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Just the Facts

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P. O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

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 Lourdine Florek, Owner

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Partners expand insurance holdings, keep local office open despite trying business times

Expanding a business in the midst of a pandemic might not seem like the best decision to a lot of people.

But for Jeremy Deck and business partner Cathy Luecke, the decision is paying off.

Deck and Luecke co-own 4 Corners Insurance Agency in Rankin, started after the pair purchased the former Taylor-Higgins-Ellis Agency in 2017.

In October 2020, they purchased the former Polson Agency, merging it into 4 Corners, and now have six months under their belt running both offices.

For Deck, a former Hoopeston resident who now lives in rural Rossville, purchasing the Hoopeston office was the fulfillment of an idea that occurred eight years earlier.

In 2012, Deck was traveling Illinois working for TOIRMA - Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association - which offers various insurance products to Illinois townships. Wanting to get back to the independent insurance side, he sent letters to two local agencies, saying if the owners ever decided to sell or decided to retire, he was interested in buying. Neither owner responded, and Deck went on to work in other agencies and open his own real estate business, as well.

It was not until August 2020 that Deck received a reply to one of the letters he sent those years ago. Anne "Chris" Polson, widow of Leon Polson, founder of Polson Insurance, contacted Deck, saying she and Karen Polson found Deck's letters going through agency paperwork.

Deck and Mrs. Polson talked for a while. "(It) felt like Polson Insurance and 4 Corners would be a good fit," Deck said, adding the agency was "a small town independent agency who cares about their clients." He and Luecke purchased the agency on October 1, 2020.

Deck and Luecke opted to leave the agency in its existing location, 218 E. Main, renting the building from the Polson family.



CATHY LUECKE and JEREMY DECK

Photo contributed

The purchase set off a flurry of activity, as the new agency owners set about cleaning, painting and re-arranging things.

As the Polson Agency, Leon Polson took the back part of the building for his agency and his first wife, Pat, operated a travel office from the front. When she died, Mr. Polson kept his office where it had been.

When he passed, Karen Polson Eighner, his niece, was in the process of updating the look of the interior

when she and Chris Polson decided to sell the business.

Luecke and Deck moved the work area to the forefront, taking advantage of the natural light streaming in the large windows and allowing customers to be greeted immediately on entering.

4 Corners can be reached at (217) 283-5515 or by stopping in the office from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Obituaries

ALWARDT - Arlen "Lew" Alwardt, 70, of Hoopeston, IL, passed away at 1:17 A.M. Friday, May 14, 2021 at his home. He was born March 15, 1951, the son of Ted and Emma (Dahkne) Alwardt. He married Beverly Vits on December 25, 1970 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Assumption, IL. She survives.

Lew is also survived by two sons, Micah (Jamie) Alwardt of Hoopeston, and Jarod (Kathy) Alwardt of Hoopeston; a mother-in-law, Joan Vits of Hoopeston; two sisters, Marvelle (Dean) Cole of Arcola, IL and Jan Benner of Greenville, IL; four brothers, Steve (Theresa) Alwardt of Stewardson, IL, Dave & Diane Alwardt of St. Louis, MO, Paul (Christine) Alwardt of McKinney, TX, and Fred (Martha) Alwardt of Paris, IL; seven grandkids, Alexandra, Emilie, A.J., Carson, Nolan, Alyssa, and Abigail, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and father-in-law, Don Vits.

Lew served in the Air Force from 1970 to 1974. After he got out of the Air Force, he started farming. He then was a seed salesman for Diener Seeds for many years.

He later started his own seed company, Twin State Seeds.

Lew went back to farming where he enjoyed working with his two sons and spending time with his wife of 50 years.

Per his wishes, cremation rites will be accorded and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Please visit www.anderson-funeral-home.com to view Lew's eternal tribute page and to send condolences to the family.

Anderson Funeral Home in Hoopeston, IL is handling the arrangements.

