

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)
Hoopeston Jaycees reserve the right to alter this schedule.

Email:

publish@justthefacts.net

Just the Facts

Friday, August 30, 2024

Hoopeston's only locally-owned news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348

Louridine Eyrich, Owner

www.justthefacts.net

Odd addition to logo, queens coming to town all part of family

When you're the chair of an event celebrating its 80th run, it can be difficult to be creative. After all, after 80 years - and with plenty of "roostered" out members to help newer hands - the National Sweetcorn Festival runs pretty smoothly.

One area where a chairman can get creative is with the logo for his or her respective festival. And this year's chair, Alexis Hardcastle, has done just that.

A peek at the logo shows four people holding up an ear of corn and a farmer holding a shovel. But wait, what's that shadowy figure amidst the people. Is that a skeleton? In a festival logo?

Yes and yes.

The start of how a skeleton became immortalized on a National Sweetcorn Festival logo goes back a few years, Hardcastle said.

It was during Hoopeston's first golf cart parade hosted by the Lorraine Foundation. Hardcastle's now-husband, Brad, bought a life-size skeleton to incorporate into their cart décor. Since then, the skeleton, now known as "Bob," has become a regular addition.

See FAMILY on other side

Hoopeston Jaycees announce 2024 parade grand marshal

A woman who has spent many years educating children, serving as a Jaycee and being involved in other community activities will lead the National Sweetcorn Festival Grand Parade this year

Carolyn Eyrich-Mastin moved to Hoopeston in 1973 to start her family. She became involved with the women's group of the Jaycees - the Jaymates - and when women became eligible to be Jaycees, she joined so she could be more active in the community. It was a family affair as sons James, Jeremiah and Jeffery Eyrich also became active in the local chapter.

As a Jaycee, Eyrich-Mastin held many offices and participated or chaired many projects serving Hoopeston's youth to senior citizens. She continues to help with Toys for Kids and the Easter Egg hunt. She was the 43rd National Sweetcorn Festival Chairman in 1986 and continues to work with the festival. She is a JCI Senator.

Eyrich-Mastin is involved in projects, committees and leadership with the Hoopeston United Methodist Church, Hoopeston American Legion Post #384 Auxiliary, Delta Kappa Gamma women's educational society, and Hoopeston FFA Alumni.

Retired from teaching in the Hoopeston Area School District in 2015, she continues to work as a substitute teacher. She owns and operates Fun for All Miniature

See MARSHAL on other side

The PIT STOP at EAST LANES

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Breakfast Served

M-F: 5:30-10 a.m. Sat: 5:30-11 a.m. Sun.: 6-11 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet: 7-10 a.m. Sat.

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.

Bertha's

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By
BERTHA PARSONS

Family, Friends, Festival & Food

Four of my favorite things! You know a family is something we all need. It may not be perfect, but they belong to you! As you may know, I am an only child. Some days that is really great and some days I long for a brother or sister.

Each of you are a part of a family puzzle! Do you do puzzles? I'm no good at it but my hubby is great at puzzles! Since some of you are puzzle people, let's put this happy puzzle together. Each of us, has a family. A good one, a bad one, or an I don't know about one! Stop for a moment or two and think about your family....OK, that's long enough!

What makes up a family like ours usually starts with two people, then more are added. Does the number matter to you? Not to me, since it was just Mother and me with Grampa and Gramma and two uncles! So make your family list!

Since I grew up in a small family and my husband grew up in a large family we both had a lot to learn, but boy, did we have fun learning!

Friends I can't do without! They help me make it through the good and the bad times! They help me understand me and like me just as I am! It's not always easy to like you but you need to be happy with you! Friends know just how to do that and I sure am glad! Take

time for your friends, they usually love you no matter how you act!

The Sweetcorn Festival is a time for fun, family, friends, and parades. The Festival brings everyone: family, neighbors and new friends! Those of us who are privileged to live in Hoopeston are lucky to go to events with so many activities! Not just a parade and music, but free sweet corn, carnival rides, and every kind of food you just have to try! It brings you and me with hundreds of others together! That is awesome, to get to see folks we may not have seen for a year or two! We get to hug and wave at old friends and meet new friends as we watch the parade down Main Street!

Hoopeston, my hometown, is a town with a giant heart for people like you! Folks looking for fun, meeting new friends, eating all kinds of food on a stick while laughing and talking to friends and strangers!

It's the place to be! Downtown for the parade. I'll see you there!

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Family continued from other side

"Bob" has become part of several activities, dressing up for almost every holiday. He's been to an Illini tailgate, supervised the corn line and been in the Grand Parade. He even attended Alexis and Brad's wedding, where Bob and Alexis shared a dollar dance together.

This year's logo was designed and created by her sister-in-law, Ariel Foster. Hardcastle said she gave Foster a few ideas and Foster "got to work producing something better than I imagined."

"While he started out as a decoration, we have turned him into a part of the family," Hardcastle said.

While the Hardcastles have adopted Bob into their family, local families will temporarily adopt the National Sweethearts who have come to Hoopeston to take part in the National Sweetheart Pageant.

There are 18 members in this year's crop of beauty and talent, including:

- Miss Alabama: Kaitlyn Funk
- Miss Alaska: Dominique Henry
- Miss California: Olivia Acevedo
- Miss Georgia: Lanier Brown
- Miss Hawaii: Belen Kailani Morgan
- Miss Indiana: Meadow Ryann
- Miss Mississippi: Kennedy Fewell
- Miss Missouri: Tabitha Crain
- Miss Montana: Donna Zehner
- Miss New Jersey: Emerald Reilly
- Miss Ohio: Rachel Ralston
- Miss Rhode Island: Kathryn Luzinski
- Miss South Carolina: Allison Bryant

From the Blotter

Brittni Stevens, 33, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 4:53 p.m. Tuesday in the 1100 block of South Dixie Hwy. Found to have a suspended registration, she was charged with operating when registration suspended for noninsurance and was released from the scene on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

Jose Mendez-Gonzalez, 52, of Hoopeston, was ticketed after a traffic stop at South Second Ave. and West Maple. He was cited for speeding and was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

A **debit card** was found Wednesday at First Financial Bank and turned over to police. The owner may claim it at the police station with proper ID.

