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Cold weather brings special concerns for students, school

Preparation is key to successful plan

Editor's Note: This article, based on an interview with Hoopeston Area Superintendent Mark Conolly, bears reprinting in light of current winter conditions.

The start of the holiday season means a potential for winter storms and the possibility for school closings.

Winter presents a unique set of challenges, said Superintendent Mark Conolly. A storm may prompt closing of school during the day and students—and parents—should be prepared.

Conolly suggested parents make sure their children are dressed warmly in case they must walk home from school and that families develop a contingency plan should school be dismissed while parents are at work. Conolly suggested the plan might include a secondary place for children to go should they be unable to get into their homes in case of an early dismissal. "Our fear is not the child who is on the bus and warm but the one who has to walk across town who might find no one at home," he said.

Weather-related closings during the school day take at least one hour of preparation time, Conolly said. In that time, police departments are notified, as are local factories and radio and television stations, all before children are dismissed.

Days in which school is cancelled before school starts are no less active. Conolly and transportation director Darrell Brown often travel country roads to determine whether it is safe to bus the approximately 40 percent of students who need transportation to school.

Input is also sought from Grant Township Road Commissioner Jim Crouch and those bus drivers who live in rural areas. However, there is not a set formula for closing school. "There are no definitive criteria," Conolly said. "We do the best we can with the information we

have available."

Once the decision has been made to cancel classes, calls again go out to police, factories and media, including WHPO, WIAI, WITY and WGFA radio stations and television stations WICD, Channel 15 and WCIA Channel 3. Conolly said he tries to make his decision before 6 a.m. so it may be broadcast on news programs.

While many things go into deciding if school should be closed, some things do not. Each district is allowed five snow days annually. Days missed during the year must be made up at the end of the year "but that never comes into play when you're considering a safety issue," Conolly said.

Missed state aid for closing school is also not consid-

See WEATHER on other side

Girl Scouts to carol in towns

Girl Scout Service Unit #625 started this caroling event last year and it was a hit! The townspeople loved it. We decided as a group to try and enlarge the area that we can reach, by having the girls from each area carol in their towns.

Rossville girls will be caroling in Rossville on December 15 from 5:30-6:30pm. If you would like to have them come to your location call Nicole Gregory at (217) 748-6330.

Sheldon girls will carol in Sheldon on December 16 from 4-7 p.m. To have them come to your home there please call Stacy Miller at (815) 785-6038.

Hoopeston scouts will carol on December 17 from 1-3 p.m. in Hoopeston, if you would like to have them visit you please, call Angie Foster at (217) 799-2385.

Houses visited will be limited so call early.

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Bowling Scores



Thurs- day Afternoon Ladies League
11/3/05

	Won	Lost
1. Pla-Mor	16.5	10.5
2. Carolyns	14	13
3. Ungers	14	13
4. Knuth's	13.5	13.5
5. Bell Painting	13	14
6. Tooth Fairies	10	17

High Team Handicap Game: Pla-Mor 830, Unger's 803, Carolyn's 801; **High Team Handicap Series:** Pla-Mor 2448, Carolyn's 2316, Tooth Fairies 2298; **High Individual Scratch Game:** Terri Bell 192, Leona York 185, Jackie Langdoc 183; **High Individual Scratch Series:** Jackie Langdoc 481, Terri Bell 480, Leona York 477.

Hoopeston Women's Bowling League
11/8/05

	Won	Lost
1) Olympic Hardware	27	9
2) R&R Body Shop	26	10
3) Weber's	24.5	11.5
4) The Fubars	19	17
5) Kratt	18	18
6) Adda Girls	18	18
7) Gillins Oil	15.5	20.5
8) Unger's Jewelry	14	22
9) Ruby Nell's	13	23
10) Bye	5	31

High Team Handicap Game: Olympic Hardware 1059, Webers 1012, Gillins Oil 1012; **High Team Handicap Series:** Webers 2971, Olympic Hardware 2944, Kratt 2932; **High Individual Scratch Game:** Karen Porth 227, Dollie Boots 226, Laurie Murphy 222. **High Individual Scratch Series:** Laurie Murphy 606, Karen Porth 595, Glenda Reed 541.

Thursday Night Men's City League
11/10/05

	Won	Lost
1. Lawson Products	52	18
2. Ross Electric	51	19
3. Hooterville Broadcasting	42	28
4. Ballz Deep	41	29
5. Con-Agra Foods	40	30
6. Tax Service Plus	32	38
7. Pla-Mor Lanes	31	39
8. U-Need Construction	26	44
9. Noble House Construction	25	45
10. Bye	10	60

High Team Handicap Game: Hooterville Broadcasting 902, Ross Electric 890, Tax Service Plus 856; **High Team Handicap Series:** Ross Electric 2508, Hooterville Broadcasting 2504, Lawson Products 2481; **High Individual Scratch Game:** Rich Cappellano 300, Bob Bruens 300, Mark Butterworth/Mike Dean 246; **High Individual Scratch Series:** Bob Bruens 768, Rich Cappellano 760, Ken McVicker 690.

Hall of Shame: Doug Hoshauer 100.

Police News



A 50-year-old man reported Tuesday that someone took a 2004 Yamaha motocross motorcycle from the 400 block of South Third St.

Weather continued from other side

ered, simply because it is not an issue, he said. The amount received for state aid is not based on day-to-day attendance but on the three best months of attendance, traditionally September, October and November.

There are always some more adversely affected by bad weather. "We always have at least one person whose lane has drifted closed," Conolly said. Then it is the parent's call. "If they feel because of weather conditions that it's a more judicious decision to keep their child at home then by all means, they should keep their child home," he said.

Obituaries

HOLLEN—Thelma Mae Evelyn Highfill Hollen, 89, of Hoopeston died at 3:10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 5, 2005 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the nursing home.

Weather



Partly cloudy today and tonight. High 19, low 9. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 22, low 9.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Energy assistance signup at Hoopeston Multi Agency

Low-income families who would like assistance paying their power bills may sign up for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Representatives from East Central Illinois Community Action Agency will be at Hoopeston Multi Agency to take applications from 8:30 a.m.-noon and 1-3:30 p.m. Wednesday only. Signup is on a first come, first served basis.

Applicants must meet financial guidelines by being at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level. A single person household can qualify with a monthly income of up to \$1,196; two-person households up to \$1,604 and a family of four up to \$2,420.

Applicants must bring:

- Pay stubs or other documentation for most recent 30-day income.
- Social security cards for all household members
- Most recent electric bill.

Applications will be taken on a first-come, first served basis at the Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave.

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