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Bertha's



By
BERTHA PARSONS

Life! Make It Up!

On this hot summer day, I'm thinking about my life and how did I get to where I am today? Seems every few months, maybe even days, my life changes. How, you wonder? Well, I used to work full time, now I am part-time or no-time. I used to have kids to care for, now my kids are grown and taking care of themselves! I lived in a big two story house, now I am in my little one story bungalow. That is just to name a few of the changes.

My wonderful husband and my lifestyle has changed many times over the 60 years we have been together. It is amazing how hours, then days, then months turn into 60 years....What have I been doing all those years? Well, to start with it was learning to live with each other, then there were children, three of them, raised into good, productive and loving adults. Then moving from one town to another and back again. Working full time, working no time and finding new things to fill our life.

Those of you who have been married only a few years may be thinking, "Sixty years is forever!" You're right! When we were only married a year, we got an invitation to a 25th anniversary party. All we could say was, "25 years is forever." Sixty years and counting is forever! I have to say it has been a wonderful adventure! We have been blessed!

Our life, your life, is what we make it to be. We decided a long, long time ago that we were in this marriage TOGETHER! Not just me, not just him. It was a marvelous idea that still works today. The same can be said, "We are in this thing called life together." Not just me, not just you. It's all of us together, no matter what comes! Just today, I called my friend, Joyce, to see how she was and asked for her prayers concerning a personal matter. Of course she was happy to pray for me and my concern. My life is so much better with her in it!

Making up our life is a continuing event, every day, every year. Life has open arms to hold you up and help you see how awesome you can be in this. Life is like looking in a mirror. Sometimes you like what you see, and other times you are not happy with the sight! Now is the time to experience life! Make it the best life ever! You alone can and should make your life all you want it to be. Go ahead and make it up!

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Just the Facts

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Louridine Florek, Owner

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Hoopeston City Hall open as cooling center through hot spell

Beginning at 11 a.m. yesterday and going through 7 p.m. Saturday, the City of Hoopeston will open city hall from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. to be used as a cooling center.

Brad Hardcastle, director of Hoopeston Emergency Management Agency, announced the opening of the cooling center in a press release Wednesday.

The cooling center will be in the council chambers/courtroom of city hall, at 301 W. Main. Those who use the facility are asked to check in at the police station window when they arrive at city hall.

Residents are reminded to stay hydrated, stay in air-conditioned rooms, stay out of the sun, and check up

on relatives and neighbors. Take extra precautions if you work or spend time outside.

Anyone overcome by heat should be moved to a cool and shaded location and 9-1-1 called for the person.

If your pets are outdoor animals, make sure they have plenty of fresh, cool water and have a shaded spot outdoors or make arrangements to bring them inside.


The predicted heat has canceled Hoopeston Public Library's Truck Roundup will not be held. Library staff apologize for the inconvenience and hope to reschedule this event for later in the fall.

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Obituaries

MAIRE - Thomas Alfred "Tom" Maire, 85, of Hoopeston, passed away at 9:43 a.m. Sunday, July 23, 2023, at his home. He was born March 15, 1938, in Danville, the son of Lester Maire, Sr. and Faye (LeConte) Maire. He married Elizabeth A. "Betty" Barteck on June 13, 1959, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Westville. She preceded him in death.



TOM MAIRE

He is survived by one daughter, Tracey Taylor of Danville; one son, Jeff (Deanna) Maire of Covington, IN; two sisters-in-law, Mary Carter of Westville, and Wilma Maire of Highland; two grandchildren, Zach Maire and Melissa (Kyle) Smith; two step-grandchildren, Rebecca and Chris Taylor; six nieces; and four nephews.

In addition to his wife of 49 years, he was preceded in

death by his parents and in-laws; one sister, Loretta Gullick; and one brother, Lester Maire, Jr.

Tom graduated from Danville High School and then entered the United States Navy, serving from 1956 until he was honorably discharged in 1961. After the service, he returned to Danville and married Betty, starting a family. The opportunity arose to open his own grocery store on Main Street in Danville across from the junior college. In the mid 1960's he went to work for Holiday Square IGA, along with Betty. In the early 1970's Tom went to work for Grab-It-Here Food Markets, and Betty became a stay-at-home mom. Once the Grab-It-Here chain closed, Tom and Betty opened Save-A-Lot in Hoopeston in 1980. The community welcomed them, and their business was quite successful. The retail operation had grown differently from the Save-A-Lot franchise model so Tom had a challenge for his customers to help give the store a new name. From the submissions, Price-Less Foods was chosen, and succeeded until the sale of the business and his retirement in 2006.

What made the store survive was his "customer first" motto, and he built that culture with the employees. Tom also gave back to the community by supporting girls' soft-

ball, little league, and various other charities through donations or helping when he could.

After his retirement from Price-Less Foods, Tom worked at the Hoopeston Area High School cafeteria. He was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Hoopeston and was a former member of the Vermilion County Merit Commission and the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce. His favorite pastime was golfing, especially with his special friend, Chalmers Flint.

Cremation rites will be accorded. A visitation will be held 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at Anderson Funeral Home, 427 E. Main St. Hoopeston. The memorial service will follow the visitation, beginning at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home, with Father Michael Powell officiating. Burial will follow in Resurrection Cemetery in Danville.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Tom to the donor's choice.

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

Anderson Funeral Home in Hoopeston is handling the arrangements.

Weather

HEAT ADVISORY through 7 p.m. Saturday. Sunny today. High 93. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 74. Tomorrow, hot, chance of thunderstorms late. High 96, low 71.

For real time Hoopeston weather information, go to justthefacts.net/weather/.



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City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

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