

New Year's Special
20% off Full Service
Oil Change
10W30, 5W30 or 5W20 w/coupon. Expires 1/31/22
Hoopeston Express Lube
 Rtes. 1 & 9, Hoopeston
 283-5373 www.quicklube4u.com

Call us today at 855-692-7824 to
 get water delivered to your home
 or business or visit our office at
 102 N 1st Ave. in Hoopeston to
 pick up your water!

**AQUALITY
 SOLUTIONS, LLC.**

Leaves are falling...
 and so are our rates!
 Move in and **SAVE \$1500** for a limited time
Autumn Fields CALL TODAY FOR A TOUR
 (217) 283-2222
autumnfieldshoopeston.com

Smoked BBQ
Rossville Family Restaurant
 715 S. Chicago (217) 748-6201
Lunch & Dinner
Sat., Jan. 8th & Sun., Jan. 9th
Pulled Pork Butt, Pork Ribs & Beef Brisket

Email:
publish@justthefacts.net

Just the Facts

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P. O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348
 Lourdine Florek, Owner

www.justthefacts.net

COVID-19 dominates area news for second year, Hoopeston celebrates 150th

For the second year, Covid-19 continued to dominate the news on all levels from local to international.

While in 2020, the world was on edge about the newness of the virus, 2021 saw concerns broadened to include supply chain interruptions that resulted in fewer products everywhere from store shelves to auto dealerships. Employees were difficult to find and keep. Worldwide, many businesses closed due to conditions resulting from the virus.

One group that had to be nimble in dealing with Covid changes was school districts. As state health and school officials changed and revamped procedure, local school officials were left to take the heat.

Local parents filed suit against Hoopeston Area School District after it implemented a state-ordered mask mandate. Matthew and Jessica Lange, Jason and Jessica Watson and April Jones, on behalf of their and other students, filed suit in September.

On November 30, their case was subsequently combined with others in the state under the umbrella of a suit filed in Sangamon County.

After remote learning last year, school officials worked diligently to find a way to bring students back into the buildings this year and were mostly successful. However, at the end of 2021, John Greer and Hoopeston Area Middle School both went to remote learning as Covid and other factors resulted in too few available teachers.

On the plus side, after a year of few student activities, administrators and staff worked hard this year to make the year more normal by finding ways to hold in-person, albeit masked, activities.

Not everything in Hoopeston revolved around Covid. A small group of volunteers managed to hold several events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Hoopeston becoming a community.

Hoopeston's sesquicentennial kicked off in January, with the unveiling of the event's logo. The design, combining corn and railroads, was started by Ann Wallace for the 1971 centennial, but the then-16-year-old didn't get it

A Look Back at

2021

finished. Wallace updated and submitted it and her design was chosen from among several submissions as the official sesquicentennial artwork.

Sesquicentennial organizers linked Hoopeston's founding to the modern era as Leonard Hoops, a descendant of town founder Thomas Hoopes, was honored with a ceremonial key to the city. Hoops, of Indianapolis, brought his family to Hoopeston to enjoy 150th birthday activities.

Last year brought major changes to Hoopeston City Council. Two new aldermen were appointed after Alex Houmes and Chad Yaden resigned.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry appointed Joe Garrett to replace Houmes. Garrett ran as an incumbent in the April election and held his seat.

Stephen Eyrich was appointed to replace Yaden and was reappointed after the election, as no one ran for the spot. Eyrich could not seek election to the seat because he had not lived in the ward for the mandated length of time.

Former alderman Bill Good- Leonard Hoops and family take part in the Hoopeston's sesquicentennial in July.

wine, a staple on the council for nearly three decades, opted not to seek reelection. He was replaced by newcomer Bob Porth. Two incumbents - Carl Ankenbrand and Bill McElhaney - lost to challengers Kellie Ferrell and Kyle Richards, bringing five new representatives to the eight-member council.

