

CELEBRATE RECOVERY
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6 p.m. Thursdays
Hoopeston First Church of God
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Smoked BBQ
 at
Rossville Family Restaurant
 Sat., Aug. 31, Sun. Sept. 1 & Mon., Sept. 2
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 226 E. Main St. Hoopeston
Music Food (12-2) Treasures
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Open Parade Day, Aug. 31, 9-3

Email: publish@justthefacts.net Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348
Just the Facts Lourdine Eyrich, Owner
Wednesday, August 28, 2024
Hoopeston's only locally-owned news publication!
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Jaycees 'Celebrating 80 Sweet Years of Corn & Community'
 Hoopeston's National Sweetcorn Festival will have its 80th showing Labor Day weekend, with activities for people of all ages.
 Alexis Hardcastle chairs this year's event, her second time at the helm. The first was in 2018, as Alexis Berlin, marking the 75th National Sweetcorn Festival.
 "I really enjoyed the first festival that I chaired," she said, calling it "a big learning experience." With that knowledge under her belt, she said a second go-round "allows you to relax a little more and enjoy the ups and downs you go through planning and setting up the festival. No matter what happens, you have a team of individuals that are backing you every step of the way. The only thing I will do differently this time is to take a little extra time soaking in all the little moments throughout the week, between dinners, the parade, set up, tear down, etc."
 One new thing this year is the amusement company providing rides on the midway. For several years, the Hoopeston Jaycees - sponsors of the National Sweetcorn Festival - contracted with Georgia-based Brady Amusements, and "had great success with them," Hardcastle said. The contract ran through the 79th festival, when "we decided it might be time to explore other options and change things up."
 This year, Connor Family Amusements of Beardstown, See CORN on other side

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 Hours: Monday-Thursday 6am-8pm
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 Sat. 6am-2 pm
 Sun. 8am-2pm



2024 National Sweetcorn Festival

HOOPESTON, IL



Thursday, August 29

- 5 p.m. Gates, Midway, Vendor and Food Area, Flea Market Open
- 5 - 10 p.m. Carnival Ride Special
- 6:30 - 9 p.m. Bingo - (Jaycees Shelter)
- 6:30 - 9 p.m. Souvenir Sales (Jaycees Shelter)
- 10 p.m. Midway, Vendor & Food Area close

Friday, August 30

- 5 p.m. Gates, Midway, Vendor and Food Area, Flea Market Open
- 5 - 11 p.m. Carnival Ride Special
- 6:30-9 p.m. Bingo (Beer Tent)
- 11 p.m. Midway, Vendor & Food areas close

Saturday, August 31

- 6 a.m. Flea Market opens
- 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Bill Orr Memorial 5K Registration
- 7:30 a.m. 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk (Sculpt Fitness)
- 8 a.m. Bill Orr Memorial 5K (Sculpt Fitness)
- 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Car Show Registration (southeast corner McFerren Park)
- 8:45 a.m. Little Corn Eaters Fun Run (Sculpt Fitness)
- 9 a.m. Gates open
- 10:30 a.m. Grand Parade (Downtown)
- 12 p.m. Midway, Vendor and Food Area open
- 12 - 4 p.m. Carnival Ride Special Session 1
- 1 - 2:30 p.m. The Woodchips (Center Stage)
- 1 - 5 p.m. Souvenir Sales (Center Stage)
- 1:30 - 5 p.m. **FREE SWEETCORN**
- 3 - 5 p.m. Mahomet Music Club (Center Stage)
- 3 p.m. Car Show Awards (southeast corner) Grandstand & Beer Tent opens
- 5 p.m. Demolition Derby
- 5-11 p.m. Carnival Ride Special Session 2
- 6:30 p.m. National Sweetheart Pageant Preliminary (Civic Center)
- 11 p.m. Midway, Vendor and Food area, Beer Tent close

Sunday, September 1

- 8 am Flea Market opens
- 9 am Gates open
- 11 am Children's Fishing Derby Registration (Crabtree Shelter)
- 12 p.m. Midway, Vendor, & Food Area opens

- 12 p.m. Kids' Fishing Derby (Lagoon)
- 12-1 p.m. Bee Ziegler (Center Stage)
- 12 - 4 p.m. Carnival Ride Special Session 1
- 12 - 4 p.m. **FREE SWEETCORN**
- 12- 5 p.m. Souvenir Sales (Center Stage)
- 1 p.m. Pony Tail Contest (Center Stage)
- 1:30 p.m. Princess Belle Meet & Greet (Center Stage)
- 2:30 p.m. Kids' Pie Eating Contest (Center Stage)
- 3 p.m. Grandstand, Beer Tent open
- 3 - 5 p.m. Pink Doublewide (Center Stage)

