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Friday, December 26, 2014
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net

City council approves new insurance plan, police contract

New employee insurance and a new contract between the city and police officers were approved at a special Hoopeston City Council meeting Tuesday afternoon.

The city will pay \$460,216 to Coventry Insurance for coverage for 25 employees, said Alderman Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman.

Keeping the existing Coventry plan would have cost the city an additional \$90,000, Goodwine said. The new plan, which goes into effect January 1, raises deductibles and copayments and costs about \$31,000 more than last year.

Goodwine said the increase amounts to a 60 cent per hour raise for covered employees.

"I'm sure nobody really likes it," Goodwine said, saying the insurance industry is in "total chaos." Officials did not get cost information on the policy until November and those figures were wrong. Correct figures were not received until December 19, leaving little time to discuss the coverage with employees prior to Tuesday's meeting. "We'll try to do better next time," he said.

Alderman Brandon Hamilton, police committee chairman, presented information on the new Fraternal Order of Police contract between officers and the city. The five-year agreement includes changes in wages, longevity, insurance, residency.

The new agreement, which had already been approved by the local police union, sets a two percent raise this year on base pay of \$41,082.98 for officers completing the probationary period. That increase is retroactive to May 1. That will be followed next year by another two percent raise, with 2.75 percent raises in 2017 and 2018.

Officers' salaries will be increased with longevity

pay, ranging from an additional \$1,250 annually after four years of service to \$5,000 per year after 19 years.

The city will pick up more of officers' insurance costs over the life of the agreement, from the current 10 percent to 12 percent in 2018.

Additionally, a new residency policy states 75 percent of officers must live within 10 miles of Hoopeston City Hall. The remaining 25 percent may live within 40 miles of city hall.

Officers will be allowed to choose on a first come, first served basis. Conflicts will be decided on which officer has the most seniority.

Three of four city wards to see races in April 7 election

Incumbents in three of Hoopeston's four wards will have competition in the April 7, 2015 election.

In Ward 1, incumbent Joe Fell is seeking reelection. He is being challenged by Chad Yaden, owner of Yaden Flooring and a Hoopeston fireman, and Dustin Tarter of City Chef.

Ward 2 incumbent Randy Carter is running unopposed.

In Ward 3, Nancy Stipp, an employee of Hoopeston Area School District, is being challenged by Alex Houmes, who is employed by Watchfire Signs.

Incumbent Brandon Hamilton is running again for his fourth ward seat, as are Jeremy Dobkins, owner of Hoopeston Shooting Range and a former Hoopeston Police officer and Russell Hibma, a member of Hoopeston Emergency Management Agency.

Monday was the last day to submit paperwork to be on the April 7 ballot.

No food will be served at VFW
 until Wednesday, January 7.
 Orange & 4th Ave., Hoopeston
 Wednesday, Jan. 7 WINGS! 5-8 p.m.
 Thursday, Jan. 8: Tacos 11 a.m.-2 p.m.,
 5-8 p.m.
 Friday, Jan. 9: NFCC Fish Fry 11a.m. - 7 p.m.
Happy Holidays from the VFW & Staff!

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The PIT STOP at EAST LANES
Monday: Meatloaf w/au gratin or mashed potatoes or grilled or breaded Tenderloin
Tuesday: Beef or chicken & noodles or Speedway Burger
Wednesday: serving lunch only, 11-1:30
Thursday: closed. Merry Christmas!
Friday: Cod or Rib eye Steaks
Saturday: Prime Rib or Rib eyes 4:30-8:30
Open Bowling
 All day Monday, Friday & Saturday, 12-4 Sunday
 Now taking reservations for
NEW YEARS EVE DINNER.
 Serving starts at 4:30. Your choice of Prime Rib, Rib eyes, Grilled Chicken Breast or Chicken Cordon Bleu with choice of potato & salad.
Past Country will play from 9-1.
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Santa for Seniors coordinator says thanks
 Thank you to all who helped make the second annual Santa for Seniors a success, you all are amazing. This would not have been possible without all of your generous donations.
 Also a huge thank you to all of the Elves who donated their time to help deliver the packages...because of your generosity, Santa for Seniors was able to deliver 70 indi-