Ald. Lourdine Florek became the longest-serving member, having been appointed in 2015. Members Robin Lawson and Jeff Wise joined the council in 2019.

Bill Crusinberry successfully ran for a fourth term at the city's helm, defeating challenger Mike Bane. The mayor, who had a bout with cancer in 2020, had a relapse last year, shortly after the election. He planned to resign his seat on December 21, but passed away December 17.

See LOOK on other side



Let
Just the Facts
shine a spotlight
on

**YOUR
BUSINESS!**

Affordable rates!
*Reach web, print, email
and fax readers!*
Fresh every weekday!
publish@justthefacts.net
(217) 283-9348



The late Mayor Bill Crusinberry is memorialized on The Lorraine Theatre marquee after his death on December 17.

Look continued from other side

Ald. Jeff Wise was approved by the council as the new mayor at the December 21 meeting.

Development in Hoopeston was discussed often in 2021. Some of the discussion turned into action, as in the new Dollar General on Rt. 9 and the new Casey's General Store under construction at Rtes. 1 and 9.

Other development is under consideration, like a new Parkview Court, which was in the concept stage in January 2021. The replacement for the existing 70-year-old complex is envisioned as townhomes and duplexes.

A new hotel for Hoopeston has been discussed since 2018, when Cobblestone agreed to sell a franchise to a group of investors.

In 2021, officials had hoped to get a state grant to cover

From the Blotter

Sarah E. Garrison, 38, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 9:45 a.m. Saturday for a domestic situation in the 800 block of East Maple.

She was charged with domestic battery and taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Blake M. Meehan, 21, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 4:38 p.m. Sunday in the alley of the 300 block of East Main. Known to be wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, he was also charged with drug paraphernalia. Meehan was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of bond.

the cost of installing infrastructure on the site - located between Hoopeston Marathon and the former Chrysler dealership on Rt. 9 - but had not heard by the end of the year whether one was awarded.

In other business news from last year, Shirley and Dan Harper announced Henning's Restaurant would close October 27. A sale on the property, located along Rt. 1, is pending but parties involved in the transaction are keeping information quiet, fueling interest and speculation among residents.

Obituaries

FOLKERT - Roland L. Folkert, 77, of Cissna Park, died Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021 at Advent Health Heart of Florida, Haines City, FL. Visitation will be 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Onarga. Graveside service will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday at Del Rey Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to American Heart Association or donor's choice. Condolences may be shared at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

Weather

Mostly sunny, breezy today. High 38. Tonight, mostly cloudy, breezy. Low 24. Tomorrow, partly sunny, breezy. High 30, low 9.

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

Briefly **Volunteers needed**

Light Up McFerren Park is looking for volunteers to help take the lights down on January 8, weather permitting. Volunteers can meet at the park office or call Russ Leigh at (217) 283-9336 for information.

At the library

Stitchin' Time, 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays. Crochet, knit, sew or other needlecraft, bring your project and coffee and enjoy a morning of fun and conversation!

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Teasdale Latin Foods is hiring for a new temporary position. Competitive pay, 5-6 hrs./day, five days a week. Great for retirees, college students or someone laid off looking to work part time. Apply in person or online: <https://teasdale-latin-foods.breezy.hr/>

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is **HIRING!** Apply at www.full-fill.com/employmentopportunities Applications available onsite. EOE

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 is accepting applications for a part time computer technician assistant. Duties include providing desktop support, assisting with infrastructure and A/V projects. <https://phl.applitrack.com/roe54/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Technology>

NAPA Hoopeston is looking for a full time Counter/Delivery person. Successful candidate will be very knowledgeable about automotive/truck parts and computers, able to answer phones and wait on customers. Must do daily and monthly paperwork and be capable of doing all activities the store manager does in case of his absence. ASE certified counter person preferred but not required. If interested, pick up a application at NAPA 226 E Main St. Hoopeston.

East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking a full time applicator. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

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.

Aquility 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 St. in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.