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Photo submitted
Amy Lacy, VCHD Emergency Response Coordinator / Community Liaison, and department Administrator Douglas Toole, with the 2022 Bronze Innovative Award at the NACCHO 360 Conference.

County health department wins Innovative Practice award

Local Health Department Program is One of Ten Nationwide to be Selected as the National Association of County and City Health Officials' "Bronze Innovative Practice Awardee" in 2022

DANVILLE – The Vermilion County Health Department received the 2022 Bronze Innovative Practice Award by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) at the NACCHO 360 Conference in July.

ference in July.

The award celebrates local health departments for developing innovative programs to meet the needs of their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The designation as a Bronze Innovative Practice demonstrates a high level of program innovation and reflects collaboration, adaptability, and program resilience.

See AWARD on other side

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Award continued from other side

“We are honored to receive NACCHO’s Bronze Innovative Practice Award,” said Public Health Administrator Douglas Toole. “The award is recognition of our commitment to adapting to changing situations in order to serve the public health needs of our community.”

NACCHO represents the nation’s nearly 3,000 local governmental health departments. “Vaccinations at the Theatre” was one of 10 local health department programs to receive NACCHO’s Bronze Innovative Practice Award in 2022.

In January 2021, the Vermilion County Health Department began holding COVID vaccination clinics in its office, but due to the layout of the building, there were limits on the number of people who could be served.

Melissa Rome, VCHD Emergency Response Coordinator / Community Liaison at the time, was researching larger, easily accessible venues which could host vaccination clinics and which were centrally located in the county. She realized that the recently renovated Fischer Theatre – which was built as an opera house in the heart of downtown Danville in 1884, and where her husband, Jason, served as executive director -- would be an ideal

Sports

Golf

Junior Wyatt Eisenmann and sophomore Taylor Page led scoring for their respective teams when Hoopeston Area hosted matches Tuesday at Hubbard Trail Country Club.

Page’s 55 led all scorers in the contest against Watseka. The Lady Cornjerkers won the match, 283-298. Shay Layden and Macy Rayls each shot a 75. Julie Miguel rounded out scoring with a 78.

On the men’s side, Eisenmann shot a 47, followed by Ethan Steiner, 48, Trenton Montez, 57, Ethan Harding, 59 and Gavyn Miller, 77, for a team score of 211.

HA came in third, sandwiched between Watseka, in first place, with 188 and St. Anne with 201, and n the other end, Donovan with a 215 and Cissna Park, 225.

Meet medalist was Lathan Bowling, of Watseka, with a 44. Eisenmann was HAHS medalist.

Golfers will be on the road Thursday, traveling to Shewami Country Club in Sheldon to face Iroquois West, St. Anne, Watseka and Milford. Friday, the Cornjerkers take on Salt Fork/Chrisman at Hubbard Trail.

The team is coached by Thomas Sage.

location for a clinic. And so, a partnership was formed.

The health department held 10 vaccination clinics at the Fischer Theatre in early 2021, and vaccinated more than 4,000 people at those clinics. The Fischer’s volunteer workers helped people check in and move through the clinics, and thousands of participants were able to see the interior of the theatre, which had been closed for years.

“Local health departments have demonstrated remarkable innovation and resilience to better the health of their communities during the pandemic, and the 2022 Innovative Practice Awards highlight the very best practices,” said NACCHO Chief Executive Officer, Lori Tremmel Freeman. “Winners excelled at various disciplines including promoting health equity, contact tracing, mobile testing, contactless medication delivery, and many more. NACCHO is very proud to recognize the outstanding work done by local health departments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Innovative Practices are approaches and strategies to local public health issues that were developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and were creatively adapted

Briefly

Breast cancer support

Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support group meets the third Thursday of each month at The Pit Stop at Fast Lanes Bowling Alley. The next meeting will be August 18. Please spread the word and join us for a meeting to offer support to past and present breast cancer survivors. For more information, call Pat Foster, (815) 984-4040 or (309) 208-9829.

