

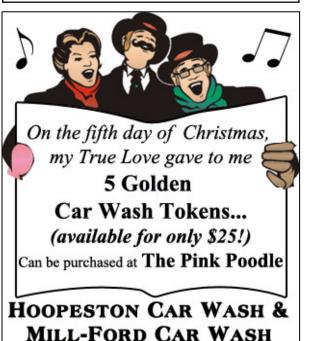


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# City employee health insurance to have better cost, options

A new health insurance plan will save money for city employees and offer more variety than was available last year, along with saving money for the city.

City officials were recently notified that Aetna, which currently provides the city's health insurance, was hiking premiums by 49 percent next year. The city's cost would increase from \$200,000 this year to nearly \$600,000 next year, said Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman. "We didn't get it until mid-November so we've been scurrying to find (other coverage)."

Of the total cost, employees pay 11 percent, with the city picking up 89 percent.

Starting in January, city officials hope to go with the

#### DACC Higher Learning Center - Hoopeston Mark Your Calendars and Get Registered!!

Food Service License Wednesday, January 17-February 14, 6-9:30 p.m.

Computer Classes Beginners Only - Jan. 24-Feb. 14 Word Level 1 - Feb. 21-Mar. 14

Intro to the World of Bees with Toby Brown Thursday, January 26

Landscaping 101 with Sheila Schmidt of Garden Essentials SAT Prep Classes February 3-24

ACT Prep Classes Saturdays, March 10-31 Visit DACC.EDU/HOOPESTON for more info!! Call to make your appointment. Call for more information and to register! Call 217-283-4170, stop by 847 E. Orange, Hoopeston, or visit www.dacc.edu/hoopeston state's Local Government Health Plan, which offers more choices at lower cost for most employees.

Instead of deductibles of \$2,500/\$5,000, the new Local Care Health Plan would have \$750 deductibles for both individual and family, with out of pocket (OOP) maximums of \$1,750 and \$3,500. Monthly premiums for this plan would be \$101.04 for employee, \$194.04 for employee +1 and \$250.56 for the family plan.

Under the HMO choice offered by the state plan, OOP maximums would be \$3,000 and \$6,000, less than the \$5,500/\$11,000 maximums offered by Aetna. Premiums would be \$100.08, \$192 and \$248 per month for employee, employee +1, and family, respectively.

Another choice, the Local Consumer-Driven Health Plan, would have the same OOPs as the HMO, with deductibles of \$1,500/\$3,000 for premiums of \$80.88,

See INSURANCE on other side

### **Board applies for tuition waiver**

In an abbreviated special session Tuesday evening, Hoopeston Area School Board, in a 6-0 vote, approved applying for a waiver that would allow the children of out-of-district full time staff to attend Hoopeston Area schools without paying tuition.

Board member Lawrence Jahn was absent. The waiver request, which included details from the public hearing held last week, was sent to the Illinois State Board of Education on Wednesday, said Suzzette Hesser, HA superintendent.

ISBE will review the waiver application to make sure it is complete before sending it on to the General Assembly for approval. "I anticipate that we will hear about the final approval in March/April," she said.

School officials are requesting the waiver because they believe allowing non-resident students, whose parents are full time staff members, to attend local schools for free will improve the education of Hoopeston Area students through improved recruitment and retention of staff.



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Words can't begin to express how thankful we are for the outpouring of love, prayers and support shown to our family after our recent loss.

Also thanks for cards, phone calls, visits, food & donations made for Chase and Alivia's college fund.

Special thanks to Anderson Funeral Home, Treasured Roots Flower Shop, Fast Lanes, New Beginnings Church and Pastor Mike and Deb Robling and the entire Hoopeston Area School system.

We are truly blessed to have you as friends!

Family of Lori Wilson Jammie, Chase, Alivia Wilson Sydney and Zach Puralewski Roger and Linda Meeker Jill Shaw, Kyle & Katie



## If you have last-minute gifts to get, why not shop locally?

For the vehicle enthusiast, check out Lithgow Automotive for a new ATV or snowmobile. Or tokens from Hoopeston Car Wash to keep that vehicle looking spiffy! Get them at the Pink Poodle. Gift cards from Hoopeston Express Lube will keep it running like a finely-oiled machine.

For the kids or grands, how about giving an experience, like baking with supplies from Hoopeston IGA, or building a project with materials from Olympic Hardware? Or maybe a movie at the Little Lorraine or production at the Lorraine Theatre?

Who doesn't like to eat? Gift certificates from local eateries, like Fast Lanes, Mr. B's, La Casa del Sol or Pizza King in Hoopeston and Rossville Family Restaurant are always great!

Know someone who likes to write letters? Stamps, available in many designs right at our Hoopeston Post Office, would be a welcome gift. For the computer lovers in your life, check out Computer Works for all the hot gifts.

Check out Simply Treasures and Treasured Roots Flower Shop for interesting gifts in all price ranges. A gardener would appreciate a Treasured Roots gift certificate come spring. If you're heading to Milford, check out the Blossom Basket!

Stop in Global Fashions for all kinds of gifts priced right! And if you need to sell something, consider an ad in Just the Facts. Your ad will be seen by thousands every day!

SHOP - EAT - SPEND - ENJOY - THINK LOCAL FIRST!

### **Insurance** continued from other side

\$155.28 and \$200.64.

Under the current plan, premiums are \$95.76, \$201.12 and \$301.68, which were to be increased to \$142.56, \$299.52 and \$449.28.

Goodwine thinks Aetna increased its rates so drastically to rid itself of Hoopeston, which he called "not a good customer." For every dollar in premiums paid, Aetna has paid \$1.26 in claims. "They've been losing money on us for several years in a row," he said.

Actna may not have gotten totally out from under Hoopeston as it is one of the providers under the state plan.

The council, in a 5-0 vote, approved giving Mayor Bill Crusinberry authority to sign the healthcare contract. Aldermen Ryan Anderson, Alex Houmes and Chad Yaden were absent.

In other business, the council:

•Tabled discussion on a new roof for the water plant. •Heard from Ald. Brandon Hamilton that the city police committee will meet at 8 a.m. Friday and move into ex-

ecutive session to discuss personnel.
Hearing no disagreement from the council, Crusinberry said the next meeting will remain on January 2, 2018, a



holiday for city employees.

•Heard from resident Steve Dazey, who asked when the city was going to do something to slow traffic down an alley off of Sixth Ave. that runs behind Silgan Containers. Crusinberry referred the matter to the street/alley committee.

—Brieflv

### Birthday card shower

Francis Troxel will celebrate his 80th birthday December 24 and would enjoy hearing from friends. Cards and notes of well wishes may be sent to him at 1107 S. Second Ave., Hoopeston IL 60942.

#### Breast cancer support group

Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support Group meets the third Thursday of each month at The Pit Stop at Fast Lanes. The group is open to all past and present breast cancer survivors. The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21.

For more information, call Pat Foster, (815) 984-4040.

## **Court Dispositions**

#### November 2

**Kayla Petty**, Hoopeston, Hoopeston, status check December 7 on two cases.

Jayson Reyes, Hoopeston, status check December 7.

Joseph Cannon, Hoopeston, status check December 7.

## Weather

Increasing clouds today. High 44. Tonight, cloudy. Low 37. Tomorrow, cloudy, chance of rain, rain/snow late. High 44, low 31.

