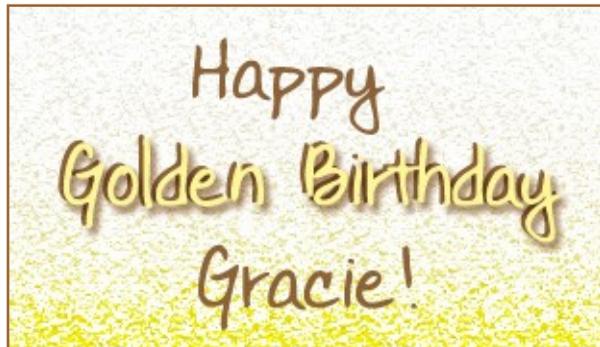


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Just the Facts *Lourdine Florek, Owner*
Thursday, May 19, 2022
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Owner asks council to hold off on gaming fees citing downturn

The combination of COVID and inflation prompted a Hoopeston business owner to asking that a proposed fee on gaming machines not be implemented. Doug Wagoner, owner of Fast Lanes, was at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting to ask that a \$250 fee per gaming machine not be implemented. Illinois recently changed the law so that municipalities such as Hoopeston can charge the fee, half of which comes from the establishment and the other half from the terminal operator. Wagoner said the city has reaped \$508,000 from gaming machines in Hoopeston, money that might not have been generated had local businesses "hadn't gone to bat

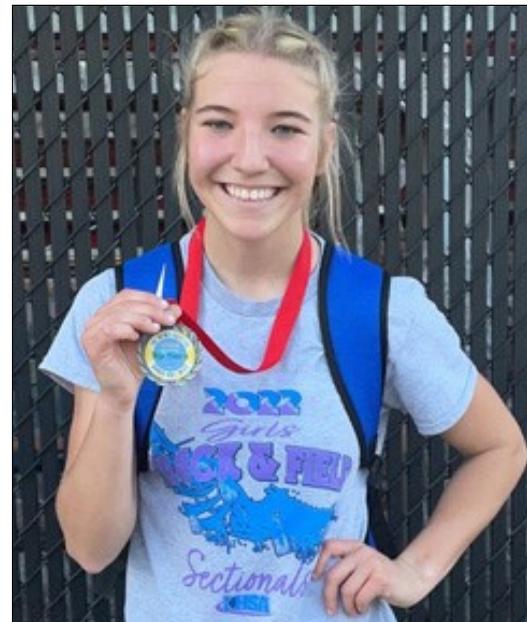
to get them here. "These establishments have been hit hard," he told the council, saying the city raised the liquor license fee from \$750 to \$1,000 per year. On top of that, "prices have gone sky-high," he said, with many licensed gaming businesses using their gaming revenue to hold the line on prices charged to customers, as well as pay employees and allow the businesses to make donations. "You're taking away from that," Wagoner said. "I'm asking you to leave us alone for a while. Let us get back on our feet." Mayor Jeff Wise told Wagoner the fee had been ap- See COUNCIL on other side

Brielle Crose heads to state competition in 100 meter dash

Finish sends teen to state for second year in a row

Hoopeston Area High School had one female state qualifier for track and field. Brielle Crose competed Friday night, May 13, at the Salt Fork Sectional in Catlin. She qualified for state in the 100 meter dash, coming in at 13.14. The state finals are held at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. The Class 1A preliminaries will be held Thursday, May 19 with finals on Saturday, May 21. This is the second year in a row Crose has qualified for state in this event.

Photo submitted



CROSE

From the Blotter

Marci Hartman, 43, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 9:09 p.m. Tuesday in the 700 block of West Orange. According to a police report, officers found her and, knowing she was wanted on a Ford County warrant, brought her to the police station for processing. She was later transported to the Ford County Jail.

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<http://www.dacc.edu/hoopeston>
 DACC Higher Learning Center - Hoopeston
 847 E Orange St, Hoopeston
 or call 217-283-4170

Council continued from other side

proved by the council, but that he would be willing to meet with Wagoner to “see if maybe we can help.”

The issue was raised at the May 3 meeting, as part of suggested revamped gaming ordinance that would set the number of gaming licenses at 10, the same as the number of Class A liquor licenses. The change was expected to be voted on at Tuesday’s meeting but had not been scheduled for a vote.

In other conversation, the council heard from pool manager Kristi Hudson, reporting on Hoopeston Aquatic Coalition, formerly Save the Hoopeston Public Swimming Pool.

With the pool in business, Hudson said the group will now focus on raising funds. An account for the group has been established, separate from city funds, with Bill Goodwine serving as treasurer. The group has one fundraiser going already, selling bracelets. Purchased for \$4, the bracelets are being sold for \$7 and will net a \$150 profit if all are sold.

Subway has also agreed to partner with the pool again this year, donating proceeds from its \$10 Subway savings card to the group.

Committee members will also be working to get the pool ready for the season. Necessary tasks include power

washing the pool, painting walls and floors of the bathroom, as well as putting finishing touches on those areas.

Hudson said she plans to ask the committee for funds to install a large shade in front of the concessions area, rather than using smaller umbrellas. She also would like the group to pay for new plywood for the floor of the concessions area.

