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Soil from ex-base not yet approved for local dumping

Hoopeston's landfill may get tainted soil from the former Chanute Air Force base in Rantoul.

Then again, it may not.

An Oct. 12 article in the Champaign News-Gazette stated the Illinois Landfills site in Hoopeston is slated to receive 40,000 to 60,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the former base.

But a landfill spokesman said the soil has not been approved for disposal at the local landfill.

"As of right now, it's not approved," said district manager Larry Shilling. "As of last week, they hadn't run the updated tests."

Shilling said the soil must be tested, either by the Environmental Protection Agency or an independent lab, to be sure it does not contain hazardous materials, which are not allowed in the landfill.

The article said the soil is from an old fire training school, and a vacant lot where the Air Force had a pump house for simulated aircraft parking ramps.

Soil at the sites reportedly contains hydrocarbons, PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) volatile organic compounds.

Whether the soil is considered hazardous will depend primarily on the amounts and types of organic compounds and PCBs, Shilling said. Those substances could include jet fuel and things like transformer oil, he added.

In determining whether the soil is hazardous, Shilling said two main factors will be used: the EPA list of hazardous waste and the characteristics of the materials found in the soil.

The contaminated soil may be safer than other, more common items, Shiller said. "A truckload of (a cola product) is hazardous waste (due to its chemical composition)," he said. "People are always surprised to hear that."

Shilling said landfill officials are as concerned about keeping hazardous waste out of the local landfill as residents are. "Number one, our employees live there and they wouldn't stand for it," he said. "Number two, the liability that comes with something like that is huge."

According to the News Gazette article, the government approved \$4 million to clean up soil at the former base. Work is expected to begin the first week of November and be completed by mid-December.

Math, science program launched in county schools

Third graders in Vermilion County will have an opportunity to have some fun with math and science this year, thanks to some innovative area industries.

Mrs. Mary and the Great Math and Science Adventure will be available beginning in October to visit any Vermilion County third grade classroom at no cost to the school.

The idea for the math/science "mascot" originated with the Danville Area Economic Development Corporation and the Danville Area Metals Cluster. The pur-

pose is to generate interest I math and science at an early age.

"Skill deficits are, in part, a result of children not pursuing core academic classes such as math and science because they feel it is too hard for them, uninteresting or irrelevant," said Vicki Stewart, DAEDC president. "Mrs. Mary is an attempt to show children at a young age that math and science can be done by everyone and is fun! It is a unique way for our Cluster to positively

See PROGRAM on other side

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Pork Chop Night
 Friday, Oct. 22 5-8 p.m.
American Legion
 502 E. Penn, Hoopeston
Butterfly pork chops, baked potato, salad, roll \$8




Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
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Police News



Road worker injured in accident
 A construction worker was injured at 11:56 a.m. Monday while repairing Route 1 at West Main.
 Gary A. Wheeler, 48, of Champaign was treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital after he was struck by a 1996 Dodge driven by Edward H. Lockhart of Hoopeston.
 Police said Lockhart was unaware that he had hit Wheeler.
 No tickets were issued.
 In other police news:
Robert C. Bell, 35, of 805 E. Wyman, was arrested at

4:17 p.m. Sunday, on a Vermilion County traffic warrant. He was released on \$95 cash bond.
Police are investigating the theft of an unidentified money from a vending machine at Vermilion Iron, 100 N. Sixth Ave. The burglary occurred after 12 p.m. Saturday and before 9:06 a.m. Sunday.
No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 10:30 a.m. Monday in the 400 block of East Honeywell.
 Police said Frances L. Combs of Rossville, in a 1993 Ford Escort, backed from a parking space into a parked Oldsmobile Cutlass owned by Barbara J. Foster of Wellington.

Program continued from other side

affect the lives of elementary children.
 Mrs. Mary will travel to Vermilion County schools conducting experiments and letting kids roll up their sleeves and work with her. Students can learn about “Electrifying Electricity” or “Simple Machines.” Students will wire their own lights, buzzers, switches and motors. They will also have fun with Mrs. Mary’s “plasma ball.” Students will make butter using two simple machines, learn about levers and use a fulcrum to lift Mrs. Mary.
 The Danville Area Metals Cluster is a group of companies that have come together through the DAEDC to promote the need for skilled manufacturing employees. The partnership has resulted in a number of activities that are raising awareness of the skills needed and the physical environment of today’s manufacturing facilities. Illinois Power has awarded the DAEDC a Bright Ideas grant to partially fund the project.
 Area educators have expressed a great need for enrichment activities in these areas. The materials for the mascot were developed by teachers to be age and grade level appropriate and were developed by area teachers, including Brenda Weston, a Maple School teacher.

In the Hospital




Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Oct. 14
Admitted: Anna Thacker, Cecil Yaden, Hoopeston.
Discharged: Melanie Young, Margaret Heksem.
Oct. 15
Admitted: Marjorie Brockway, Opal Ridens, Alice Smith, Hoopeston.
Discharged: Edna Nell.
Oct. 16
Admitted: none.
Discharged: none.
Oct. 17
Admitted: Harriet Danner, Hoopeston.
Discharged: Opal Ridens.

Obituaries

SMITH – Wendell H. Smith, formerly of Rossville, died at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15, 1999 at South Baldwin Regional Medical Center in Foley, Ala. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Wolfe Funeral Home, Rossville. Burial will be in Rossville Cemetery. Visitation will be 6-9 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Weather



Partly cloudy today and tomorrow. High today 56, low 35. Tomorrow’s high 47, low 35.
 For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.



Choose your favorite in the
Hoopeston Jaycees
 annual
Halloween
Yard Decorating Contest
 Cosponsored by Just the Facts
 Call **283-9348**
 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22
 To vote for your favorite yard
Winners receive \$25, \$15 & \$10 prizes

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Hospital Housekeeping Services Department in need of person to work 2nd shift hours 3 days per week for floor maintenance. Experience with roto and buffer preferred but not required. Please apply at Hoopeston Hospital front lobby. Questions may be directed to Beth, (217) 283-5531, ext. 200. 288-294

RELIABLE person to deliver Chicago Tribunes Saturday night and to stuff newspapers Thursday evening. Call (217) 283-5093. 291-295

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