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# Just the Facts

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Lourdine Florek, Owner

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Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P. O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

It's hard to work up any enthusiasm for a retrospective look at 2020.

Covid-19, which made its presence known in mid-March, took center stage and refused to leave. The novel coronavirus caused big and small events to be canceled during the rest of the year.

On March 11, Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued the first of several disaster declarations regarding the virus, announcing that schools would close March 17-30. While that resulted in canceled events, the most immediate effect was a run on grocery stores, primarily for toilet paper, but other supplies, too, were in short supply and what was available was rationed. Staples such as eggs, milk, bread and bananas were limited. Frozen foods, such as pizzas, disappeared quickly. Some people, it seemed, were ready to

bake, as yeast was in short supply nationwide.

With spring not quite here, people nationwide began to think about gardening, causing a seed shortage of some varieties in many areas. Fruit and nut trees and other live, food-producing plants also sold out quickly.

The annual Sweetheart Dinner, sponsored by Hoopeston Area High School Student Council and rescheduled from February to March 11, was one of the last public events to be held by the school district for the remainder of the school year.

As emergency orders opened and closed schools, superintendents, coaches and athletic directors scrambled to learn if sports would be allowed. That issue became a soccer ball between Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois High School Association. After weeks of yes, no and maybe, the final answer became "no sports allowed."

Graduation - in the traditional sense - was not allowed, either. Instead of walking down the gym to "Pomp and Circumstance," HA seniors participated in a vehicle parade from the school through the downtown area and then to McFerren Park for a photo session. Those who snuffle during graduation ceremonies had to do it from the comfort of their homes this year and the ceremony was digital.

Students were not the only ones affected by the virus. On March 12, Heritage Health announced it was closing to visitors as a precaution to keep residents safe. Over the summer months, that restriction eased a bit as families were able to visit their loved ones outdoors, maintaining social distance, but as winter loomed, and rumors of a winter surge spread, visitors were again banned as a safety precaution.



All was not gloom and doom at Heritage, however, as the facility provided signs to community members to decorate and return, to brighten residents' days. Staff has also worked to lift the spirits of their residents by having dress-up days, games and other events.

The nursing home was not the only facility to implement safety precautions. Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center did, as well, stationing employees at the entrance to take temperatures and ask health questions of those entering the facility.

Nationwide, procedures considered nonessential were postponed to allow space and personnel to deal with the expected influx of pandemic victims. In most areas, the precautions were later deemed unnecessary, as there were significantly fewer patients than anticipated.

Locally, things came to a halt in March, with many groups still operating in limited ways due to the virus. Hoopeston Multi Agency's front office was open to appointment-only visitors and senior dances were canceled. Hoopeston Public Library closed and later reopened with curbside pickup. The library began allowing people into the building, then the number of positive cases rose markedly, resulting in the building again being closed again. Patrons who want books, movies, copying and other services must now call ahead for curbside service.

Many churches spent the next several months closed. Some pastors scurried to get their services to congregants online. Slowly, churches began to reopen but many are using a combination of in-person and online services to reach their members.

The entertainment and dining segments of the local economy were hard-hit, as restaurants were forced to close, as were avenues of entertainment.

Bob and Emily Brown opened 112 Wine and Coffee Shop, holding their grand opening on March 8. Shortly afterwards, it, like other restaurants, was forced to close. When Illinois looked to be safely dealing with the virus, Pritzker allowed restaurants to open for outdoor dining. Bob Brown, owner of Built-2-Last Construction, built a patio from part of the parking lot to accommodate customers. Indoor dining was again allowed but in November was banned once more, leaving only outdoor dining available. Winter weather took care of that at 112, which now is open for carryout orders.

The Lorraine Theatre closed in March and continues to be closed to this day. The Little Lorraine also closed. Because the theaters, like other businesses, have bills to pay even when closed, the Save the Lorraine Foundation tried to come up with fun and novel ways to bring in a bit of money, such as having a drive-through popcorn sale outside of the Lorraine.

Most recently, the Little Lorraine is hosting Family Movie Nights, a chance for up to 12 people to watch a movie in a socially distanced way at the Little Lorraine. The \$75 fee includes the movie and unlimited popcorn and pop.

Memorial Day was canceled, although a group of veterans stood at attention at Floral Hill Cemetery to honor those who gave all. Veterans Day became a digital event, instead of a ceremony at Hoopeston Area Middle School. The Vermilion County Fair and Illinois State Fair were canceled. The Thunder in the Corn demo derby was canceled, as were the July 3 fireworks.

And on July 6, Hoopeston Jaycees announced there would be no National Sweetcorn Festival in 2020. Instead, the 77th festival would be postponed until 2021. Joyce Clingenpeel will still chair the event and Asti Scharlach will still represent it as Miss Hoopeston.

A demo derby scheduled for September 6 did happen, to the dismay of some who feared a major Covid uptick in its aftermath. There was none.

The March closings were done even as Vermilion County had not yet reported any people testing positive

See 2020 on other side

Paxton Area 217-841-4728 C/U Area 217 566-5005

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## 2020 continued from other side

for the virus, which originated in the Wuhan province of China.

In late March, Public Health Administrator Doug Toole announced the first county resident was tested and hospitalized in Champaign County.

