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# Hoopeston woman finds creativity, pride, fulfillment in cooking

*Editor's Note: The following was submitted by Vermilion Advantage, the first of a series, I am, you are, we are Vermilion County! The series will profile residents throughout Vermilion County.*

If you have ever stopped in to eat at The Pump in Hoopeston, you may have tasted food made by this week's spotlight: Norma Cade. Norma was born and raised in Hoopeston. Her hard-working parents met in Texas and decided to settle in Vermilion County to raise their family.

Norma spent a lot of her younger years working in local factories until she found her love of cooking. She had always watched her mom in the kitchen making homemade tortillas and other family favorites, but it wasn't until she got the opportunity to start making tacos at the Hoopeston VFW that she realized that the kitchen is where she loves to be.

Tacos turned into wings, which led to burgers, and now she is the head chef at The Pump, owned by Jerod and Kathy Alwardt. "They have made me realize that I can do way more than burgers and tacos. They allow me to run the kitchen the way I want to. With that freedom, I have learned so much. I love cooking. My therapy is cooking. I turn on some music and do my thing. Even when I'm at home."

Since Norma has taken over the kitchen at The Pump, the menu has grown exponentially. They have lunch specials every day of the week, different themed dinners, and they open the grill on the week-ends serving steak, chicken, seafood, etc.



CADE

Norma also takes pride in feeding her friends and neighbors. One elderly neighbor lives alone, and when Norma found out, she started taking food to her every Sunday. "I have a soft spot for the older people in the community, so I try to do what I can."

She has also been cooking for the Dan McGee Wrestling Tournament for the last three years where they raise money for college scholarships.

She starts cooking at 4 a.m. and doesn't stop until everyone has had each of their meals for the day. "I take so much pride in that. I do everything from the food ordering to washing the last dish. I feel proud of myself to be able to do that."

When Norma has downtime, she still finds herself feeding the people she loves most. "I've got a lot of great friends. Having a good time is as simple as sparking up the grill.

There's something about sitting around outside talking and laughing and smelling the grill."

One of Norma's favorite songs is "Humble and Kind" by Tim McGraw, and she does her best to live by his words, "Be humble and kind – that will take you far."

The advice Norma gives to her kids and grandkids is advice we can all learn from: "It's easier to be nice than it is to be mean. Work hard for what you want. You don't have to have a lot to be rich – just look around."

Norma loves her hometown and the good things that are going on in Hoopeston. Thank you, Norma for being such a special part of that.

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# Obituaries

**CRIPPIN** - Jerry Lee and Linda Sue Crippen, both 62, of Hoopeston, died at 2:46 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15. Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. Wednesday at Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center, Danville. A celebration of their lives will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Private family burial will be at a later date. Charitable donations are suggested to the family's GoFundMe page or in person. Condolences may be shared at [www.sunsetfuneralhome.com](http://www.sunsetfuneralhome.com).

**LACY** - Ronald L. Lacy, 72, of Hoopeston, passed away at 3:53 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, IL.

He was born April 3, 1949, in Danville, the son of Maxwell and Helen (Stringham) Lacy. He married Sharon Rhodes December 4, 1971, at the Hoopeston United Methodist Church. She survives in Hoopeston.

He is also survived by two sons, Phillip (Amy) Lacy of Oakwood, and Matthew (Traci) Lacy of College Station, TX; one brother, Richard (Lynnell) Lacy of Urbana; four grandchildren, Allison, Elizabeth, Maxwell, and Catherine; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Ronald worked at American Can in Hoopeston for 26

years and later at Sigma in Danville. He most recently worked at Con-Agra until his retirement. He served in the United States Air Force. Ronald enjoyed Ham radio, building battleship models, and collecting vinyl records. He loved his huskie dogs and most of all, traveling and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

A visitation will be held 10 - 11 a.m. Thursday Feb. 24, 2022, at Anderson Funeral Home, 427 E. Main St. Hoopeston. The funeral service will follow, beginning at 11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral



**RON LACY**

## From the Blotter

**Jake E. Baumgartner**, 30, of Milford, was arrested by Iroquois County Sheriff's Police on Friday. Wanted on a Kankakee County warrant for driving while license revoked, he was taken to the Iroquois County Jail and released after posting the required bond.

