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# Just the Facts

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Lourdine Florek, Owner

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## Emily, Bob Brown step up to bring revitalization to Hoopeston's historic downtown buildings



*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 profiles residents throughout Vermilion County.*

We all have many opinions about our downtown areas in Vermilion County. But how many of us are actually stepping up and doing something to improve them?

Emily Brown is, and she is last week's "I am, you are, we are" spotlight.

Emily is a generational Hoopeston resident. She recalls her son's recent senior night and how awesome it was to have four generations of Comjerkers there to support him.

In fact, that was at the same school where she met her husband, Bob, and started dating him her junior year. They got married right after graduating and have now been married for 26 years.

Once Emily and Bob started having kids, Emily had a deep desire to make sure she taught her kids everything she knew and to give them a great life. She immediately started taking classes and opened Small Wonders preschool in her home. Bob later built a separate building for the school.

Around the same time, Bob started Built 2 Last Construction and they realized their entrepreneurial abilities.

From there, Emily donated Small Wonders to the First Presbyterian Church of Hoopeston, and she went to work teaching first grade at Maple Grade School. After three years of teaching, she became the Hoopeston Area district's curriculum director.

While Emily was teaching, Bob's business was starting to become very successful, and they began flipping houses. While flipping, they started became interested in the historical significance of the downtown businesses. That's when they purchased 201 E. Main.

See **REVITALIZATION** on other side

Emily Brown sports a coffee cup photo prop, surrounded by some of her 112 crew in a recent photograph.

*Photo submitted*

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## Revitalization continued from other side

The historical downtown building has four apartments above it, which is where Emily and Bob began. “We cleaned them up, we got really good renters, and we love the space. It is super downtown-y,” Emily said. Then they needed to come up with what to do with the downstairs space.

Bob and their sons have always been into sports cards and memorabilia. So, after years of traveling to find specific cards, they decided to start their own card shop. Bricks and Ivy was born in May 2017. On top of incredible stock and unique items, the store has brought in 36 athletes and actors for signings and an enhanced fan experience to Hoopeston.

Emily spent a lot of weekends working at the store and would look out the window and dream about what downtown could be. She spent countless hours staring at 110 and 112 East Main. “Those buildings could be so cute, Emily thought.”

They found out who owned them, and they bought the buildings. Through their construction business, they were able to really fix them up. They weren’t sure what to do with them, but after doing research they decided every successful downtown needs a coffee shop.

Emily’s mom owns a coffee and wine shop in

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Florida. So once they got the idea and the vision for the building, it all came together. They now own and operate 112 Wine and Coffee Shoppe. And the business just keeps growing. They have added food, gaming, a patio, and plan to expand the patio this summer and offer live music.

Upon opening the shoppe, and being so successful, Emily decided to leave the school district. “It wasn’t my intention, but it became clear that I was needed here, and I’m really happy with that decision.” While Emily really misses her “kids” and her people at the district, she is still able to keep up with them through

### From the Blotter

**Alexis J. Wood**, 25, of Watseka, was ticketed after an accident Friday at Monical’s Pizza, 618 W. Orange. Police reported Wood’s 2009 Hyundai SUV was seen to be out of control going westbound on the road before it hit the mailbox. She was cited for no proof of insurance.

**Titus T. Barber**, 43, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 5:02 p.m. Friday in the 700 block of South Sixth Ave. Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

**Ronald L. Howe**, 68, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called to Casey’s, 115 E. Orange, for a man screaming and yelling at employees. Howe was identified and charged with unlawful acts constituting disorderly conduct and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

### Obituaries

**SCHULDT** - Edward V. Schuldt, 66, of Cissna Park, died Friday, March 11 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cissna Park. Burial will follow in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the church or Cissna Park Fire Department. Condolences may be left at [www.knappfuneralhomes.com](http://www.knappfuneralhomes.com).

### Weather

Partly sunny today. High 58. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 42. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 67, low 47.

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

the café. “There’s just a type of relationship you make when you serve people coffee. Our customers are our family. We care about them. They care about us.”

Since opening 112 Wine and Coffee, Bob and Emily have purchased two more downtown buildings – one to host events, signings, and card shows, and one to use as their “satellite kitchen” for the coffee and wine shoppe.

The family business continues to grow, and they have all three of their children and their son-in-law working for them. “We just want them to be happy and be near us. So

now we are all happy,” Emily said.

Emily continues to be a big part of the community and loves to support local businesses. “There’s a lot to do in our small town. You can make yourself very happy and entertained in our county. There’s always something to do and always something to be involved in.”

Thank you, Emily, for being so inspiring, and for putting your heart into the Hoopeston downtown. Your legacy will be remembered for the great things you and your family do to improve the quality of life in our community.

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Iroquois County Sheriff’s Office is accepting applications for full – and part time correctional officers, responsible for the daily supervision and care of arrestees brought to and/or detained at the Iroquois County Jail. Must be high school graduate or have GED, Iroquois County resident at time of employment (for full time) submit to criminal background check and have basic computer skills. Full time starting salary is \$39,685.65, part time wage is \$15/hr. Applications may be picked up at the Iroquois County Jail/Sheriff’s Office, 550 S. Tenth, Watseka or online at [iroquoiscountyil.gov/offices/sheriff](http://iroquoiscountyil.gov/offices/sheriff). Completed applications/resumes may be mailed to the above address or emailed to [cperzee@co.iroquois.il.us](mailto:cperzee@co.iroquois.il.us). EOE

Silgan Containers, Hoopeston, is hiring for a Plant Human Resources Generalist. To apply or for more information, please visit this link: [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12231](http://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12231)

Silgan Containers, Hoopeston, is hiring for a Production Supervisor/Manager Trainee. To apply or for more information, please visit this link: [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12540/0](http://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12540/0)

Hoopeston hair salon looking for a cosmetologist, nail tech and esthetician. 765-413-3062

City of Hoopeston Cemetery is seeking applicants for a fulltime position. Candidate must have a valid driver’s license and high school diploma or equivalent. Computer skills are necessary. Potential supervisory roll with proper training and licensing. Applications available at [www.cityofhoopeston.com](http://www.cityofhoopeston.com) under the Services tab/Employment Opportunities or City Hall, 301 W Main St.

City of Hoopeston Cemetery is seeking applicants for a seasonal position. Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Applications available at [www.cityofhoopeston.com](http://www.cityofhoopeston.com) under the Services tab/Employment Opportunities or City Hall, 301 W Main St.

United Prairie-Hoopeston has opening this Spring for the following: CDL Drivers and Non-CDL. Please pick up applications at

18978 E 3850 North Rd Hoopeston, IL 60942. For more information please call 217/888-0164 or Manager Jordan Reese 217/918-2876.

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: [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0](http://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0)

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/Maintenance position. Please apply online at: [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12406/0](http://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).

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is HIRING! Apply at [www.full-fill.com/employmentopportunities](http://www.full-fill.com/employmentopportunities) Applications available onsite. EOE

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.

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