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Hoopeston Area HS 2025 Hall of Fame honorees announced

First year that students from schools that make up HA district are included

Hoopeston Area High School has announced its latest class of Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. This year's class will include four individual athletes, one coach, and one team. The induction will take place Friday evening, January 31 in the school gymnasium, immediately following the junior varsity boys basketball game and prior to the varsity game vs Bismarck-Henning/Rossville-Alvin.

This year's class of inductees include:
ATHLETES

John Burke: Hoopeston-East Lynn High School Class of 1975. Two-time All-State performer in track & field, he won an IHSA State title as a member of the State Championship 880 yd. relay, and was on the 440 yd. relay that finished runners-up, helping lead the team to a 2nd place finish at the IHSA State Finals, the highest finish ever by a Hoopeston track & field team. Burke earned 10 varsity letters: four in track & field, three in football, two in basketball, and one in cross country. He was an eight-time Vermilion County Champion in track & field, won two Wauseca Conference Championships, set seven school records, and four meet records. Additionally, he was a leader on teams that won Hoopeston's first-ever Wauseca Conference track & field meet, along with Hoopeston's

first-ever IHSA District track & field meet.

Duane Sheppard: Hoopeston-East Lynn High School Class of 1974. An eight-time Vermilion County Champion in track & field, and an All-County performer in wrestling, he earned eight varsity letters (4x in Track & Field, 2x in Cross Country, and 2x in Wrestling). He set 3 school records and 2 meet records, along with being a member of the 1972 Cross Country team, which boasted an undefeated 17-0 season. Additionally, he was a leader on teams that were Vermilion County Champions on 5 occasions, IHSA District Champions on 3 occasions, and IHSA Sectional runners-up.

William Cornelius: Rankin High School Class of 1969. Was an four-time champion at the Vermilion Country track meet his junior and senior years, leading RHS to the team title both years. He broke multiple meet records at the Vermilion County Track & Field championships, along with multiple RHS records, and he finished third at the IHSA State Track & Field championships his senior year in the long jump, when it was still a one-class system.

Randy Goin: Rankin High School Class of 1962. Was a three-time All Vermilion County performer in basketball. Was a member of the Vermilion County All-

See HALL OF FAME on page 3

From the Blotter

A jacket was found Tuesday at the McFerren Park skate park. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 12:05 p.m. Tuesday in the 1100 block of Savannah Ct.

Police said Jane Hoskins, 57, of Hoopeston, in a 2015 Micro Bird bus, was backing from a driveway and struck a parked 2013 Hyundai owned by Sarayia Howard of Danville.

Thad Finnell, 31, of Hoopeston, was ticketed af-

ter a traffic stop at 1:21 a.m. Wednesday at 614 W. Elm. He was cited for no rear registration plate (trailer) and for not having two lighted lamps on his

See BLOTTER on page 4

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 6:56 a.m. Tuesday for a structure fire in the 300 block of West Maple. Rossville and Wellington departments were called for assistance. No injuries were reported.

2025 Hoopeston FFA Alumni SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION
Saturday, January 25
Silent Auction 4-6 p.m. Live Auction 6 p.m.
The Legion
502 E. Penn, Hoopeston
Food served 4:30 p.m. until gone (free will donation)
Auctioneers: Larry Baughn, Jon Mowrey, Craig Lee

MISS HOOPESTON SCHOLARSHIP DINNER
Friday, January 10th, 5-8 pm
First Church of God,
1004 E Orange St, Hoopeston
Free will donations will go toward a scholarship for our outgoing Miss Hoopeston 2024 Alexa Bailey. Alexa is a student at Greenville University where she majors in psychology and criminal justice, with a minor in forensics.
Pulled pork dinner served with mac & cheese, green beans, and assorted desserts

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The year was 2024

and big things were happening in the Hoopeston area. Top left, rubble waits to be removed from Hoopeston's downtown demolition project. Residents lamented the loss of the buildings but realized the structures were a hindrance to downtown revitalization. Bottom left, At a book signing at Boxcar Books, Becky Puetz interviews former Hoopeston resident Dennis Noyes about his first novel, *Yonders, Illinois*, based loosely on Hoopeston. Center bottom, Dan Breeding and an owl friend entertain at McFerren Park for Breeding's last visit to Illinois with the animals that make up his Wild Animal Encounters, Inc. Formerly of Hoopeston, Breeding is now based in North Carolina. Far left, as part of upgrades to its water system, Rossville's water tower got a facelift, going from pale blue to red, white and blue. Village Clerk Chris White said that according to pictures, the water tower was built in 1975. The Village Board approved the paint colors and LC United Painting Company painted the tower. LC United Painting Company's bid of \$293,000 was awarded.

