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Just the Facts

Monday, March 27, 2023

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348

Lourdine Florek, Owner

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

www.justthefacts.net

City hires law firm to take action on lack of Essex development

Hoopeston officials are taking legal action against the owner of the former Essex building for failing to develop the property according to a contract between him and the city.

In a 7-0 vote, the council approved hiring the law firm of Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, P.C., to represent Hoopeston interests in action against building owner Justin Acton.

"The end goal is to get a developer to take over Essex and actually do something with it," Wise said after the meeting. "The hope was that Mr. Acton would actually work on the building, but that never happened."

Acton approached the council about the building in 2016, shortly he merged his construction company with the former Leemon Construction, as a place to store heavy equipment. When officials said they wanted retail space on the site, Acton amended his plan and said the front of the building would be used for retail businesses, including a new NAPA store, while the back would be used to store his equipment.

In September 2017, Acton's \$1,000 bid was the only one received on the property, and the sale was approved 6-0.

In October 2017, the council approved an ordinance, including a redevelopment plan that gave Acton 180 days to complete "the NAPA wing," and set deadlines to de-

velop other portions of the building.

The NAPA wing was not built, leaving NAPA owner Roger Dittrich, of Watseka, to find a different location for the new store he wanted. Last August, work on a new NAPA building began, on land Dittrich purchased from Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation, just south of Heritage Health.

In December 2018, work was stopped, allegedly by the Illinois EPA, for an unspecified issue. IEPA representatives denied the work-stop order, said then-Mayor Bill Crusinberry.

In 2019, Acton hired a firm to remove asbestos from
See ACTION on other side



Hoopeston Masonic Lodge 709

Spring Breakfast

6-10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 1

Eggs made to order, biscuits & gravy,
grilled sausage, toast, coffee, juice & milk

\$8 per person - Under 5 free

Carryouts welcome

208 W. Orange, Hoopeston

Paxton Area
217-841-4728



C/U Area
217 566-5005

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**Tone-deaf
adjective**

having or showing an obtuse insensitivity or lack of perception particularly in matters of public sentiment, opinion, or taste.

After receiving **MULTIPLE MILLIONS** of dollars in COVID-related funds **AND** approving a backdoor tax increase on a **\$1.8 MILLION** bond issue, Hoopeston Area - and other county school districts - want voters to pay more by approving a **1% tax.**

DON'T LISTEN TO THEM! VOTE NO APRIL 4!

Paid political ad

Cheeseburgers for Paradise

From 5 p.m. - close every Tuesday, we're donating \$5 of each dine-in cheeseburger to a local church.

This week's church is

Bismarck First Christ Church

Kids Meals not included, Limited to 1 cheeseburger/person

Rossville Family Restaurant

715 S. Chicago, Rossville (217) 748-6201

Obituaries

ANDERSON - David Irvin Anderson, 77, a life-long resident of rural Rankin, passed away at 12:35 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at his family farm, surrounded by his family. He was born June 6, 1945, in Paxton, the son of Carl and Mildred (Irvin) Anderson. He married Karen Shore on February 15, 1970, at the East Lynn United Methodist Church and they enjoyed 53 wonderful years together. She survives in rural Rankin.



DAVID ANDERSON

He is also survived by his three sons, Todd (Sara) Anderson of rural Rankin, Nathan (Shannon) Anderson of rural Rankin, and Ryan (Megan) Anderson of Hoopeston; one sister, Judy (Roger) Hooper of Ottawa; five grandchildren, Erin, Anna, Keenon, Kaedon, and Faith Anderson; his mother-in-law, Jeanne Shore; one sister-in-law, Kimberly (Paul) Dalbey of Scottsdale, AZ; one brother-in-law, Robert (Donna) Shore of Rankin; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents; parents; special father-in-law, Warren "Bud" Shore; and brother-in-law, Gerald Brucker.

The Anderson family farm was established in 1919. In 1963, during Dave's senior year of high school, he started farming the family farm with his parents.

He was a member of the East Lynn United Methodist Church, where he served as a past trustee, until its closing. He later became a member of the Hoopeston United

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 10:49 p.m. Monday for mutual aid with Rossville for a structure fire. The call canceled before HFD arrived.

From the Blotter

Marty J. Fink, 69, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 8:37 p.m. Thursday to the 500 block of North Sixth St., for a report of an armed person at the location. Fink was charged with assault and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Methodist Church and most recently attended the Rossville United Methodist Church.