Police News

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 12:45 p.m. Tuesday in the 700 block of South Dixie Hwy.
 Police said Kelly L. Ankenbrand, of Hoopeston, in a 2011 Chevrolet, struck a 2010 Buick, driven by Penny S. Wilken, of Milford.
 A **22-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday that someone took four tires and rims from his garage in the 400 block of West Chestnut. The door was also damaged.

Car Troubles?

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Letters to the Editor

vidual gift bags and three community boxes to Autumn Fields, Heritage Health and Centennial Manor. We live in a wonderful community!

Susie Shepherd
 Santa for Seniors

More thanks for community generosity
 THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this year's Miracle Tree, Santa Cares Too and Toys for Kids a success! A special thanks to to all the individuals, businesses, social clubs, churches, civic organizations, school groups, youth groups or anyone who helped with gifts or donations. You made Christmas a happier time for many children within the community.
 Thanks to Dolores Crabtree, Robin Lawson and her helpers at Global Fashions and Teresa Adwell and her staff at Shopko for their time and effort in handing out name tags and handling gifts as they were returned. A special THANK YOU also to Callie Huffman and all of the Jaycee's for coordinating their Toys for Kids gift

Obituaries

REYES - Tammy June (Mechino) Reyes, 53, of Hoopeston, died Sunday, Dec. 21, 2014, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. funeral Friday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. She will be cremated. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice.
SCHAUMBURG - Joy Ann (Lehmann) Schaumburg, 65, of Milford, died Monday, Dec. 22, 2014, at home. Funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Woodworth. Private graveside service will be at a later date in St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Schwer. Visitation will be 3-8 p.m. Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, and 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday at the church. Memorials are suggested to Iroquois County Relay for Life, Iroquois Memorial Hospice or donor's choice.

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 32. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 25. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 36, low 24. Sunday, partly sunny. High 37, low 28.

giveaway with the Miracle Tree event.
 These programs would not be the success that they are without the publicity provided by WHPO, Just the Facts and the Chronicle. We sincerely thank you all!
 Our community never ceases to amaze us through their generosity throughout the Christmas season as well as throughout the year. We are very thankful to be a part of this effort and appreciate all of the contributions and support of every kind.

2014 Miracle Tree Workers
 Santa Cares Too Staff
 Jaycee's Toys for Kids

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT
 723 W. Orange St. Clean and quiet 2BR for rent. Available now. Rent \$400 plus utilities and deposit. Stove and Ref. furnished. References required. Mike 312-371-8585
 Creekside Terrace, Cissna Park, IL. 1 BR handicapped accessible apartments for low income (62+). Appliances provided, many amenities. For information call **815-457-3535**. Equal Opportunity Housing

HELP WANTED
 Cade's Heating and Air LLC, of Hoopeston seeks reliable HVAC installer/service tech. Preferred candidate will have 2-4 years of HVAC experience; knowledge of HVAC service, installation, be self driven and able to diagnose HVAC problems. Ability to fabricate sheet metal a plus. This is a full time position, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F with some after hours rotation. Salary based on experience. Send resume to ramcade@frontier.com. For questions, call (217) 283-7762.
 Seeking full time lube tech. Must be friendly, willing to work as a team member. Apply in person at Hoopeston Express Lube, Hoopeston Plaza.
 Hoopeston Multi Agency has a temporary part time position: Teen Reach Assistant Director. Send cover letter with resume to Maria Sermersheim at mariasermer@gmail.com or 206 S. 1st Avenue, Hoopeston, IL by January 7, 2015. Minimum of two year experience working with school age children, Associates degree preferred.

HOUSES FOR RENT
 3 bedroom house New carpet, new paint with garage. \$550 per month available immediately. Call 217-304-2145.