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County rate of teens giving birth hits lowest level in 36 years

The percentage of births to teenage mothers in Vermilion County has hit its lowest level in 36 years.

The latest report from the Illinois Department of Public Health said that of the 1,176 babies born in Vermilion County during 2006, 166 were to girls under the age of 20.

"That is the lowest percentage – 14.1 percent - we have seen since the Vermilion County Health Department began tracking this data in 1970," said Linda Bolton, health education program coordinator at the health department. Health department records show the highest percentage of births to teens was in 1975, when 24 percent of all births in the county were to teenagers.

"Ironically, as our percentage was going down, the state's edged back up slightly to 10percent from a low of

9.7percent in 2005," Bolton said. Recently, across the country and in Illinois, the number of births to teens has declined. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, teen births fell substantially from 1990 to 2002, with births to teens age 15 to 17 in 2005 at their lowest rate (21.4 percent per 1,000 births) in 65 years of record-keeping. Nationally, the rate for teens 15 to 19 years of age was 40.5 percent per 1,000 births*.

According to the CDC, teen births remain a concern because they place babies and mothers at risk. "Babies often are born at low birth weight and can experience health problems, while teen mothers often face significant challenges completing their education, which limits their future economic resources," Bolton said. The CDC

See BIRTH on other side

Police News



A **28-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 10:19 a.m. Sunday that someone took a weed eater from a shed in the 400 block of East McCracken.

Two people were charged with trespassing after an incident at 6:51 p.m. Sunday in the 400 block of North Eighth Ave.

Rocky A. Daniels, 29, and Danny K. Daniels, 30, both of Hoopeston were charged on a complaint from a 40-year-old Hoopeston man.

Each was released on a notice to appear.

While Danny Daniels was in custody, police discovered he was wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of bond.

An **82-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 9:28 a.m. Monday that someone took several tools from a garage in the 500 block of East Young.

Briefly

Neighborhood Watch

Peggy Johnson (R), and Democrat challenger Michael Rortvedt will be the featured speakers at Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch. The meeting will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Country Terrace.

This is the third part in a series of candidates on the Nov. 4 ballot. Everyone is invited to attend.

Bowling meetings

An organization meeting for Friday Night Mixed League will be held at 7 p.m. Aug. 21 at Fast Lanes. Anyone who is interested in joining the league should attend.

For more information, call Doug at Fast Lanes, 283-6505 or Loni Gress (217) 304-8573.

Sports Booster meeting

Hoopeston Area Sports Boosters will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the high school computer lab. Everyone is welcome!



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Social Security office lists things to consider before retiring

By Keith Strinmoen

Social Security District Manager in Danville, IL

It's never too early to start thinking about your retirement. When you do, one of your first questions may be, "When's the best time to start receiving retirement benefits?"

There's no one "best age" for everyone and, ultimately, it is your choice. You should make an informed decision about when to apply for benefits based on individual and family circumstances.

With that in mind, Social Security has published a new fact sheet to help you make the decision that's best for you. *When To Start Receiving Retirement Benefits* is available online at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10147.html.

Things to consider are your current cash needs, health, family longevity, whether you plan to work after you retire, future financial needs and obligations, and the amount of your benefit and other income, such as pensions and deductions from retirement funds. Do you have investments to draw from when you need extra money? Will it last as long as you expect to live?

People are living longer than they used to. About one out of every four 65-year-olds today will live past age 90, and one out of 10 will live past age 95. If you decide to retire early, at 62 or any time before your full retirement age, you'll get your benefits sooner — but you'll



get a reduced benefit for the rest of your life. Your monthly benefit will last as long as you do. So the reduction in monthly payment for taking early retirement can add up to a big difference over the life of your benefits.

Your decision can affect your spouse and family, too. If you die before your spouse and dependent children, they may be eligible for survivors benefits. But if you took early retirement, their payments would be based on your reduced benefit amount.

When you reach your full retirement age, you can work and earn as much as you want and still receive your full Social Security benefit payment. If you are younger than full retirement age and if your earnings exceed certain amounts, some of your benefit payments during the year will be withheld.

On the other hand, if you put off retirement benefits until after your full retirement age, your amount will increase. Your benefit amount will continue to go up until age 70 or start receiving benefits, whichever comes first.

When thinking about Social Security, don't forget Medicare. Sign up for Medicare three months before reaching age 65, no matter when your full retirement age is, even if you decide to delay retirement benefits. Otherwise, Medicare medical insurance, and prescription drug coverage, could be delayed and you could be charged higher premiums.

talking to your children, or call (217) 431-2662 for other resources.

**Nationally, the teen birth rate is determined by the sum of live births, induced abortions and fetal losses; Illinois determines its rate by the total of teen births per county divided by the total of live births in the county.*

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 87. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 60. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 87, low 65.

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

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Classifieds

CARDS OF THANKS

I would like to thank the many family and friends who came out and helped me celebrate my 90th birthday or took the time to send me a card. A special thanks to my immediate family who hosted this special day for me. Thank you also to those who presented me with a small token of friendship. I am truly blessed to have so many caring and thoughtful people in my life.

Sincerely,
Lucille Vorick

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