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Just the Facts

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Hoopeston's only locally-owned news publication!

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Hoopeston Area Athletic Hall of Fame to add nine names to roster at induction ceremony

The Hoopeston Area Athletic Hall of Fame will grow by nine entries when the class of 2024 is officially inducted on February 2. The public is invited to attend the induction ceremony at approximately 7 p.m. Friday, between the JV and varsity basketball games. Those being inducted this year include:

Mark Alt, a two-time IHSA All-State performer, winning an IHSA State Championship as a member of the 880 yd. relay



ALT

team, and also as an IHSA State Finals runner-up as a member of the 440 yd. relay team, earned 10 Varsity letters while representing the Cornjerkers in the 1970s, earning four letters in basketball, four in track & field, and two in baseball. Alt won over 20 individual and relay championships at the county, conference, invitational, and district levels and held seven school records, including three in the 880 Relay, two in the 440 Relay and twice in the 120 yd. high hurdles. The hurdles record stood for 28 seasons.

Larry Davis, who taught history and coached high school football for 30 years. Davis taught at Winola, Anna-Jonesboro, Mt. Carmel, Sullivan and Geneva. In his



DAVIS

coaching career, he took eight teams to the state playoffs. Head coach at Mr. Carmel from 1968-82, he amassed a record of 113-33-1 and won six North Egypt Conference titles. In 1974, Mt. Carmel was the Class 3A state runner-up and in 1981, was the Class 3A state champion

Tim Drollinger, a 1975 graduate of Hoopeston-East Lynn. In football his junior year, Drollinger earned All-County, All-Conference, and Honorable Mention All-State playing fullback and linebacker. In his senior year, he played the same positions and was honored again with All-County, All-Conference, and Honorable Mention All-State.



DROLLINGER

His high school wrestling career consisted of all four years of school. His career record was 95 wins and 20 losses. He was All County for three years and placed fourth in the state his junior year, and third in the state his senior year, won several tournaments, including Bismarck, Rockford, and Sterling Newman.



DUFFIN

Linda Duffin, a lifelong Cornjeker who graduated from Hoopeston High School in 1961. She earned her bachelor's degree in education from Southern Illinois University in 1965. She began teaching in Hoopeston in 1967 as a

See FAME on other side

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 2:17 p.m. Wednesday for a lift assist with Arrow Ambulance in the 600 block of Sycamore Dr.

Firefighters were dispatched after Police Chief Chris Kelnhofer was flagged down and notified about a gas main being struck at the Bank St. Crossing building 221 S. Bank St. No injuries were reported.

From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 7:59 p.m. Wednesday in the 400 block of South Fourth St.

Police said Mary L. Barten, 72, of Hoopeston, was southbound in a 2023 Buick Enclave and struck a 2009 Saturn VueXR, owned by Aaron S. Lewis, also of Hoopeston. The Saturn was parked on the east side of the road facing north, police reported. Barten said she did not see the vehicle due to the fog.

Both vehicles were towed from the scene.

Alexandra L. Wilson, 27, of Watseka, was ticketed after a traffic stop at 3:17 p.m. Friday at South Fifth St. and East Main. She was charged with operating uninsured vehicle and released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

Putting you first made us #1.

Mike Pemberton, Agent
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AQUALITY SOLUTIONS, LLC.

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 our Agencies.

Fame continued from other side

physical educator when John Greer was a middle school, and she remained tethered to the John Greer gymnasium until her retirement in 2003. She coached middle school volleyball (1986-1999; 2002-2009), basketball (1987-1988), and sixth grade relay track teams. Duffin's legacy to Cornjerker athletics is her investment in the young people of the community. She introduced them to sports, developed their fundamentals, and created an atmosphere that inspired lifelong learning.

Erika (Ramos) Seidel was a stand-out at Hoopeston Area High School in track and cross country. She won the 800-meter run all four years and remains the County and Vermilion Valley Conference record-holder in the 800-meter run with times of 2:24.2 and 2:22.74, respectively. Seidel broke the 30-year record (set in 1989) at the All-Area News-Gazette track meet at the University of Illinois with a time of 2:17. She qualified for the state track meet all four years in the 800-meter run. She placed seventh and fifth, respectively, in 2008 and 2009 and earned all-state honors in cross country her junior and senior years.



