

BLUE DEVIL BLOWOUT

Playoff-bound QHS wraps up a 7-2 regular season with a 46-6 romp over Peoria Richwoods. ▶ PAGE 1B

QUINCY

HERALD-WHIG

[SATURDAY, OCT. 26, 2013]



NEMO SHELTER WORKSHOP

City seeks recycling fee hike



Northeast Missouri Sheltered Workshop employees, clockwise from left, Tim Hudson, Cornell Stewart and Sam Ferrara, sort various types of plastic Wednesday from "the dish" inside the recycling facility in Hannibal, Mo. A November ballot issue may determine whether the city maintains the facility, which employs 44 people with disabilities. (H-W Photo/Phil Carlson)

Hannibal voters will decide whether to increase fee by \$1.20 a month

By **MAGGIE MENDERSKI**
Herald-Whig Staff Writer

HANNIBAL, Mo. — Hannibal residents will decide in the Nov. 5 if an extra \$1.20 per month is worth maintaining more than 50 local jobs and recycling services for the community.

The ballot issue aims to increase the current 70-cent monthly recycling fee to \$1.90 to help with equipment maintenance and payroll at the NEMO Shelter Workshop. The workshop handled more than 697 tons of recyclables in the first eight months of 2013.

John Yancey, president of the

"We're not just eager. We're desperate for it. There's not near enough income to pay all the bills. So while we've been getting some assistance, it's not enough to maintain our facility in the community."

— John Yancey, president of the NEMO Shelter Workshop board

workshop board, explained the cost to maintain the outdated equipment has risen, and the market price for recycled materials has steadily dwindled. The

income from recyclable commodities can fluctuate between \$3,000 and \$14,000 each month. Yancey said bumping the recycling fee will give the facility the stability

it needs to stay open that market prices can't accommodate.

"We're not just eager. We're desperate for it," Yancey said. "There's not near enough income to pay all the bills. So while we've been getting some assistance, it's not enough to maintain our facility in the community."

The current fee brings in about \$5,000 each month. It is charged to residents and businesses through the Hannibal Board of Public Works.

The workshop employs 44 individuals with disabilities and

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QUINCY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Assistant chief lauded for efforts at Newcomb

Quincy Exchange Club names James Pioch the Firefighter of the Year

By **DON O'BRIEN**
Herald-Whig Staff Writer

When the call came in Sept. 6 that smoke was seen coming from the Newcomb Hotel in downtown Quincy, James Pioch immediately thought the worst.

"My first thought was that this is the building that everyone thinks about when they think about what kind of fire they don't want to fight," Pioch said. "I had worse thoughts in my head that everything was going to go up."



Pioch

Feared the worst when hotel fire call came in

Pioch, an assistant chief with the Quincy Fire Department, thought things might not be so bad when he arrived at the scene at 400 Maine. He observed light smoke and thought that the fire was inside a window frame.

"I was optimistic for about five minutes," Pioch said.

His optimism ran out once flames started to shoot through the 125-year-old building. Pioch immediately pulled out the three firefighters he sent into the building, and the department went into a defensive fire fight.

The building was a total loss.

"It was just a matter of keeping water on the fire to control its burn," Pioch said. "We tried to put it out, but the best we ended up hoping for was a nice, controlled burn and keep it from spreading to the Gardner Museum and also the Lincoln-Douglas (apartment building)."

See **PIOCH**, Page 5A

MACULAR DEGENERATION

Woman receives life-changing eye implant

By **MAGGIE MENDERSKI**
Herald-Whig Staff Writer

Jean Arp hadn't seen herself age in 10 years.

Arp's age-related macular degeneration began to reduce her central vision in 1998 and progressed to legal blindness in 2006. She hadn't seen the wrinkles deepen on her own face. The former tailor hadn't sewed a seam or even touched



Quincy resident Jean Arp shows the telescopic lens that was implanted in her right eye where the pupil is. "Before surgery I could not see the eye chart, even see it on the wall," Arp explained. "The day after surgery, I could read down three lines." (H-W Photo/Phil Carlson)

her sewing machine in years. She couldn't read the words in books, so she listened to stories on tape.

What started as a black spot in her vision 15 years ago gradually turned her world into shadows.

"I used to recognize people by voice," Arp said. "If I didn't recognize their voice, I didn't know who they were."

See **IMPLANT**, Page 4A

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Patients, firms shop for better health care deals

By **TOM MURPHY**
AP Business Writer

Paul Freeman drove 600 miles last year to save himself — and his employer — thousands of dollars on his surgery.

Freeman's insurer covered his travel costs and the entire bill because a medical center in Oklahoma City could remove the loose cartilage in his knee for about 70 percent less than a hospital closer to Freeman's Texhoma, Okla., home.

At first, the community bank CEO hesitated because he thought the lower price would mean lower quality. But he knew

if he didn't make the roughly 10-hour roundtrip trek, he'd pay about \$5,000 out of pocket.

"You immediately think, 'Oh they're going to take me into a butcher shop and it's going to be real scary,'" Freeman, 53, says, noting that instead he had a "wonderful experience."

People shop for deals on everything from cars to clothes to computers. Why not for health care, too?

Insurers, employers and individuals are shopping around for health care as they try to tame rising health care costs. Companies

See **DEALS**, Page 5A

SATURDAY



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24-HOUR FORECAST

Today ... Mostly sunny, high in the upper 50s. Tonight ... Colder and clear, low around 30. Northwest wind around 10 mph. Sunday ... Sunny, high in the mid-50s. ▶ PAGE 8B



SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Hawaii is poised to become the 15th state to allow gay marriages. The Democrat-dominated legislature will open a special session on Monday to take up the issue. The possibility of same-sex weddings in the Aloha State prompted a national backlash in the early 1990s. ▶ PAGE 2A