Photo submitted

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Hall of Fame continued from Page 1

Decade team for the 1960s, and was named to the All-Time Vermilion County Basketball Hall of Fame. Goin went on to star in basketball at Southern Illinois University.

COACH

John Klaber: former News-Gazette Soccer Coach of the Year and Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association Coach of the Year, he was head coach of the Hoopeston Area High School boys soccer team from 2005-2017. He won 179 matches, the most wins in Cornjerker soccer history, highlighted by his 2006 team that finished the regular season undefeated. His teams won 10 conference championships, 3 IHSA regional titles, and had two IHSA Sweet 16 appearances and had multiple athletes named All-Area, All Conference, All Sectional, and All State.

TEAM

The 1979 Wrestling Team: coached by Jim Richards, placed fifth at the IHSA state finals, the highest finish ever by a Hoopeston wrestling team. It boasted Hoopeston's first-ever state wrestling champion in David Grant, along with fellow all-stater Tony Montez. They won the Wauseca Conference tournament, the IHSA district tour-

namment, and finished second at the IHSA sectional tournament, culminating with their fifth place finish at the Assembly Hall.

*NOTE: Fans and alumni will notice that, starting with this Hall of Fame class, and in the future, the Hoopeston Area High School Athletic Hall of Fame will look to entertain nominations to the H-A Athletic Hall of Fame from the schools that were consolidated to form Hoopeston-Area High School, including East-Lynn, Wellington, and Rankin. Those interested in making nominations for the 2026 class are encouraged to go to the [H-A Hall of Fame](#) website and submit a nomination prior to June 1, 2025.

Sports

Senior bowlers to be honored

Five Hoopeston Area bowlers will be honored at Senior Night Tuesday, when the Cornjerkers take on Danville and Unity of Tolono at Fast Lanes.

Senior members of the team include Jacob Rush, Seth Goble, Josh Sanford, Chase Wilson, and Gavyn Miller.



DACC Higher Learning Center - Hoopeston

Spring 2025 Degree Credit Classes—01/21/25 to 05/22/25

BOFF-140-100H Medical Terminology —Tues. 6-6:50 p.m.

ENGL-101-100H - Rhetoric and Composition I— Tues 6:00 to 8:40 p.m.

ENGL-102-100H - Rhetoric and Composition II— Wed. 6-8:40 p.m.

SOCY-100-102—Intro to Sociology—Tues & Thurs. 2:00 to 3:15 p.m.

SPCH-101-107—Oral Communication—Mon & Wed. 2:00 to 3:15 p.m.

NURS-110-102 Certified Nurse Assistant Tues & Wed. 4:00 to 8:30 p.m.

MEDT-350-301—Phlebotomy Techniques - Wed 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Beginning 2/3/25

Adult Ed Basic Education - High School Diploma Classes - Mon & Wed 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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847 E Orange St, Hoopeston or call 217-283-4170

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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



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Obituaries

BROWN - Nancy Ann Brown, 75, of Hoopeston, passed away at 8:28 a.m. Friday, January 3, 2025, at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. She was born August 21, 1949, in Danville, the daughter of Alexander and Phyllis (Wagoner) Lane. She married Franklin Brown January 20, 1968, at the Antioch Church of Christ in rural Rossville. He survives in Hoopeston.

She is also survived by two sons, Charlie (Heather) Brown of Elwood, IN and Mark (Lori) Brown of Gibson City; two sisters, Debbie (Richard) Swartz of Hoopeston, and Toni Anderson of Hoopeston; one brother, Randy (Gail) Lane of Hoopeston; four grandchildren, Kyle, Jordan, Ryan, and Lindsay; five great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; and a special friend, Lisa Kinney, and her husband, Allen.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother-in-law.

Nancy worked at Schumacher Electric and was a day-care provider. She also cared for her family as a homemaker. She was a member of the Antioch Church of Christ in rural Rossville. Nancy enjoyed doing word searches, watching soap operas, and most of all, spending time with her family.

Cremation rites will be accorded. A visitation will be held 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Thursday, January 16, 2025, at An-



NANCY BROWN

derson Funeral Home, 427 E. Main St. Hoopeston. The memorial service will follow the visitation, beginning at 1 p.m. at the funeral home, with Pastor Earl Eells officiating. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery in Hoopeston.

Memorial donations may be made to Nancy's family.

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

Anderson Funeral Home in Hoopeston is handling the arrangements.

PETERSON - Karen C. Peterson, 70, of Hoopeston, passed away at 3:14 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024, at her home in Hoopeston. She was born February 3, 1954, in Danville, the daughter of Walter R. and Nancy Jane (Hess) Long. She married Stanley D. Peterson July 12, 1975, in Prairie Green. He survives in Hoopeston.

