

With the Holiday Season upon us, we reflect on the past year and on those who have helped shape our business in a most significant way. We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the year to come. We wish you a very happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with peace and prosperity.

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Just the Facts
Monday, December 30, 2013
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State Rep. Harms lists new laws taking effect January 1

WATSEKA—2014 is almost here and State Rep. Josh Harms is educating constituents about new laws that become effective with the new year.

"I wanted to make sure (residents) know about the laws that may affect you and your everyday life the most. For example, cell phone use will now be banned while driving, teens under 18 years of age will no longer be allowed to visit tanning salons, and 17 year olds who will be 18 at the time of a General Election will now be able to vote in the Primary Election for that year," he said.

Harms' first bill will also take effect January 1, allow-

ing judges to consider granting parents the right of first refusal when they have joint custody. After January 1, when one parent cannot watch their child, the other parent will have the option to watch their child before a babysitter is employed. However, this law is at the discretion of the judge and takes into account time and distance issues with separated parents. "It is my hope that this law will strengthen the role of parents in the upbringing of their children," Harms said.

Harms noted that he voted against each of the laws listed below. "In many instances these laws only serve to further erode our right to choose what is best for ourselves; I cannot support legislation that leads us to a complete nanny state," he said.

New Laws Effective January 1, 2014

(Laws are in Numerical Order)

HB 1 (PA 98-122) – Creates the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act, the strictest medical marijuana law in the country. It establishes a pilot program that sunsets after four years. A specific list of debilitating, or terminal medical conditions are outlined in the bill which patients must be suffering from in order to qualify. The number of dispensaries are limited

See LAWS on other side

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January 1
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 314 E. Main St., Hoopeston Hours M-F 9-5, Sat 9-3

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It's Burger Night!

The Pump
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Laws continued from other side

to 60 throughout Illinois, and the Department of Agriculture may approve up to 22 cultivation centers. A patient is prohibited from possessing more than 2.5 ounces at a time.

HB 188 (PA 98-349) – Bans tanning facilities from permitting any person under the age of 18 from using tanning equipment, including sunlamps, tanning booths or tanning beds. Specifies that parental permission does not exempt the person under 18 from the ban enacted by HB 188.

HB 226 (PA 98-360) – Changes state election law to allow a person who is 17 on the date of the primary election to vote if that person will be 18 on the date of the general election. HB 226 specifies that a person must be otherwise qualified to vote in that election.

HB 1247 (PA 98-506) – Bans the use of cell phones while driving. Exemptions from the ban include the use of hands-free devices, two-way radios, and electronic devices capable of performing multiple functions as long as the devices are not used for a prohibited purpose. Specifies that a first offense is not a moving violation.

HB 2675 (PA 98-441) – HB 2675 makes changes in the School Code and the Critical Health Problems and Comprehensive Health Education Act provide that all public school classes that teach sex education and discuss sexual intercourse in grades 6 through 12 shall satisfy specified criteria. The bill provides that school dis-


tricts that do not provide sex education are not required to do so, but that if a course is offered in any of grades 6-12, the school district may choose and adapt the developmentally and age-appropriate, medically-accurate, evidence-based and complete sex education curriculum that meets that specific needs of its community. The bill also provides that sex education courses shall emphasize that abstinence is a responsible and positive decision and is the only protection that is 100% effective against unwanted teenage pregnancy, STDs and AIDS when transmitted sexually. The bill allows individuals to examine the instructional materials to be used in the class or course.

HB 3243 (PA 98-483) – Includes cigarettes in the definition of “litter” in the Litter Control Act.

SB 1639 (PA 98-509) – Also known as the “Puppy Lemon Law,” SB 1639 provides certain remedies to a customer who purchased a dog or cat that possesses or has died from certain diseases, illnesses or conditions, if within 21 days of the date of sale, a licensed veterinarian states in writing that at the time of sale the animal was unfit for purchase due to illness or disease. The bill gives pet shops a procedure to contest the remedy. The bill requires pet shops to give every customer; prior to the time of sale; a copy of the store’s warranty, refund and return policy, and must give the customer an explanation of the remedy provided for customers who have pur-

chased an animal with a congenital or hereditary disorder.

A full list of laws that take effect January 1 is available at Harms’ website, www.repharms.org. Residents who

 **The Okinawan School of Karate**
 will be demonstrating at the pre-game
 show for the Harlem Globetrotters at 6:45
 p.m. January 7th at the Palmer Arena in
 Danville. For discounted tickets to the
 game, call (217) 772-1962.

Phil & Mary's
UPTOWN SALOON
 306 E. Main, Hoopeston
Mardi Gras New Year's Eve party
 December 31st at 8 p.m.
Drink specials, food, prizes, and giveaways!
 Mardi Gras/New Year's apparel is encouraged!
Come celebrate the NEW YEAR
with Phil and Mary!

Police News

Ashley D. Compton, 27, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 11:10 a.m. Wednesday at Parkview Court. Wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear

for arraignment, she was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of \$421 bond.

Haley M. Edwards, 17, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 5:35 p.m. Wednesday in the 400 block of East Washington. She was charged with criminal damage to property over \$300 after allegedly ramming a car owned by a 19-year-old Hoopeston woman. She was also charged with communication with a witness and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Obituaries

PENNINGTON - Roberta Edna (Ault) Pennington, 75, of Hoopeston, died at 6:35 p.m. Monday, Dec. 23, 2013, at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Visitation was 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. funeral Saturday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial was in Rossville Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Public Library, 110 N. Fourth Ave., Hoopeston IL 60942, Heritage Manor Rehabilitation and Senior Living 423 N. Dixie Highway Hoopeston, IL 60942 or to the donor’s choice.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 17. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 10. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of snow late. High 24, low 15.

Classifieds

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