so would the autograph session.

So the Eureka native, who currently lives in a Nashville suburb, grabbed his brother and sister-in-law and started on the 350-mile drive to Hoopeston. The trio spent Friday night somewhere in Indiana before rolling into Hoopeston Saturday.

At Bricks and Ivy, Zobrist chatted with those who came for his autograph and signed the wall at the store before making a surprise visit to Monical's for a bite to eat.

After the event, Zobrist got a glowing review from Bricks & Ivy owners Bob and Emily Brown, posting on the store's Facebook page, "Not only did he take photos and sign autographs with fans, he had a conversation with each person in line. He interacted with children, held babies, and asked people about themselves and their lives."

Photos of Zobrist at the store and pizza parlor were posted to social media and word of Zobrist's dedication to fans made sports news across the country.

The 38-year-old second baseman/outfielder, played for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Oakland Athletics and Kansas City Royals before coming to the Cubs. He has played in three World Series, winning the last two.

Zobrist, nicknamed "Zorilla," has a .266 batting average, has scored 167 home runs and has 768 RBIs to his credit.



Photo/Bricks & Ivy Sports

Ben "Zorilla" Zobrist signs the wall at Bricks and Ivy Sports after an autograph appearance Saturday. His flight canceled, Zobrist drove from his suburban Nashville, Tenn., home to make the session.

From the Blotter

Kaylynn Kruger, 31, of Rossville, was arrested after a traffic stop at 12:02 a.m Tuesday at Casey's General Store, 115 E. Orange. Found to have a revoked license, she was charged with driving while license revoked and released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County traffic court.

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Briefly

Students to be ambassadors

The fourth grade classes of Tia Petersen and Tammy Harper at Rossville-Alvin Elementary School have been

Obituaries

HICKMAN - Charlene Mae "Chuckie" Hickman, 78, of Potomac, died at 6:21 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020, at Singing River Hospital, Pascagoula, Miss. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. celebration of her life Saturday at Community Church of God, Danville. Burial will follow in Potomac Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the church mission fund. Blurton Funeral Home, Potomac, is in charge of arrangements.

WEESS - Myron Weess, 68, of Cissna Park, died Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020, at home. Arrangements are pending at Cox-Knapp Funeral Home, Rankin.



chosen as 2020 host student ambassadors for Balloons Over Vermilion.

The selection was announced Friday at a press conference at the Vermilion County Museum. The students learned of their new role Wednesday. Last year's host ambassadors, Southwest Elementary, attended the event to pass the baton to Rossville-Alvin students.

WMD winners

January winners in the Women Making a Difference drawing are: \$50, Delaine Webb; \$30, Betty Richards, and \$20, Vanessa From.

At the library

Upcoming activities at Hoopeston Public Library include:

Free educational seminar answering questions about Medicare. 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

Littles @ the Library, 10:30-11 a.m. Fridays. For kids 0-5 and their caretakers. Features stories, songs, crafts,



At the auction

As Craig Lee gets ready to call, local Rep. Tom Bennett, left, (R-Gibson City) explains the Page for a Day program, where a constituent can be his assistant for the day. Bennett donated two of the experiences to the fifth FFA Alumni Scholarship Auction Saturday. Russ Leigh was the winning bidder and took both opportunities. Above, Gale Cunningham, long-time ag supporter and Farm Director at WYXY 99.1 Radio, looks for items on which to bid.

learning and movement activities.

Mary Hartwell Catherwood book club, 1:30-2:30 p.m. Monday. The selection is "Finding Dorothy" by Elizabeth Letts.

Stitchin' Time, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesday. Crochet instruction provided. Other needle crafters welcome to make new friends with similar interests.

Reservations accepted for banquet

Hoopeston area and Rossville senior citizens who wish to attend the 29th annual Sweetheart Banquet may call Hoopeston Area High School, 283-6661, with their name

and number in their party by February 7.

The banquet will begin at 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, in the high school gym and will feature dinner and entertainment. It is sponsored by HAHS Student Council.

Weather

Cloudy today. High 36. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 29. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 39, low 31.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

United Prairie-Hoopeston has opening this Spring for the following: CDL Drivers and Non-CDL. Please pick up applications at 18978 E 3850 North Rd, Hoopeston, IL 60942. For more information, please call the office, 217-888-0164 or Jordan Reese, manager, 217-918-2876.

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 has an opening for the following: Part time Computer Technician Assistant. Applications are available online at Hoopeston Area CUSD's website, www.hoopeston.k12.il.us

The City of Hoopeston Swimming Pool is accepting applications for Pool Manager. This is a Seasonal Position, May through September. Applicants should be able to manage employees and schedules, have customer service skills, and help maintain swimming pool. Lifeguard and CPR Certification a plus. Applications may be picked up at City Hall, 301 W Main St. For more information, call 217-283-5833.

The City of Hoopeston is seeking applications for a fulltime Street and Alley position. Applicant must have a CDL or the ability to obtain one within 60 days of hire. The ability to operate and maintain equipment a plus. Flexible schedule required. Please inquire at City Hall for more information about the position, 217-283-5833. Applications may be picked up and returned to City Hall, 301 W. Main St.

Hubbard Trail Country Club is currently taking applications for a Clubhouse manager. Duties included are: Supervise, Train and Schedule bar and kitchen employees. Place food and beer orders. Schedule and coordinate wedding and party events, golf outings and clubhouse activities. Promote activities through email, social media and print ads. 20 hours per week, salary is based on experience. If you have experience in the service industry, enjoy working with the public, email your resume to htccgolf@yahoo.com or mail to PO Box 305, Hoopeston, IL 60942.

We are currently hiring for our Verizon location next to McDonald's in Hoopeston! Are you interested in pursuing a career in sales where you can earn a base plus commission? Then this

position might just be for you! If you like sales, love technology and have a competitive spirit you may have what it takes to join our amazing team! You'll use your knowledge and passion for technology to deliver an effortless customer experience while pursuing challenging and rewarding goals! This role comes with an hourly base and commission package as well as awesome benefits. Please email your resume to seth.wilson@alstiremart.com or stop by our store for more details.

Aquality Solutions is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1st Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

Silgan Containers is hiring press line mechanics. *Starting pay increased.* For more information or to apply, please go online to silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/10377/0

Sygma is hiring Class A CDL drivers. Experienced drivers with clean records could qualify for a \$12,500 sign on bonus. Sygma is also looking for students for their CDL school. You must be 21 and have your Class A permit to be eligible. We have part time and seasonal work available as well. Go to www.sygmanetwork.com or call 855-770-3210

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL offers job opportunities for full time/ part time employment. Choose the schedule that fits your life style: 1, 2, 3 or 4 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and can pick their shift. Machine operators are needed for 1st & 2nd shift. We also offer fulltime positions with a full benefit package. If you are interested in working for a growing company, apply on-line at www.full-fill.com go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

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