SEIDEL

Seidel competed for Eastern Illinois University from 2009-2013. In college, she was a two-sport athlete, competing for EIU in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track. She was a 14-time All-Ohio Valley Conference winner for both sports. Erika has held records in events such as 6k, mile run, distance medley relay, 4x400 meter relay (indoor), and 4x800 meter relay (outdoor).



SHOFLER

Gary Shoufler qualified for the IHSA State Wrestling Tournament three times, highlighted by a second place finish his senior year, leading his team to a fifth place overall finish in the team standings. That fifth place finish is the highest finish ever for a Hoopeston wrestling team. He won three Individual IHSA District Championships, two IHSA Sectional Championships, was a two-time Wauseca Conference Champion, two-time champion at the Normal Community Tour-

namment, and also won the Stillman Valley Tournament title. He set school records for "reversals" and "most wins," along with being the first Cornjerker wrestler to notch 100 career wins. Upon graduation, his 102 wins made him Hoopeston's "All-time winningest wrestler."

Marissa (Bushue) Smiley played varsity volleyball, basketball, and track all four years.

In volleyball, she was named All County, first team All-Area, and special mention All-State.

In basketball, she played on the team that won sectionals. She made the 1,000 point club and was named first team All-Area, and special mention All-State.

In track, she finished second and third in state in the triple jump and fourth in the long jump, receiving all-



SMILEY



SMILEY

Smiley began to coach college football fulltime with stops around the country. In 2013, he got his break in the NFL with the Jacksonville Jaguars as their special teams' assistant. After four years with Jacksonville, he went to work with the Buffalo Bills in the same role. In 2022 he was elevated to the Special Teams Coordinator with the Bills. That same season his Buffalo Bills Special Teams unit ranked number 1 in the NFL.

state honors. At EIU, she set the triple jump record of 40 ft. 7.25 in. and has a top 10 EIU long jump of 18ft. 8.75 in.

Matthew Smiley, a member of the class of 1997, was a four-sport athlete, lettering one year in wrestling, two in basketball, three in football and four years in track. He qualified for the state track and field meet three years in four different events. His senior season, he advanced to the state track finals in the 300 hurdles.

Lunch Menus

Maple/John Greer

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets, broccoli, cucumber slices, applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: Taco, refried beans, chips & salsa, salad, peaches, milk

WEDNESDAY: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, bread & butter, celery sticks, pears, milk

THURSDAY: Biscuits & gravy, sausage links, hash browns, baby carrots, mandarin orange, milk

FRIDAY: Pizza Rolls, salad, Veggy Juice, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area Middle School

MONDAY: Orange chicken, rice, veggies, corn, applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, pineapple, milk

WEDNESDAY: Quesadilla, refried beans, chips & salsa, salad, pears, milk

THURSDAY: Cheeseburger, baked beans, veggies, peaches, milk

FRIDAY: Pizza, salad, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area High School

MONDAY: Orange chicken or hot ham & cheese, corn, salad bar, applesauce, milk, juice

TUESDAY: Country fried steak or calzone, mashed

potatoes, green beans, salad bar, pineapple, milk, juice

WEDNESDAY: Spaghetti or BBQ rib/bun, refried Max Stick, salad bar, pears, milk, juice

THURSDAY: Cheeseburger or hotdog, baked beans, salad bar, peaches, milk, juice

FRIDAY: Pizza or chicken strips, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk, juice

Briefly

At the library

Littles @ the Library will not be held Tuesday. It will resume February 6.

Builders Club, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Thursday. For kids of all ages! Free building, challenges, buddy builds and more.

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 42. Tonight, increasing clouds. Low 33. tomorrow, chance of rain/snow, then mostly cloudy. High 39, low 31.

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

The 1984 boys' basketball team was the first basketball team from Hoopeston to advance to the Assembly Hall, making it to the IHSA State Tournament's "Elite Eight". They won the Pontiac Super-Sectional over Toluca, 51-48 in overtime. They were Watseka Sectional champions and Armstrong Regional champions, along with winning the Cornjerker Classic Tournament. They finished the season with a record of 26 and six.

Four players went on to play college basketball.



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.wdl.myworkday.com/en-US/silgan/job/Mechanic_R168.

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.