- 5 p.m. Demolition Derby
- 5 - 11 p.m. Carnival Ride Special Session 2
- 6:30 p.m. National Sweetheart Pageant Finals (Civic Center)
- 9 p.m. National Sweetheart Pageant Awards (Civic Center)
- 11 p.m. Midway, Vendor & Food Area, Beer Tent close

Monday, September 2

- 8 a.m. Flea Market opens
- 9 a.m. Gates Open
- 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Cream of the Crop Pretty Baby Contest Registration (Civic Center)
- 10:30 a.m. Cream of the Crop Pretty Baby Contest (Civic Center)
- 12 p.m. Midway, Vendor & Food Area Opens
- 12 - 4 p.m. Carnival Ride Special Session 1
- 12 p.m. James Michael Travis Band (Center Stage)
- 12 p.m.-4 p.m. Souvenir Sales (Center Stage)
- 12 - 4 p.m. **FREE SWEETCORN**
- 12:30 p.m. Duck Race Sales (Crabtree Shelter)
- 1 p.m. Duck Race (Lagoon)
- 2 - 4 p.m. Bingo (Jaycees Shelter)
- 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. Everingham Pittman (Center Stage)
- 5-9 p.m. Carnival Ride Special Session 2
- 7 p.m. Vendor & Food Area closes
- 9 p.m. Midway closes

Sponsored by



Gate Fee: Thursday-Monday \$3.00 (7 and under free)
Hoopston Jaycees reserve the right to alter this schedule.

Corn continued from other side

will provide carnival rides and games. "As an organization, we are looking forward to what they will be bringing," she said.

Connor Family Amusements will have ride specials each day: from 5-10 p.m. Thursday, 5-11 p.m. Friday and 12-4 p.m. and 5-11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and 12-4 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Monday. Four-day ride passes (Thursday-Sunday) are available for \$60 (a \$180 value) and may be purchased at Kirby Foods, Mary's Clothesline and Burger Bank.

In light of rising prices in recent years, Hoopston Jaycees have tried new things to keep the festival afloat. In 2023, the group implemented a 50/50 drawing. Last years haul netted \$798.50 for both the winner and Jaycees. Tickets are one for \$1, six for \$5 and 30 for \$20 and are available at The Burger Bank, 201 E. Penn.

A new donation program launched this year will offset the cost of providing free sweetcorn to festival guests.

In honor of the 80th anniversary, the "Field of Corn" program asked for donors to pay \$80 toward the corn cost. Donors names will be placed on signs that look like ears of corn that will be placed near the corn line. Donors may keep their signs at the end of the festival.

The hot buttered vegetable is spendy. In recent years, corn is billed by the crate. Hardcastle said the Jaycees purchase 1,008 crates, each containing about four dozen ears, for about 48,384 ears total. She will not know how much this year's corn will cost until it is delivered because the cost is based on market price at the time. The Jaycees have an estimated cost of \$13,104 for this year's corn and are hoping this year is better than last.

In the last couple of years, the cost of corn has fluctuated a lot, she said, adding last year's cost ended up at \$20,369.62, "the highest we have ever paid."

The festival began in 1941 and has been held annually except for during WWII and during COVID in 2020.



A blast from the past

Digital photography came to Just the Facts in 2000, allowing more pictures to be featured in its pages. In one of the first digital pictures to appear in print, Jeff Eyrich mans the steam engine on its way to McFerren Park to cook corn for the National Sweetcorn Festival.

Briefly

No fishing in lagoon

Effective immediately, no fishing is allowed at the McFerren Park lagoon until September 3, due to the fishing derby held during the National Sweetcorn Festival.

Focus session set at Multi Agency

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency (ECICAA) will conduct a focus group session from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday at Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave. The survey is being done to decide what services Community Action can offer to assist Hoopeston families. To participate or for more information, call or email Chief Executive Officer Odette Hyatt-Watson, (217) 554-9122 / ohwatson@comaction.org.

At the Library

The Children's Room will be closed all day Friday, Aug. 30. The upstairs will be open regular hours.

The entire library will be closed Saturday through Monday for the Sweetcorn Festival and Labor Day holiday. It will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 3.

HPL's annual Sweetcorn Festival Book Sale is underway in the upstairs Youth Room. Lots of great material for all ages! Everything is for sale by donation! Take what you want; pay what you can!

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

90th birthday to be celebrated

An open house for Anna Whiteman's 90th birthday will be held from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, August 31, at Autumn Fields, 325 E. Orange St., Hoopeston.

