

CELEBRATE RECOVERY
 Celebrate Recovery = Sustainable recovery
6 p.m. Thursdays
Hoopeston First Church of God
 1004 East Orange St. 217-283-6301
All are welcome
 This week: Lesson *Powerlessness*
 Dinner and/or snacks served
Transportation available upon request

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 1121 S. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston
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Email: publish@justthefacts.net

Just the Facts
Thursday, January 18, 2024
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Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348
 Lourdine Florek, Owner

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www.justthefacts.net



Becky Puetz, of WPXN radio, interviews former Hoopeston resident Dennis Noyes about his first novel, *Yonders, Illinois*.

Dennis Noyes sets debut novel in fictionalized Hoopeston

Former Hoopeston resident who has written extensively about motorcycle racing has turned his attention to fiction writing, using a town remarkably like Hoopeston as its setting.

Yonders, Illinois, Dennis Noyes' first novel, was released in November. Noyes, who lived in Spain and now is in California, debuted the book at Boxcar Books & Vinyl in downtown Hoopeston November 15, meeting first with local media, followed by a chat session with friends and former classmates.

The story begins in 1959, when the perpetrator of a triple homicide escapes the consequences of his actions, only to return in 1998. Buster Lawson, a rookie cop when the murders occurred and now police chief, looks to right the wrong committed years before.

Noyes juggled seven voices - male and female - with an equal number of perspectives, a process he said was "difficult. I took a big challenge because I write the point of view from each of those seven characters," he said. "The eighth voice is the narrator and that's not me, that's Hoopeston. That's *Yonders*."

Noyes' character used the language of the day. A self-described Northsider, "the language I use is language that everyone would have been comfortable with back in the day on the north side."

See NOVEL on other side

Retiring city employees to be feted at open house January 31

Five Hoopeston employees, with a combined 116 years of service to the city, will be honored at an open house from 5-6:30 p.m. January 31 at Hoopeston City Hall.

Two elected officials, City Clerk Gail Lane and Treasurer Edge Bookwalter, retired from their positions on December 31. Each has served 22 years.

Dispatch Supervisor Tom Bookwalter, with Hoopeston Police Department for 17 years, will retire February 2. Roger Uden, former parks superintendent, retired after 6 years in that position and 11 total years.

Steve Baker is the longest-serving employee to retire with 44 years of service, 17 as water superintendent. He will retire at the end of February.

New Year, New Agent

Four Corners Insurance Agency
 of Rankin and Hoopeston, IL is pleased to announce Corey Moore has joined our agency. He is licensed in crop insurance, as well as farm, home and auto.



Corey is a lifelong Hoopeston resident and has been in the Marine Corps for the last four years as a Corporal. He currently serves as a Sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves. He, his wife, Jena, and daughter, Jaycie, reside outside of Hoopeston.

Contact Corey at 217-397-2250 or 217-283-5515 for an insurance quote.

We are pleased to welcome Corey to Agencies.

Novel continued from other side

The book is set in the fictitious town of Yonders, but readers will recognize pictures on the front and back covers as shots of Hoopeston's downtown, looking westward on Main St. from Third St. The back cover photo is a shot from the south side of the street, and includes in several buildings currently being demolished as well as the city's water tower, emblazoned with YONDERS.

Vermilion County was renamed Marigold County. County Line Road between Vermilion and Iroquois counties was christened "00" and other familiar Hoopeston streets were renamed for the novel. Hoopeston became Yonders.

There are few indicators in the book linking it to Hoopeston. One of the few nods to its real location is tied to his grandmother. When Noyes is in Hoopeston, he visits her at Floral Hill Cemetery. "I couldn't change the name of the cemetery," he said.

Noyes said he got police procedure tips from a couple of local law enforcement personnel. "Chief Mark Drollinger was very helpful," Noyes said, "and maybe a couple of stories I got from Rodney Kaag."

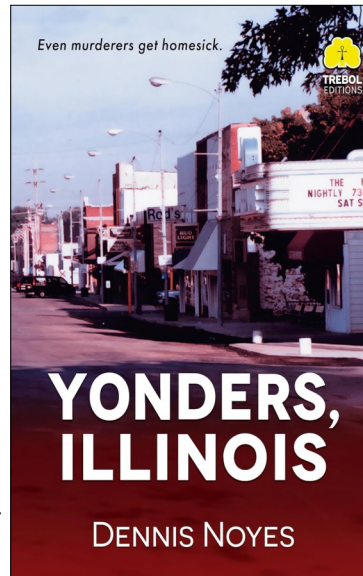
Asked where the name, Yonders" came from, Noyes said it came from the connection between Kentucky and Hoopeston and how Kentuckians, when planning a trip

north, referred to it as "going up yonder."

