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Thursday, February 26, 2004

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

County clerk unveils new voting system at Watch meeting

Abraham Lincoln was elected governor of Illinois Monday night.

Lincoln beat out Raquel Welch and Jane Addams in a mock election at the Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting. The election was used to demonstrate the new voting system to be used March 16.

The punch card system formerly used in Vermilion County has been replaced with an optical scan system that will make its debut in the primary, said County Clerk Lynn Foster.

Punch cards were questioned after the 2000 presidential election when chads - those little pieces of paper punched with a stylus - created a stir.

After that election, Congress decided to buy out punch card and lever voting systems, Foster said.

Illinois does not allow computer voting because it does not leave a paper trail, so many county clerks chose optical scanning systems for the coming election.



Vermilion County Clerk Lynn Foster demonstrates the new voting system to Marty Leigh and Ty Lee Monday at the Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting.

"I call it high tech, low tech," Foster said of the system. Voters will still use paper ballots that will list the candidates' names. Next to each name is an

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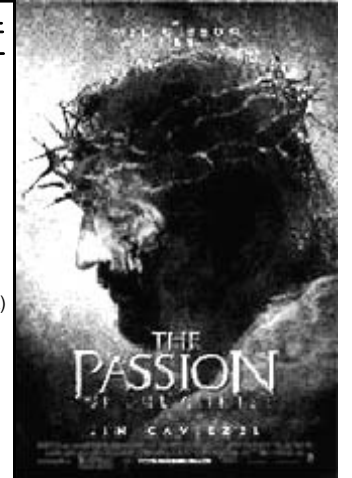
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6 a.m.-2 p.m.
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502 E. Penn St.
Adults \$4 6 and under FREE

Police News

A **21-year-old** man reported Tuesday that
his car was damaged while at Parkview Court.
Rebekah L. Booher, 17, of Rossville, was

See VOTING on other side

Voting continued from other side
oval that the voter must color in. The infrared optical
scanner then reads the ballots, along with tallying the
total number of votes cast and, at the end of election
night, totals by precinct the total number of votes
each candidate received.

Felt tipped pens will be provided at polling
places to fill in the ovals but black or blue ink pens
will also be read by the scanner, Foster said. The
only color ink that the machine will not read is read.

Foster urged voters to carefully color the
ovals since memory cards inside the scanners are
programmed to read only the parts of the ballots
where the ovals are. The scanner will kick out ballots
on which the voter has chosen too many candidates
or that have no ovals filled, Foster said.


Election judges will be on hand to help vot-
ers with the new system but Foster is suggesting they
stay five feet away from the optical scanners to en-
sure voter privacy. A cover sheet will be available
for ballots for voters who need assistance and to use
when placing ballots in the scanner.

Those who have over-voted - chosen too
many candidates for a particular race - will be given
the option of filling in a new ballot or having the
election judges override the scanner to accept the
original ballot but not count the over-voted category,

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Police News

ticketed for improper lane usage at 7:34 p.m. Tues-
day.
Police said Booher, in a 2001 Dodge Da-

she said.
The new system is expected to ease the
workload of election judges and county officials on
election night. Judges will have less paperwork to do
and since each scanner records vote totals, Foster
expects her staff to be able to make quick work of
their final duties on election night.

Because the scanners tally votes, results
from each precinct will be posted at each polling
place at the end of the night.


Each optical scanner costs approximately
\$5,600 but Vermilion County received a grant of
more than \$200,000 from Help American Vote to

Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at
11:37 p.m. Tuesday to a reported fire alarm and smoke
at a home in the 500 block of East Penn. No injuries
were reported.

Weather




Sunny today. High 45. Tonight, clear. Low 25.
Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 51, low 27.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston
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kota, was southbound in the 600 block of Third St.
when she crossed the center line and hit a parked 1987
Chevrolet Corsica owned by Carl L. Staley of Hoopest-
ton.
Booher was treated and released from Hoop-

BJ's Pump



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