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just the facts

Thursday, April 17, 1997

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

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Grant Township qualifies for food stamp program waiver

Cutbacks in the state's food stamp program will have less of an impact on local residents.

Grant Township officials were notified last week that the township has received a waiver which allows residents to receive food stamps for a longer period of time than is now allowed.

Under welfare reform regulations, able-bodied people between the ages of 18 and 55 could only receive food stamps for three months during a 36-month period, said Grant Township supervisor Carol Flint.

With the waiver, that regulation does not apply, Flint said.

The request for a waiver began last year when welfare reform changes were approved. Danville Township was granted an exemption from the time provision, based on high unemployment.

"My question was why didn't we get that same waiver," she said. "I thought, if Danville got a waiver with everything going on, all the new construction and places to work, that Grant Township would surely qualify."

Briefly

Rossville man dies in accident

Duane Phillips, 43, of Rossville, was identified as the man killed in a motorcycle accident Tuesday night.

Mr. Phillips was pronounced dead at 6:22 p.m. at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

According to reports, Mr. Phillips was northbound on County Road 1700 East when he apparently lost control of his motorcycle, which left the road and went down an embankment into a ditch.

An inquest is being scheduled.

Correction

It was reported in Monday's and Tuesday's editions that Family Involvement for Excellence In Education would meet Thursday. The group will not meet this month.

Myers announces offices

State Sen. Judy Myers (R-Danville) has announced office addresses and telephone numbers.

Myers' Danville office is at 9 E. Fairchild, sharing space with Rep. Bill Black. The telephone number is

(217) 443-2579.

Myers' Watseka office is at 115 E. Walnut. The phone number is (815) 432-2293.

Myers also plans to open a Coles County office, but has not selected a site.

Road repairs

Repairs to Route 9 between Route 1 and the Ford County line are part of \$4.8 billion Fiscal Year 1998 road program announced by Gov. Jim Edgar.

The project, estimated at \$1.55 million, is one of 11 projects included in the July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998 plan.

Also scheduled are:

□ a location study and bridge superstructure over Sugar Creek on Stockland-Greer 1.6 miles south of Stockland, with an estimated cost of \$246,000; and

□ bridge replacement, railroad crossing improvements and location studies on Stockland-Greer 5.5 miles south of Stockland, at an estimated cost of \$221,000.

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Court Dispositions



April 3: Steven Conrad, Waukegan, no insurance, continued to May 1; speeding, pleaded guilty, \$95 fine and costs.

Richard Dancey, Hoopeston, speeding, pleaded not guilty; bench trial May 1.

Lonnie Davis, Hoopeston, to pay, failed to appear.

Cory Durlinger, Rankin, paid in full.

William Gifford, Aurora, speeding, ex parte judgment.

Anthony Golatte, Danville, status check, failed to appear.

Obituaries

PHILLIPS - Duane A. Phillips, 43, of Rossville, died at 6:22 p.m. Tuesday at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, the result of a motorcycle accident. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday

See **WAIVER** on other side

Waiver continued from other side

Flint questioned U.S. Rep. Tom Ewing about the waiver and also expressed concern to state Sen. Bill Black and state Sen. Judy Myers.

The change means people whose food stamp benefits were discontinued due to the time factor may reapply for more benefits, she said.

Had the waiver not been granted, township officials might have been swamped with applicants for its food cupboard and general assistance programs, Flint said.

A person who received \$120 monthly in food stamps would, under the township's assistance program receive a monthly grant of \$165. "That would leave \$45 for rent,

utilities and other expenses," Flint said.

Some questions regarding the combination of food stamp and township programs still exist.

For example, Grant Township has a Work Fair program under which people who are able must do work for their benefits. Flint said she is unsure if that work will also qualify under public aid requirements for public service work.

While Flint agrees welfare changes were needed, some may have come too quickly. The time restriction for food stamps, for example, "is fine and dandy if there's work," she said. "You have to (make changes) gradually."

Last month, the Grant Township Food Cupboard served 56 families, for a total of 139 people, reflecting a decrease in food cupboard use.

Flint said the number of families served is cyclical,

In the hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
April 15, 1997

Admitted: John Mushrush, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Sunny today. High near 50. Tonight, clear. Low in the low 30s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 56, low near 35.

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