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Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348  
Email: publish@justthefacts.net

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**Hoopeston hospital halts construction pending investigation**

Construction on a \$1.2 million expansion/renovation project at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital has been halted pending a criminal investigation.

In a statement issued Monday, Russ Leigh, Hoopeston Regional Healthcare Center board chairman, said construction will not begin again until an inspection by a construction specialist and an engineer. Their reports will determine when and how construction resumes, the release said.

liminary stages. "These types of investigations are never quick due to the amount of paperwork involved," he said.

The matter was taken before a grand jury which issued subpoenas for documentation to do with the building, specifications and renovations. "The documentation shows questionable expenses that need to be explained," Miller said.

According to the statement, the board began receiving reports several months ago about the appropriateness of expenditures and the quality of construction. Billings were studied, site inspections increased, a private investigator hired and the general contractor and architect firm's representatives were questioned.

A grand jury may also be used to determine whether criminal activity took place. Once Miller completes the investigation, the findings will be turned over to the state's attorney's office which may take findings to the grand jury, bring criminal charges or determine there is not enough evidence to bring charges.

Those findings were turned over to Gary Miller, Vermilion County Sheriff's Department chief investigator, to determine if any improprieties were criminal. "We were contacted about questionable expenditures," Miller said Tuesday, adding the investigation is still in the pre-

See INVESTIGATION on other side

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**Hoopeston Area board to consider early graduation request**

A Hoopeston Area student may be allowed to graduate early.


The board will vote on the request next month.

Mike Drollinger, father of gymnast Jon Drollinger, has asked that Jon be allowed to graduate after the first semester, allowing him to pursue college gymnastics scholarships. By graduating early, Drollinger estimated scholarships could be for 75 to 100 percent of college costs.

- In other action, the board:
- seated new member Mark Wagoner and elected officers, including Lobb as president, Jeff Stipp vice-president, and Mark Eighner, secretary.
  - raised fees book fees and lunch by \$2.
  - learned Golden Ruler winners, sponsored by the County Superintendent's office, include Sherry Miller, Linda Duffin, Becky Prina and Sally Stipp.
  - approved resignations of Ginger Gonzalez and Nolan Gonzalez, seventh and eighth grade girls basketball coaches.

Drollinger said his son has met academic requirements for graduation and has maintained an almost 4.0 grade point average.

Early graduation will allow Drollinger to attend one of 15 universities or three military schools that offer schol-



**Tacos are back!**

Thursday 3-8 p.m.  
**\$1 beer**  
**V.F.W.**

Corner of Fourth Ave. & Orange, Hoopeston

78th annual  
**Firemen's Ball**

Sponsored by the Hoopeston Fire Department

Saturday, April 12 8:30-12:30

McFerren Park Civic Center

Music by **Hay Wire**

\$5 per person

**Hoopeston Rock Service**



Rock: ¾" 1¼, 2". Plus landscape rock, pea gravel, sand, road pack.

Delivery/spreading available. Hours by appointment.

**Rich Stipp, owner**  
(217) 283-5492 (217) 304-0884  
Email rstipp1949@yahoo.com

Stop in or call about our  
*Spring Specials*  
just in time for Memorial Day



### Hoopeston Memorials

Open 9-5 Mon.-Fri.  
9-noon Sat.

Evening & Sunday hours by appointment  
1010 E. Thompson, Hoopeston  
(217) 283-7116 Home: 283-5016

### Global Fashions

located next to Computer Works

- \*Large selection of Jelly Jar Candles -  
Spring Scents just \$5.75
- \*Discounted Tanning Bed Lotions
- \*New Computer Games only \$5 each
- \*Kids Easter goodie bags just \$1 each

### Going to the Firemen's Ball Saturday, April 12?

Have dinner at



### Country Club

before joining the festivities in Hoopeston!  
Special will be our 14 oz. rib eye with your  
choice of a glass of wine for \$15.

*Also available:*

prime rib, pork chops, chicken breast,  
catfish, grilled halibut and grilled tilapia.

Dinner served 5:30-9 p.m.

Reservations requested but not required.

(217) 748-6521

13937E 3680 N. Rd., Hoopeston

### Briefly

#### Library has place for teens

The Hoopeston Public Library has a place designated just for teens. The Young Adult area features teen magazines and quiet study area and teens may enjoy beverages while they study or read.

Check out the area during National Library Week through April 12. Drinks and refreshments will be available and door prizes will be awarded.

#### Driving class

The Hoopeston Multi Agency will host a 55 Alive driving class from noon to 4 p.m. June 9-10. The class is open to all senior citizens. Class size is limited to 25; there is a small fee. Many insurance companies offer a discount for course graduates. For more information or to register, call (217) 283-5544 by April 22.