A member of Hoopeston High School's class of 1961, Noyes returned to the classroom while in Hoopeston for his book, speaking with students about his life and writing career.

After graduating high school, Noyes attended the University of Illinois and was "promptly kicked out." He then attended Monmouth College and graduated in 1966.

While at Monmouth, a short story he wrote won the Atlantic Monthly Creative Writing for Students. He attended a writers' conference at Middlebury, Vt., where he met William Styron, an up-and-coming young novelist who was working on his classic, *The Confessions of Nat Turner*. "He told me don't write a novel until you have more life experience," Noyes said. It was advice he heeded.



The street scene on the cover of *Yonders, Illinois*, might look familiar to local residents.

After college, Noyes began writing short stories for magazines. He traveled to Venezuela, where he found himself with no money. He located the English language Caracas Daily Journal. "The last thing they said to me was 'I wish we could use you but we can't.'" He was eventually hired to do society page work for a different publication.

He went to Spain, planning to teach for a year or so and start his novel, but instead, he traded in his interest for modified stock car racing at Vermilion County Speedway and instead became a professional motorcycle racer for 17 years. He then was a Grand Prix journalist and Spanish-language TV commentator for Spanish networks.

Noyes has published four books in Europe - two in Spanish and two in English - both dealing with Grand Prix motorcycle racing. They include *Moto-course: 50 Years of Moto Grand Prix* :

The Official History of the Fim Road Racing World Championship Grand Prix which was released in January 1999 and *Cinta Americana*, a collection of 30 years of Spanish motorcycle columns, released in 2017.

Yonders, Illinois was published by Trébol Editions in Spain and printed in Serbia. A long shipping delay during the Christmas season make the book more difficult to find but Noyes announced recently that nine boxes of books arrived, with one box going to Boxcar Books and Vinyl in Hoopeston. The book may be purchased at the store, at 201 E. Main St., or ordered by calling (217) 769-9310 or emailing boxcarbooksandvinyl@gmail.com.

Obituaries

DECK - Kenneth Wayne Deck, 68, of Alvin, died at 9:45 a.m. Monday, January 15, 2024, at home. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Thursday at Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeston. A celebration of his life will be at 1 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will be in Bethel Cemetery. Condolences may be shared at www.blurtonfuneralhomes.com.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Customer Account Representative

The Frederick Community Bank in Cissna Park has a position available for a **part-time** Customer Account Representative. Applicant must have skills interacting with customers, ability to handle various transactions accurately, and be part of a team environment. If you are interested, please mail your resume to The Frederick Community Bank, PO Box 36, Cissna Park, IL 60924, or pick up an application from the receptionist in Cissna Park.

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.

From the Blotter

Jose L. Cabrales, 47, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 3:03 p.m. Tuesday at East Main and South Market. Found to have a suspended license, he was charged with that offense, as well as operating when registration suspended.

Cabrales processed at the police station and released on notices to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

Dana A. Wilkening, 55, of Hoopeston, was stopped at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday at West Elm and South Sixth Ave., after a computer check showed the plates to be suspended.

She was charged with operating motor vehicle when registration suspended for no insurance and operating uninsured vehicle and was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

Haley M. Edwards, 27, of Hoopeston, was charged after a traffic stop at 11:47 p.m. Tuesday at South Sixth Ave. and West Orange

She was processed at the police station, where she was charged with driving while license suspended and operating when registration suspended for noninsurance and was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

Briefly

At the Library

Coffee, Craft & Conversation 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays. Crochet, knit, sew and other portable handcrafts are inviting to bring their projects and enjoy a morning of fun and conversation!

Steam Lab for Kids, 3:30 p.m. Thursday. This week, Make Playdough.

Sports

Boys Basketball

Kendrick Sigerill led Hoopeston Area in scoring and rebounds in the team's 63-36 win over Georgetown-Ridge Farm in Vermilion County Tournament action Tuesday.

Sigerill had 17 points and nine rebounds for the night. Mason Rush had four three-pointers toward his point total of 15. Trenton Montez contributed 12. Ethan Steiner had nine, Wyatt Eisenmann five, and Brayden Walder kicked in a three-pointer. Cole Miller had two on the night.

After a night off Wednesday, the Cornjerkers will be back in county tournament action Thursday, facing Oakwood.

January adult craft "Diamond Art Coaster," will be held at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22. Supplies will be furnished for this popular crafting technique. To register, call or stop by.

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

Breast cancer support

Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support group meets the third Thursday of each month at The Pit Stop at Fast Lanes Bowling Alley. The next meeting will be January 18.

Please spread the word and join us for a meeting to offer support to past and present breast cancer survivors.

For more information, call Pat Foster, (815) 984-4040 or (309) 208-9829.

Weather

Snow likely today, tonight. High 29, low 12. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 15, low 0.

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