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 Tuesday, January 26, 2010
 Lourdine Florek, owner
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net



Photo contributed

Boy Scouts learn how to use a propane cooking stove during their camp out to earn their Camping Polar Bear Badge.

Local Scouts camp in the cold to earn Polar Bear badge

Hoopeston Boy Scouts Camped out overnight near Danville during the Martin Luther King Holiday weekend to earn their Camping Polar Bear Badge.

To earn the badge, scouts have to stay overnight in a tent when the weather is below 32 degrees but above 0. They may earn another badge if they stay out in be-

low zero weather.

Derek Drake, Chris Webb, Adam and Alex Pajor all braved the cold on the weekend as they cooked foil packs over the fire, trekked in the woods and bed-

See SCOUTS on other side


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Letters to the Editor

Good and bad

A couple times in this column, I have asked how citizens of this country can get their government and nation back. I believe that question was answered by the electorate in Virginia, New Jersey and Massachusetts in their last elections. Independent voters overwhelmingly made the difference and were instrumental in voting in republican candidates, even in a state that hadn't had a Republican

senator in one seat for well over 50 years.

It was set up so our government had checks and balances, so each branch kept track what the others were doing. Now in one branch (legislative) one party decided to keep the other party out of meetings when laws were to be made. That isn't what our founding fathers intended, was it?

Makes one wonder, do we need a third party in this country? The Democrats are always thinking liberal and left, the Republicans are always thinking conservative and right. Maybe people from both parties who think more in the middle could join the independents. Then we could have red states, blue states, and red-white-blue states. The latter could be for the majority of the citizens of this country.

On a sad note, before the voting booths could be put away in Massachusetts, the Supreme Court decided that corporations could fund political candidates as much as they wanted to. Evidently, five of the nine justices never saw the movie "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington."

Makes you wonder, is this going to really cause the people that are going to be voted on to be more likely to try and satisfy big business more than they do now, just dealing with their lobbyists. In the financial industry alone, there are five lobbyists for each member of congress. Now they are going to have to answer to the top execs of corporations, also.

One thing we have learned lately, if we didn't already know it - his nation's best ambassadors are our youth. We have many young people throughout the world on service-related and humanitarian missions. Many have been lost in the nation of Haiti. These young people, and our military do us proud. They risk their lives helping less fortunate people, and do their best to promote peace and goodwill. Maybe we should do away with FEMA and let the citizens of this country be helped by our own military. When given proper resources and missions, no one gets the job done any better.

I think it is criminal that our government doesn't sup-

Briefly

R-A youth baseball signups

Rossville-Alvin Youth League baseball sign-ups will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30 at the Rossville Fire Station. Cost is \$45 for the one child and \$70 for two children.

DVDs available

DVDs of Hoopeston Area High School's Veterans Day program are available at the school. Cost is \$5.

Scouts continued from other side

ded down for the night. The woods kept the wind down but tents were covered with ice from the fog during the stay.

Scoutmaster Mike Webb and Assistant Scoutmaster Dawn Pajor also braved the cold and monitored the event.

Weather



Blustery today. High 25. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 16. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 30, low 16.

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

port our military better than they do. Our government should insure that the families of our servicemen are able to afford what they need to sustain them, while the service person is stationed away from home. The injuries and illnesses suffered by our service people should be taken care of properly, and we should insure that no service people end up on the streets of our cities.

The same applies to all the young runaways, that end up on the streets using drugs, and selling of themselves. How can our government hold up their heads when they know this is going on.

Tom Evans
Hoopeston

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Area Community Unit School District #11 is seeking applications for a full time personal aide for an elementary student for the remainder of the 2009-10 school year. Applications are available in the Superintendent's Office, 615 East Orange, Hoopeston, IL. Deadline for applications is January 29, 2010.

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