FETTERS - Viola Feters, 90, of Hoopeston, died at 11:38 p.m. Monday, May 17, 2021, at Carle Foundation Hospital Urbana. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

From the Blotter

Lacy D. Simpson, 33, of Hoopeston, turned herself in to police at 8:54 p.m. Monday. Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, she posted bond and was released with a new court date.

Craig I. Stevens, 43, of Hoopeston, was arrested after officers heard noises and investigated them at 10:32 p.m. Monday in the 200 block of East Washington. Stevens was charged with criminal trespass and released on a notice to appear.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 2:58 a.m. Monday to the 900 block of East McNeil for a report of smoke inside a home. Firemen found light smoke in a bedroom and cleared the scene after 30 minutes.

Briefly

Softball season kicks off

Hoopeston Area Softball Association kicks off its 2021 season Saturday. The day starts with a parade at 8:30 a.m., followed by the opening ceremony and awards. Games are scheduled for 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and starting at noon Sunday.

Weather

Chance of showers today. High 79. Tonight, cloudy. Low 63. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 84, low 64.

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

GOODRUM - Estelle "Sissy" Goodrum, 67, of Hoopeston, died at 10:10 a.m. Monday, May 17, 2021 at home. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

JOHNSON - Edith Johnson, 72, of Hoopeston, died at 10:30 p.m. Monday, May 17, 2021, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial Maintenance position. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11621

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11620

Looking for a fulfilling job in the natural health care field? Robinson Chiropractic is looking for strong individuals who are enthusiastic, outgoing, positive people who have an interest in natural healthcare and wellness. Candidates need to be team oriented, multi-tasking, detail-oriented individuals. Candidates will be trained to assist with patient care. Send resumes to trina.keller@robchiro.com.

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for swimming pool assistant manager. Application and job description are available at www.cityofhoopeston.com or at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main St.

Pizza King is taking applications for delivery drivers. Please apply in person at 111 E Main St Hoopeston.

Crestline is seeking a part-time and on-call Maintenance person, HVAC (certified is preferred), Electrical, Plumbing. Send resume to mwasson@thinkcrestline.com

DRIVERS You deserve the Hoekstra Experience! Hoekstra Transportation, LLC hiring Dedicated, Regional, and Local Drivers. Call Jan (815) 2Be-Home

Small Wonders Preschool is accepting applications for its Preschool Director position for the 2021-22 school year. Candidates must be Director qualified with DCFS. Send cover letter and resume to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 297, Hoopeston, IL 60942 by May 15.

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for seasonal employees. Applications are available at www.cityofhoopeston.com or at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main St.

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

HIRING Immediately! Local Class A CDL Driver needed to haul grain and fertilizer. HOME DAILY. Email us your contact information to cremeenstrucking@gmail.com. Call Jennifer at 217-799-5762.

Silver Brothers is looking for part-time mixer drivers. Hours will vary. Must have Class B CDL, pass a drug test, be able to climb a ladder, and lift 75 lbs. Pay will be \$20/hour to an experienced driver. Perfect opportunity for a retired person wanting some extra money. Stop by 105 E. Washington, Hoopeston for application.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, is offering many job opportunities for full-time applicants, with a full benefit package, or part-time positions. 1st and 2nd shifts available. We offer a part-time flexible work schedule from 8 am-4:30 pm M-F for Moms & Dads. Graduating seniors that are 18 looking for a summer job or not pursuing a college career, we offer career opportunities. Apply on-line at www.full-fill.com go to employment or Employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is looking to hire 2-3 part time assistant teachers. Requirements include: 18 or older, high school diploma or GED, college credits are preferred but not mandatory for the right candidate, willing to undergo a background check and fingerprinting, flexible and able to work as early as 6:30 a.m. and as late as 5:30 p.m., and have reliable transportation. Please email Nicole Gregory at mustardseed.christiandaycare@gmail.com for application information.

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

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

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.

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.

Email publish@justthefacts.net
or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!



**Good news.
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got lower.**

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