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Downtown Hoopeston gets new attraction as candy store/soda pop shop opened Saturday

If the saying, "as happy as a kid in a candy shop," is true, Hoopeston has a new happy place. Main St. Parlor, 218 E. Main, officially opened its door Saturday morning, offering a wide selection of candies, as well as sodas, jerky and other snacks. The owners are Lisa and James Thomas, who live in rural Rossville, and their children, Lucas, Nicholas and Jessica. The building, which was for years Polson Insurance, was purchased by the Lorraine Foundation last year. The

Thomas are renting it and have transformed it into a rustic general store. Candy-filled apothecary jars line wood shelves that, along with shelves under the main counter, were repurposed from wood found in the building. A trolley car will soon be running atop the candy shelves. Around the shop, working scale models of hydraulic loaders have been placed to strike the fancy and imagination of boys and men. The west wall boasts the plush heads of animals, and, in a spot not fully paint-

ed, a stuffed bear, paintbrush in hand, stands on a ladder, ready to paint. Model ducks and geese are suspended around the store and a mural painted by James' mom, and Rossville artist, Virginia Thomas looks down from above. Real aging barrels on the main counter contain root beer barrels and other candies, while, in the middle of the store, half-barrels hold various flavors of potato chips and other snacks, many by Route 11 Chips. "They are the best chips," James Thomas said. The jerky section offers selections from familiar names and not-yet-familiar names, like Prevail Jerky, which has 100 percent grass-fed beef jerky. Wild boar, elk and venison jerkies will be added soon, he said. See CANDY on other side



Lisa Thomas with just a few of the candies available at Main St. Parlor, a new candy store in downtown Hoopeston.

The PIT STOP at FAST LANES
 Breakfast
 5:30-10 a.m. Mon.-Fri.,
 5:30-11 Sat. 5:30-noon Sun.
Breakfast Buffet
 Sat., 7-10 a.m. Sun. 7 - Noon
 Open Sat. 5:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Sun. 5:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday:	Meatloaf, Taco Salad or grilled or breaded Tenderloins
Tuesday:	Speedway Burger and Chicken or Beef & Noodles
Wednesday:	Rib eye sandwich and Prime rib sandwich
Thursday:	Swiss steak or Popcorn shrimp
Friday:	Cod, Rib eye steak, and Rib dinners
Saturday:	Prime Rib, Rib eye steak, and Rib dinners

NEW! Sunday Lunch Special 11-1:30
 Open Bowling Sun. 11-4; Mon. & Tues. \$4/game



Briefly

P.E.P. Party

Hoopeston United Methodist Church will hold its

Obituaries

ALLISON - Daniel L. Allison, 64, of Hoopeston, died at 12:25 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Tuesday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105. Condolences may be shared at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

Lunch Menus

Maple/John Greer

MONDAY: Chicken patty/bun, broccoli, cucumber slices, applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: Cheese quesadilla, chips & salsa, salad, baby carrots, pineapple, milk

WEDNESDAY: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, celery sticks, pears, milk

THURSDAY: Biscuit & gravy, sausage links, hash brown, baby carrots, mandarin orange, milk

FRIDAY: Pepperoni pizza, salad, Veggy Juice, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area Middle School

MONDAY: Chicken patty, veggies, corn, applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, pineapple, milk

WEDNESDAY: Fettuccini Alfredo, Max Stick, salad, pears, milk

THURSDAY: Mini corndog, veggies baked beans, peaches, milk

FRIDAY: Pizza, salad, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area High School

MONDAY: Chicken patty or hot ham & cheese, corn, salad bar, applesauce, milk, juice

TUESDAY: Country fried steak or Hot Pocket, mashed potatoes, green beans, pineapple, milk, juice

WEDNESDAY: Fettuccini Alfredo or BBQ rib/bun, Max Stick, salad bar, pears, milk, juice

THURSDAY: Mini corndog or cheeseburger, baked beans, salad bar, peaches, milk, juice

FRIDAY: Pizza or fish sandwich, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk, juice

monthly People Enjoying People potluck party at 5 p.m. Monday at the church, 403 E. Main St.