In other business, the council approved, 6-0, with Ald. Joe Garrett absent:

- A motor fuel tax (MFT) engineering resolution naming Donahue & Associates as the city’s engineering firm. They replace Springfield-based Cummins Engineering, was hired in December 2020 to oversee the Thompson Ave. project after Donahue opted out of it.

- A contract to provide fire services to Grant Township, outside of Hoopeston city limits. The township will pay the city \$20,000 annually, said Fire Chief Joel Bird. The contract is “much more detailed than the 2002 contract” signed between the two entities and will automatically renew annually “until one of us says ‘stop,’” he said.

- An audit agreement with Russell Leigh & Associates for not to exceed \$8,500 for the April 30 audit.

- Closing the Lincoln St. railroad crossing. Wise said if the city had acted properly, it could have received

p.m. the third Thursday of each month at The Pit Stop at Fast Lanes Bowling Alley. This month’s meeting will be held May 19.

Please share the word and join us for a meeting to offer support to past and current breast cancer survivors. For more information, call Pat Foster, (815) 984-4040 or (309) 208-9829.

At the library

Coming events at Hoopeston Public Library are:
STEAM Lab, 3:30 p.m. Thursday, for kids in grades K-5. This week focuses on math, using 3D geometric shapes.

The library is accepting patron donations of books and DVDs for a summer book sale. Books should be clean, dry and unmarked. Paperbacks and hardback books are acceptable. Newer fiction is most desirable. Encyclopedias and magazines are not being accepted at this time.

Street corner collection

Hoopeston American Legion Auxiliary will sell poppies from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday. The collection will be on Rtes. 1 and 9, North Market and Penn and Main. Fund raised go to veterans programs.

\$100,000 from the railroad for closing the crossing. Instead, Hoopeston will receive \$30,000, which will be split between the general fund and MFT. To receive the money, officials had to approve permanently closing the crossing.

- Paying the second and final payment for the Washington sewer project for \$131,987.56.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Heard from Wise that Kellie Ferrell will represent Hoopeston on the Central Illinois Land Bank Authority

Weather

Sunny today. High 83. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 69. Tomorrow, breezy, mostly sunny, then chance of thunderstorms. High 89, low 61.

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

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

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

The City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for the position of probationary officer. Applications will be accepted until the Hoopeston Police Commission testing beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 21 at Hoopeston Area High School library.

Seeking a bartender for weekdays and nights. Possibly a weekend day. Our hours are from 7a-7p. Must have a Bassett and Food handlers Cert within 30 days. Stop by Hubbard Trail Country Club or call 217-748-6521.

Property Manager - Hoopeston. Proficient computer skills, including Microsoft Office and YARDI Strong customer service and people versatility Tax Credit experience preferred Must be able to pass a criminal background check. EOE Apply on indeed.com or on [Prairie Meadows Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/PrairieMeadows)

Homekeeper, errands and occasional out of town appointments for senior lady. CNA certified a plus. 8 to 10 hours weekly to start. Please supply experience and two work references. Non-smoker. Email resume to publish@justthefacts.net.

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

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/

board, replacing Bill Nicholls, who has served on the board since 2016.

- Wise also announced that Robin Lawson will serve on the police pension board.

- He also commented on those who question why the city allowed both existing Casey’s stores to be closed. “They’re a private business,” he said. “The city had nothing to do with it. We can’t stop businesses closing. If we could, we’d still have FMC.”

- Saying “we’re not going to rush into anything,” Wise said Ward 3 residents interested in filling the vacant seat should write to city hall and explain why they should be placed there.

- Heard from Bird, who thanked everyone for supporting the Firemen’s Ball and those who helped identify and lead to the arrest of the person charged with setting fire to the former Countryside Mall building.

Briefly

Power Blitz

East Central Community Action Agency will hold a Power Blitz from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday at Centennial Manor, 426 E. Honeywell. It is open to the public for anyone who needs assistance with power or water bills.

Blood drive

A Hoopeston community blood drive will be held from noon-4 p.m. Thursday at First Presbyterian Church Community Room, 915 E. Orange, Hoopeston. For an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [Red-CrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org).

Breast cancer support

Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support Group meets at 6

Obituaries

SOLIS - Apolinar Solis Jr., 32, of Milford, died at 12:30 a.m. Thursday, May 12, 2022, at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. He was cremated. Visitation will be 4 p.m. until the 7 p.m. memorial service at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. No burial will be held. Memorials are suggested to his family. Condolences may be shared at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

Maintenance position. Please apply online at: 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.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is HIRING! Apply at 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.

HOUSES FOR RENT

Available- June 1st: 726 S 3rd St Hoopeston. Duplex Lower level. 2 Big BR 1 BA, Dining room. Garage. \$675 Mo. + Dep. No pets, no smoking, Good references required. For application- 217-304-3477. Agent owned

RUMMAGE SALES

WELLINGTON: 167 N. 2400 E. Rd. (1 ½ mi. North of Hoopeston Cemetery). Saturday 7-1. Women’s, Men’s, & Boy’s clothing, purses, shoes, home décor, and lots of misc.!

WELLINGTON: 233 N. Prairie Av. Fr. & Sat, 8-? Multi family sale. Table/chairs, desk, clothes, books, lots more. Glotzbach, Huckelby, Butzow.

WELLINGTON: Maxwell St. Sale. 7 .m.-? Saturday. Sales all over town!

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