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Just the Facts

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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Ameren representative presents tree replacement program

Tree trimming of trees around power lines may be replaced by planting new trees.

Mike Price, Ameren-CIPS vegetation supervisor, attended the Feb. 6 Hoopeston City Council meeting to talk about a possible tree replacement program in the city.

Price told officials that crews will be trimming trees, but suggested a better idea may be to take part in the company's tree replacement program.

Under the program, large trees, such as maple and oak, that are planted on city parkways and grow into power lines, are replaced with smaller varieties that reach 12'-15' in height. Varieties include prairiefire crabapple, aromatic sumac, hazelnut, ninebark, Ozark witchhazel and shining sumac.

As part of the program, Ameren pays \$200 per tree, which includes removing and disposing of the large tree, purchase price of the new tree and planting fee, Price said.

By using a "right tree, right place" concept, Ameren cuts down on the V-shaped trimming of existing trees which "kind of look like goalposts," he said.

Price, an arborist, presented the council with information about the program. He will attend a council meeting

in the near future to answer questions aldermen might have and will seek approval for the replacement program.

While approval to participate in the program must come from city officials, Ameren will get approval from homeowners before removing trees. Homeowners who wish to participate must sign a form, indicated their participation.

Price said Gilman recently approved the program, where about 25 trees have been removed so far. Other communities participating in the program include Decatur and Bloomington-Normal.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Heard from Alderman Jerry Yonkers that Wade Gocking has been named new street and alley superintendent, following the Jan. 31 retirement of Dave Knake. Gocking served as lead man under Knake for the past 11 years. James Prather has been named as Gocking's lead man.

- Heard thanks from Alderman Bill Crusinberry to residents who clean debris from storm drains, especially in light of the leaf vac breakdown.

- Heard a thank you from resident Jean Minick for city crews' work clearing snow from the downtown.

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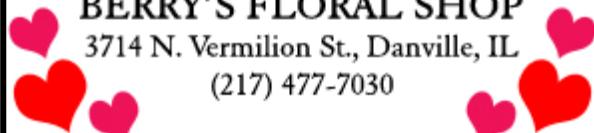
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and on the Internet at www.justthefacts.net

Political deceit overshadows tragedies

Don't be fooled again and again Americans. Nature's wrath of tornadoes and rising flood waters that have left some poor souls without hope is being overshadowed by political deceit. Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter seldom utter an unkind word against the political party they love, but they have strained their vocal cords while bashing those they hate ... liberals. Are they playing another game today ... reverse psychology? Big money may have added to these thoughts: "Voters are coming out in droves, and we need their sympathy: let's make them feel sorry for our one and only, John McCain; we have to find another way to get attention ... scare tactics are fading." Limbaugh and Coulter are probably laughing all the way to the bank. Watch for another so-called flip-flop. The political strategy probably surfaced during the re-re-plays of Mr. Clinton using some unkind words against Mr. Obama. What happened there anyway? McCain knows how the games are played. Heck, he even acts like he feels sorry for himself. Boo ... hoo. My choice for president will be based on one thought or question, "Who can give us a grain of hope for the future of America?"

Vera Crozier

Briefly

Tiny Tots

Tiny Tots story program meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room. Tiny Tots is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

GED classes

Danville Area Community College will offer Adult Basic Education/GED classes in Hoopeston. Classes will be held from 3:30-6 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays at Hoopeston Multi Agency and 6:30-9 p.m. at Hoopeston Area High School. For more information, call (217) 443-8782. Classes begin Feb. 11.

Meetings

Grant Township Board, 4 p.m. Wednesday, township office.

Illness of denial

In this nation and throughout the world there are a number of illness' that plague us and we are constantly trying to find a way to combat and eliminate them. Illness's such as AIDS/HIV, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and even some diseases' that have been eradicated, but have become epidemics in some countries again. There have been many telethons and fund raisers to help support research for many of these illness's. There is one illness, however, that we don't want to talk about, as if it does not exist. That is mental illness. This includes all alcohol and drug abusers, as well as those people diagnosed with mental illness. I wonder if there is anyone who reads this, that does not know someone suffering from one of these conditions, or their co-dependents? Hopefully, someday nobody will remain in denial of this illness. The Surgeon General of the United States has written many reports to the nation about our health. The topic of most of these reports was about smoking and cancer. For the first time, on 13 December 1999,

Hoopeston

Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, wrote a report on mental illness. This comprehensive report of nearly 600 pages covered every aspect of mental illness, from the history, present day status, to what the future might be in this area. It is estimated that one person in five suffers some variation of one of these illness'. Do you feel that we should insure that 20% of this nation receives help? This illness effects our children, our young adults, our middle aged people, and our senior citizens. It knows no boundaries, it effects the rich, the poor, and those in between. Of course the rich have the resources to seek treatment, but the poor and those without insurance, can't receive the treatment that they need. Many of this nations veterans are among those that can not obtain proper treatment. When I was a child there were government institutions for our mentally ill. I believe it was the way they were ran at that time, that caused many people to look down on those who suffer from mental illness. Expectations were low for the improvement of patients then, and many were sedated to keep them under control. Today, there has been great improve-

ment in understanding how to help treat those that suffer from mental illness. Dr. Satcher covered this in his report, and also what has taken place since the government closed these facilities and went out of the mental health business. That helped to start our problem with homeless people. There are 700,000 homeless people on the streets any given night in the cities of this nation, and 20-25% of these people have a diagnosed mental illness (this includes many of our veterans). A lot of these homeless people end up clogging up our emergency rooms and the costs to sky rocket. Others commit crimes and end up crowding our prisons. Prisons were not designed to be mental health facilities. So, instead of this nation taking care of these homeless people (many with mental illness') to provide a bed to sleep in and treatment to improve their health, we turn our heads and wait for them to due themselves in, go to an emergency room, or prison. Doesn't it make more sense to spend the money to prevent these problems, instead of paying after the fact. These people are not going to just go away, we are going to have to help them one way or another. If you are interested in the report by Dr. Satcher, it is easily obtained on the internet.

Tom Evans
Hoopeston

Obituaries

ATKINS - Judith A. Atkins, 65, of Watseka, died at 9:36 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008 at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Funeral service was at 10 a.m. Friday at Segur-Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka. Burial was in Iroquois Memorial Park. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Centennial Christian Church, Watseka.

HOWARD - Edward E. Howard, 5, of Milford died at 12:06 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008 at Gilman Nursing Center, Gilman. Funeral service will be at 6 p.m. Thursday at Milford Christian Church. Burial will be Friday in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland, with graveside military rites at 11 a.m. by the Milford American Legion Post. Visitation will be 4-6 p.m. Thursday at the church. Memorials are suggested to American Cancer Society, the church or a charity of the donor's choice. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, was in charge of arrangements.

KINCADE - Gilbert L. Kincade, 79, of Clayton-

ville died at 8:50 a.m. Friday at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Cremation rites will be accorded with graveside services at a later date. Burial will be in Amity Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Cissna Park American Legion Post #527.

THOMAS - Loyal D. Thomas, 71, of Hoopeston died at 8:14 p.m. Saturday Feb. 9, 2008 at Provena United Samaritans Medical Center in Danville. Arrangements are incomplete at Wolfe Funeral Home in Hoopeston.

Weather



Chance of snow today. High 22. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 11. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 27, low 19. For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

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