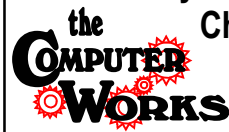


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McFerren Park
Saturday, June 17

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Driving the Dixie Weekend at



329 W. Main, Hoopeston

Friday & Saturday

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Drawing every 2 hours from 7 a.m.-7
p.m. That lucky person will get to
enter the Money Machine!**

Sunday

Father's Day Buffet 11-3

TV Drawing 2 p.m.

Must be present to win!

Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

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Phone/Fax:
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Thursday, June 15, 2006

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

Big changes coming to Hoopeston Regional Health Center

Changes coming to Hoopeston Regional Health Center will benefit the community, according to the group's leaders.

Changes will be taking place both in the structure and in relations between the community and health center, which includes Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home, Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center and Country Terrace.

CEO David Elliott and board president Russ Leigh discussed the changes at Monday's Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Structural changes will take place during recently-resumed construction at the hospital. The project, which had been on hold for about three years, resumed under construction superintendent Ken Dunbar, Elliott said. New laboratory facilities are expected to be open in August, followed around the first of the year by improvements in the radiology department. "Local people are doing the construction," he said.



LEIGH



ELLIOTT

In an effort to improve communication with the communities it serves, the health center is creating a Community Outreach Committee. Plans for the committee are expected to be finalized Thursday, Elliott said. The committee will be comprised of three board members, three members of the management staff and three community members and is designed as a means of addressing community concerns. Residents will be able to come to the committee, which will then bring issues before the board, "helping us solve problems in a God-like manner and show love in our decisions," he said.

Leigh told of the hospital's history, from when the community banded together in 1959 to raise money to build a hospital, through its tenure with Lutheran Hospital and Home Society, Westworld, back to Lutheran Hospital and Home Society and finally, to the community after a 1988 fund drive.

Some in the community have wondered who owns the
See HEALTH on other side

Drivin' the Dixie Special

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502 E. Penn

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Health continued from other side

hospital. "Nobody owns this hospital," Leigh said, explaining that a nonprofit corporation owns it but that no one owns the corporation. "We look out to do what the community wants," Leigh said.

One corporation is an umbrella for the hospital, nursing home, medical center and independent living center while another one was formed for the hospital foundation. No tax dollars fund the center, unlike hospitals in Watseka, Gibson City and other communities. "What business we generate is what pays the bills," Leigh said.

Or what they hope will pay the bills. Cuts in Medicare and Medicaid funding, along with those from insurance, mean the hospital does not take in as much as it bills, Leigh said. Illinois is about eight months behind in public aid payments and, within the last 30 days, was in arrears to the hospital by about \$2 million, he said.

Leigh talked about the make-up of the nine-member board, a third of whose members are up for reelection every three years. Members are unpaid, but serve because of "a sense of desire and passion to see the facility grow and provide the services the community wants," he said adding that the board makes policy and proce-



St. Anthony's Tacos
at
Drivin' the Dixie
McFerren Park
Saturday, June 17
Breakfast tacos 8 a.m.-?
Lunch tacos 11 a.m.-3 p.m.



MGA STEAK FRY
Hubbard Trail Country Club
Friday, June 16th
Serving 5:30-8:30
(217) 748-6521

dures but does not make day-to-day operational decisions.

Board meetings are not subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act but people may approach the board with issues. However, Leigh said, residents with concerns should first go to Elliott.

Regarding hospital issues, Leigh said board members make decisions based on available information. "The community doesn't have all the facts that we have when we have to make a decision," he said.

Information about the health center is discussed at an annual forum which, in recent years, has been held in conjunction with the Community Awards banquet, he said.

The important things are that the health center provide quality care and care about the community.

"We're here to serve the community with dignity and respect and provide good healthcare," Elliott said.

Police News



Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 1:15 p.m. Monday at 837 E. Elm. Police said an unknown vehicle hit a parked 1993 Dodge owned by Jason Crose of that address. The vehicle then left the scene.

Weather



Partly cloudy today and tonight. High 83, low 64. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 86, low 66.

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



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Golf Outing
June 24
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Farming With Flowers

Flat Sale at Drivin' the Dixie At McFerren Park Saturday

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget this weekend downtown Hoopeston at 217 E. Main. Flea market 10-5 Fri. & Sat., 10-3 Sun. Craft supplies & lace, 50% off & so much more. Hot dog/chips/1 pop, \$1 this weekend!

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Rossville: 1 Riverview Apartments. Completely refurbished, on-site washers & dryers. \$310/mo., \$310 deposit. Call (217) 840-3672.

Deluxe 2 BR apt. 1st floor, Layden Manor, 503 E. Penn, Hoopeston. Kitchen: stove, hood fan, refrigerator, dishwasher, garbage disposal, lots of cupboards, new linoleum and counter tops. Living room/dining room with sliding glass door to private patio. Bathroom: tub/shower. Lots of closet space. Carpeted throughout. Building laundry room. Parking. Trash collection. Inquiries: (217) 283-5597 or 283-5387 after 5 p.m. Rent \$420/month, 1 month deposit required (firm). 166-215

HOUSES FOR RENT

3 BR, 1.5 baths. Both baths remodeled. New carpet, new paint. \$450/mo.+ security deposit. (217) 304-2145

LOST & FOUND

Lost: 7 year old Yorkie, "Sammy." Last seen Wed. night on East Seminary. If found, call (217) 283-6769 or 283-5700. \$200 reward.

RUMMAGE SALES

330 W. Maple, Hoopeston. Fri. & Sat., 7-? Lots & lots of misc., knickknacks, some kids stuff.

2308 E 100 North Rd., Hoopeston. 2 mi. north on Rt. 1, 1/4 mi. east. Moving sale Fri. & Sat., 7:30-? A little bit of everything! McVicker

Shabby Chic Sale 800 block E. Penn, Hoopeston. Sat., 7-? Front yard sales.

609 W. Penn, Hoopeston. Fri. & Sat., 8-? Some children's clothes, toys, adult clothing, misc.