Labor Day closings

- Hoopeston administration office will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, for the holiday. The police station will be open.
- Just the Facts will not be printed Monday, Sept. 2. Publication will resume Wednesday, Sept. 4.
- Hoopeston Public Library will be closed Aug. 31-Sept. 2 for the National Sweetcorn Festival and Labor Day. It will reopen Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Green Family reunion

The 140th Green Family reunion will be held starting at noon Sunday, Sept. 8. Anyone related in any way to the Greens of Rossville is invited. A service will be held at 10 a.m. at Mann's Chapel, south of Rossville, followed by a carry-in family dinner at noon at Christman Park, Rossville. A surprise is planned during the dinner. A tour of Rossville Historical Society will be taken in the afternoon.

The reunion is probably the longest one held in Vermilion County, and perhaps Illinois. Money is collected at each reunion and given to Vermilion County for ongoing restoration efforts at Mann's Chapel.

Obituaries

OWENS - Delmar R. Owens, 80, of Cissna Park, died Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation was 1 p.m. until the 3 p.m. funeral Sunday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park. Burial was in Cissna Park Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Cissna Park United Methodist Church. Condolences may be shared at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

SIMPSON - Mary Kathrine "Kathy" (Strawser) Simpson, 77, of Hoopeston, died at 12:17 p.m. Sunday, August 25, 2024, at home. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at anderson-funeral-home.com.

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Lunch & Dinner Specials

Monday: Spaghetti, Taco Salad and grilled and breaded Tenderloins

Tuesday: Chicken Pot Pie, Speedway Burger and Chicken or Beef & Noodles

Wednesday: Rib eye sandwich, Prime rib sandwich or Pork chops

Thursday: Swiss steak or Popcorn Shrimp

Friday: Cod, Rib eye steak and Rib dinners

Saturday: Prime Rib and Rib eye steak dinners

Serving Fish Sandwiches & Dinners after the Parade
719 W. Elm, Hoopeston. Closed Labor Day.

July 1-Sept. 30,
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1 photo selected each week to compete for a \$25 monthly prize. One photographer will win a

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From the Blotter

Shannon Miller, 46, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called to a civil disturbance at 2:30 a.m. Saturday in the 300 block of East Lincoln. Police alleged Miller refused to leave the property and was arrested on preliminary charges of criminal trespass, resisting/obstructing officer, and disorderly conduct. She was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

A **black purse** was found Saturday on the John Greer playground. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Jackie Winchester, 47, of Rossville, was charged with retail theft at 12:03 p.m. Sunday for an incident at Dollar General. He was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Circuit Court.

Julius Thomas, 25, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 3:48 p.m. Sunday in the 400 block of East Honeywell. Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, he was taken to the Public Safety Building by a Vermilion County deputy.

Angel Bane, 44, of Hoopeston, was arrested after

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 6:29 p.m. Friday to Dollar General, 415 S. Dixie Hwy., for a smell of gas in the area. The departed was able to clear without incident.

Firefighters were called at 9:38 a.m. Saturday for a lift assist with Arrow Ambulance in the 300 block of West Washington.

police were called at 9:06 p.m. Sunday for a disturbance in the 300 block of South Third St. She was charged with disorderly conduct and given a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Dakota Hanlin, 32, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 9:36 a.m. Monday to a possible trespassing in the 500 block of South Sixth Ave. On arriving, officers found Hanlin, who was wanted on a Ver-

Hoopeston teen continues to move up in racing ranks

Hoopeston teen Chase Wilson continues to move up in Dirt Car Pro Late Models qualifying, heat and A Feature.

On Friday, Wilson, 16, got his first career Pro Late Model feature win at Farmer City Raceway, after taking firsts in qualifying heat 1 and the feature. In the process, he earned a \$500 prize for his efforts.

On Saturday, Wilson came in second to points leader Dakota Ewing of Warrensburg, at Charleston Speedway.

Wilson is following in the racing footsteps of his father, Jammie Wilson, also of Hoopeston.



Another blast from the past

Mike Malone, of Naperville, and daughter, Brooke, enjoy an elephant ride during the 2009 National Sweetcorn Festival in Hoopeston.

milion County warrant.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of bond.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today, tonight. High 90, low 69. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 87 low 70.

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

BANK OF ROSSVILLE

is accepting applications for a Full Time Teller. Applicants should have excellent math skills and enjoy working with the public. Prior cash handling experience is desirable.

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Classifieds

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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.

RUMMAGE SALES

HOOPESTON: 803 Euclid. Fri. & Sat., 8-2. Men and women's clothing, shoes, knickknacks, router & table, new vacuum sealer, landscape blocks, carpenter & hand tools, patio blocks, lots of misc. Come Rain or Shine!

HOOPESTON: 618 E. Chestnut. Sat, 8-2, Sun. 12-3 p.m. (Clothes, shoes, organizers, etc)

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