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**Just the Facts** Lourdine Florek, Owner  
**Wednesday, August 15, 2018**  
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**Childhood dream leads to postmaster's position for woman**

After serving under three postmasters - and filling in for them when necessary - Julie McCrory now claims the title as her own.

After applying for the position after Connie Drake moved to the Cissna Park post office on December 11, McCrory was one of three candidates who traveled to Kankakee to be interviewed. After a two and half hour interview, she was notified on May 29 that she had the job, which became effective June 8.

For now, the 54-year-old is doing double duty, overseeing post offices and employees in Hoopeston, Wellington and East Lynn, while also doing some clerking, the job she's done since she was hired under retired postmaster Paul Ziemnisky.

He and others saw traits in her and guided her to her new position. "Even way back when, Paul had me doing things," she said. "Since I walked in the door, they've been grooming me for it." Three times over her career, she has served as officer in charge when the postmaster was away.

McCrory's career path started in her childhood. Watching mail carriers, "I thought it looked neat and I thought, 'Maybe I'd do that.'"

Fast forward to the early 1990s, a friend said post office was hiring and brought her an application. She traveled to Bridgeport for what she called a "cattle call" testing. She passed, only to learn the postal service implemented a five-year hiring freeze. But fate was on her side. "I got in just in time before they purged the list" of potential employees.

A self-described people person, McCrory also says she's a problem solver, whether that problem is what size box is needed to mail a package - "I can look at a bag in their hand and know what size box they need." That skill



**McCRORY**

came in handy for the most unusual thing someone wanted to mail: a tanned deer hide. "I figured it out. I'm the one who helped him pack it up."

There are more complicated tasks, like staffing the Hoopeston office, currently down two clerks: her former position, which could only be opened to applications after she was named postmaster, and the one left when Nancy Voyles retired in June. "I call it Problem Solving 101," she said. "Generally, anything can be fixed."

To fix the manpower shortage, McCrory brought in two women, Angelina Savage who works at the Wellington post office and Chris Bury from the Milford office.

McCrory is also part of the solution, working more hours herself. Postmaster is supposed to be a 9-5, weekday job, but she is working 6-6 and weekends. An Amazon truck pulls in at 6 a.m. to drop off the day's packages and the last truck of the day leaves at about 5:40 p.m.

Still, it could be worse. McCrory remembers days before all the mail was sent to a sorting center - currently Champaign - and delivered back sorted by route. In those days, it was all hands on deck at 4:45 a.m. to sort the mail for the day's routes.

There is "light at the end of the tunnel," with news of permanent clerks coming "soon." Asked if soon means as a gift for her September birthday, she replied "maybe."

With 20 years, McCrory could retire in a couple of years, but is looking at staying for 10 or 12 more. But she already has a retirement plan. When her grandchildren are grown, she dreams of selling her home, buying a motorhome and travelling. There's family to visit in California. Florida strikes her fancy, too. "I don't know how my (ancestors) ended up here. I don't like the cold."

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## Obituaries

**DALE** - Leonard L. Dale Sr. 74, of Wellington, died at 9:23 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11, 2018 at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. He will be cremated. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Wellington United Methodist Church, 110 E. Main St., Wellington IL 60973. Anderson Funeral Hon, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements.

**KAPOOR** - Justin A. Kapoor, 27, of Chicago, formerly

of Hoopeston, died Friday, July 20, 2018 in Chicago. Graveside memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Sunset Memorial Park, Danville.

**NASERS** - Ronna M. (German) Nasers, 71, of Watseka, formerly of Milford, died Saturday, Aug. 11, 2018, at home. Visitation will be 4 p.m. until the 6 p.m.

### From the Blotter

Elbert Cannon, 52, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a 60-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 1:13 a.m. Monday that someone was taking items from his vehicle in the 700 block of East Honeywell. He was charged with theft and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

### Court Dispositions

July 5

**Lawrence Crowley**, Chicago, failed to appear for general nuisance in two cases, found guilty by default; fined \$180 in both cases; status hearing August 2.

memorial service Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka. Private burial will be in Iroquois Memorial Park, Watseka. Memorials are suggested to the local chapter of Relay for Life.



Photo by Elizabeth Coon

### And the winner is

Reeve Pilotte watches Rossville fireworks in the first winner of the Summer Snaps Photo Contest, sponsored by Just the Facts. Reeve's mother, Elizabeth Coon, took the winning shot on Independence Day at Rossville Cemetery. Coon wins \$25 for this photo and has a chance to win the \$100 grand prize.

### Weather

Thunderstorms likely today. High 79. Tonight, heavy rain. Low 68. Tomorrow, chance of storms. High 80, low 66.

**Fun for All**  
Miniature Golf  
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Weather may alter hours  
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## Photo Contest

June 20-Sept. 20

1 photo selected each week to compete for a \$25 monthly prize. One photographer will win a

**\$100 Grand Prize!**

Amateur photographers only. Limit 1 photo/week/person. Decision of the judges is final. Submission transfers photo rights to Just the Facts. Entries must be less than 2 MB in size.

Email photos to [publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net) and include "photo contest" in subject line, names of subjects in photo (if applicable), location and photographer's real (not screen/alias) name.

**Hubbard Trail**  
**Steak Fry**  
Friday, August 17  
Serving 5-8 p.m.  
**16 oz. Rib-eye Steak**  
**or Grilled Chicken Breast**  
with Baked Potato, Salad Bar and Roll

## Classifieds

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Honeywell Apartments: 2 BR, includes water, heat, pest control, off street parking (815) 984-4513

### HELP WANTED

Part time office receptionist. Starting 20 hours per week but could work into full time. Must be able to multi-task, work great with public and MUST have great follow-up skills. Send resume to Box A, c/o Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942.

Outlaw Automotive and Performance is looking for a mechanic/technician. Pay is flat rate on a 1099. Hourly wages based on ability, speed, accuracy. Hours are 8-5 Monday-Friday. We work on all makes and models. Must be a team player and be able to work independently. Apply in person with completed resume at 1919 E 500 N Rd, Milford IL

Hoopeston / Rossville area farmer looking for truck driver to help with harvest. Must have at least a Class B drivers license. Call 217-495-1550; if no answer please leave a message.

Help wife in our house. 3 or 4 hours per week. Various jobs. Pays cash. (217) 597-7112

Part time fall help at Ravens Livestock. Requires CDL. Call (217) 304-1943.

Hubbard Trail Country Club is looking for an experienced bartender. Starting immediately, must be 21. Call the clubhouse 217-748-6521 or apply in person.

### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Almost new recliner-\$50, dresser with mirror-\$20, china cabinet-\$50, cedar chest-\$50, 2 complete twin beds-\$80. call 217-283-6021, if no answer please leave message.

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