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Just the Facts Lourdine Florek, Owner
Thursday, February 9, 2023
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Jim, Betty Richards have passion for young people, theater

Jim and Betty Richards of Hoopeston met when Jim taught Betty how to drive in Driver's Ed in high school. "He can't complain about my driving," laughed Betty when talking about his teaching career. The couple got married in 1989 and have been involved in the Hoopeston community in one way or another ever since.

Both born and raised in Hoopeston, Jim taught many different classes from PE to history to consumer economics as well as driver's education. Betty was the secretary for the superintendent. Now both retired, they find ways to continue their service to students as well as other avenues.

Jim started his career in Bismarck where he was asked to step up into the vacant wrestling coach position. "I had zero background in wrestling, but I was a two-year letter in gymnastics at Eastern Illinois University. So, I used what I knew. I got the kids into shape, and they did so well."

Once Jim came to teach in Hoopeston, he was able to bring what he had learned to the small program. "The program kept growing. I taught the wrestlers, and the wrestlers taught me. I always had my book with me with rules and moves – I was always looking for knowledge. If it was good, we used it. I had the best assistants and fantastic kids."

Jim retired in 1994, and Betty in 2011. Upon retirement, the couple became heavily involved in the Lorraine Theatre Foundation. Betty said, "A friend of mine asked me to go with a group of people to go see the theatre after it had been shuttered for quite some time to see what kind of shape it was in. Jim didn't want to go, but before going in, here came Mr. Richards from across the street." The theatre was in bad shape.

A couple of weeks later, a group of 12 met at the bowling alley, and Jim was elected to be the chair of the foundation. A Hoopeston native had purchased the Lorraine as well as the Little Lorraine and donated



Photo provided
BETTY and JIM RICHARDS

them to the foundation. After Christmas in 2013, the first movie, 'Fast and Furious', was shown at the Little Lorraine in order to help earn money to support their efforts.

Since then, both theaters are up and running. They host movies, plays, bands, and events to raise money to continue improvements. Last year, Jim stepped down as president and Betty stepped into the treasurer role. The couple continues to pour their hearts into the project for the community. "We've turned a corner," talking with pride about how far they have come.

Thank you, Jim and Betty, for your continued dedication to Hoopeston Area and Vermilion County.

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Sports

Ball signups announced

Signups for the upcoming baseball and softball seasons have been announced.

Hoopeston Area Softball Association will hold signups starting this week. Dates and times are Wednesdays, Feb. 15 and 22, from 5-7 p.m. and Sundays, Feb. 12, 19 and 26 from 1-3 p.m., at Hoopeston City Hall.

Hoopeston Area Youth Baseball will hold signups on Saturdays, February 11, 18 and 25 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and Sundays February 12, 19 and 26 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 112 Wine & Coffee Shop.

From the Blotter

Marcos Morales, 22, of Danville, was arrested after police were called at 10:46 p.m. Sunday to McFerren Park for a vehicle that hit a fence by the skate park. He was charged with no valid registration, operating an uninsured vehicle and illegal transportation of alcohol.

The 2016 Chrysler 300 he was driving was towed from the scene,

Officers on patrol arrested Jason R. Reyes, 35, of Hoopeston, on an Iroquois County warrant. He was arrested at 12:11 a.m. Tuesday at West Penn and South Seventh Ave. He was taken to the Iroquois County Jail to await arraignment.

Obituaries

PUNDT - Diana Lou (Bever) Pundt, 82, of Bismarck, died at 8:13 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. A celebration of her life will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at Blurton Funeral Home, Potosi. Visitation will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Gundy Cemetery, Bismarck. Memorials are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association. Condolences may be left at www.blurtonfuneralhomes.com.



Photo submitted

Sectional-bound Hoopeston Area wrestlers

Six Cornjerker wrestlers heading to sectional competition

Cornjerker Wrestling placed 4th as a team at the Class 1A Regional Saturday in Pontiac. We had 6 wrestlers advance to Sectionals next weekend in Clinton. The wrestlers advancing are..

Charlie Flores - 106 (2nd)

Aiden Bell - 126 (2nd)
Rasiah Jones - 132 (2nd)
Ceasar Espinoza - 138 (2nd)
Ayden Larkin - 152 (3rd)
Angel Zamora - 160 (3rd)

Briefly

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include:

Kids STEAM Lab, 3:30 p.m. Thursday, for kids in grades 1-5. This week Math Puzzles.

Stickerpalooza, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11. Kids and adults are invited to stop by and collect stickers, create sticker art or bring their stickers to swap. Tables in the lower level meeting room will be full of lots of free fun. If you like collecting stickers you won't want to miss this!

For information on library programs, call (217) 283-6711 or stop by 110 N. Fourth St.

Weather

HIGH WIND WATCH 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday. Rain, then slight chance of rain today. High 53. Tonight, mostly cloudy, breezy. Low 30. tomorrow, cloudy, chance of rain. High 37, low 24.

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

FOR SALE

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Classifieds

HELP WANTED

The City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for the temporary positions of Assistant Manager and Lifeguard for the 2023 swim season for the McFerren Park Public Swimming Pool. Applications and job descriptions are available online at www.cityofhoopeston.com/employment/ and at City Hall, 301 W Main St. Please contact Kristi Hudson, 217-663-9617 or City Hall, 217-283-5833 for questions. Application deadline is Friday, February 17, 2023.

The Vermilion Housing Authority in Hoopeston is hiring a Maintenance Mechanic, starting pay \$20/hr. Applications available online at www.vermilionhousing.com.

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

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 for certified officers.

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

Valentine's Day Special

at

Rossville Family Restaurant

Filet Mignon & Lobster Tails

Serving Tues. - Fri., Feb. 14-17

5 p.m.-Close

715 S. Chicago

(217) 748-6201