#### Tiny Tots

"Chickens & Ducks" is the theme of Tiny Tots at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room. Tiny Tots is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

#### Service personnel info sought

Hoopeston Area Schools are seeking the names, addresses and pictures of Hoopeston Area service personnel, including military branch and rank. The information will be used for a display. Information may be taken to the Superintendent's office, 615 E. Orange. Pictures will be returned.

#### Mobile screening

The Hoopeston Lions Club will host a mobile hearing screening from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, April 18 in the

### Bowling Scores



#### Tuesday Night Classic League

Standings 3/25/02

|                              |    |    |
|------------------------------|----|----|
| 1. Hiltz Portable Sanitation | 73 | 43 |
| 2. Production Tooling        | 65 | 51 |
| 3. Hoopeston Weather Line    | 65 | 51 |
| 4. Ross Electric             | 61 | 55 |
| 5. Ferdinand Construction    | 60 | 56 |
| 6. Crop Production Service   | 56 | 60 |
| 7. Pla-Mor Lanes             | 54 | 62 |
| 8. JBM                       | 30 | 86 |

**High Team Game:** Crop Production Service 678; **High Team Series:** Hoopeston Weather Line 1,860; **High Individual Game:** Dave Yaden 278, Jay Ferdinand 267, Bob Bruens 265; **High Individual Series:** Bob Bruens 679, Jay Ferdinand 666, Doug Wagoner 661.

**Games over 210:** Dave Yaden 278; Randy Hiltz 237; Doug Wagoner 228, 244; Mark Butterworth 247, 219;

Henry Reutter 256; Will Bruens 223; Todd Keith 223; Jay Ferdinand 227, 267; Nick Gonzalez 219; Dave Hughes 212; John Baker 215, 214; Tony Gress 233, 236; Bob Bruens 218, 265.

**Series over 600:** Dave Yaden 623, Randy Hiltz 621, Doug Wagoner 661, Mark Butterworth 660, Henry Reutter 636, Todd Keith 603, Jay Ferdinand 666, John Baker 609, Tony Gress 660, Bob Bruens 679.

#### Investigation continued from other side

no."

Board members will not discuss specifics of the matter until any criminal investigation is completed. "Any reference to specific individuals or facts could be injuries to that person's right to a fair trial, free of undue pretrial publicity," the statement said.

The statement praised the health center staff. "The board greatly appreciates their loyalty and the patience of the community as we work our way through this corrective process," the statement said.

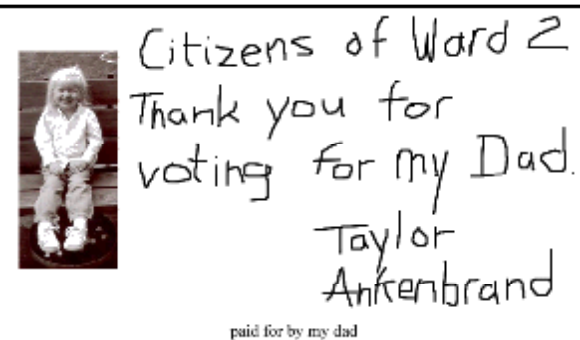
#### Weather



Mostly cloudy today. High 48. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 32. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 58, low 38.

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

Pamida parking lot. The screening is open to people 10 or older. Those 10-17 must have parental consent.



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## Classifieds

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Having out of town visitors? We have two brand new 1 bedroom furnished apartments available by the night or by the week. TV, phone, utilities included. (217) 283-7996.

#### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 bedroom, 1 bath in Hoopeston. Appliances furnished. \$400/mo., \$400 security deposit. Available immediately. Call (815) 432-6081

#### AUCTIONS

Thinking of having an auction?

Go to [www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com](http://www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com) or call (217) 748-6289!

#### HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Coin Laundry seeks 2 people for part-time help. 1 position is 20-30 hours/week. Second position 10-14 hours/week. Apply in person at 209 S. First Ave., Hoopeston.

#### RUMMAGE SALES

412 W. Maple, Hoopeston. Saturday, 8:30-? Furniture, clothes - 50¢/bag, children's clothing, misc.

#### SERVICES

Pampered Pet Grooming. Lots of TLC. Call anytime for appointment. (217) 339-2340.

**Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad.**

**Rossville American Legion**  
**Sunday Breakfast**  
2nd & 4th Sundays of each month  
203 E. Thompson, Rossville  
7 a.m.-noon \$4.50 all-you-can-eat  
*Serving Belgian waffles, eggs, home fries, omelets, ham, bacon, sausage, coffee, juice*