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# Bertha's



By  
**BERTHA PARSONS**

## Yes! We're Survivors!

Surviving in today's world is a huge undertaking for each of us. Being a survivor is difficult when times are tough, and every day is uncertain. We keep our head up and our mind as positive as we can. Nothing is for sure, that most certainly is for sure!

What can we do to forget fear and find joy, maybe laughter and fun? Try, just once to look for the good in your life! I stand by the idea to make a list of "good," as a survivor in this life of ours. Start the list with a good family, more food than I need, friends that walk with me in life, a place to call home and adventures every day!

Your list may look different than mine, that's OK! We are all different as survivors in a crazy time as this. Hang on to the "good" and throw out the bad!

Some reading this cannot understand or are even afraid to think how kids in the 50s, 60s, or 70s survived at all. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets and rode our bikes with no helmets. As children, we rode in cars with no seatbelts or airbags.

We drank water from the garden hose and not a plastic bottle. We ate cupcakes, bread and butter and drank soda pop with sugar, but we were never overweight because we were always outside playing it off. We did not have Play Stations, Nintendo 64, or X-Boxes, no video games at all, no 99 channels or cable, surround sound, personal cell phones, personal computers or internet chat rooms. How did we ever make it? We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth and there were no lawsuits from the incidents.

Little league had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.

At this moment in time, with so much uncertainty, where each day is different, with going to school or staying home, working from home, wearing masks when going out to anyplace. Waving to friends instead of hugging or shaking hands.

Will we ever get back to "normal? I want and need my friends' hugs. I want to shop and be comfortable visiting over the cart and not six feet apart. So, I have a lot of wants, and maybe in a while they will all come true. I'm counting on it as I continue to survive.

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Lourdine Florek, Owner  
**Monday, August 24, 2020**  
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!  
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## District board accepts bid for Honeywell School demolition

The demise of Honeywell School is nearing after Hoopeston Area School Board accepted a demolition bid at its meeting Thursday.

Lee Farms Excavating, of Paxton, was the low bidder, at \$224,450, said Supt. Robert Richardson. Nine contractors attended a pre-bid meeting last month; five of those submitted bids, which were opened August 13, he said.

Once required paperwork is signed and submitted, demolition can begin as soon as Lee Farms can schedule it.

The board originally set August 1 as the drop-dead demolition date, but later changed it to begin by September 1 and completed in October. The extension allowed an advisory committee to make recommendations on disposing of artifacts in the building that might be wanted by staff, students and the public.

Officials began speaking openly about Honeywell's fate at the May 2016 board meeting. A public meeting was set for May 31 to update residents on the cost of maintaining the school, how much the district expected to save by closing it and plans to dispose of the property.

At that time, demolition was estimated at \$170,000 for the 32,210 sq. ft., school, built in 1927. Asbestos removal was estimated at \$133,000.

In June 2016, the board unanimously approved closing the school and in May of that year, a Farewell to Honeywell School allowed the public to visit the building, look at

memorabilia and share stories of the school.

In July 2018, the board heard the steps needed to be taken to dispose of the school as unwanted property.

There was little mention of the project until March of 2019, when the board was set to vote on whether to demolish the school. Representatives of a newly-formed drug rehabilitation group made a last-minute presentation in an effort to persuade the board to give them the school, but residents in the area spoke against the request, fearing the property would become an eyesore in the residential neighborhood. In a 7-0 vote, the board approved razing the structure.

That action fulfilled a responsibility officials said they had when the process started. "The board does not want to leave an eyesore in the middle of our town," said then-Supt. Hank Hornbeck, adding that it would be hard for a business to take on the school with utility bills totaling \$25,000 annually "and it doesn't even have air conditioning except in the teachers' lounge."

On July 25, the school held a rummage sale, with cabinets, desks, doors and other mementos going to new homes. The sale was held just a few days before the pre-bid meeting, where contractors' bids were based on removing contents still in the building and demolition.

