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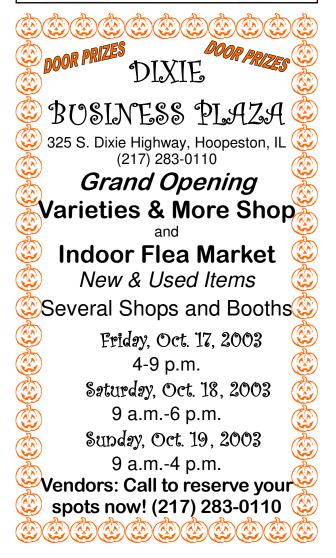
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Message of abuse taken to Hoopeston Area High teenagers

Domestic violence, once thought of only in the realm of bad marriages, has worked its way to teen dating.

To deal with that, the YWCA Women's Shelter in Danville is taking a message to the schools that it is not ok to be abused, said shelter director Sue Davis.

Davis spoke at Monday's Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting.

A program teen dating violence was presented at Hoopeston Area High School, said Davis, adding the median age for abuse victims has fallen. The average used to be 27 to 32 years old and now is 17 to 23, she

The Women's Shelter provides services to all domestic abuse victims in Vermilion County, men and women. Ann Martin of Hoopeston is the local caseworker, working in conjunction with the Hoopeston Police Depart-

Last year, the shelter served 406 abuse victims and 96 children. Of the victims, 95 percent were women.

The Women's Shelter provides a place for abused women to stay. Housing for abused men is found elsewhere.

Local residents part of scam

Two Hoopeston residents have unknowingly taken part in an international scam.

At Monday's Neighborhood Watch meeting, Chief Mark Drollinger said the residents had dealings with people posing as African businessmen wanting to sell American goods in Africa. The goods were sent to the residents, who, in turn, shipped them overseas.

The merchandise was purchased with stolen identification, Drollinger said.

The case has been referred to the Secret Service, he said, adding the local people could still be charged.

The shelter takes care of victims' needs, including food, counseling, help in job searches, and medical, legal and child advocacy. Shelter workers also help victims get orders of protection to keep their abusers away.

Funding for the shelter comes from United Way, state's attorney money, donations and the Department of Human Services, Davis said.

While abuse victims are getting more educated and often don't tolerate abuse for as long, the number of victims keeps growing. "Every one of you knows somebody who is battered," Davis said. "You just may not know you know."

Community Bank is celebrating 90 years of Hometown Service. Please stop in at any of our 3 locations on October 17th and celebrate with us. Free food and prizes will be given away from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Police News

A Roadmaster bicycle found Saturday was claimed by the owner Monday.

Jesus C. Diaz, 18, of 504 N. Ninth Ave., turned himself in to police at 5:26 p.m. Monday. Diaz, wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for

failure to appear, was released on \$95.

A 39-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Tuesday that someone took several Halloween decorations from her property in the 500 block of West Elm.

Briefly

Hunter safety course

The Vermilion County Sheriff's Department will hold a Hunter Safety Course from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 24 and 8

Obituaries

CAMPBELL - Mary B. Campbell, 69, died at 7:32 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 12, 2003 at Riverside Hospital, Kankakee. Funeral services will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Cedar Park Cemetery, Calumet Park. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to First Baptist Church, Hoopeston.

a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 25 at Rossville American Legion, 104 Thompson Ave. Attendance on both days is required. Students should bring a sack lunch Saturday. Capacity is limited. To reserve a seat, call (217) 442-4080.

Halloween party

The Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce will host a Halloween part from 2-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26 at the McFerren Park Civic Center. Costume prizes will be awarded from age birth-10, games, refreshments and fun

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 61. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 42. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 61, low 40. For current weather conditions, call **(217) 283-6221**.

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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KARAOKE

Saturday 8:30-12:30

Lazer & Lights

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Second Chance Saloon

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