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Tuesday, July 21, 2015
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
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Grant Township voters to converge into one polling place

All Grant Township voters will cast ballots at one place in upcoming elections.

In a press release issued last week, Vermilion County Clerk Cathy Jenkins said changes in polling places around the county were made to contain costs.

In Grant Township, the change means that for future elections, six precincts will be consolidated into one polling place, McFerren Park Civic Center.

Butler Township formerly had two polling places but now will have one, at the Rankin Fire Station, 511 S. Main.

South Ross also had two polling places but will have one, Henning Village Hall, 4 S. Main.

No changes were made to Ross 1 and 2. Voters will continue to cast ballots at Rossville Church of Christ - north chapel, 514 E. Attica.

Voters outside Danville recently received new voter registration cards with polling place changes highlighted.

In some precincts, combining polling places will save money and solve the ongoing problem of finding enough election judges to meet state statutes.

Currently, the law requires no more than 800 voters to a precinct and a minimum of as close to 500 as is possible, said Lindsay Light, Supervisor of Elections at the county Clerk's office.

State law also states that in even-numbered years, each precinct must have five election judges. For several years, county clerks have reported that getting sufficient judges has been a problem.

In South Ross and Butler, with 656 and 515 registered voters, respectively, the county clerk's office will save money on hiring election judges.

That will not be the case in Grant, with a total of 3,235 voters. Unless Grant precincts lose enough voters to merge with others, there will be savings on judges, Light

said.

The same is true in Ross, where with 1,030 registered voters, combining precincts is prohibited.

Where savings will be found is in equipment costs. Each polling place must have an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant voting machine. By going from five polling places (Grant 4 and 5 currently both vote at St. Anthony parish hall), to one saves the cost of purchasing four machines, each costing \$1,000 to \$1,500, Light said.

Voters will still have the same number of machines for
See VOTERS on other side

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State officials visit Iroquois County in flooding aftermath

After as much as 11 inches of rain caused massive flooding in Watseka, state officials are coming to see the aftermath.

Gov. Bruce Rauner was in Watseka on Saturday, where he met with city officials, emergency responders and visited a shelter set up at Trinity Church for those who were displaced by the flood.

During his visit, Rauner said Illinois Management Agency had damage assessment teams in the area.

Monday, Department of Agriculture Director Philip Nelson, along with others, toured farmland in Iroquois County, which has undergone extensive damage from continual heavy rainfall.

An estimated 40 percent of Iroquois County crops are under water.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) representatives were in Iroquois County surveying damage and talking with

farmers about what federal assistance may become available. The State Emergency Board (SEB) will be convened by the FSA once county damage reports are submitted.

The SEB will review findings of reports and determine whether a recommendation will be forwarded to Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack to approve a Secretarial Disaster Designation for portions or all of Illinois.

Farmers with crops or livestock impacted by recent flooding should:

- Contact their insurance provider
- Contact Illinois State Farm Service Agency at (217) 241-6600

Do not walk through or attempt to drive through flowing water. It is important to remember, "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

Voters continued from other side

paper ballots, however those machines are 10 years old and will soon need to be replaced.

A smaller savings will come because county-wide, the number of polling places will be reduced from 44 to 29. A minimal fee is paid to each polling place, Light said.

Changes are expected to save a minimum of \$26,000 in the November primary alone, Light said.

For those who will be inconvenienced by the changes, two voting options are available.

First, voters may opt to vote by mail. By calling Light at (217) 554-1911, or going to www.vercount.org, voters may request a ballot to be sent to their homes. Once the signed application is returned to the office, ballots will be sent to voters who requested them.

Returned sealed ballots will remain sealed until election day, when they will be opened and run through the tabulator, Jenkins said.

The second option is early voting, which starts about six weeks before election day. Early voting is conducted at the Annex., which is open for several Saturdays before elections to accommodate early voters.

Weather

Sunny today. High 78. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 59. Tomorrow, sunny. High 80, low 62.

From the Blotter

A single key was found Sunday at McFerren Park. The owner may claim it at the police station.



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