Main dish, drinks and table service provided. Those who want to bring a side dish or dessert to share are welcome to do so. There is no cost. All are welcome.

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include:

The library will be closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Littles @ the Library, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Pre-school story, craft and playtime for children from birth to age 5 and their caregivers.

Coffee, Craft & Conversation 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays. Crochet, knit, sew and other needlecraft, along with

Candy continued from other side

With all the products available, the Thomases tried to find items that aren't available in other Hoopeston stores, and have chosen mostly smaller companies to sell their products.

The store boasts products from around the world, including Japan, Italy, Thailand and Australia. Mr. Thomas said when they were considering what kinds of candies to have, they asked the owners of La Casa del Sol, Hoopeston's Mexican restaurant, what candies they liked from Mexico, and have some in stock.

The store has candy for every budget, Lisa Thomas said: from five-cent pieces to an Ant Eaters game, complete with edible black ants, for \$19.95. Gummy candies come in all shapes, sizes, and prices, including a large shark, hot dogs, macaroni & cheese and tarantulas. There are also candies like Lil Nitro, billed as being 900 times hotter than a jalapeno, as well as candy that tastes like pizza and fried chicken.

Sodas are on the west wall, featuring many flavors of new and old favorites. There are several root beers from different companies, red and clear cream sodas and Green River Soda, which dates back to 1916.

While James and their sons have done much of the work to transform the building, Lisa is the driving force behind the idea. Formerly an employee of Pamida and Shopko, she went into full time private elder care. Wanting to slow down, she went to part time care. She takes a bit of teasing from her family now, that running a candy and soda shop won't let her slow down much longer.

As the renovations were nearing completion in December, the couple looked for products to offer and learned that right before Christmas was not the best time to order candy...or other items. James said while shopping online,

those who do other portable handcrafts are inviting to bring their projects and enjoy a morning of fun and conversation!

January's adult craft program at Hoopeston Public Library will be a take home project. Create a stained-glass style sun catcher which can be hung in a window. The craft is free. Instructions and supplies are provided. A limited number of craft kits are available now and can be picked up at the library's upstairs main desk.

For information on library programs, call (217) 283-6611 or stop by 110 N. Fourth St.

HMA activities

Women's Morning Donut Group meets at 8:15

they would put things in their cart, only to find out when they placed the order that several were no longer in stock.

Lisa said they wanted a vintage cash register and scales for the counter, but those weren't available, either.

The candy and soda shop take up only part of the big building but plans are in the works to convert the rest into an arcade and a party room, both of which were suggested by the Lorraine Foundation, James said. With the Little Lorraine next door and an arcade and party room, the two businesses could offer more space and attractions for birthday and other parties.

James is no stranger to the Lorraine Foundation. As owner of Thomas Construction, he has done extensive brick and other work on the Lorraine Theatre, as part of the foundation's restoration efforts.

The business is something the family has been thinking about for about five years, Lisa said. They had looked for a building but didn't find one that fit the bill. However, with recent new development in Hoopeston and the availability of building, they decided the time was right, not only to fulfill Lisa's dream but also "to give back to the community," she said.

Main St. Parlor will be open 1:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. The shop will be closed Tuesdays.

Weather

Decreasing clouds today. High 36. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 27. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, chance of snow late. High 36, low 30.

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

a.m. every Wednesday in the large room at Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave. Come join us!

Card group meets Wednesday for euchre starting 12:30.

From the Blotter

Kari Bernard, 37, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 6:35 p.m. Friday in the 600 block of West Elm. She was issued a citation for allowing an unauthorized person to driver her vehicle.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 2:17 p.m. Saturday to the 1100 block of Savannah Ct., for an active carbon monoxide detector. Firemen determined it was faulty and advised that it be replaced.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is hiring 2nd Shift Compounders, \$20/hour. Applications available onsite at www.full-fill.com. EOE

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Operators. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13375

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13293

Silgan Containers is hiring an Electrician – Industrial/Maintenance Technician. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13392

Silgan Containers is hiring a Production Supervisor/Manager Trainee. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13376

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.

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:101 E Penn St. Hoopeston, Starting pay based on experience.