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Local hospital plans \$2 million plus renovation project

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital will soon undergo some cosmetic surgery.

The 50-bed facility will undergo a modernization estimated at \$2-\$2.5 million, said C.E.O. Darryl Wahler at a press conference Friday.

Although officials are still working on specifics, modifications will accommodate the increased number of outpatients and improve traffic flow in the hospital. Such things as waiting rooms for radiology and lab patients, a cardiac rehabilitation area, as well as improvements in the heating/air conditioning and electrical systems are being considered, Wahler said.

Construction, which may begin as early as this fall, means the hospital must also meet new building codes established since the hospital was built in 1962. For example, hospital restrooms are not handicapped-accessible and fire doors do not meet new standards.

Hospital Building and Equipment (HBE) of St. Louis will oversee all phases of the project but will hire local contractors for actual construction, Wahler said.

Financing for the project will come first from three

sources, the Hoopeston Area Healthcare Foundation, outside loans and employee donations to Project Hope, part of the foundation.

The amount borrowed "depends on how successful the foundation is," Wahler said. "What we have left over is what will be financed." Since the hospital is running in the black, it has become more desirable to lending institutions, he said.

Officials plan to borrow enough not only to pay for modernization, but also to cover the outstanding \$4-\$4.5 million debt left from when the facility was owned by Westworld Healthcare.

Critical access designation from federal and state governments will also help the hospital meet its new financial obligations.

Wahler said the critical access program designed for small rural hospitals, would increase Medicare payments to actual costs rather than a portion of the total. "For this hospital, it would be a significant improvement in our finances," Wahler said.

When such designation might be made is undecided. The hospital has met federal criteria and should meet state guidelines. If approved, the hospi-

Family loses home, firemen hurt in Sunday morning blaze

A Hoopeston family lost its home and two firemen received minor injuries in a Father's Day fire Sunday morning.

Hoopeston firemen were called to the Steve Leslie home, 924 W. Washington, at 8:46 a.m. for a fire which officials believe began in the living room.

"(Mr. And Mrs. Leslie) were still sleeping," said fire chief Brian Laird. "They'd been up at 7:30 and everything was fine." The couple's two sons were not home.

Two unidentified firemen were treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, one suffering from burns to his ear, the other to wrist burns, Laird said.

A damage estimate was not available, but Laird said the home is "pretty well gutted." The fire's cause is undetermined but Laird does not believe it was suspicious.

The family lost all their possessions in the blaze, Laird said.

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Jeffrey W. Strawser, 30, of 829 S. Fourth St., was arrested at 8:45 a.m. Friday. He was charged with unlawful use of a weapon after police said he pulled a knife on someone behind Jerry's IGA.

Strawser was released on \$100 cash bond.

Katherine Willfong, 904 W. Main, reported Friday someone scratched the driver's side and passenger rear doors of her 1992 Dodge while it was parked at McDonalds.

Briefly

Music Booster winners

Winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: June 22, Joyce Morgeson, Hoopeston; June 23, Nicholas E. Sloan, Hoopeston; June 24, Craig Lithgow, Hoopeston; June 25, Tricia Schieler, Hoopeston; June 26, Hunter Petersen, Rossville, \$200.

Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is Monday, Hoopeston shuttle; Tuesday, Bloomington, (leave at 8 a.m.); Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville.

For more information or to arrange a ride, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Community center activities this week include: Monday, ladies bridge, noon; Thursday: men's coffee, 9:30 a.m.; men's euchre 12:30 p.m.; and Friday, unemployed discount program, 1-3 p.m.

Diabetes support group

The Diabetes Support Group will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital conference room. "Eating Well" will be the topic. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Resignations accepted, hirings ok'd

The Hoopeston Area school board Thursday night accepted resignations from speech pathologist Carol Selby and Cindy Russell, Maple kindergarten.

Three people were also hired, including Denise Ried, Maple kindergarten; Carolyn Daniel, middle school cheerleading sponsor and Shawn Swartzentruber, high school assistant wrestling coach.

The board also:

Police News



Ramon Caraballo, 28, of 711 E. Young, turned himself in to police at 1:45 p.m. Friday. Caraballo, wanted on a warrant, was released on \$145 cash bond.

Sandy Crothers, 620 W. Penn, reported Friday that someone cut a rear tire on her 1986 Ford LTD.

Kathy M. Mann, 34, of 709A S. First Ave., was arrested at 10 a.m. Saturday on a warrant. She was released on \$100 cash bond.

Bud Johnson, 922 E. Main, reported Saturday that

someone spray painted graffiti on a garage at 826 E. Main.

Linda Carlson, 509 W. Penn, reported Saturday that a chrome BMX Power Lite bicycle was taken from her home. The bicycle was later found in the 200 block of East Penn and returned.

Geneva Nelson, 620 E. Young, reported Saturday that someone broke a window at her home.

discussed a possible intramural sports program for fifth and sixth grade students.

approved contracts for certified personnel including teachers and administrators and wage agreements for non-certified personnel.

learned the high school needs a special education teacher.

set meeting dates and times for the year.

Fingerprint session offered

Hoopeston Migrant Head Start will hold a fingerprint session from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday July 3.

The session is for foster parents, day care center staff and day care home providers who need to be printed as part of licensing procedures.

Anyone who wishes to be fingerprinted must register by June 25 by calling (815) 984-3706.

Those being fingerprinted will need a copy of the authorization for background check form signed by the licensing representative or the center director.

The session will be cancelled if fewer than 50 people register by June 25.

DACC rep to be at hospital

Danville Area Community College will have a representative at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Weather



Partly sunny today and tomorrow, with a chance of thunderstorms each day. Highs near 89, lows near 71.

For current weather conditions, call the Hoopeston

from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 25 to meet with Hoopeston area residents. The representative will discuss programs at the school, including computer courses.

The meeting is free and open to the public. To schedule an appointment outside the set hours, call Laura at (217) 443-8598.

Online registration and referrals are also available from the school.

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