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Wednesday, July 15, 1998

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P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

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Education, career training offered in 'second chance' program

A federal program is offering a second chance to area young people.

Job Corps, now offered in Vermilion County, is a free residential program designed to give young people ages 16-24 a chance to learn life skills, including training for employment, said Dawn Merrill, program admissions counselor.

Merrill will be at the Hoopeston Multi Agency the last Wednesday of each month to meet with young people who have made appointments for screenings or who want information on the program.

Job Corps is a "second chance program," Merrill said. Young people with criminal records are accepted, but acceptance is based on "what you've done with your life since (the crime)," she said, adding those convicted of Class X felonies are banned from participating.

Once accepted into the program, participants who have not earned a high school diploma must attend classes to receive a diploma or a GED equivalent.

Besides book learning, young people, who need not be high school drop outs, are also taught other skills, including a career. Choices include electrician work, masonry, heavy equipment operator/repair, computer programmer, health occupations, retail sales, business office, truck driving, accounting, carpentry, welding, apartment maintenance/repair and urban forestry.

Job Corps is not for everyone. "It's extremely disciplined," Merrill said. Participants are awakened at 5 a.m. daily to complete breakfast, showers and chores. A curfew is also imposed.

Participants are put on a 30-day probationary period, during which time they have no visitors. After 30 days, weekend visits are allowed. However, par-

ticipants are not allowed to have vehicles.

Entering the program can be done usually within 60 days, Merrill said, although some participants are tested to make sure they are determined enough. "Sometimes they like to make students jump through hoops," Merrill said. "It's not something that they are guaranteed."

Those hoops can include such things as getting a letter of recommendation to the program or studying the job market prior to admission.

Staying in the program can also be difficult. Job Corps has a zero tolerance policy for drug and alcohol use, as well as gang membership. "It's one strike and you're out," Merrill said. "It's a gang-free, drug-free program."

Fighting with another student is also grounds for dismissal. "They don't care who started it," Merrill said. "You're gone."

The length of the program depends on the age of the student. All will stay a minimum of eight months; those under 18 should be prepared to stay for two years, Merrill said.

While tough, Job Corps also provides rewards for students who do well. Those who complete their GED receive a \$250 bonus. Receiving a driver's license nets another financial reward, as do good behavior and graduation.

For students who send money to their families, the government will match 100 percent, up to \$50

Residential centers are located throughout the U.S. including Golconda and Joliet in Illinois and two sites near Indianapolis, Ind.

For more information on Job Corps, call the Hoopeston Multi Agency, (217) 283-5544.

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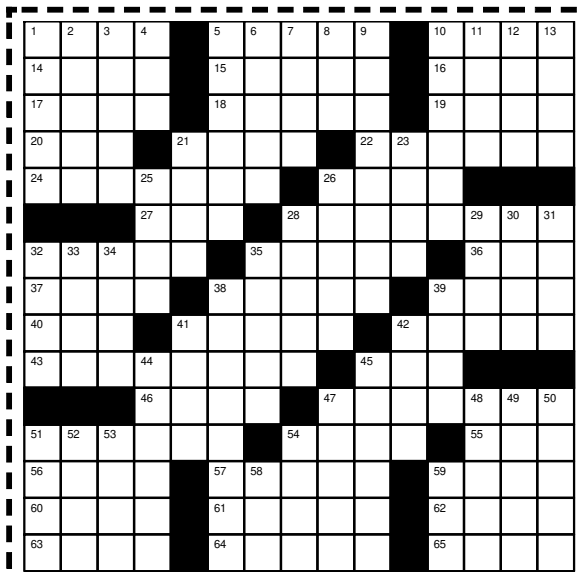
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Name: _____
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- Across**
- 1. 1., 5., & 10. Very regularly, precisely, and evenly
 - 5. 1., 5., & 10. Very regularly, precisely, and evenly
 - 10. 1., 5., & 10. Very regularly, precisely, and evenly
 - 14. Utopia
 - 15. Large wading bird

- 16. Author of 'A Death in the Family'
- 17. Feat of courage
- 18. Egg-shaped
- 19. Kill
- 20. Breach
- 21. Canal in N. West Germany
- 22. Joins (a club)
- 24. In ____, basically
- 26. Brogan
- 27. Female deer
- 28. Flimflammer
- 32. Custom
- 35. Put on (a play)
- 36. Pub beverage
- 37. Take one's leave
- 38. Lack of harmony
- 39. Prudent
- 40. Building annex
- 41. Slow-moving tree animal
- 42. Baked (pottery) in a kiln
- 43. Fragile
- 45. '... __ is calm'
- 46. Bay State: abbr.
- 47. Soft-soap
- 51. N.T. Book
- 54. Brilliant display
- 55. Exist
- 56. Always
- 57. Aleut's home
- 59. Alda, Jr.
- 60. Alleviate
- 61. Uses one of the senses
- 62. Authoress Kennedy
- 63. Dull
- 64. Leavening
- 65. Recognized

- 34. Bailey of song
- 35. Coin drops
- 38. Categorize
- 39. Languish
- 41. Glance at quickly
- 42. Flutter
- 44. Turkish inn
- 45. Nearly
- 47. Their day is April 1
- 48. Eagle's claw
- 49. Rub out
- 50. Continue (a subscription)
- 51. Shoal
- 52. See 18-Across
- 53. Flat tableland
- 54. Entreaty
- 58. Golly!
- 59. Biblical boat

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Hoopeston Area High School is seeking applications for a High School Computer Lab Aide. Computer skills are a must. Position will not be filled until August. Beginning date is August 17, 1998. Please send letters of application to Hoopeston Area High School, ATTN: Principal, 615 E. Orange, Hoopeston, IL 60942. 175-196

HOUSING WANTED

Small family is looking to rent a nice house in the Rossville school district. Finders fee available. (217) 443-4720. 184-204

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White lawn mower w/50-inch mowing deck. Has fluid in tires. Purchased new in July 1996, not used this mowing season. Asking \$2,000. (217) 283-6463.

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RUMMAGE SALES

Saturday, July 18 at 9 a.m. Bertha's Place, 102 S. Third St. Doll house, luggage, glass top table w/4 chairs, lg. Dining table, clothes, dishes, books, rocking horse, book shelves, end tables, prom dresses. Lots of good stuff plus some free things. Low prices. No sales before 9 a.m. Thanks.

Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad

Court Dispositions

July 2: Christopher Ward, Hoopeston, theft, pleaded guilty; \$50, costs, six months court supervision.
James McPherson, Hoopeston, trespassing; nolle pros.
Samuel Montoya, Hoopeston, to pay \$378 balance; failed to appear.
Samuel Montoya, Hoopeston, criminal damage, illegal consumption; not filed.
Edward Cordova, Hoopeston, driving while license

revoked, pleaded not guilty; jury trial Oct. 30.
Daryl B. Brown, Hoopeston, driving after suspension; bond applied.
James KostECKA, Hoopeston, driving while license revoked, pleaded not guilty; jury trial Oct. 30.
Roxane Zeman, Chicago, driving after suspension, speeding; dismissed.

Correction
 It was incorrectly reported in Monday's edition that the Hoopeston Area school board would meet at 7:30 p.m. Friday. The board will meet Thursday.

Weather
 Partly cloudy, humid today. High 88. Tonight, cloudy. Low 70. Tomorrow, less humid. High 87, low 69.
 For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.