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- January Special Half Price Enrollment
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Just the Facts®
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 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net
 Lourdine Florek, owner

Social Security makes more data available online to public

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, announced that the agency is making new data about beneficiaries and the agency's disability and hearing processes available to the public. The new data supports the President's *Transparency and Open Government* initiative and is available at www.data.gov.

"I applaud President Obama's commitment to creating an unprecedented level of openness in government and the new datasets we are posting far exceed what was asked of us," Commissioner Astrue said. "Social Security has always valued transparency and sought to give the public user-friendly information about our programs. Each year we send millions of Americans personal information about their Social Security contributions and potential benefits. Our website www.socialsecurity.gov has a wealth of information about our programs and the Social Security trust funds. I hope the new data we are making available will lead to a better understanding of

our operations and the important role we play in people's lives. I look forward to engaging Americans in the business of their government."

Here are a few examples of the value of the Social Security datasets available today:

- Researchers can find out about the work-related experiences of our beneficiaries receiving Social Security disability benefits and give us policy guidance for our disability programs.
- The public can see information about hearings workloads and a breakdown of the types of decisions made by Administrative Law Judges.
- Researchers can study the effects of current and proposed legislative and program provisions.
- People who have requested a hearing on their disability
 See DATA on other side

Briefly

Siren testing

Hoopeston emergency sirens will be tested at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

WMD winners

January winners in the Women Making a Difference drawing were: \$25, Susan Roark; \$15, Ross Swartz, Eric Shore; and \$10, Judy Rush, Nicole McAllister

Sweetheart Banquet

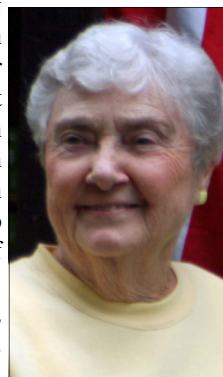
Hoopeston Area High School student council will host the 19th annual Sweetheart Dinner for senior citizens beginning at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11 in the high school gym.

Reservations, with name and number of people in the party, must be made no later than February 5 by calling the Superintendent's office, (217) 283-6668.

80-year-old former resident shoots hole-in-one in Florida

Phyllis Martin, formerly of Hoopeston, shot a hole-in-one on Monday, Jan. 25 at Timber Greens Country Club, New Port Richey, Fla. Martin used a 6-iron on #4, a 100-yard hole with an island green. Martin turned 80 in December. She recently moved to Murphysboro after living most of her life in Hoopeston.

Martin came to the sport late, starting after her husband retired. When in Florida, she golfs two to three times per week.



MARTIN


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The PIT STOP at EAST LANES
 Tuesday: **Chicken & Noodles**
Open Bowling all day-\$2.75
 Wednesday: **Italian Beef/Ribeye Sandwich**
Open Bowling all day-\$2.75
 Thursday: **Swiss Steak**
 Friday: **Cod & Ribeye Steak**
Open Bowling til close
 Saturday: **Prime Rib & Ribeye**
Open Bowling 5-close
 Sunday: **Swiss Steak plus full menu**
11-1:30
Open Bowling 12-4

Plan your Valentine's Day with Fast Lanes!
Saturday, Feb. 13
Specials are Chicken Cordon Bleu, Prime Rib and Ribeye Steaks
Dance to Smoke River Band
8:30-12:30
Reservations being taken now!
719 W. Elm, Hoopeston (217) 283-6505

What is most important to you?

In a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, conducted by Democratic pollster Peter D. Hart and Republican pollster Bill McInturff, of 800 adults on January 23-25, it was apparent that our government is not satisfying most of this country's citizens. Here are some of the numbers:
●72% believe federal government is "not working well"

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or even works "okay" & thinks it's "unhealthy, stagnant", & needs large "reforms".
●93% believe there's too much partisan infighting
●84% believe special interest groups have too much influence over our legislation
●75% not enough has been done to regulate Wall Street & banking industry
●61% democrats and republicans are not willing to compromise
●58% believe our country is heading in the wrong direction

Do you feel our Congress is just running around with handfuls of gum trying to plug the leaks in the dam (problems with our country) when they ought to be using cement?
Let's look at just one problem area: unemployment. The government says (10%) 15.3 million people are unemployed. That does not include 9.2 million people who are part time employed or 1.5 million people who are not looking for work or 929,000 people who have



just given up.
There are actually 26.9 million people (17.3%) without full time jobs.
In December 2008, 2.6 million people had not worked for six months.
In December 2009, 6.1 million people had not worked for six months.
Were we better off in 2008 or 2009?
There are a number of issues our government has to oversee. Don't you believe they need to prioritize the order in which they choose which ones to address first, then the next important one, and so on. They keep jumping around from one to another, and only now do they decide that jobs are maybe the most important issue. When you are working on a lot of projects, do you do service to all of them or any of them?
Take a look at all the issues out there and decide for

Data continued from other side

●ity claim can estimate the amount of time they may have to wait for the hearing to be held and for a decision.
The public can see general information requested under the Freedom of Information Act.
"These new datasets are just the beginning of our efforts. In February we will launch our *Open Government* webpage that will include improved access to our data in a variety of formats. In April we will publish our *Open Government* plan," said Commissioner Astrue. "Let me also reassure all Americans that while our goal is to become more open and transparent, we will continue to vigilantly protect the personal information the public entrusts to us. We will ensure that transparency does not put that information at risk."
To read the President's Memorandum on *Transparency and Open Government*, [click here](#).

Weather



Chance of snow today. High 36. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 21. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 35, low 23.
For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

yourself what order would you prefer that they address?
Jobs - economy - regulation of financial industry - regulation of insurance companies and pharmaceutical companies - war - deficit - terrorist - health care - education - infrastructure and those that I forgot.
Maybe, one more should be added: trust. They have a long way to go to improve the trust from their constituents.
When a 160 of them go to Copenhagen with the President at the World Clean Air Conference and spend \$4,400 apiece for two days in a hotel, plus the money needed for the flights, totaling over \$1 million, something is wrong with their thinking and lack of concern for their constituents, who are losing their homes, jobs, and their minds.
Anytime you get a chance to vote, I hope you can recall what has put you in these sad, dire circumstances.
Tom Evans
Hoopeston

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

321 S. Second Ave., Hoopeston. 2 BR. \$375/mo.+deposit. No pets. References. (217) 304-3477
302½ W. Washington, Hoopeston. 1 BR. \$325/mo.+deposit. No pets. References. (217) 304-3477

HELP WANTED

Community Bank is accepting applications for a part-time teller. Applications may be picked up at 221 Bank St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

HOUSES FOR RENT

House for rent in Hoopeston. 2 bedroom. Nice neighborhood. \$425 per month. No pets. Deposit and References required. 217-304-6547
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PROPERTY FOR SALE

Investment property for sale in Hoopeston. 2, 3 & 4 bedroom single family units. Several to choose from. Serious inquiries only. For more information, e-mail Hoopestonrentals@yahoo.com

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