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**Just the Facts
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Monday in observance
of Memorial Day.
Publication will resume
Tuesday.**

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County health department begins checking for West Nile

Vermilion County Health Department is beginning surveillance to identify West Nile virus. Environmental Health Director Kolby Riggle said birds are often the early warning system to identify the presence of West Nile-infected birds and the mosquitoes that carry the virus.

The health department is accepting dead birds for testing by the state. "If the state identifies West Nile Virus in a dead bird that is tested, then we know that the virus may be in the community," Riggle said. Mosquitoes

become infected with West Nile virus when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then transmit the virus to humans and to other birds and animals when biting occurs.

Only 10 birds will be allowed for testing. Perching birds such as crows, blue jays, grackles, starlings, sparrows, finches, robins, cardinals, flycatchers, swallows, catbirds, mockingbirds, warblers and wrens may be accepted. The health department will accept birds for testing that show no obvious cause of death, that are not decomposed and that have not been damaged by scavenging animals. "If anyone finds a dead bird that they believe may fit the criteria, they should call us for further directions," Riggle said.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, people get West Nile disease from the bite of a mosquito that is infected with the virus. It is not spread by person-to-person contact or directly from birds to people.

WNV arrived in the state during the summer of 2001. By 2002, IDPH was reporting 884 human cases of WNV across the state; three in Vermilion County. In 2005, there were 252 cases of the virus in Illinois (none were identified in Vermilion County last year). Most people (80%) bitten by an infected mosquito will not show symptoms, other than a mild illness, including fever and headache. About one in 150 people infected will develop severe illness including fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. Risk is increased for those over age 50. Anyone with chronic health conditions is most at risk.

To report a dead bird, call the Vermilion County Health Department at (217) 431-2662; visit their website at www.vchd.org, or the Illinois Department of Public Health's website at www.idph.state.il.us/envhealth/wnv.htm.



Honoring the military

Army Reserve Ambassador Sherman Reed, right, presents a copy of a lithograph in the Pentagon to Alderman Jerry Yonkers. Reed made a presentation at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting in honor of Hoopeston residents serving in the military.

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Kathy Butterworth's third graders learn about Indian cultures, lifestyles, make projects



Kathy Butterworth's third grade class displays artifacts from their Indian exhibit. Pictured are, from left, Butterworth, Chip Holmes, Katelyn Cappellano, Cesar Monitoya, Mariaha Garza, Brandon Mackovitch, Abrianna Peterson, Ambrosio, Elizabeth Strawser, Coty Lange, Bobby Kantola, Jacinda Nunez, Carla Butler, Trevor Hurt, Holly Morgeson, Hannah Bray, Christopher Webb, Lyric Stephen, Devin Cartwright, Seth Dowler, Wes Newton.



Police News



Abbie D. Morgeson, 25, of 628 E. McCracken was arrested after an incident at 4:24 p.m. Tuesday in the 600 block of East McCracken. She was charged with battery on a complaint from a 14-year-old Hoopeston boy.

Morgeson was released on a notice to appear.

Joshua AC Watson, 21, of 824 E. Wyman, Apt. 2A was arrested after a traffic stop at 7:18 p.m. Tuesday at

Wyman and Market. He was charged with driving while license suspended and possession of more than 2.5 grams of cannabis.

Watson was released on \$100 cash bond.

Two men were arrested after an 18-year-old man reported that they attacked him.

Arrested were Kristopher W. Dukes, 22, of 205 Benton, Rossville and Jared R. Zollar, 19, of 35863 N 2150 East Rd., Rossville. Each was charged with aggravated battery, mob action and vehicular invasion.

The men were taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await a hearing.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today, rain tonight. High 80, low 60. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 79, low 61.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service (217) 283-6221.

Kathy Butterworth's third grade class at Honeywell Elementary School put on an Indian Exhibit on May 18 and 19 as an assignment for social studies.

Students studied the Indian's culture and lifestyle for several weeks and then ended the lesson with a presentation to several classes, as well. Each student was required to build a project for the exhibit and could also bring in any Indian artifacts that they might have for the display.

On display were teepees, long houses, canoes, weapons, pottery and jewelry. Each student gave a short speech on a subject pertaining to art, housing, weapons, tools and ceremonies that were a part of the Indian's lifestyle.

Classifieds

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RUMMAGE SALES

710 W. Orange, Hoopeston. Fri., 4-7 p.m., Sat., 8-11 a.m. Huge Sale; Lg. Men's clothing, pants 48-64, shirts 4x-6x; women's 2x, entire contents of storage shed.

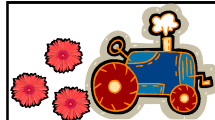
517 E. Seminary, Hoopeston. Sat., 8-noon. Moving sale: washer, dryer, refrigerator, furniture, wicker, toys, home décor, books, lots of crafts, women & children's good clothing, lots of misc.

623 E. Maple, Hoopeston. Fri. & Sat, 7-noon. Clothing:women's teen girls, newborn-4; bikes, knickknacks, misc.

918 W. Main, Hoopeston. Sat., 7-? Clothes (infant-adult) car seat, seats, toys, appliances & much, much more

851 E. Seminary, Hoopeston. Fri. & Sat., 8-noon. Baby items, nameband adult & children's clothing, much misc.

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