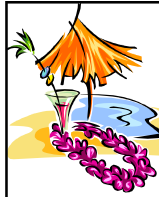


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Hoopeston adult cessation classes begin Monday, April 15. Classes are free, and sponsored by the Vermilion County Health Department.

FREE nicotine replacement patches are available to those who complete the four weeks of classes.

For more information or to register, call
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P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

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New county program offers second chance to drug offenders

A six-month-old Vermilion County program is helping addicts kick drugs and lives of crime.

Drug Court, established last October, offers county residents a chance to get clean, said Vermilion County Circuit Judge Michael Clary.

Clary was the featured speaker at Monday's Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch program.

The program is limited to non-violent felony offenders. It is not designed for first-time offenders, but instead is for those who not only abuse drugs or alcohol but have committed crimes such as retail theft, Clary said.

Offenders interested in participating in Drug

Court must first be screened by a Treatment Alternatives for Secure Communities (TASC) representative who recommends whether someone should be admitted.

Once admitted to the program, offenders receive counseling at Prairie Center in Danville anywhere from one to three times weekly, must attend Narcotics Anonymous or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and receive drug screenings every Monday prior to weekly appearances in Wednesday Drug Court.

Participants also are placed on felony probation, 12 months in Drug Court probation and 12 in regular probation and meet with a probation officer from once a week to daily, depending on the circumstances.

Briefly

Tiny Tots

"Spiders" is the theme of this week's Hoopeston Public Library Tiny Tots story program at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Multi Agency. The program is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Kindergarten pre-registration

Kindergarten pre-registration will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 at Maple Grade School, 500 S. Fourth St.

Parents are asked to bring birth certificates, shot records and Social Security numbers for students.

This is for parents only.

Slab to open

The Hoopeston slab will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays beginning April 13.

Swim team signup

Signup for the Hoopeston Swim Team will be held from 9 a.m.-noon April 13 and 6:30-8 p.m. March 15 at the Hoopeston city hall. Cost is \$10 per child or

\$25 for a family of three or more.

For more information, call Linda at 283-6593.

'Weather lady' to speak

Judy Fraser, WCIA Channel 3 weather forecaster, will speak at the Hoopeston Multi Agency community potluck. The potluck has been changed to 11:15 to allow working people to hear Fraser speak at noon.

For more information, call (217) 283-5544.

Little League signup

Youngsters interested in playing Hoopeston Little League baseball may still register for the program until April 15.

To register or for more information, call Ron Cade at (217) 283-6985.

Magazines needed

The Hoopeston Public Library is looking for a copy of the April 8 issue of People magazine and the April issue of Ladies Home Journal. The library's original copies were taken this week.

Weather prediction true!

When we get onion plants, it rains.

They will be here Wednesday?

You buy this week, bunches of Vidalia, Bermudas and Spanish.

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Rossville

- *Ole Country Inn *Minuteman *Feedbag
- *Bray's General Store

Milford



Police News



A **33-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Monday that someone scratched his 2000 Chevy S10 truck while it was in the 800 block of West Main.

Both drivers involved in an accident at 4:40 p.m. Monday were ticketed for driving uninsured vehicles.

Police said Michael R. Seidel, 17, of Cissna Park, in a 1994 Saturn, hit a 1985 Mercury Cougar driven by Heidi Snyder, 25, of Hoopeston. Police said Snyder backed from a parking space and was hit.

See **OFFENDERS** on other side

Offenders continued from other side

Finding work is another facet of the program. Clary said Drug Court is trying to get help from the Department of Rehabilitation Services to not only find jobs for participants but also to teach them job skills.

The Vermilion County State's Attorney's office and public defenders' office are also involved in the program.

To take advantage of the program, offenders must voluntarily give up some of their Constitutional rights, Clary said. For example, if a participant has a positive drug test, there is an immediate punishment: jail time. "It doesn't wait for 60 to 90 days down the road," he said. And if participants don't succeed, "they're going to the Department of Corrections. This is not a slap on the wrist, soft on crime program."

Officials are not the only ones who think Drug Court is not an easy program. Clary talked about a participant in his middle 40s who has used drugs for 30 years. "He's told us on the team that it's easier to go to the penitentiary and do his time," he said.

Some participants need more intense counseling than is available at Prairie Center and must be sent to a residential facility. Since most facilities have waiting lists, participants either struggle through at home, or like an earlier participant, ask to be kept in jail until a spot is found, Clary said. Two participants are now waiting in jail until openings are available, he said.

The county Drug Court program began with four participants; currently 10 are enrolled. With existing resources, Clary said 25 is the maximum number of people who can use the program.

The accident occurred in the 200 block of East Main.

Matthew M. Hofer, 19, of 528 W. Elm, was arrested at 8:28 p.m. Monday in the 200 block of East Main.

Hofer, wanted on a Vermilion County warrant for burglary, was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of bond.

Two people were charged with domestic battery following an altercation at 7:30 p.m. Monday at #26

A former state's attorney, Clary said he saw the same faces before him in court. When he heard about Drug Court, Clary thought the program might break the cycle.

Drug Court is a national program that began about 10 years ago in Louisville, Ky., as a "long term solution to a long term problem," Clary said. It has since spread nationwide and has been endorsed by the National Sheriffs Association and the supreme courts of all 50 states.

Because he wanted to start Drug Court, "I got

Obituaries

SAVAGE - Junior W. Savage, 63, of Hoopes-ton, died at 5:01 p.m. Monday, April 8, 2002 at home. Arrangements are incomplete at Hamilton-Orr Funeral

New Books at the Library

Fiction:

The Millionaires by Brad Meltzer
 Southampton Row by Anne Perry (mystery)
 Adam and Eve and Pinch Me by Ruth Rendell
 Strange Fits of Passion by Anita Shreve

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 70. To-night, partly cloudy. Low 43. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 72, low 46.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoop-**

Parkview Court.

Arrested were Robert I. Thomas, 24, and Jaclyn A. Hurst, 23, of that address.

Both were taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Amanda L. Furrow, 21, of 123 E. Attica, Apt. 8, Rossville, was arrested at 8:05 p.m. Monday in the 400 block of West Main.

Furrow was charged with disorderly conduct on a complaint from an 18-year-old Hoopeston woman. Police said the woman reported that Furrow handled her

Classifieds

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CARDS OF THANKS

We would like to thank friends and neighbors for the kind thoughts, deeds and prayers during death of our loved one, Allena Drollinger. Your outpouring of sympathy was greatly appreciated.

The family of Allena Drollinger

HELP WANTED

CHURCH ORGANIST NEEDED, St. Anthony Catholic Church. After many years, our organist is retiring. Organist will be responsible for three weekend Liturgies. Familiarity with Catholic Liturgy helpful. Please contact Rev. R. Anthony Lee for more information at (217) 283-6211. Starting date is June 1. Salary negotiable.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: female red Pomeranian, Saturday in 700 block of E. Seminary. Answers to Jo Marie. Has red collar w/rhinestones and Missouri tags. Reward. (217) 283-7135.

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