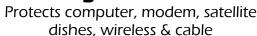
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Saturday, June 22
Register at Pla-Mor Lanes or
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### **Small Wonders Preschool**

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There are only a few openings left for the 2002-03 school year.

For more details or to register, call Emily Brown, (217) 283-5475

Lourdine Florek owner/publisher

## Just the Facts®

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348 Email: publish@justthefacts.net

**Tuesday, June 18, 2002** 

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

www.justthefacts.net

## Health Department seeks help in West Nile virus fight

County residents who find dead crows or blue jays that did not die from trauma are being asked to call the Vermilion County Health Department.

The state Department of Public Health has asked that county health officials send the birds to be tested for West Nile virus after second crow in Edgar County tested positive for the disease June 7.

The virus is spread by mosquitoes which pick up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. There have been no reported human cases of West Nile virus in Illinois.

However, Vermilion County has one of the

## GRAND REOPENING THURSDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>

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largest crow rookeries in the U.S., said Steve Laker, Vermilion County Health Administrator. It is important to find out if the county crow population is infected, which serves as an early warning that there is a potential for West Nile virus.

Anyone who finds a dead crow or blue jay is asked to call the health department's Environmental Health division at (217) 431-2662. The department will collect the bird and send it to the state lab for testing. Although the virus is not passed to humans by picking up or touching an infected bird, people are advised not to touch them.

Most people infected with West Nile virus have no symptoms of illness but some do become ill, usually three to 15 days after being bitten. Symptoms can be mild, including fever and headache, or severe including muscle weakness, inflammation of the brain, stiff neck, stupor, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, coma or death.

To avoid risk of West Nile virus, several precautions are recommended, including: wearing shoes, socks, long pants and long-sleeved shirts between dusk and dawn. Loose-fitting, light colored clothing is best; using mosquito repellent containing 25-35 percent DEET. A doctor should be consulted before using repellents on young children; checking residential screens for tears and opening; and eliminating stagnant water where mosquitoes might breed.

### Weather



Partly sunny today. High 82. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 63. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 85, low 68

For current weather conditions, call the Hoop-

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