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Just the Facts

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348
Lourdine Florek, Owner

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Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

www.justthefacts.net

New year, new rules - more than 300 new laws in Illinois

An increase in the minimum wage and paid time off for all Illinois workers are just two of more than 300 laws that go into effect in Illinois on January 1, 2024.

Minimum wage will increase to \$14 per hour, starting January 1. The hike is part of a law signed in 2019 that increases the minimum wage to \$15 per hour starting in 2025.

The change applies to most workers 18 and older. Pay for teens working less than 650 hours in a calendar year will increase to \$13 an hour. The minimum wage for tipped workers will increase to \$9 per hour.

Another employment-related change was approved during January's lame duck session. The Paid Leave for All Workers Act requires most employers to provide 40

hour of paid time off per year to workers, and allows employees to request days off with only seven days' notice. For unplanned absences which could not be foreseen, the request needs to be "as soon as possible."

The law also bans employers from requiring or asking employees to find replacements for them if they take time off. Employers are also prohibited from discriminating against workers to take time off by cutting their hours or not giving them opportunities for advancement.

Another law passed in January's lame duck session requires residents who own guns, ammunition and accessories classified in the state's "assault weapons" ban to register those items with the state. The law is expected to eventually go to the U.S. Supreme Court, although a federal judge last week declined to temporarily halt the law's enforcement and the U.S. high court also declined to stay the law. The Democrat-majority Illinois Supreme Court upheld the law in a 4-3 ruling in August.

Other laws approved this year that take effect January 1, 2024 include:

- It is now illegal for drivers to videoconference or checking social media pages while driving.
- Utilities are banned from shutting off gas or electric services due to nonpayment when temperatures exceed 90 degrees or a heat advisory is in effect.
- High school students will now be taught the dangers of fentanyl in state-required health courses.



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FAMILY SPECIALS:
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New Year's Eve Bowling
Family Bowling 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$3/person & Free Shoe Rental
At 7 p.m., it's 4-person-4 game 9 pin
Open to everyone - \$30 per person

New Year's Eve Dinner Specials
Prime Rib, Ribeye Steak and
Grilled Chicken Breast (2)
Meals include choice of potato and side
Salad extra
Serving 4-8:30 Full menu also available
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Closed New Year's Day
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Obituaries

MORTS - Virginia May Morts, 96, of Hoopeston, passed away on Tuesday, December 26, 2023, at Heritage Health Therapy and Senior Living in Hoopeston. She was born on May 2, 1927, in Rossville, the daughter of Earl Wood and Agnes (McCluskey) Wood.



VIRGINIA MORTS

Virginia graduated from John Greer High School with the class of 1945. After graduation, she worked as a secretary at Food Machinery Corporation. In 1948, she married her high school sweetheart, Floyd Morts. She completed the Heim Beauty School in Chicago in 1950.

Floyd and Virginia celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2008. He preceded her in death on December 23, 2008. Her parents, three brothers, one sister, and several nieces and nephews also preceded her in death.

Survivors include one son, Larry D. (Anne) Morts of Valdosta, GA; one daughter, Diane A. (Ron) Cress of Zionsville, IN; three grandchildren, Brad Cress of Veed-

ersburg, IN, Amber (Matt) Smith of Fort Wayne, IN, and Megan (Austin) Holtz of Westfield, IN; and four great-grandchildren, Everett Smith, Kyla Smith, Grayson Holtz, and Payton Holtz.

Virginia was a member of the First Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Hoopeston where she served on numerous committees, including treasurer. She also worked as the church secretary for 15 years, retiring to help her husband farm.

Her hobbies included sewing, crocheting, square dancing, swimming with her friends, and reading. She was an avid fan of the U of I basketball team. Virginia was a former member of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha sorority, Jolly Dozen Club, Merry Circle Club, Sweet Corners Square Dance Club, Eastern Star, Euchre Club, and the Farm Bureau.

Private services will be held.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made in memory of Virginia to the First Christian Church Disciples of Christ, 502 E. Main St. Hoopeston, IL 60942, or the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, 13770 Noel Road, Suite 801889, Dallas, TX 75380.

Briefly

New Year's closings

- Hoopeston administrative offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday.
- Trash pickup will run one day behind next week.
- Hoopeston Public Library will be closed Monday.
- Just the Facts will not be printed Monday and Tuesday.

Addiction recovery group

The men's addiction recovery group will not meet Sunday.

Weather

Chance of rain/snow today. High 40. Tonight, chance of rain, them mostly cloudy. Low 30. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 40, low 29. Sunday, mostly cloudy. High 35, low 24. New year's Day, partly sunny.. High 34, low 21. Tuesday, mostly sunny. High 36, low 26.

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



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Hablamos Español

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

Anderson Funeral Home in Hoopeston is handling the arrangements.

CROSS - Lucy Jean (Floyd) Cross, 90, of Hoopeston, died at 7:10 a.m. Monday, December 25, 2023, at Hoopeston Regional Health Center. Visitation will be 10 - 11 a.m. Friday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Graveside service will follow at 11:15 a.m. Friday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Condolences may be shared at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

SORENSON - Mary Louise (Sheridan) Sorenson, 88, of Watseka, formerly of Wellington, died Wednesday, December 27, 2023, at Gifford Country Health, Gifford. Visitation will be 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka, with the Nurses Honor Guard ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. Edmund Catholic Church, Watseka. Burial will be in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, Woodworth. Memorials are suggested to the church or Iroquois Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship Fund. Condolences may be shared at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at silgancontainers.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/silgan/job/Mechanic_R174.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is hiring for 2nd Production Machine Operators, \$18/hour. Apply at www.full-fill.com Applications available onsite. EOE

East Lynn Fertilizer is looking for a full-time custom applicator. Competitive Pay. Health Insurance & Retirement Plans. Apply in person at 41284 S Main St. East Lynn, IL.

Aquality Solutions is looking for men or women to deliver its products to area businesses and residential customers. This position offers benefits and incentive bonuses. Apply in person at 102 N 1st Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

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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