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Lourdine Osborne
editor

Just the facts

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Friday, April 29, 1994

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

Expansion, new services top forum discussion

In a time when many hospitals are facing financial ill health, officials at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital say the facility is healthy.

Officials addressed employees and members of the community Thursday night at the hospital's fifth annual public forum.

The forum has been held ever since hospital ownership was taken over locally.

Administrator Rod Burkett said the facility lost almost \$78,000 last year, but said over half that is money owed to the hospital by the state Medicaid program.

New services offered, plus the planned elder care expansion project, are expected to ease the hospital's financial situation in the future.

Construction on the \$3 million expansion, including an adult independent living complex and increased nursing home beds, is expected to begin

in four to six weeks, Burkett said.

Many new services are also being offered and new equipment purchased. Last year, the hospital spent more than \$80,000 on equipment. The total so far this year is almost \$59,000, including \$41,000 for a new mammography machine.

Burkett also spoke on state and national issues which will affect the local hospital, including the Medicaid crisis and, on the national level, health care reform.

He told the crowd that no matter what version of health care is passed, it will include six things: healthcare instead of sick care; primary care rather than specialty care; freedom to choose a personal physician; portable coverage; incremental changes instead of rapid advances; and Cadillac versus Chevy plans.

Employees also received service awards.

Mother, daughter reunited after 26-year separation

Susan Comstock will have special reason to celebrate this Mother's Day: she has been reunited with the daughter she gave away at birth.

Comstock was 19 in 1968, when she gave birth to a girl now known as Christine Weaver Juman. For almost 26 years, Comstock wondered about her daughter. Did she have a good home? Was she well? Was she happy?

On April 13, some of those questions were answered.

Comstock was at a home interior party when she received a phone call. After the conversation, "I just started bawling," Comstock said.

Juman had managed to find Comstock's brother,

Rick Boyden of Wellington. Boyden called his sister with Juman's New York phone number.

Comstock, hands shaking, dialed the number. Eighty-one minutes and many tears later, mother and child felt the missing part of their lives filled. Twelve days from the first call, Juman was on a plane, heading for Hoopeston.

Juman said she was 10 or 11 when her parents, Ellic and John Weaver of Tampa, Fla., told her she was adopted. Finding out was traumatic, she said. "I felt like my (biological) mother didn't want to have anything to do with me," she said.

Juman thought about finding her mother

See REUNION on other side

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Reunion continued from other side

over the years. "I wanted to look for a long time, but I didn't have anything to go by," she said. About two years ago, Juman's adoptive father gave her Comstock's name. "I thought, 'My gosh, I don't want to know,'" she said.

Resentment turned to curiosity. Juman wondered why she was put up for adoption. "I kept thinking of crazy things," she said. "What if it was a rape situation? What if it was an incest situation? What if my father went to Viet Nam and didn't come back and that's why she did it?"

None of those scenarios turned out to be true, however.

Comstock was living in Kankakee after graduating from high school, and was involved in a several-year relationship during which Juman was conceived.

There were "a lot of circumstances" involved in placing Juman for adoption, including something someone told Comstock. "Somebody told me that if it was a boy, he could fight if somebody called

him a bastard," she said, crying, "but if it was a girl, she couldn't. When they told me I had a girl, I screamed because I knew I couldn't keep her."

Comstock took some steps to allow Juman to find her. She registered with ALMA - the Adoptees' Liberty Movement Association, a group matching registered children with their biological parents.

Juman also had registered with ALMA.

Comstock and Juman are amazed at the similarities between them. "She's so much like me - that's what's scary," Juman said. "They say (personality is determined by) the way you're brought up. I say it's hereditary, I don't care what any psychologists say."

Comstock said her daughters are alike. For example, while pregnant, both developed cravings for radishes and A1 Sauce on macaroni.

Comstock admitted she will never take Juman's adoptive mother's place. "It's a little bit late for me to be a mother to her, but I think I'll mother her," she said.

Mother and daughter say the visit has given them peace. "I feel comfortable with her and I think she feels comfortable here," Comstock said. "I'm going to hate for her to leave."

"I was always depressed," Juman said. "I'd try to do things to fill my emptiness. I'm happy with my life now, more than I ever was."

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
April 27, 1994

Admitted: Hazel Wilson, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Lillie Marie Timmons, Rossville; Linda Evans, Hoopeston.

Weather

Chance of morning showers today, then partly sunny. High near 65. Tomorrow, showers likely. High near 62, low near 48. Sunday, partly cloudy, cooler. High near 57, low near 43.

CELEBRITY WAITER
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