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By
BERTHA PARSONS

Loyalty. Do we have it?

A few months ago one of my grandsons asked where I shopped. "Why do you ask?" I inquired. "Well we shop at Walmart, Sam's Club and other big stores." was his reply. I explained that we don't have any big stores as you say, but we have smaller stores in our little town.

This got me thinking about all the shops or stores called businesses we have right here. You may be thinking, "right, so what does loyalty have to do with shops and businesses?"

Without loyal customers there would be no businesses. He replied, "you mean they would close and not be here?" Right on!

Now for those of you living here or in another small town, I suggest you take a stroll or drive around and look at what you have in your town. As I drove around, I'd stop and make a list of our shops.

Let me make something perfectly clear. When I talk about a business, I mean any and all places where you pay when you get what you want, including insurance offices, tax offices, legal firms, restaurants, grocery, hardware stores and everything in between.

Do we have loyalty to these businesses, or do we complain, "the prices too high? Not enough variety. I like to go out of town and shop around." We all do that. Can we find everything we need or want in our little town? No, of course not.

Back to the allegiance, being as loyal as possible to the businesses here. Then my very smart grandson said, "You know, if all these businesses left it would be a ghost town."

For me and now my grandson would not want any of the businesses in Hoopeston to close. So back to the question, "Where do I shop?" I do my best to purchase as much as I can in my town. Sometimes I order things and sometimes I go out of town, but I try to be loyal to the locals. I want everyone here to stay put.

Loyalty is a powerful word that may keep our small town together. Don't ever underestimate the power of the person. That's YOU and ME! My hope is that you be as loyal as you can be. We all do a little and together it adds up to a lot.



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Lourdine Florek, Owner

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Foodbank food mobile to be at First Baptist Church May 5

Eastern Illinois Foodbank will distribute a truckload of food to hungry area families. The distribution will be held at First Baptist Church, (323 E. Seminary Ave., Hoopeston, from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 5. All Vermilion County residents who meet income eligibility criteria are welcome.

Those attending are asked to bring boxes or bags to transport food.

The distribution is part of the Foodbank's Foodmobile Program, a system of mobile food pantries designed to help bring nutritious food to areas of chronic or extreme need. Through the program, local companies and organizations are invited to contribute

toward a one-day distribution of food and optionally participate in the distribution process. The cost to partner with the Foodbank on a Foodmobile distribution is \$3,000.

The Foodmobile distribution comes at a critical moment for area residents. Data released by Feeding America, the nation's network of food banks, shows that 14% of people in eastern Illinois are considered

See FOOD on other side

Community children's choir to perform free spring concert

The Hoopeston Community Children's Choir will present a spring recital, "Timeless Joy," at 4 p.m. Saturday at The Lorraine Theatre, 324 E. Main.

Choir members are Anayiez Amador, Katie Cristy, Kaedyn Goodrum, Jackie Heywood, Mason Heywood, Anna Lance, Audrey Lance, Emma Lance, Evie Lance, Lydia Lugo, Reese Pendley, Maria Rojas, Pilar Rosado, Joshua Sanford, Graci Smith, Madilyn Storm, Melyn Whitaker and Taya Whitaker.

The choir is under the direction of Anita Reutter and Rochelle Morgeson.

The concert is free by donations appreciated to Save the Lorraine Theatre.

The PIT STOP at EAST LANES

Monday: Taco Salad (chicken or beef) and Tenderloin (breaded or grilled)
Tuesday: Chicken or Beef & Noodles and Speedway Burger
Wednesday: Rib eye Sandwich and Pork Chops
Thursday: Swiss Steak and Popcorn Shrimp
Friday: Cod dinners or sandwiches and Rib eye Steak
Saturday: Prime Rib and Rib eyes

Chicken Salad now available daily!

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Briefly

Card shower

Joyce Williams has moved to Accolade Nursing Home and would enjoy hearing from friends. Well wishes may be sent to Joyce Williams, Accolade Healthcare of Paxton Senior Living, Room 130, 450 E. Fulton St., Paxton IL 60957.

Bennett to meet with constituents

State Rep. Tom Bennett (R-Gibson City) will meet with constituents at 5:15 p.m. Thursday May 3 at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main. The meeting is open to the public and appointments are not required.

Those who cannot attend or who have questions at any other time can contact Bennett at (815) 432-0106 or www.repbennett.com.

From the Blotter

A 17-year-old Hoopeston boy was charged with aggravated domestic battery after police were called at 7:26 p.m. Monday to the 700 block of East Wyman. The charge came on a complaint from a 35-year-old Hoopeston man. The youth was taken to the Juvenile Detention Center in Danville to await arraignment.

Obituaries

COLLINS - Willie B. "Curley" Collins, 90, of Milford, died Sunday, April 22, 2018 at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Visitation will be 9:30 a.m. until the 10:30 a.m. funeral Friday at Church of the Nazarene, Milford. Burial will follow in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland. Memorials are suggested to the cemetery or the church. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, is handling arrangements.

FELSTEHAEUSEN - Eugene "Gene" Fredrick Felstehausen, 84, of Rossville, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 12:43 p.m. Sunday, April 22, 2018, at home. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Thursday at Anderson Funeral Home,

Hoopeston. Funeral will be at 10 a.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland, with military rites by Hoopeston American Legion Post 384. Memorials are suggested to Feed My Lambs lunch program, c/o First United Methodist Church, 403 E. Main St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

Weather

Sunny today. High 67. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 35. Tomorrow, sunny, mostly clear late. High 63, low 43.

Food continued from other side

food insecure, which means they sometimes lack adequate access to food. Nearly 20% of children are food insecure. See map [here](#).

All eligible residents of Vermilion County who are in need of food and grocery product are welcome to attend the Foodmobile distribution. To be eligible, a household must have an income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level, or approximately \$3,793 per month for a family of four. Full eligibility criteria are listed below. Other area Foodmobile distributions can be found by visiting the Foodbank's website at www.eifoodbank.org and clicking "find help."

Maximum monthly income per eligible household:

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Monthly Income	\$1,859	\$2,504	\$3,148	\$3,793	\$4,437	\$5,081	\$5,726	\$6,370

Maximum monthly income per eligible household (for each additional household member over 8, add \$644):

Volunteers needed for local May 5 foodmobile stop

Volunteers are needed to help with the May 5 Foodmobile at First Baptist Church of Hoopeston. To volunteer, follow the link, go [here](#).

Mostaccioli Dinner
Friday, April 27 4:30-7 p.m.
First Christian Church
502 E. Main St., Hoopeston

Mostaccioli, garlic bread, salad, cake \$6
Bake Sale Carry-outs available
Handicapped accessible on 4th St. entrance

Classifieds

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