**Cooper H. Spiese**, 23, of rural Milford, was arrested Monday by Iroquois County Sheriff's Police. According to police reports, he was charged with possession of ammunition with a revoked FOID and violation of an order of protection.

He was taken to the Iroquois County Jail, where he remained in lieu of bond.

**John J. Reynolds**, 52, of Park Forest, was ticketed for failure to yield the right of way after an accident Saturday on Iroquois County Rd. 1000 N at the intersection of 1800 E.

Iroquois County Sheriff's Police said Reynolds was southbound and collided with Mitchell J. Hurliman, 37, of rural Cissna Park, who was eastbound.

Reynolds was taken by Milford EMS to Hoopeston Regional Health Center for treatment. Both vehicles received more than \$1,500 in damage.

**Deputies investigated** a car vs. deer accident on Iroquois County Rd. 1950 N, about 1/8 mile east of 1950 E.

According to police reports, Clayton F. Cahoe, 29, of Hoopeston, was westbound when a deer entered the road. Cahoe was unable to avoid the deer, striking it and causing more than \$1,500 in damage. No tickets or injuries were reported.

home, with Pastor Kathy Murphy officiating. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery in Hoopeston.

Memorials are suggested to Leukemia Society, P.O. Box 22324, New York, NY 10087, or Parkinson's Foundation, 200 SE 1st St., Suite 800, Miami, FL 33131.

Please visit [www.anderson-funeral-home.com](http://www.anderson-funeral-home.com) to view Ronald's eternal tribute page and to send the family condolences.

Anderson Funeral Home in Hoopeston is handling the arrangements.

**PETERSEN** - Mary Julia (McCormick) Petersen, 82, of Hoopeston, died at 2:56 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, at OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center, Danville. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the 11:30 a.m. funeral Friday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Condolences may be shared at

[www.anderson-funeral-home.com](http://www.anderson-funeral-home.com).

**THIELE** - Alice M. (Kincade) Thiele, 85, of Watseka, formerly of Milford, died Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, at home. She will be cremated. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, at Oak Hill Cemetery, Watseka. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Baier Funeral Home, Watseka, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at [www.baierfuneralhome.com](http://www.baierfuneralhome.com).

## Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 29. Tonight, chance of snow. Low 22. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy then wintry mix likely. High 31, low 21

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

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Part-time office help needed. Approximately 25 hours a week and could possibly become full-time. Actual hours worked could be flexible. Bookkeeping and/or payroll experience helpful. Send a resume to Russell Leigh & Associates, 228 E Main St, Hoopeston, IL 60942.

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for the position of probationary police officer. Applications will be accepted until the testing date of April 2, 2022. Testing will begin at 10 a.m. April 2 at Hoopeston Area Middle School Library for the written test. The physical agility test will take place immediately after the written exam.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: <https://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0>

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/Maintenance position. Please apply online at: <https://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12406/0>

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for a full time water department employee. Must have CDL or the ability to get one. Potential for eventual supervisory role with proper training and certification. Applications are available at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main St., or at [www.cityofhoopeston.com](http://www.cityofhoopeston.com).

KSis is looking for qualified candidates for the seasonal position of

Production Associate in our Cissna Park facility. This position is primarily responsible for mechanical assembly of conveyors and final units. Potential candidates should possess a beginner level of mechanical skills and have a strong work ethic. Position would be M-F workweeks up to 45 hours per week. Majority of work would be in heated shop for cold winter months. Fill out an application from our website, [www.ksiedge.com](http://www.ksiedge.com), send inquiries to [hr@ksiedge.com](mailto:hr@ksiedge.com), or call 785-284-0600 ext. 1422. Applications may also be picked up at our location: 454 N State Route 49, Cissna Park, IL 60924.

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](http://www.full-fill.com/employmentopportunities) Applications available onsite. EOE

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