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# Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

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## 'If' plays big role in 1999-00 Hoopeston city budget

"If" is a small word, but a big part of the 1999-00 budget passed by the Hoopeston city council Tuesday.

Alderman Bill Goodwine, chairman of the city finance committee, said the budget has a projected deficit of more than \$150,000:

☐ if aldermen approve a 30 cent per thousand gallons increase in the water rate, generating an additional \$100,000;

☐ if sewer treatment services are contracted, rather than paying city employees; and

☐ if no money is set aside for the sports complex, new equipment or major repairs.

If any of those things changes, the budget could spiral to more than \$500,000 in red ink, Goodwine said.

"We have to decide what kind of community we're going to have and then do something to make it happen," said Goodwine, suggesting the council look at a tax hike to pay for city services. "I really think we have to somehow generate more taxes if we want to live in a nice town," he said.

Residents would have to approve a tax increase in a referendum, Goodwine said.

The budget, approved in a 5-2 vote, shows income of \$3,730,203 and expenses of \$3,726,518. Adding in money accrued for new equipment and other purposes, the city is left with a deficit of \$153,715.

Aldermen John Haughee and Dave Borders voted against adopting the budget.

Although the budget was approved, aldermen did not approve the water rate hike nor eliminating the sewer superintendent's position. The budget does include a three percent, across-the-board increase for city employees, Mayor Bob Ault said after the meeting.

In other action, the council:

□ approved a \$9 million bond issue for an expansion/remodeling program at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

□approved a \$7,831 bid from Olympic Hardware for a new cemetery mower and a \$26,702 bid from Silver Bros. for sidewalk repairs in the 300 block of Main St.

## Coroner lists 'evidence,' duties at Neighborhood Watch

Hoopeston's Neighborhood Watch murder mystery investigation moved one step forward Monday when Vermilion County Coroner Peggy Johnson presented her "finding" in the case.

Johnson reviewed the "evidence" found by a forensic pathologist, including two bullet wounds, a therapeutic amount of drugs, and bruises.

Johnson then explained some of "fascinating duties that I do," which includes dealing with county nursing homes, hospitals, law enforcement agencies and families. "I'm very committed to the people of this town, this community, this county," she said. "I've become pas-

sionate about it."

Work in the coroner's office ranges from "my favorite day (which) is absolutely nothing" to days when Johnson juggles multiple fatalities. One day in March, Johnson's office handled three fatalities, including traffic accidents and a burn victim. "That was an oddity to have three different scenarios going on at the same time," she said.

Johnson discussed when autopsies must be performed and when they are an option, and added that the pathologists who perform autopsies "have the utmost re-

See CORONER on other side

## Flowering Hanging Basket

All the kinds you've ever heard of (and some kinds we hadn't)
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5 Months Unlimited Internet for \$15 That's only \$3/month. Valid through 5/15/99.

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# What's Mom's favorite color?

Find the perfect annuals, perennials and flowering baskets for Mother's Day at

Flower Shop & Garden Center

S. Second Ave., Hoopeston (217) 283-6681

# Wolfe Funeral Home

907 W. Main St. Hoopeston, IL. (217) 283-5088

## Kids

Tell Mom she's sweet with a surprise cake decorated by you!



# Jerry's IGA

Will have cake decorating sessions from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 8 (each 30 min. session limited to 7 people) 8x8 and heart shaped cakes only

**\$3.99** 

**Special decorations available**Register by in person or by calling **(217) 283-6683** by May 6.

Limited to children 6 years & older.

## — Briefly

### **Kindergarten Roundup**

Kindergarten registration will be held at 7 p.m. May 10 in the Rossville-Alvin Grade School library. Children who will be five on or before Sept. 1 should be registered at this time.

Parents are asked to bring immunization records and a copy of the student's birth certificate.

Principal Mark Janesky and kindergarten teachers will be on hand to answer questions.

For more information, call (217) 748-6600.

#### **Annual meeting**

The Hoopeston Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. May 17 at the Hoopeston Multi Agency community room.

Reservations for the catered dinner must be made by

#### **Obituaries**

**ZIEBART** – Matthew Shane Ziebart, 19, of Houston, Tex., formerly of Milford, died Saturday, May 1, 1999 in Houston. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p. m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

#### **Coroner** continued from other side

spect for the person who's dead and their family."

After working as YWCA director of crisis services, Johnson joined the coroner's office approximately six years ago. She was appointed to the vacancy created when Lyle Irwin retired as coroner and will be up for election in 2000.

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May 7 to Elizabeth Chorney at (217) 283-5056 or Helen Miller, 283-9211.

### **Tiny Tots**

"The Velveteen Rabbit" will be the theme of Tiny Tots story program this Friday. Children will also celebrate May Day.

The program starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room and is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

#### **Bowlers** needed

### **Police News**



A camera was reported taken Monday from the 500 block of South Fourth St.

**Tonya J. Taylor,** 40, of 718 Scott Dr., was arrested at 5:21 p.m. Monday, charged with disorderly conduct. She was released on a notice to appear.

## In the Hospital



#### Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital May3

**Admitted:** Justin Rhodes, Fred Obenland, Barbara Huxtable and Regina Devillers, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Justin Rhodes, Sharon Eighner.

### Weather



Chance of rain today, tonight, tomorrow. High today 73, low 55. Tomorrow's high 65, how 49.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston** Weather Line at (217) 283-6221.



It's not too early to think about next fall's bowling. The Tuesday Night Men's Classic League has three team openings. Teams are four-man, with a total average not to exceed 787.

For more information, call Doug Wagoner, (217) 283-6541 or Randy Hiltz, (815) 889-5472.

Bowling begins Aug. 31.

## **Classifieds**

#### GARAGE SALES

Annual Maxwell St. Sale, Wellington. Saturday, May 8, beginning at 8 a.m. Sales all over town.

FMC Community Sale, Saturday, May 8, 7 a.m.-? First roll-up door at corner of Maple and Market. Proceeds to benefit Vermilion County Relay for Life. For more information, call Joan Johnson, (217) 283-8460.

Huge 3 Family Rummage Sale, 642 E. McNeil, Hoopeston. Friday & Saturday, May 7 & 8, 8 a.m.-? New & used items too numerous to mention. Bargains galore! Come to alley.

#### HELP WANTED

Need 2 dependable & honest people -

1st: Monday-Saturday, approx. 4 hrs. per day, \$240/week. 2nd Job: Sunday, approx. 8 hrs., pays \$80.

You will be delivering newspapers at night. Call A&R News Agency, (217) 283-5093. 119-125

#### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Like new Tappan electric stove \$175; futon bunk bed, very good condition, \$225. Call (217) 283-5307, leave message. 118-131

Three year old White GT205 riding lawn mower with 50 inch mowing deck (used half of 1996 and all 1997 mowing seasons). Twenty horse Briggs and Straton engine. Fluid filled tires. Excellent condition. Asking \$2000. For information call (217) 283-6463.

#### SERVICES

The Jukebox. DJ for any occasion. Ronald Reed, 1009 W. Main St., Hoopeston, IL (217) 283-6146. 125-127

#### VEHICLES FOR SALE

1998 Chevy Z71 4x4 extended cab. 3rd door, towing package, 350, loaded, low miles. Must sell. Asking \$27,000 OBO. Call (217) 283-7630.