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editor

JUST the facts

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Friday, March 11, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

U.S. Postal Service requests rate hike to 32 cents

"Mail early" has a different meaning now.

The U.S. Postal Service on March 8 requested a 10.3 percent, across-the-board increase, effective next year.

The increase, if granted, would raise the price of a first-class stamp to 32 cents.

Hoopeston postmaster Paul Ziemnisky said the increase is necessary to meet rising costs. The post office receives no government subsidies. "What we make in stamp sales pays the freight," he said.

The request now goes before the independent Postal Rate commission, which has 10 months to make a decision.

Public hearings will be part of the 10-month process, Ziemnisky said. Hearings will be held in Washington, D.C.

Those who cannot attend the hearings may send written comments to the U.S. Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza Southwest, Washington, D.C., 20260.

If granted, the rate hike would increase postage for the average consumer by \$8 or \$9 annually, according to information from the post office.

However, the three-cent increase is expected to generate \$2.76 billion for the post office, which last year lost \$1.7 billion. A \$1.3 billion loss is predicted this year.

Ziemnisky said rate hikes are based on a three-year cycle. "The first year, you make money," he said. "The second year, you break even. The third year, you lose money."

The Postal Service spent six months studying the need for a rate increase before the request was made, Ziemnisky said.

The Postal Service is stressing that the percentage of increase is less than the overall rate of inflation, estimated at 13 to 14 percent.

Although the Postal Service has requested a three-cent increase, there is no guarantee they'll get it, Ziemnisky said, adding when rates increased in 1991, the Postal Service had requested a 30-cent stamp. The Rate Commission allowed postage to increase to 29 cents.

Although prices will be higher, Ziemnisky said the rate is justified. "Everything is included in the price of a stamp," he said. That includes forwarding mail, holding mail, changes of address and other services offered by the post office.

Local residents, he said, "get their money's worth and then some," from the post office. "It's a lot more efficient in a smaller office than it is in a bigger one because there's less mass," he said. "Bigger is not always better."

Ziemnisky said U.S. rates are a bargain compared to other countries. For example, similar service in Japan costs 73 cents. "We're still the lowest in the world for postage rate," he said.

The local post office handles about 1.5 million pieces of mail annually. Nationally, the figure is 170 billion.

Clarification

It was reported in yesterday's Just the Facts that the All Sports Boosters spent \$12,000-\$13,000 on equipment for sports programs. That was earned over a two-year period, not in a single year.

Just the Facts regrets any confusion this may have caused.

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Landlord facing legal problems is familiar to local officials

The owner of an alleged roach-infested Tilton house slated for demolition is no stranger to Hoopeston officials.

Opal Thomas, Urbana, is the owner of a house in Tilton, slated for demolition, and another in Rankin. Officials there have filed papers asking the Vermilion County Circuit Court to allow them to tear down a building at 105 Main St., also owned by Thomas.

While Thomas' problems in Hoopeston have not included officials moving to have a house demolished, she has appeared in city court.

Thomas' record spans 1990 to 1993 and in-

cludes violations for nuisance weeds, tall grass and junk, according to Hoopeston police records.

The properties were at 415 Front St., 205, 207 and 209 N. Tenth Ave., and 614 W. Lincoln.

City attorney Calvin Hultquist said Thomas buys the properties for back taxes. "She buys these properties and neglects them," he said.

Records show Thomas spent \$6,995.35 on such properties in 1988; \$11,442.72 in 1989; and \$17,918.19 in 1992.

Court dispositions

Leanord McCoy, Cicero, rule to show cause hearing, to pay \$75, failure to appear, writ to be issued.

Jacque Fenwick, Hoopeston, hearing to revoke court supervision, revoked, to pay in full \$635, converted to 155 hours public service work.

John Vance, Alvin, to do 141 hours of public service work or pay \$579 in full, to report for court supervision, status check May 5.

Steven Hargrove, Hoopeston, hearing to revoke court supervision, 36 hours public service work, continued to April 7.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
March 9, 1994

Admitted: Violet Broche, Mildred Storm and Geraldine Johnson, all of Hoopeston.

Discharged: Molly Martinez and Barbara Pickett, Hoopeston; Angela Williams, Wellington.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High in the low to mid 40s. Tonight, clouds developing. Low in the mid 20s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 46, low near 25. Sunday, partly cloudy. High near 54, low near 34.

Dates of gymnastics changed

Palaestrum Gymnastics lessons scheduled at the VFW for March 15 have been changed to March 18.

Police News

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 12:40 p.m. Thursday. Cars driven by Ada E. Stuebe, 858 E. Maple, and Nicole Amber Mathews, East Lynn, collided at East Main and North Market.

Mary N. Coonce, 917 W. Penn, Hoopeston, reported to police Thursday that someone struck her car while it was parked on the 300 block of East Main. Police are investigating.

Obituaries

INGRAM, Wanda L., 79, of Milford, died at 2:42 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, 1994, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday at the Milford Christian Church. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. today at the Knapp Funeral Home in Milford. Memorials may be made to the Milford Christian Church or Diabetes Foundation.

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