Card shower

The family of Rick Nolin is having a birthday card shower. Rick will be 75 on August 26. Cards and notes of well wishes may be sent to him at: Rick Nolin, 910 Sprague Rd., Hoopeston IL 60942.

Court Dispositions

July 13

Dawn D. Davis, Hoopeston, failed to appear at initial appearance for general nuisance, found guilty by default, fined \$230 plus 14 days to comply or an abatement order will be issued.; status hearing August 10.

Jeffrey J. Gaffney, Hoopeston, failed to appear at initial appearance for general nuisance, found guilty by default, fined \$180 plus 14 days to comply or an abatement order will be issued; status hearing August 10.

to meet the circumstances of the pandemic. Innovative Practices honors are awarded to local health departments across the country for implementing programs that can demonstrate exemplary, adaptable programs with replicable outcomes.

“Over the course of the pandemic, we were able to hold vaccination clinics at our office, at Danville Area Community College, at the airport, at community centers, at schools, at churches, and at workplaces,” Toole said. “We are appreciative of all of our hosts, but the clinics at the Fischer were special. It was an inspired idea.”

“The clinics were a lot of work,” said Amy Lacy, VCHD’s current Emergency Response Coordinator / Community Liaison. “We used our own staff, some temporary workers, the staff and volunteers at the Fischer, our Medical Reserve Corps, student nurses, local emergency medical technicians and paramedics, and – in early April – members of the Illinois National Guard. It was worth it. We received a lot of positive feedback from people about how well-run our clinics were. And people absolutely loved seeing the Fischer and sitting in theater seats during their post-vaccination observation time.”

Susan Fauver, the health department’s Director of Community Health Services, said holding clinics at the Fischer allowed the department to vaccinate more people more efficiently.

“At our January clinics in the health department, using our WIC waiting room and main hallway, we were vaccinating between 120 and 240 people per day,” Fauver said. “In the Fischer’s lobby, we could have four or five vaccination stations operating at once. In those March clinics, we were vaccinating 600 or more people per day. The extra space and extra help really made a difference in meeting the demand for vaccinations.”

From the Blotter

Samantha K. Shoulder, 19, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 5:33 p.m. Tuesday to Dollar General, 415 S. Dixie Hwy. Reviewing security video, officers identified her and went to her home to arrest her.

She was charged with retail theft and was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Court.

Weather

Sunny today. High 82. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 59. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 83, low 61.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

The annual NACCHO 360 conferences help local health officials envision the future of local public health in their communities and provide them with the essential skills and strategies to achieve that vision effectively and efficiently.

The theme of the 2022 conference, “Looking to the Future: Reshaping the Public Health System” explored how the local public health workforce and its stakeholders can move forward in the midst of an ongoing crisis while implementing traditional and innovative approaches to restructure a system built to protect the health of communities nationwide.

The Vermilion County Health Department provides WIC services, immunizations, and environmental health services to protect and promote health in the community, and can be reached at (217) 431-2662. Visit the website at www.vchd.org.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Silver Brothers is looking for an experienced carpenter. Must have at least 5 years experience and provide references. Pay will be \$25+, depending on experience. Please pick up an application at the office, 105 E. Washington, Hoopeston.

Fall help wanted at United Prairie, 18979 E 2850 N Rd., Hoopeston. Call Jordan Reese, (217) 888-0164 (office) or (217) 918-2876 (cell).

Fast Lanes is looking for experienced cooks for some breakfasts, days and evenings. If interested come to Fast Lanes, 719 W. Elm. NO PHONE CALLS.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is HIRING, starting pay \$18/hour. Apply at www.full-fill.com or applications available on-site. EOE

Premier Cooperative is looking to fill fall seasonal (operational & scale) positions at Rossville, Ellis, Collison, Reilly, Dillsburg, and Royal. Call 217-599-0310.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/Maintenance position. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12406/0

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

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