- Miss Tennessee: Lydia Waldrip
- Miss Texas: Allie Privitt
- Miss Utah: Sahana Kargi
- Miss Washington: Paige Dahl
- Miss Wisconsin: Allison Wisinski

Host families, chaperones and other volunteers will make the girls feel at home and be sure they get to all appearances and practices before the pageant begins Saturday. Miss Hoopeston, Alexa Bailey, will be their hostess.

The women represent the Miss Volunteer America Pageant organization.

Tickets at the door for floor seating Saturday are \$30 and \$35 Sunday.

Marshal continued from other side

Golf with her husband, Stephen Mastin. She received the inaugural Hoopeston Legacy Award this past year.

Eyrich-Mastin can be found helping with the free sweetcorn during Festival along with her husband, children and grandchildren remembering that "service to humanity is the best work of life."

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City, school election packets available for April 2025 race

Residents interested in running for Hoopeston City Council or Hoopeston Area Board of Education may pick up petition packets and begin gathering signatures.

For the municipal election, packets are available at Hoopeston City Hall 301 W. Main St., during operating hours, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday.

Positions up for election include mayor and one alderman in each of the city's four wards. Current officeholders are Mayor Jeff Wise, a vacant seat in Ward I, previously held by Nicole Van Hyfte; Ward II seat held by Kellie Ferrell; Ward III slot held by Tim Scharlach and in Ward IV, the seat currently held by Bob Porth. All are for four-year terms.

Hoopeston Area voters will be selecting four board members. Those seats are currently held by Debbie Klaber, Cheryl Steiner, Elizabeth Silver, and Travis Field.

Packets for the school board are available at the County Administration Building in Danville, or potential candidates may call (217) 554-1900 or by email www.vermontcounty.org to request a packet be emailed.

This will be the first school board election held under the at-large system for candidates approved by voters last year.

Previously, four board members were selected from Grant Township 23N Range 12W congressional township and the remaining three from other townships in the school district, which includes Vermilion, Iroquois and Ford counties.

The change was requested and approved by voters because of the difficulty in finding candidates outside of Grant Township 23N Range 12W.

Supt. Robert Richardson said an important thing for board candidates to remember is petitions are to be filed November 12-18, moved up approximately six weeks.



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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.

At the Library

HPL's annual Sweetcorn Festival Book Sale is underway in the upstairs Youth Room. Lots of great material for all ages, including fiction, travel guides, DVDs, audio books, music CDs and other fun surprises. Everything is for sale by donation! Take what you want; pay what you can!

The Children's Room will be closed all day August 30.

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

Labor Day closings

Hoopeston administration office will be closed Monday, 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.

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.

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.



A blast from the past

Ten-year-old Jessica Michels, of Watseka, enjoys a ride on the midway at the National Sweetcorn Festival in 2006.

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Golf

Hoopeston Area Men's varsity golf came in first in an outing that included Donovan, Iroquois-West, St. Anne and Watseka on August 22.

Cornjerker sophomore Cy Tuggle was meet medalist with a nine-hole score of 43, leading the team to a total score of 181. Other individual scores were Felix Cantu 44; Trent Montez, 47; Parker Robinson, 47; Owen Field, 50; and Isaiah Mobley, 53.

Coming in behind Hoopeston were St. Anne, 202; Watseka, 211; Iroquois-West, 213; and Donovan, 234. The meet was held at Shewami Country Club at Sheldon.

The win put the HA team at 8-0. The men's and ladies' teams were victorious, each winning in Saturday meets at Hubbard Trail Country Club, near Rossville.

Hoopeston Area again took the win, scoring 186, followed by Salt Fork, 200; and Westville, 224.

Tuggle was the meet medalist with 40, followed by Cantu, 51; Montez, 47; Robinson 51; Field, 48; and Gavyn Miller, 59.

On the ladies' side, Hoopeston Area and Gibson

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Open Parade Day, Aug. 31, 9-3

Sports

City/Melvin Sibley split meet medalist honors with Shay Layden and Anna Warrant each scoring 55.

Layden led the Lady Cornjerkers to first place with 229, followed by Gibson City, 239; and Westville, 271.

Other Hoopeston Area scores were Taylore Page, 58; Mady Klaber, 59; and Macy Rayls, 57.

The teams are coached by Thomas Sage.

Volleyball

The Lady Cornjerkers dropped their season opener, losing in three sets to host Covington Trojans, 19-25, 15-25, 14-25 on Monday.

Despite five kills from Addy Kelnhofer and four from Brylie Cox, the ladies fell to 0-2 on the young

Obituaries

LEWIS - Tammy Michele (Clayburn) Lewis, 59, of Hoopeston, died at 8:36 p.m. Monday, August 26, 2024, at home. Private family services will be held. 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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season by a 23-25, 17-25 margin at Paxton Buckley-Loda. The ladies were set to welcome Attica, Ind., to the Lady Cornjerkers first home game of the season Thursday.

The ladies are coached by Brad Jones.

Weather

Mostly sunny, chance of thunderstorms today. High 91. Tonight, showers likely. Low 66. Tomorrow, decreasing clouds. High 82, low 58. Sunday, sunny. High 84, low 54. Monday, sunny. High 76, low 51.

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

Classifieds

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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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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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