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www.justthefacts.net

Hoopeston Area rehires 18 non-tenured staff for 2003-04

While finances have caused many other school districts to cut staff, Hoopeston Area rehired 18 non-tenured teachers and aides at Thursday's school board meeting.

Worries about not receiving two state aid payments this year has forced many districts to lay off employees but over the past few years, Hoopeston Area has cut staff through attrition, Superintendent Mark Conolly said.

Nine teaching positions were not filled last year and 15 to 16 have not been replaced over the last three to four years, he said. That has put the district "in a situation the

rest of the county doesn't have," he added.

Even if the last two state aid payments don't come, the district will pay teachers for one year from reserve funds. "This board has made a conscious, teacher-friendly, student-friendly decision that the district will carry these people for one year and pay the money," Conolly said.

Finances are healthy despite having the lowest tax rate in the county, at \$3.62, at least 70 cents less than any other district. "We have a very low tax rate and we've done very

Briefly

Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: Monday, Hoopeston shuttle; Tuesday, Kankakee (leave at 8 a.m.); Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville. For more information or to arrange a ride, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Community center activities include: Monday, ladies bridge, noon; Tuesday, ladies euchre, noon; Thursday, men's coffee 9:30 a.m., men's euchre, noon; Friday, ladies cards, noon.

Music Booster winners

This week's winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: Mar. 24, Nancy Luke; Mar. 25, Paul Bray; Mar. 26, Chris Newman; Mar. 27, Dave Gordon, Rensellaer, Ind.; Mar. 28, Betty Richards, \$200.

Easter Pageant



Area residents are invited to take part in a bus trip to Normal to see the Easter Pageant at Calvary Baptist Church. The group will see the performance at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 12. The bus will leave at 2:30 p.m. from the IGA parking lot.

Tickets to the pageant are free; however, the cost of the bus trip is \$10 per person. The cost of dinner will be extra. Deadline is Mar. 31.

For more information or to reserve seats, call Ina Williamson at (217) 339-2324.

Women's bowling meeting

The Hoopeston Women's Bowling Association will hold their annual spring meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at Pla-Mor Lanes. The group will elect officers and have City Tournament prizes and money distribution. All members are urged to attend.

 **Vote 4** 

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Alderman for Ward 2

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Police News

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A 30-year-old Hoopeston man reported Thursday that he lost his wallet and checkbook in the 700 block of East Main.

Anthony J. Chandler, 21, of 719 S. Fifth St., turned himself in to police at 12:44 a.m. Friday.

Chandler, wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear, was released on \$285 cash bond.

A 13-year-old Hoopeston boy was charged with curfew violation at 11 p.m. Friday after his 31-year-old mother reported the boy would not return home as instructed.

The boy was released to his mother on a notice to appear.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 9:15 a.m. Friday in the 800 block of South

Fourth St.

Police said James P. Hatfield of Rossville backed a 2002 Ford F150 from a driveway into a parked 1990 Ford owned by Patricia J. Pickett of Hoopeston.

Hatfield was at fault for improper backing.

Two people were arrested at 10:56 p.m. Friday at Main and Fourth Ave.

Herbert S. Smith, 19, of 206 Perry, Rossville, was charged with driving while license suspended and illegal squealing/screeching of tires after police said he accelerated quickly, spraying gravel on a squad car.

A passenger in Smith's vehicle, Robert I. Smith, 23, of 623 S. Second Ave., was charged with possession of more than 2.5 but less than 10 grams of cannabis. Smith was released on \$100 cash bond.

A 70-year-old Hoopeston man called police to

was not home at the time.

The fire apparently started in the basement, where a space heater had been left on. The blaze went up the walls of the two-story house and fully engulfed the structure.

The Rossville Fire Department was called for mutual aid. Firemen were on the scene until approxi-

the 600 block of West Lincoln for an unknown problem. When officers arrived, they found an outside light had been broken.

Irene Colunga, 21, of Hoopeston, was ticketed for failing to reduce speed to avoid an accident at 4:25 p.m. Saturday in the 700 block of West Main.

Police said Colunga, in a 1996 Ford, was behind a 1995 GMC driven by Laura J. Jenkins of Hoopeston when an unidentified vehicle stopped for a pedestrian. The unknown vehicle and Jenkins stopped suddenly but Colunga did not.

Colunga and Jenkins were treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Sara A. Pate, 25, of 711 N. Seventh St., was arrested at 6:25 p.m. Saturday in the 700 block of Seventh St.

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Space heater blamed for fire that destroyed Hoopeston home

A space heater is believed to be the cause of a fire that destroyed a Hoopeston home Friday.

The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 11:51 a.m. to 819 E. Main after a neighbor reported the fire.

The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gonzalez,

See HA on other side

HA continued from other side

well with that tax rate," he said.

In other business, the board heard that standardized testing will begin this week. "Our staff has gone to great extremes to prepare themselves and prepare their students," Conolly said.

Each of the schools implemented student incentives to help boost scores and while that has motivated students, "nothing replaces parental involvement," Conolly said.

The board also:

- heard about a new computerized lunch count program that will be implemented at the high school. The district may add a bar code to student identification cards to keep track of lunches, Conolly said.
- will expand the state breakfast program to John Greer. next year Currently, breakfasts, consisting of milk,

Obituaries

REINERS - Walter C. "Walt" Reiners, 77, of Milford died at 2:34 p.m. Friday, Mar. 21, 2003 at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka, following a sudden illness. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at St. John Lutheran Church, Schwer. Burial will be in St. John Lutheran Cemetery. Visitation will be 3-8 p.m. Monday at Segur-Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka and one hour before services Tuesday at the church. Memorials are suggested to the

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 75. Tonight and tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. Tonight's low 52, tomorrow, high 65, low 42. For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-

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