When the building is gone, the area will be filled and reseeded, Richardson said.

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## From the Blotter

A 42-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 4:36 a.m. Friday that he discovered items missing from his apartment in the 500 block of East Penn. Police are investigating.

**Joseph Fiala**, 31, of Hoopeston, was arrested after officers were dispatched at 3:30 p.m. Friday to a theft

report at Olympic Hardware, 516 N. N. Dixie Hwy.

Fiala was located, charged with theft and trespassing and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

## Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 8:25 p.m. Friday to 1900 E 3800 North Rd. for an anhydrous leak. No injuries were reported.

## Obituaries

**BECKER** - Fern M. (Bredemeier) Becker, 92, of Fairmount, formerly of Milford, died at 10:38 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2020, at her daughter's home. Visitation was 4-6 p.m. Sunday in Diers Hall, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Flatville. A family funeral will follow in St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Schwer. Memorials are suggested to North American Lutheran Seminary (Schiffrin Scholarship Fund) or Immanuel Lutheran Church of Flatville. Baier Family Funeral Services, Flatville, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at [www.baierfuneralservices.com](http://www.baierfuneralservices.com).

**HALLOCK** - M. Dwayne Hallock, 88, of Watseka, formerly of Hoopeston, died Friday, Aug. 21, 2020, at Riverside Medical Center, Kankakee. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. funeral Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka. Burial will follow in Oak Hill Cemetery, Watseka, with military rites by Watseka American Legion Post 23 and Iroquois County VFW Post 7450. Memorials are suggested to Watseka American Legion Post. Condolences may be left at [www.knappfuneralhomes.com](http://www.knappfuneralhomes.com).

## Court Dispositions

July 8

**Anthony Chandler**, Hoopeston, failed to appear at status hearing for breach of peace; case sent to state for further enforcement.

**Jennifer M. Watkins**, Rossville, failed to appear at status hearing for disobeying police; case sent to state for further enforcement.

**Jennifer M. Watkins**, Rossville, failed to appear at status hearing for breach of peace; case being sent to state for further enforcement.

## Weather

Sunny today. High 89. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 69. Tomorrow, sunny. High 93, low 68.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit [justthefacts.net/weather/](http://justthefacts.net/weather/).

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

House cleaner needed. A couple hours per week or as needed. Must be dependable. (217) 495-0162

Someone who knows how to work on cars and do handyman work a few hours a week, as needed. Must be dependable. (217) 597-7112

East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking full time and seasonal help. Requirements include at least a Class B CDL and ability to pass a drug test. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

Kitchen and delivery persons needed. Apply in person at Pizza King 111 E Main St., Hoopeston.

Teasdale Latin Foods has immediate openings on 2nd shift in both Distribution and Manufacturing. Pay to be determined based on experience level. Stop by the Human Resources office at 215 W. Washington Street, Hoopeston, for more detail. Please no phone calls.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL are offering many job opportunities for full time and part-time positions. We offer full-time positions with a full benefit package. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shifts are available.

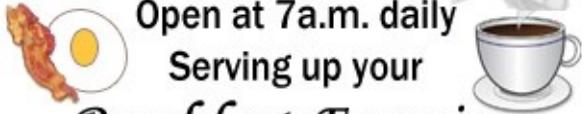
**Chemical Lab Supervisor**-prior experience working in a chemical laboratory.

**IT Assistant**- Troubleshooting and maintaining computers and programs in the facility. Both positions are Full-time Day shift M-F with a full benefit package.

If you are interested in applying for a growing company, please apply on-line at [www.full-fill.com](http://www.full-fill.com) go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

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

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We are now offering a part-time flexible work schedule for Moms & Dads who want to earn extra cash during school hours, with an 8 am - 4:30 pm schedule to fit the needs of your family.

If you are interested in applying for a growing company, please apply on-line at [www.full-fill.com](http://www.full-fill.com) go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

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