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Friday, March 15, 2013
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Illinois ag department offers free online anhydrous training

SPRINGFIELD—Preventing accidental releases of anhydrous ammonia is a high priority for Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) and Illinois agricultural organizations. Accidents can not only result in the loss of valuable nitrogen fertilizer, but also cause injury to farmers and emergency responders.

"IDOA investigates all agricultural-related anhydrous ammonia incidents," said Jerry Kirbach, bureau chief of Ag Products Inspection. "Our investigation of incidents over the last three years shows that improper management of ammonia hoses, failure to maintain safety devices on tool bars and not properly securing the tanks during highway and field transportation are among the leading causes of accidents."

The department and Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association (IFCA) jointly provide programs for employees of retail anhydrous ammonia facilities. But to address the critical need to improve ammonia safety

Meeting to help determine HA varsity football's future

This message is intended to be a means of communication regarding the second phase of the restructuring of our Hoopeston Area High School varsity football program. Officials are having one meeting on Thursday, March 21 at 6 p.m. in the high school auditorium. This brief meeting will greatly influence the future of our varsity football program which will be determined by the commitment, interest, signing of intending players and their parents/guardians.

Those unable to attend the meeting need to contact Athletic Director Kevin Root at 217-283-6661 prior to this meeting. Officials expect to see all interested football players and their parents at this meeting.

Thank you on behalf of the athletic department.

when farmers are handling the product, the department, IFCA, Illinois Corn Growers Association and Illinois Farm Bureau collaborated to develop a detailed web-based training program for farmers.

IFCA submitted a grant to the newly formed Nutrient Research and Education Council to fund the program. IFCA and IDOA staff then developed the program content, which features video and animation of actual ammonia accidents and detailed instructions on how they could have been prevented.

The program's five training modules cover properties of ammonia, personal protective equipment, transportation of ammonia to and from the field, the safe hook-up of ammonia tanks in the field and emergency response and first aid procedures. After completing the training, farmers can take a knowledge assessment to determine their understanding of the material and print a certificate of completion for their records.

Thanks to funding from NREC, the program is free to farmers or anyone who wants to improve their knowledge of ammonia safety.

"When not handled properly, anhydrous ammonia can cause serious injury and impact the environment," Agriculture Director Bob Flider said. "I encourage farmers who apply their own ammonia to use the program, take the knowledge assessment and self-certify that they are trained to safely handle this product."

The program can be accessed at the following websites; specific questions about the program or its features should be directed to IFCA.

Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association:

www.ifca.com

Illinois Corn Growers Association: www.ilcorn.org

Illinois Farm Bureau: www.ilfb.org

Illinois Department of Agriculture:
www.agr.state.il.us

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Letters to the Editor



Reasons for closed Communion

I would like your readers to ponder in prayer the topic of closed Communion. Basically, it is a practice of many churches not to give the Holy Supper (Eucharist, etc.) to anyone not a member of that particular denomination or one of its affiliates (called pulpit fellowship). I know practices of some of our churches in town but not all so will stick with two I know in depth.

The reasons this is practiced is one, St. Paul warns us of the dire consequences if we take communion wrongly even in our own churches. Second, if a pastor is faithful to his church's teachings and love of all, he would not give someone communion who did not belong to the aforementioned. Third, it would be detrimental to the person taking it. The Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) and Roman Catholic churches practice this. It is the loving thing to do.

I have not met the priest at our local Catholic church but I dare say, if he is faithful to his church's teachings he would not give it to me, nor would I ask.

One taking part affirms that their beliefs are the same as the church's and in fellowship with other believers at the altar. Granted, some partaking may not agree with their church's teachings but they will be the ones to give an account to God personally.

I hope I have made this perfectly clear. I do wish we could all meet at a huge place and partake together. We should be one body, not many. But that is not likely, this side of Heaven when we will be dining with The Head of Our Church. We can join in prayer as Jesus said in John 17:20,21: "Neither I pray for these alone, but for them also who believe on me through their word (us), that they may be one; as you Father, art in me and I in you, that they may be also one in us; that the world may believe that You have sent me."

Peace be to all,

Alice Lawrence Fink
Hoopeston

State rep works for efficient government

When I decided to run for public office, I did so because I believe our state government can and should work more efficiently. The people of Illinois work hard and shouldn't have to watch their tax dollars wasted on excess. In my short time in Springfield I have already noticed two glaring examples of waste that we can easily reduce.

Currently, state agencies are allowed to hire as many lobbyists as they would like to try and win support with state legislators. To clarify that, government agencies are paying lobbyists to sway the legislature to appropriate more money to their agency.

