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An open letter to the community about assessment tests

Editor's Note: The following, submitted by Superintendent Mark Conolly, discusses student assessment testing which will be occurring in the district in March and April.

March and April is state-mandated student assessment time. All Illinois assessment tests are aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards and federal (NCLB) No Child Left Behind requirements.

In Hoopeston Area CUSD #11, assessment is a balanced ongoing process that focuses on what students need to know and be able to do. The assessment system provides direction for effective teaching and learning. This system provides an ongoing monitoring process for addressing student achievement. Assessments are aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards and are designed to meet the following objectives:

- to measure the academic growth of students throughout the school year;
- to chart the academic progress of students from year to year;
- to identify students who need special assistance;
- to help students set personal achievement goals;
- to assist teachers in designing instruction;
- to help schools set school improvement goals for achievement;
- to help the District evaluate and improve educational programs.

The two major state mandated assessment tools that are used by CUSD #11 are the Illinois Standards Assessment Test (ISAT) and the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE). The ISAT assessment addresses elementary and middle school students, while the PSAE assessment addresses high school students. Our educators are trained in analyzing students testing data to obtain a broad look at student growth. This provides a comprehensive view of our students, so that challenging yet re-

alistic achievement goals can be set for each student.

Illinois Standards Assessment Test, March 20 – 31 (Elementary and Middle School)

This assessment determines the school's and district's progress in meeting the Illinois Learning Standards. This test is administered in March and starting in 2006, all students will take tests in reading and mathematics in each grade level. Science will be given in grades 4 and 7. The test has four levels of performance scoring:

Academic Warning: This student demonstrates major gaps in learning and cannot apply knowledge and skills

Below Standards: This student demonstrates basic knowledge and skills with some learning gaps which limit application.

Meets Standards: This student demonstrates proficient knowledge and skills and applies information to solve problems.

Exceeds Standards: This student demonstrates advanced knowledge and skills which is applied creatively to solve problems.

Prairie State Achievement Examination, April 26, 27 (High School Students)

This assessment measures the achievement of grade 11 students relative to the Illinois Learning Standards for reading, mathematics, and science. The PSAE includes three components: (1) an Illinois State Board of Education developed science assessment; (2) the ACT Assessment, which includes reading, English, mathematics and science tests; and (3) two WorkKeys assessment (Reading for Information and Applied Mathematics). The levels of performance scoring are the same as the ISAT.

Under NCLB, schools, districts and states must meet target goals each year to achieve what's called "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP). This year that goal

See TESTS on other side

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Police News



Gayle R. Cunningham, 57, of 41444 Main St., East Lynn was arrested at 8:35 a.m. Thursday at the police station. Cunningham, wanted on a Vermilion County small claims warrant, was released on \$500 cash bond.

Kevin E. Tyler, 26, of 307 Front, was arrested at 5:55 p.m. Thursday in the 300 block of Front. Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Juan Colunga Jr., 27, of 406 E. Thompson, was arrested after a traffic stop at 12:38 a.m. Friday in the 800 block of South Fifth St.

He was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and was released on a notice to appear.

A **26-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Friday that someone took the front license plate from her 1990 Buick while it was parked at Parkview Court.

Amy L. Warner, 27, of 728 E. McCracken, was arrested after a traffic stop at 11:38 p.m. Friday after police allegedly saw her driving the wrong way through a marked alley north of the 500 block of East Main.

She was charged with DUI, DUI with breath concentration over .08, driving while license revoked, illegal transportation of alcohol and improper lane usage - one way street.

She was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville.

Tests continued from other side

is 47.5 % of a school's testing population meeting or exceeding the test standards whether it's the ISAT or PSAE assessment. These standards are raised over time with the ultimate goal being 100% proficiency by 2014.

This is why these tests must be taken seriously by all concerned. Each building has taken steps to prepare students for these tests. The teaching staff has worked hard to make sure students are as prepared as possible. Equally, it is vitally important that parents stress to their children the need to do well. Also, please be sure your children are in attendance on test days. This is extremely important. With the support of our teachers, parents and community members our children can achieve and do well on these assessments.

We want our students to do their best on these tests!

Thank you very much,
Mark Conolly

Police are investigating a report of a broken window in the 600 block of East Honeywell.

A **27-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Saturday that someone forced open the rear door of his home and took a Sony Play Station game. The burglary occurred in the 700 block of East Penn.

A **37-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Saturday that an unknown person was in her garage in the 700 block of East Chestnut. The person left in an older model Chevrolet.

Briefly

Meetings

- Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch, 6 p.m. Monday, Country Terrace.
- Hoopeston City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, city hall.
- Hoopeston Area School Board, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, high school library.

Obituaries

THRASHER—Otha E. "Otis" Thrasher, 69, of Hoopeston died at 9 p.m. Thursday, March 2, 2006 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Chestnut Street Church of Christ. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Sunday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home and one hour before services at the church. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

WEISS—Mary G. Weiss, 96, of Hoopeston, formerly of Vermilion Grove died at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 2, 2006 at Decatur Memorial Hospital, Decatur. Graveside services were 2 p.m. Saturday at Crown Hill Cemetery, Ridge Farm. There was no visitation. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Weather



Mostly cloudy today and tonight. High 41, low 26. Tomorrow, partly cloudy, chance of thunderstorms late. High 44, low 37.

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

Lunch Menus



Rossville-Alvin Area Grade School

MONDAY: No school. Institute day.

TUESDAY: Chicken fajita, corn on the cob, pears, peanut butter bars.

WEDNESDAY: Ham & cheese, carrots/dip, apple slices, chips.

THURSDAY: Pork roast, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, peaches, bread, butter.

FRIDAY: Pizza square, salad, croutons, applesauce.

CRIS/SAMS Meals

MONDAY: Beef stew, applesauce, biscuits, bananas.

TUESDAY: Polish sausage, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, white bread, red gelatin/fruit, whipped topping.

WEDNESDAY: Country fried steak, gravy, whipped potatoes, Italian mixed vegetables, white bread, apple-sauce.

THURSDAY: Chicken parmesan, carrots, whipped potatoes, orange juice, wheat bread.

FRIDAY: Baked chicken, Harvard beets, peas, wheat bread, fruit cocktail.

All meals include milk.

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