He served as Butler Township Supervisor from 1989 until January 2023 and was the past president of Johnson Drainage District. He also served on the Rankin East Lynn Fire Department for 25 years, was Chairman of the Multi Township Assessing District for 10 years and was a Vermilion County Deputy Coroner under his uncle, Lyle Irvin, for 28½ years. In 1991, Dave started helping Eugene Orr and his son, William Ross Orr, at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Upon Ryan purchasing the funeral home in 2006, together their vision was instrumental in making it what it is today. Dave loved caring for the family farm as he loved to work and stay busy. He enjoyed eating breakfast and drinking coffee with his coffee crew at Henning's and later, the Pit Stop Restaurant. He also enjoyed gardening, mowing his lawn, and was very involved in his sons and grandchildren's activities. Dave's greatest enjoyment was his family, as he was always very supportive in any aspect of their lives.

A visitation will be held 4 - 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at Anderson Funeral Home 427 E. Main St. Hoopeston. The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 30, 2023, at the funeral home with Pastor Chris Quick officiating. Burial will follow in East Lynn Cemetery in East Lynn.

Memorial donations may be made to the FFA Alumni for the David Anderson Memorial C/O Anderson Funeral Home, 427 E. Main St. Hoopeston, IL 60942.

Please visit www.anderson-funeral-home.com to view Dave's eternal tribute page and to send the family condolences.

Arrangements are being handled by the Hoopeston United Methodist Church.

MASDEN - Shelby (James) Masden, 84, of Hoopeston, died at 9:33 a.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2023, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 12 p.m. until the 3 p.m. funeral Monday at New Beginnings of Hoopeston Church. Private family burial will be held. Memorials are suggested to New Beginnings Church of

Weather

Slight chance of showers today. High 46. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 26. Tomorrow, decreasing clouds. High 49, low 23.

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

Hoopeston, 204 E. Main St., Hoopeston IL 60942. Anderson Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

LEE - James V. Lee, 74, of Hoopeston, died Saturday, March 18, 2023, at Iroquois Resident Home, Hoopeston. Cremations rites were by Baier Funeral Home, Watseka. Condolences may be shared at www.baierfuneralhome.com.

DECK - Shirley "Fran" Deck, 86, of Hoopeston, died at 4:35 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2023, at home. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Lunch Menus

Maple/John Greer

MONDAY: Mini corndogs, baked beans, cucumber slices, applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: BBQ rib/bun, fries, baby carrots, peaches, milk

WEDNESDAY: Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, celery sticks, pears, milk

THURSDAY: Ravioli, Max Stick, salad, baby carrots, pineapple, milk

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

Hoopeston Area Middle School

MONDAY: Chicken strips, corn, veggies applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: Chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, pineapple, milk

WEDNESDAY: Biscuit & gravy, sausage links, hash brown, veggies, mandarin orange, milk

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

FRIDAY: Pizza, lettuce salad, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area High School

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

TUESDAY: Chicken & noodles or calzone, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad bar, pineapple, milk, juice

WEDNESDAY: Biscuit & gravy or BBQ rib/bun, scrambled eggs, hash brown, salad, mandarin orange, 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

Action continued from other side

the property, found after an IEPA inspection. In January 2021, Crusinberry said Acton was waiting to hear from the Illinois Attorney General's office about a possible fine for not addressing the asbestos issue sooner.

In April 2022, Wise said Acton reported he would be working on the Essex building, and former Coffee Cup building.

Along with development deadlines, the contract stipulated that if Acton sold any part of the property within the first five years, he would pay the city \$100,000. The contract expired in October 2022.

"When the original contract expired, our time was up and we either acted right then or let it go forever," Wise said after the meeting. "The council voted to act."

Attorney Andrew Keyt will represent the city. He practices in the firm's Chicago and Peoria offices.

In unrelated action, the council approved, 7-0, a rate hike for residents participating in Hoopeston's residential electric aggregation program. Provider Good Energy requested the increase, from .00075/kwh to .0010/kwh, said Ald. Bob Porth.

Classifieds

NOTICE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN To the legal voters, residents of the Town of South Ross in the County of Vermilion and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 6:45 o'clock PM. At 101 South Chicago Street-Township Garage in Alvin, IL

For the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of Officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Nominations for Moderator
- IV. Reading of Prior Year's Minutes
- V. Reports a. Supervisor - Treasurer Report/Fund Accounts
- VI. Public Comments
- VII. Adjournment

Donna I White Clerk
Regular meeting of South Ross Township to immediately follow