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Hoopeston hospital creates momentum to overcome cuts

Editor's Note: the following is the first of a series of articles concerning Hoopeston Regional Health Center. This one, written by marketing director Charlene Drawdy, outlines what the hospital is doing to increase funding in the face of Medicaid cuts.

Much has been said lately about the future of the hospital and the financial difficulties that may be created by outpatient cuts imposed by Gov. George Ryan. But there is even more to be said about activities roused by the board of directors, management team and staff of Hoopeston Regional Health Center to overcome the shortfall created by the cutbacks. New programs and priorities have been developed and implemented to generate additional revenue, including:

- the hospital's recent designation as a Critical Access Hospital, which will improve the Medicare reimbursement rate without affecting the services provided.
- The arrival of Dr. Travis Crawford, which has contributed significantly to the Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center. Dr. Crawford has also agreed to play a role in recruiting another new physician to the area.
- review of past pricing practices, which has allowed

adjustments to be made in many areas that will enhance revenue while keeping the hospital competitive.

- increased marketing which has opened dialog with outside referral sources such as discharge planners and out-of-town physicians to improve working relationships.

This particularly benefits residents, giving them the opportunity to get their lab and radiology work done in Hoopeston or to be returned to Hoopeston Regional Health Center for rehabilitation after surgery or hospitalization.

- a new staff Commitment to Customer Courtesy providing a friendly, caring atmosphere for patients, families and visitors.
- also, HRHC is moving forward in an effort to provide additional services such as mental health counseling. The facility has also applied for a federal grant which, if received, will help create a dental clinic.
- These areas will help sustain the healthcare system but the greatest opportunity still lies in the community's choice to use local physician services, walk-in clinic, emergency services, therapy and the hospital as their providers of choice.

Briefly

Tax help

John Sant will provide assistance in filing taxes at the Hoopeston Multi Agency from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesdays starting Feb. 13.

Each person will be allowed 45 minutes. This is for personal, not business taxes only.

Those wanting assistance are asked to bring last year's filing papers, property taxes and letter of tax reduction received (withholding tax proof).

To schedule an appointment, call (217) 283-5544.

GED review classes

GED review classes start at 4 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Hoopeston Multi Agency.

Classes will meet from 4-6:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays for 12 weeks.

For more information, call Gene Hanson at (217) 283-5785 or 283-5544.

Classes are also offered at Hoopeston Area High School, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays

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Bowling Scores

Thursday Men's City League

Standings 1/31/02

1. Con Agra Store Brands	105	49
2. Pla Mor Lanes	91	63
3. Hoopeston Express Lube	91	63
4. Team America	89	65
5. Tax Service Plus	86	68
6. 4 Reads	76	78
7. Razor's Edge	69	85
8. Knuth's Body Shop	69	85
9. Tons of Fun Band	62	92
10.Bye Team	0	154

High Team Handicap Game: Knuth's Body Shop 850, Pla Mor Lanes 836, Razor's Edge 824; High Team Series: 4 Reads 2,421, Team America 2,402, Knuth's Body Shop 2,388; High Individual Game: Nick Gonzalez 245, Steve Rhodes 232, John Baker 224; High Individual Series: Joey Cartwright 599, Nick Gonzalez 592, Todd Underwood 567.

Thursday Men's City League

Standings 1/31/02

3. Ross Electric	57½	52½
4. Crop Production Service	56	54
5. Pla-Mor Lanes	49	61
6. Ferdinand Construction	48½	61½

High Team Game: Crop Production 854; High Team Series: Crop Production 3,189; High Ind. Game: DaveGaddis 296; High Individual Series: Tony Gress 911.

Games over 200: Jeff Lete 221; Rick Weick 211; bob Bruens 246, 253, 215; Kenny McVicker 213; Dave Warf 218; Tony Gress 289, 243; Mark Butterworth 242; Tim Coon 236; Nick Gonzalez 246; Todd Keith 237; Dave Gaddis 223, 296; Randy Hiltz 210, 239; Wendell Ferdinand 214; Jay Ferdinand 233, 234.

Series over 800: Dave Gaddis 883, Randy Hiltz 844, Jay Ferdinand 836, Tony Gress 911, Mark Butterworth 809, Todd Keith 805, Bob Bruens 889.

Hall of Shame: Bob Ponder 139.

Thursday Afternoon Ladies League

Standings 1/31/02

1 Pla-Mor Lanes	38	25
2. Gress I	34½	28½
3. Knuth's	33	30

Obituaries

BLOYD—Troy W. Bloyd, 82, of Port Charlotte, Fla., formerly of Hoopeston, died at 10:15 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3, 2002 at Mariner Health Care, Port Charlotte. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be noon to 2 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Camp Assurance, P.O. Box 18, Georgetown, IL 61846.

MILES—Pauline Y. Miles, 84, of Hoopeston, died at 8:45 a.m. Monday, Feb. 4, 2002 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Memorials are suggested to St. Anthony Catholic Church 423 S. Third St., Hoopeston, IL 60942.

New Books at the Library

Fiction:

The Cat Who Went Up the Creek by Lillian Jackson Braun (mystery)

He Sees You When You're Sleeping by Mary Higgins Clark

Willow by V.C. Andrews

Kaleidoscope by Dorothy Gilman (mystery)

Pen Pals by Olivia Goldsmith

Under Fire by W.E.B. Griffin

Basket Case by Carl Hiaasen

Smoke in Mirrors by Jayne Ann Krentz

Acorna's Search by Anne McCaffrey (science fiction)

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 37. Tonight, increasing clouds late. Low 20. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 40, low 25.

For current weather conditions, call the Hoopeston Weather Line at (217) 283-6221.

4. Rex's

31½

31½

5. H&R Block

26

37

6. Crunch's

26

37

High Team Handicap Game: Crunch's 869, H&R Block 864, Knuth's 812; High Team Handicap Series: Crunch's 2,445, H&R Block 2,422, Knuth's 2,391; High Individual Scratch Game: Thresia Pierce 199, Helen Taflinger 198, Joyce Harden 190; High Individual Scratch Series: Helen Taflinger 537, Joyce Harden 500, JoAnne Gress 477.

Classifieds

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