She is also survived by one daughter, Beth (Mike) Kuntz of Rankin; one son, Stephen Peterson of Nashville, TN; three sisters, Debby Dixon of rural Wellington, Arlene Wise, and Kathy (Dean) Holycross; two brothers, John (Jackie) Long, of Danville and Steve (Matt Bragg) Long of Hoopeston; brother-in-law, Mark Davia; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Nancy Long; grandparents, Fred and Maude (Houston) Hess and Nelson and Iva (Lacey) Long; infant son, Timothy; granddaughter, Heather Marie Reilly; infant grandchildren, Isaiah and Joy; sister, Sue Davia; and brothers-in-law, David Dixon and Joe Wise.

Karen had a servant's heart caring for others through her work and most importantly, her family. Throughout her life she worked various jobs including a salon coordinator at K's Hair Design, a CNA, cashier at the Grab-It-Here, cleaning the bank, and working in the meat and produce departments at IGA. Karen especially enjoyed her time serving others as a hospice volunteer. She was a member of the Westside Nazarene Church in Hoopeston. She also



KAREN PETERSON

enjoyed crafting, sewing, gardening, and photography.

Per her wishes, cremation rights have been accorded. Visitation will be held 11 a.m.- 12 p.m. Monday, January 13, 2025, at Anderson Funeral Home, 427 E. Main St. Hoopeston. The memorial service will follow the visitation, beginning at 12 p.m. Monday at the funeral home, with Father Ted Pracz officiating. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery in Hoopeston.

Memorial donations may be made in memory of Karen to Shriners Children's Hospital, Attn: Shriners Children's, PO Box 947765, Atlanta, GA 30394.

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

Anderson Funeral Home in Hoopeston is handling the arrangements.

BOILS - Melody Kay Boils, 62, of Hoopeston, died at 1:12 p.m. Saturday January 4, 2025, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She will be cremated and no service held. Memorials in her memory are suggested to Vermilion County Animal Shelter, 4775 Catlin Tilton Rd., Danville IL 61834. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at anderson-funeral-home.com.

LEWIS - Barbara Jean (Garner) Lewis, 90, of Hoopeston, died at 6:50 a.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2024 at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center. She was cremated and a graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at Floral Hill Cemetery. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at anderson-funeral-home.com.

JEROME - Angelique F. (Forbes) Jerome, 66, of rural Hoopeston, died at 10:47 a.m. Thursday, January 2, 2025, at home. She will be cremated and a celebration of her life and burial held at a later date. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at anderson-funeral-home.com.

UDEN - Robert Dale "Bob" Uden, 77, of Hoopeston, died at 4:40 a.m. Sunday, January 5, 2025, at Sacred heart

Weather

WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY until 11 a.m. Saturday. Today, snow, with accumulation of 1"-3". Tonight, chance of snow. Low 15. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 25, low 16. Sunday, mostly cloudy. High 32, low 17.

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

Medical Center, Danville. He will be cremated and a celebration of his life held at a later date. Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at blurtonfuneralhomes.com.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Fast Lanes is seeking kitchen help. Apply in person at 719 W. Elm. No phone calls, please.

The City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for a full-time water department employee. The successful candidate must have a valid driver's license; Class B CDL with airbrake endorsement or ability to obtain one; high school diploma or equivalent; a positive attitude and willingness to learn; strong work ethic. Punctuality and attendance are important for this position. There is opportunity for advancement with the proper training and certification. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. or www.cityofhoopeston.com/employment.

Dependable person to shovel snow as needed at Hoopeston Public Library. Must clear and apply salt to all sidewalks, entrance areas and steps before 9 a.m. daily. Must be at least 18 years old. We provide shovel and salt. Call Tricia Freeland at the library, 217-283-6711.

The City of Hoopeston is seeking applicants for Animal Control Officer. The city will hire a part-time control officer to share the duties of the position. Candidates would be responsible for enforcing State, County and City codes and ordinances governing animal control including the care and treatment, impounding, quarantine, vaccinations, and regulation of a variety of animals. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and a high school diploma or equivalent and must be comfortable with aggressive animals. Candidates will be sent to the required training necessary for the position. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. or www.cityofhoopeston.com/employment-application/.

Hoopeston Police Dispatcher: Full-time position, swing shift. Benefit package and training will be available. Highly motivated self-starter, able to multitask, dependable, reliable, computer & office skills needed. Applications at www.cityofhoopeston.com/employment or in person at City Hall 301 W Main St, Hoopeston, IL Any questions, please call 217-283-5196 Police Department.

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.

Blotter continued from Page 1

trailer. He was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

Samuel Vires III, 57, was arrested Wednesday after an incident at 3:01 a.m. Tuesday at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center.

Vires was taken into custody on preliminary charges of making a terrorist threat, threatening a public official, aggravated assault and disorderly conduct.

He was processed at the police station, then taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.