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**Friday Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>**

**5 p.m. until 8 p.m.**

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**(217) 748-6201**

Email:

[publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net)

# Just the Facts

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348

Louridine Florek, Owner

**Wednesday, December 28, 2022**

*Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!*

**P. O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942**

[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## University of Illinois Extension to offer online Master Gardener classes in January 2023

The University of Illinois Extension Office will offer Online Master Gardener Training Classes starting January 2023.

Online students learn from lessons that are self-paced. They can take classes in any order, any day, at any time of day, once they have completed the introduction. Classes are for beginning and experienced gardeners.

Topics are separated into modules and include: Plant Diseases; Insects; Annuals and Perennials; Trees, Shrubs, Lawns; Fruits; Vegetables; Organic Gardening; Wildlife and more. The online training is designed to be viewed on a desktop, laptop, or tablet. A strong internet connection is highly recommended.

The \$300 class fee includes all materials the extensive Master Gardener manual written for residents of Illinois. Start the registration process by visiting the extension website, [go.illinois.edu/ApplyVermilion](http://go.illinois.edu/ApplyVermilion). Need-based financial assistance is available.

One of the most rewarding parts about being a Master Gardener is the friendships made with fellow gardeners. Participants use their talents to volunteer at a variety of different community garden projects. Volunteers make a difference in the community.

Vermilion County Master Gardeners are active at Kennekuk County Park, the Danville Library and VA, working with adults, children and senior citizens. They

grew and distributed over 4,000 pounds of fresh produce to residents in need this past year.

The program offers a mentor system and optional field trips that help individuals learn about local projects and find the one that appeals to them. Incoming students have two years to complete 40 volunteer hours and become certified Master Gardeners.

Registration including all paperwork and payment is due by January 5. For more information please contact Jenney Hanrahan at [jhanraha@illinois.edu](mailto:jhanraha@illinois.edu) or the Vermilion County Extension office 217-442-8615.

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunity. **See GARDENER on other side**

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## HOOPESTON

### GED/ESL

Spring 2023

**NEW -Day GED**  
January 17 - March 9  
March 13 - May 11  
Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Night - GED**  
February 6 - May 1  
Monday & Wednesday 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

**ESL - Day**  
January 17 - May 13  
Monday & Wednesday 4 pm.-6 p.m.

Interested students may register in advance or registration and placement testing will take place the first day/night of class.

**For more information, call 217-443-8782**





Paxton Area  
217-841-4728



C/U Area  
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# DOGTOWN

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Serving

**Corn Beef and Cabbage**

**New Year's Day**

Sunday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>

**10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

715 S. Chicago (217) 748-6201

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## Gratitude for Hoopeston first responders

As I get older, or perhaps it's the time of year, I get more nostalgic and always have mixed emotions returning home for Christmas. I am an avid reader of "The Facts." I read about increased drug arrests, and abandoned homes and businesses suddenly catching fire. I then read the city council notes discussing these burnt homes and businesses left standing for months, while owners are unreachable, and the city is left to pick up the demolition costs. It has to be frustrating for those living in the community, it certainly is for me, and I read from afar.

At the same time, I read some of the great things going on in the community. A sports memorabilia store, coffee shop, and others bringing life back to downtown, as well as a new Casey's, NAPA, and other business setting up shop. What I truly believe is, a mayor and city leaders, council members, and fellow Cornjerkers genuinely care about the future of Hoopeston.

On December 16, the home next to my Mom's caught fire. As of today, the cause is unknown. I am thankful everyone is safe; however, I do fear this home will fall into the previously mentioned category. That being said, my letter is to share a moment of the latter. I watched the

house burn with a bird eye's view from a security camera and had a moment of thankfulness in seeing what community is all about.

First, thank you to Julisa (Mom's neighbor across the street), and a Hoopeston Police Officer for notifying Mom of the potential danger the fire posed to her home and aiding in getting her, my nieces, and the dog to safety. THANK YOU!

To Joel Bird and the Hoopeston Fire Department, you all are volunteers working "regular" jobs. To know you had to leave these jobs, travel to the fire station, and arrive on-site in less than 10 minutes is IMPRESSIVE. Then, I watched five firefighters hook up a fire hose, drag it across the street, and immediately begin extinguishing flames from the side closest to Mom's house. I know life and safety is first but THANK YOU for making protecting Mom's house a priority. Had you not, I'm confident it would not have escaped damage. At one point, I counted a dozen firefighters on-site and it has absolutely been a busy month for you all. THANK YOU for volunteering your time and serving Hoopeston in this capacity. I can tell how well trained you all are from your actions putting out the fire and being able to leave the site in just two hours.

## Letters to the Editor

Well done!

Yes, Hoopeston has its flaws. No community is immune from it, but its core is strong. It's the people that make a community what it is, and it's people like the ones mentioned in this letter that leave me optimistic for Hoopeston, and proud to call it home!

Merry Christmas!

Matt Lacy  
College Station, TX

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

MILFORD CROSSROADS YOUTH CENTER is seeking a DIRECTOR., Flexible Hours. Working with youth in grades 2-10. Applications available at Milford Building & Loan, Milford Village Hall or on Facebook at Milford Crossroads Youth Center. Contact Rod at (815) 471-4634. Immediate start date.

Hoopeston Police Department is accepting applications until December 31, 2022 for a full time Dispatcher. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W. Main St., or online at [www.cityofhoopeston.com](http://www.cityofhoopeston.com).

Fast Lanes looking for weekend Breakfast waitress and cooks. May lead into other days or nights! We also need night waitresses. MUST be available for weekend shifts. Experience helpful! Stop in and get an application! No phone calls/FB messages.

First Christian Church has immediate opening for a secretary, Tuesday-Thursday 8 am-noon. Send a Resume to FCC, PO Box 115, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

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.

Cade's Heating and Air seeks a HVAC service/ installer tech. IL DR license required and Freon license preferred. Must have mechanical ability. HVAC experience preferred. send resume to: [ramcade@frontier.com](mailto:ramcade@frontier.com):101 E Penn St. Hoopeston, Starting pay based on experience.

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Operators. Please apply online at: <https://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12655>

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

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is HIRING, starting pay \$18/hour. Apply at [www.full-fill.com](http://www.full-fill.com) or applications available onsite. EOE

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

## Obituaries

**ZBINDEN** - Daniel B. Zbindenm 83, of Cissna Park, died Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022, at Hoopeston Regional Health Center. Visitation will be noon until the 2 p.m. funeral Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park. Burial will follow in Cissna Park Cemetery, with military rites by Cissna Park American Legion Post #527. Memorials are suggested to Cissna Park Fire Department. Condolences may be shared at [www.knappfuneralhomes.com](http://www.knappfuneralhomes.com).

## Gardener continued from other side

nities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Vermilion County office 217-442-8615. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

## Weather

Mostly sunny, breezy today. High 41. Tonight, patchy drizzle, breezy, low 36. Tomorrow, chance of drizzle, rain late. High 52, low 46.

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



**The City of Hoopeston Water Department is seeking sealed bids for its 1996 Dodge Service Truck. Bid specs are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. The truck can be viewed in the alley of the Hoopeston Water Plant. Bids are due by 10 am Friday, January 13th at City Hall. Bids will be open at 10 am Friday, January 13th, 2023.**