To me, this is absurd. In response I have filed a meas-


See LETTERS on page 4

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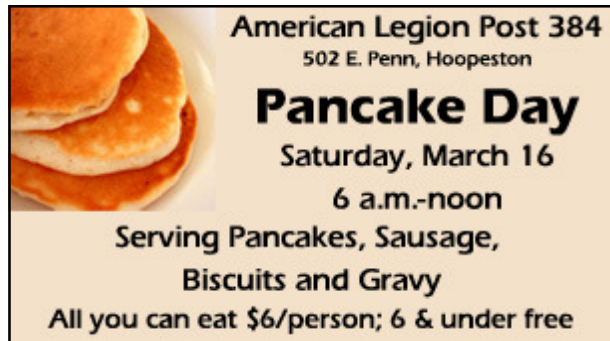
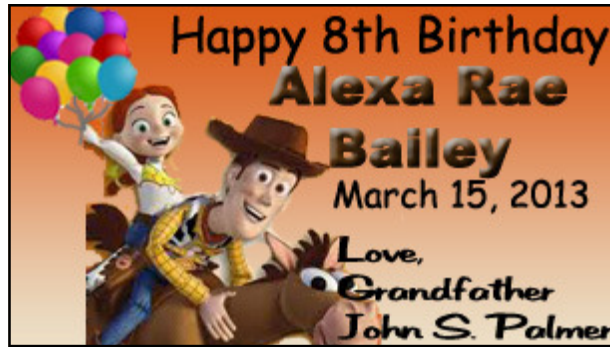


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Sibling soloists

Ashley Morgan, above center back, performs a clarinet solo as part of Hoopeston Area Middle School jazz band's performance Sunday during the WHPO Expo. Right, her brother, Ryan, performs a saxophone solo during the high school jazz band's performance. The musicians are the children of Matthew and Gina Morgan of Hoopeston.



Jack Simpson takes fourth in Illinois Kids Wrestling Foundation tournament

Jack Simpson, 14-year-old son of John and Angie Simpson is an eighth grader at Hoopeston Area Middle School. Last weekend, he placed fourth in the state Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation tournament. In the 24-man bracket, Simpson wrestled his way through the 215 lb. bracket, weighing in at 198 himself.

When he returned to Hoopeston at midnight from Rockford, the Hoopeston Fire Department had a truck waiting for him to parade through town. Many residents came out in the late night hour honking their horns with pride.

His grandmother, Barb Simpson, stood on her porch on Fifth Street with tears streaming down her cheek as the lights and sirens went off, watching Jack ride by yelling "I love you Grandma! "

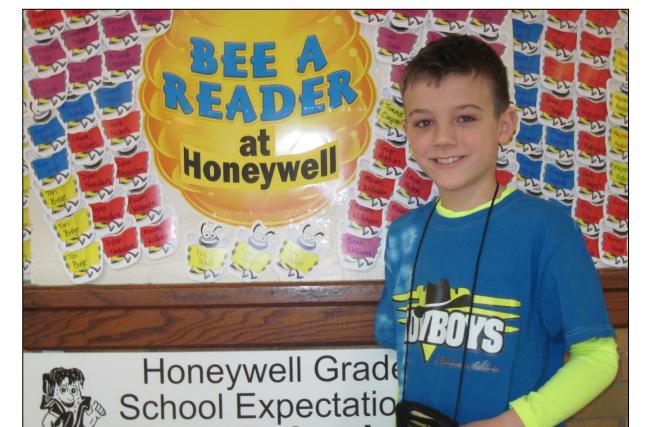


Photo contributed

Super Reader

Grant Albaugh, a third grader at Honeywell, reached 400 points in Accelerated Reader this week!



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Police News



Victor L. Hutton, 44, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 9:49 p.m. Wednesday in the 300 block of West Penn. He was charged with illegally burning after Hoopeston Fire Department was sent to his home after a neighbor reported smoke coming from the home. Firemen allegedly reported Hutton was burning material other than yard waste in his backyard after dark.

Hutton was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Letters continued from Page 2

ure, House Bill 3325, which would limit these lobbyists or liaisons to two per agency. And while this small step would not eliminate the practice entirely, it would be a small step in the right direction.

In addition, I also filed legislation prompting a line-by-line audit of all Boards and Commissions for the State of Illinois. There are hundreds of these boards, many which come with generous salaries, benefits, and undemanding schedules. As an example, the Worker's Compensation Commission alone pays over \$125,000 to the chairman and another \$119,000 to each of the remaining nine members, and they only meet four times a year.

It's hard to explain away cuts to education and other vital services while these types of scenarios exist.

Good government will not come overnight, but we can start by chipping away at the obvious waste that is staring us in the face. There are many other new legislators in Springfield that share these views and I am encouraged by their eagerness to tackle the budget and get Illinois' finances under control.

Sincerely,

Josh Harms
State Representative
106th District

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 42. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 28. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of showers late. High 52, low 40. Sunday, Showers. High 53, low 36.

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