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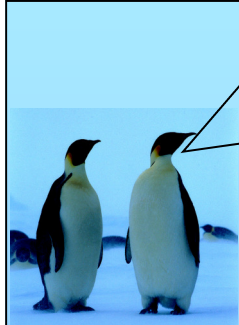
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Tuesday, January 30, 2007

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

Health department to offer HPV shots for girls ages 9-18

The Vermilion County Health Department is now making available vaccination to protect young girls from Human Papillomavirus Virus (HPV), which can cause cervical cancer.

"This is an opportunity for parents to take a proactive approach to ensuring the future health of their daughters," said administrator Stephen Laker.

Vaccination for HPV can help prevent cervical cancer, cervical pre-cancers, genital warts, and genital lesions that are caused by the HPV virus, that can occur in women.

Beginning in February, the health department is providing the 3-dose schedule of vaccine for girls ages 9 to 18. The vaccine schedule includes second and third doses at two and six month intervals following the first dose. The cost for HPV vaccine at the health department will be \$7/dose, or \$21 for all three doses.

While the state health department approved distributing the HPV vaccine to local health departments in December, the vaccine was not available to order until this month. "We now have the vaccine on hand, and we are accepting appointments to start offering the HPV vaccine beginning in February, during regularly scheduled immunization clinics each month," Laker said.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call (217) 431-2662. To view the health department's regular Immunization Clinic schedule, visit their website at www.vchd.org.

Candidate filing for April 17 election off to nonexistent start

Monday was the first day to file petitions for the April 17 election but as of 10:30 Monday morning, no candidates had filed for either Hoopeston City Council or Hoopeston Area School Board.

Three positions are open on the school board. Seats held by incumbents Mark Wagoner and Steve Unger, considered "in" candidates, and Mark Eigner, out of the former Hoopeston High School district, are up for reelection.

For Hoopeston City Council, one seat is up for reelection in each of the city's four wards. Those seats are currently held by Ed Lotz, Jerry Yonkers, Nancy Stipp and Brandon Hamilton.

While filing has started, those interested in running may still pick up petition packets. They are available at Hoopeston City Hall for the aldermanic election and in the superintendent's office at Hoopeston Area High School for the school board election.

Petitions must be filed by 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5 for the city election and 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5 for the school election.

Industrial Corporation holds annual meeting, elects directors

At their annual meeting, 73 of the 131 shareholders of the Hoopeston Industrial Corporation unanimously elected Roger Ball, Bruce Burton, Harold Cox, Lloyd Cox, Jean Minick, Bill Nicholls, and Bertha Parsons to the 2007 Board of Directors.

The annual meeting was held Wednesday.

The reorganizational meeting was held immediately afterwards, at which time officers were chosen. The slate remains the same as last year with Harold Cox as president; Bill Nicholls, vice president; Jean Minick, secretary; and Bruce Burton, treasurer.

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 where I'm at today
 if it hadn't been for
 the therapy team."*
-Lester Walz



HOOPESTON
 REGIONAL HEALTH CENTER

Illinois Department of Revenue sets tentative county property assessment equalization factor

SPRINGFIELD—Vermilion County has been issued a tentative property tax assessment equalization factor of 1.0448, according to Brian Hamer, director of the Illinois Department of Revenue.

The property assessment equalization factor, often called the "multiplier", is the method used to achieve uniform property assessments among counties, as required by law. This equalization is particularly important because some of the state's 6,600 local taxing districts overlap into two or more counties (e.g. school districts, junior college districts, fire protection districts). If there were no equalization among counties, substantial inequities among taxpayers with comparable properties would result.

State law requires property in Illinois to be assessed at one-third of its market value. Farm property is assessed differently, with farm homesites and dwellings subject to regular assessing and equalization procedures, but with farmland and farm buildings assessed according to standards based on productivity.

The equalization factor is determined annually for each county by comparing the sales price of individual properties sold over the past three years to the assessed value placed on those properties by the county supervisor of assessments/county assessor.

If this three-year average level of assessment is one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be one. If the average level of assessment is greater than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be less than one. If the average is less than one-third of market value, the factor will be greater than one.

Assessments in Vermilion County are at 31.90 percent of market value, based on sales of properties in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

The equalization factor currently being assigned is for 2006 taxes, payable in 2007.

Last year's equalization factor for the county was 1.0000.

The tentative factor is subject to change if the County Board of Review takes actions which significantly affect the county assessments or if local officials or others can present data showing that the Department of Revenue's estimates in the county should be adjusted. A public hearing on the tentative multiplier will be held between 20 and 30 days after the tentative factor is published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county.

A change in the equalization factor does not mean total property tax bills will increase or decrease. Tax bills are determined by local taxing bodies when they request money each year to provide services to local citizens. If the amount requested by local taxing districts is not greater than the amount received the previous year, then total property taxes will not increase even if assessments may have increased.

The assessed value of individual property determines what portion of the tax burden a specific taxpayer will assume. The individual's portion of tax responsibility is not changed by the multiplier.

Briefly


Tiny Tots
 "Bears" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots at the Hoopeston Public Library.

Tiny Tots meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays and is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Magazines available
 The library staff is doing the annual moving of back issues of magazines and putting them out for purchase by donation.

Meetings
 Hoopeston Area Board of Education, 7 p.m. Thursday, high school library. Special meeting regarding student discipline.

Weather



Chance of flurries today. High 20. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 6. Tomorrow, partly cloudy, chance of snow late. High 28, low 7.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clearance sale on name brand kids' wear. Save 50-75% off retail. Exclusive time limit offer. Log on to www.magickidsusa.com or call 1-888-225-9411 for free color catalog. Mention discount code MK30193.

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