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Just the Facts[©]

Monday, November 22, 2010

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348

Lourdine Florek, owner

www.justthefacts.net

Board expects tax rate to remain about the same for levy

Taxpayers in the Hoopeston Area school district are expected to pay about the same rate for the 2011 tax levy.

At Thursday's meeting, the Hoopeston Area School Board approved a \$3,188,038 levy, up just \$4,813 over last year's levy.

The rate for last year's levy was \$4.63, the same as it was the previous year, said Superintendent Hank Hornbeck.

Last year, of the \$3,183,225 levied, the district received \$2,932,289, down from the previous year's \$2,940,513.

In related financial discussion, Hornbeck told the

board that while the state keeps fairly current on state aid payments, it is falling behind in payments for "mandated categoricals" - services mandated by the state that are supposed to be paid by the state, such as transportation and special education.

Hornbeck said the reimbursement rate is usually about 80 percent of costs but that has been cut to 57 percent, and even at that, the state is falling behind. Officials have been notified that the final payment for fiscal year 2010, which ended in June, may be made by December 30. "They're saying if we're lucky, we may get our first

See BOARD on other side

The downside of wind farms to be discussed at Onarga meeting

An informational meeting to discuss the drawbacks to wind farms will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23 at Ford-Iroquois Extension Office, 912 W. Seminary Avenue, Onarga.

The meeting is sponsored by Heart of Iroquois County, a volunteer effort.

Topics to be discussed include:

- How can property liens occur on farmland with signed wind releases?
- What restrictions and easements are common in wind leases?
- What additional insurance and income or estate tax issues are there?
- How could a wind company bankruptcy affect land-owners and others?
- How do wind turbines affect aerial application and helicopter rescues?
- How might the property value of your home be af-

See WIND on other side

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Police News



Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 4:30 p.m. Thursday in the Pamida parking lot, 1020 W. Chestnut, Hoopeston. An unknown vehicle hit a parked 2006 Buick owned by Sharon Polson, of Hoopeston.

Mark A. Kocanda, 26, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 6:06 p.m. Friday at Market and McNeil. He was charged with driving while license

suspended and on a warrant.

Police are investigating a report made at 6:52 p.m. Saturday that a wall at the McFerren Park Civic Center had been damaged.

Robert Wallace, 26, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an accident at 9:46 p.m. Saturday in the 700 block of East Main. He was charged with leaving the scene of an accident with vehicle damage and no valid driver's license after he allegedly hit a 2008 Hyundai Tucson, owned by Sherlyn Huffman, of Rossville, with his 1995 Chevrolet Blazer.

Wallace was release on a notice to appear.

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Board continued from other side

FY 11 payment by June 30," he said.

The saving grace for Hoopeston Area and many other districts has been federal stimulus payments, but Hornbeck wondered what will happen when federal money runs out.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the annual audit.
- Approved the high school improvement plan, necessary because the school did not make adequate yearly progress on federal testing.

However, Principal Larry Maynard noted that while students did not make AYP on the Prairie State Achievement Exam, students did hold their own against

Wind continued from other side

- fected?
- How could local schools, fire departments and others, end up with less than expected?
- What is it like to live near wind turbines?

Those scheduled to speak at the informational session include:

- Larry Gerdes, landowner, business owner and founder of Informed Farmers Coalition in Lee/Bureau Counties (www.informedfarmers.org)
- Rick Reed, Illinois Agricultural Aviation Association president (www.agaviation.com)
- Dave & Stephanie Hulthen, DeKalb County residents featured in the August issue of Prairie Farmer magazine



Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets, green beans, applesauce

TUESDAY: Maple: Cheese pizza, salad, pears, cupcake;

Obituaries

LANDSDOWN - Kenneth Landsdown, 61, of Rossville, died at 8:35 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Graveside service was at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Rossville Cemetery, Rossville. Visitation was 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to the family.

Honeywell/John Greer: Ham & cheese, chips, pears, grape juice

WEDNESDAY: Maple: Ham & cheese, chips, peaches, grape juice; Honeywell/John Greer: Pizza Hut, salad, peaches, cupcake

THURSDAY-FRIDAY: No school

Hoopeston Area Middle/High schools

MONDAY: Fettuccine Alfredo or BBQ rib/bun, max stix, salad, peaches

TUESDAY: Pizza Hut, salad, mixed fruit

WEDNESDAY: Chicken patty or ham & cheese, green beans, applesauce

THURSDAY-FRIDAY: No school

All meals include milk.

Just the Facts

Will not be printed
Thursday for
Thanksgiving.
Publication will resume
Friday, however the
office will be closed.

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Classifieds

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state averages in the ACT test.

• Learned cameras will be installed on buses in an effort to cut down on bus incidents. Transportation director Mark Eighner said future bus purchases will include onboard cameras in the specifications.

• Heard from Carolyn Eyrich-Maste, Hoopeston Education Association president, that a tree in memory of deceased teacher Barb Garner has been planted at Maple School. She also reported that new technology requirements have several teachers feeling stressed while trying to meet the needs of students.

• Approved Kathleen Margevich as a reading volunteer at Maple School.

(www.lifewithdekalbturbines.blogspot.com)

• Steve Weeks, Livingston County attorney with experience analyzing wind leases

• Dr. Glenda Tannahill, Livingston County landowner with more than 30 years of finance experience in both corporate and academic settings

Weather



Chance of showers today and tonight. High 66, low 43. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 48, low 36.

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