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Hoopeston Area officials fear test materials may be wrong

Local school officials hope Hoopeston Area will not experience problems some schools are having with standardized testing materials.

At Thursday night's regular Hoopeston Area School Board meeting, Superintendent Mark Conolly said several complaints have been filed against Harcourt Assessment, distributors of Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) packets.

Harcourt, hired just this year to distribute the materials, has come under fire for delivering packets late to districts and for omitting some sections of the test. "It's an absolute mess," Conolly told the board.

Tests were to be delivered to Hoopeston Area by Monday. Students in grades 3-8 are set to take the tests the week of March 20.

Conolly explained that the tests are especially important because they are tied to the federal No Child Left Behind program which calls for districts to prove adequate yearly progress of students. Failing to do so can land districts of watch or warning lists and can affect funding.

"Hundreds and hundreds (of students) could be mistested, could not make yearly progress," he said. "There's probably going to be a lawsuit coming from this."

The News-Gazette reported Friday that districts in Champaign County experienced problems with the tests, including receiving no teacher manuals and tests missing sections. Because students must open the packets themselves, the missing sections were not detected until children began taking the tests.

The News-Gazette story cited an Associated Press story saying Harcourt Assessment was chosen to distribute testing materials after a former high-ranking aide to Governor Rod Blagojevich was hired by the company.

To try to alleviate problems, some Hoopeston Area

staff have offered to come in this week during spring break to review what materials they can and make sure testing runs as smoothly as possible. "They're going above and beyond," Conolly said.

In unrelated business, the board:

- Approved rehiring several non-tenured teachers, including first year teachers Sherree Benjamin, Dawn Ferguson, Jana Fesser, Korinne Hollis, John Klaber, Jamie Miller, Mitchell Pruemer, Allyson Smith, Adam Tinken, Carrie Vallero and Eric Zorns; second year teachers Matthew Dix and Kara Haley; third year teachers Katherine Clayton and Josh Haley; fourth year teachers Emily Jones, Joe Legg and Richard Stipp and Amanda Ellis as part time ag teacher.

- Approved 2006-07 school fees with no increases. See table on other side

- Heard from high school principal Hank Hornbeck that a committee of himself, guidance counselor Kay Brown and high school math teachers will make a recommendation to the board on how to meet the state-required change in graduation requirements that increase the number of years of math from two to three. The recommendation is expected to be made at the April board meeting.

- Learned four teachers will be honored at the annual Golden Ruler Banquet next month at Bismarck-Henning. The four are John Lee, Mary Conolly, Julie Stump and Debbie Klaber.

- Approved Russ Leigh's bid of \$4,600 and \$500 for federal programs for the annual audit.

- Learned Vermilion Area Special Education plans to implement a classroom for autistic children next year. Conolly said school districts pushed for the addition because children with autism are "an area of students not adequately served in Vermilion County." Hoopeston Area has two students diagnosed with autism.

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Police News



A **64-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Friday that someone threw a large rock through a window at his home, breaking the window and screen. The damage occurred in the 500 block of East Young.

A **59-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Friday that a window had been broken out of her 1991 Chrysler parked in the 400 block of East Honeywell.

Jessica M. Lindsey, 16, of Hoopeston was ticketed for operating an uninsured vehicle after an accident at 3:29

p.m. Friday.
Police said Lindsey, in a 1999 Hyundai, struck a 1993

Chevrolet driven by Joe A. Perez Jr., also of Hoopeston, at Hoopeston Area High School, 615 E. Orange.

Obituaries

ORR—Donna L. Orr, 76, of Beaverville died at 8:20 p.m. Friday, March 10, 2006 at her daughter’s home in Kankakee. Funeral services will be at noon Wednesday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, Kankakee and two hours before services at Hamilton-Orr. Memorials are suggested to Hospice of Kankakee Valley or Lions

Club International Foundation
POWLEY—Gerald L. Powley, 82, of Hoopeston died at 9:20 a.m. Thursday, March 9, 2006 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was 4-6 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the nursing home, 701 E. Orange St.

Hoopeston Area Fee Schedule 2006-07

Grade	Book Rental/Fee		
Early Childhood	\$25		
K-12	\$50		
Driver Education	\$50		
MS/HS Extracurricular	\$20/activity	Max. \$40/student; \$80/family	
Breakfast			
Paid	\$1		
Reduced	.30		
Lunch			
Paid	\$1.75—Elementary	\$2 MS/HS	\$2.50 Adult
Reduced	.40		
Milk	Split session .15	Elementary .25	MS/HS/ Adult .25
Ticket Prices	Adult	Student	
Middle School	\$2	\$1.50	
High School	\$3	\$2	
All School Pass (10 events)	\$20	\$10	
Senior Citizens	Free		
Cornjerker Athletic Pass (all season)	\$60	\$25	\$100

Lindsey was at fault for improper backing.

A **32-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Friday that someone scratched her 2005 Ford while it was in the 700 block of West Washington.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 2:20 a.m. Sunday at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Police said Stacey L. Ricksey of Lafayette, Ind., in a 1999 Chevrolet, was turning into the parking lot when she was distracted by the sudden movement of her dog and hit a brick wall.

Weather



Chance of rain today. High 60. Tonight, chance of flurries. Low 29. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 43, low 28.

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