As 2020 rolled along, some events were rescheduled, in hopes they could be held, while others were canceled.

The 2020 Firemen's Ball was originally set for May 2, and then rescheduled for May 30. It was then canceled, although the prize drawings were still held.

Hoping for better things this year, Hoopeston Fire Department recently announced that this year's Firemen's Ball will be held May 8.

Since Vermilion County Health Department is not releasing the communities those with positive tests live, the only way to know how many people are positive is with information released by Illinois Department of Public Health. The department's web page indicates zip codes having more than five positive cases. 60942, which includes Hoopeston and Cheneyville, did not make the map until the week of May 17, 2020, when it debuted with six cases.

As of Monday, 60942 has a cumulative total of 543 positive cases, up from 522 on December 30.

As Covid-19 progressed, the expectation of what residents should do changed. Early on, masks were not required and, in fact, were discouraged, but by early April that changed and they - along with social distancing - became the norm.

### From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 12:50 p.m. Monday in the 800 block of West Main. Police said Jamey L. Roof, 55, of Hoopeston, was eastbound on Main in a 2014 Chrysler, when Colby J. Burton, 20, also of Hoopeston, backed a 2012 Hyundai into the roadway.

### Weather

Areas of freezing fog/fog, then mostly cloudy today. High 35. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 27 Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 34, low 26.

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



If you advertised an event on social media and had a disappointing turnout, consider this: in a recent study, **32.8%** of social media users reported **not** receiving an event notification in time to attend.

Sometimes the delay in hours, sometimes it's days. How much is that **"free"** advertising costing you?

Next time, consider **Just the Facts** - delivered in time to local stores, inboxes and the internet.

**You won't be sorry, and neither will your customers!**

[publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net) (217) 283-9348

## Court Dispositions

**Vera Cacaj**, Sterling Heights, case dismissed per hearing officer.

**Danielle Hutton**, Hoopeston, failed to appear at status hearing for restraint of dogs by owner; case sent to state for further enforcement.

**Linsey M. Warner**, Hoopeston, failed to appear at sentencing for unlawful acts constituting disorder, found guilty by default, fined \$180; status hearing December 9.

**Linsey M. Warner**, Hoopeston, failed to appear at sentencing for unlawful acts constituting disorder, found

guilty by default, fined \$189; status hearing December 9.

**Linsey M. Warner**, Hoopeston, failed to appear at sentencing for trespassing, found guilty by default, fined \$180; status hearing December 9.

**Linsey M. Warner**, Hoopeston, failed to appear at sentencing for battery, found guilty by default, fined \$280; status hearing December 9.

**Stephen T. Spivey**, Hoopeston, failed to appear at status hearing for trespassing; case turned over to state for further enforcement.

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. Interested candidates can apply online at [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11205/0](http://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11205/0)

Part time maintenance person for properties in Hoopeston. Mon.-Fri. and on call. 20-25 hours/week, starting at 9 a.m. \$15-\$16 per hour. Candidate must have knowledge in the following: basic construction, HVAC (certification preferred), electrical, plumbing, painting, cleaning. Must have valid driver's license, auto insurance and reliable transportation; have own tools and pass background check. Send resume to [pmeadows@thinkcrestline.com](mailto:pmeadows@thinkcrestline.com)

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL, is offering many job opportunities for full-time, with a full benefit package, and part-time positions. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> shifts available. Choose the schedule that fits your lifestyle - work 1, 2, or 3 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and you can pick your shift. Machine Operators are needed for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> shift.

We offer 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.

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

Driver w/CDL needed. Home every night. Trips within 100 miles of Hoopeston. (217) 304-1943.

Autumn Fields of Hoopeston is looking for CNAs part time hours, every other weekend and shared holidays. Please call [Autumn Fields @ 217-283-2222](tel:217-283-2222)

KSii in Cissna Park is seeking a qualified Controls Technician for project site startups and in-field customer training for controls systems. The ideal candidate will possess excellent communication, electrical, technical, and troubleshooting skills. An understanding of PLCs and HMI applications is preferred. Travel is required. Apply online at [www.ksiedge.com](http://www.ksiedge.com) or send resume to [hr@ksiedge.com](mailto:hr@ksiedge.com).

Dogtown Heating, Air, & Plumbing is in search of an experienced HVAC technician to help serve our customers in the area. Pay based on experience. Health insurance, Life insurance, and 2 weeks paid vacation. We have a family atmosphere that serves our customers with honesty and integrity. Email [brad.dogtown@gmail.com](mailto:brad.dogtown@gmail.com)

Mechanic wanted. Experience with heavy truck, construction, and agricultural machinery preferred. Call 217-474-8349.

Cade's Heating and Air HVAC installer/ service tech. must have valid IL drivers license and EPA freon license. Please send resume to [ramcade@frontier.com](mailto:ramcade@frontier.com) or 101 E Penn St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

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.

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.

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 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

### HOUSES FOR RENT

710 E. Main., Hoopeston. 3 BR, 1 bath bungalow. \$650/mo. Plus sec. dep. References required. No pets, please. Call (217) 304-3477 for application. Owner - licensed real estate agent.

### SERVICES WANTED

Part time caregiver for elderly man with early dementia. Send resume to P.O. Box 85, East Lynn IL 60932 or email to [publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net).