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Sharon Dixon
 Assistant Vice President
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 Financial Advisor, RJFS

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DACC-Hoopeston to host Purdue ag specialists' workshop

A pair of Purdue University ag specialists will present a crop marketing skills workshop in Hoopeston.
 Dr. James Mintert and Dr. Nathan Thompson, both from the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture, will present the workshop from 1-3:30 p.m. Tuesday at the DAC Higher Learning Center, 847 E. Orange. Admission is free. To register, call (217) 283-4171.

The workshop is designed for those interested in improving their crop marketing skills. The session will begin with a corn and soybean outlook for the coming year and will provide insight to participants into improving their corn marketing programs.
 Purdue's Center for Commercial Agriculture has developed
 See **WORKSHOP** on other side



Clayton Hankins prays for the families of the victims of the Valentine's Day school shooting in Florida during a walk-out at Hoopeston Area High School Wednesday morning.
Hoopeston Area students walk out in gun violence protest

Hoopeston Area middle and high school students walked out of class Tuesday morning to protest gun violence in schools.
 About 30 high school students and scores of middle schoolers gathered on the track behind the schools, part of a national protest stemming from the February 14 shooting at a Florida school. Sponsored by Women

March, the protest lasted 17 minutes, one for each of the 17 victims at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.
 Freshman Clayton Hankins was one of the students taking part in the protest. Hankins walked a distance from his classmates. Dressed in shorts, he went down on one
 See **PROTEST** on other side

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Workshop continued from other side

oped a new web-based crop basis tool that can be used to keep up-to-date on crop basis trends in the area, approving the ability to forecast basis.

During the workshop, attendees will learn how the tool works and how they can use it when making crop marketing decisions.

Mintert is a professor and extension economist in the Department of Agricultural Economics and serves as director of the Center for Commercial Agriculture. He joined Purdue's faculty in 2009 and served as the assistant director of Extension for agriculture and natural resources before taking on his director responsibilities at the Center.

Prior to his time at Purdue, Mintert was a professor, livestock marketing economist, and Extension state leader in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University for 23 years. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural economics from Purdue and a doctorate from the University of Missouri.

He acquired his interest in agriculture while working on his family's farm in the Mississippi and Missouri river bottoms, just north of St. Louis, Mo. Over his career,

Mintert has received numerous awards, including Outstanding Extension Program Awards from both the American Agricultural Economics Association and the Western Agricultural Economics Association, in addition to the American Agricultural Economics Association's Premier Forecaster Award for his livestock production and price forecasts. Jim is also the author of more than 200 publications focusing on the economics of the livestock industry.

Thompson joined the department in February 2016 after completing his PhD in Agricultural Economics at Oklahoma State University. His research and extension programs will focus primarily in the areas of production economics and farm management, with a specific emphasis on risk management as it pertains to farm-level decision making.

Thompson has a strong interest in interdisciplinary, applied research with practical implications for producers and other relevant stakeholders. Some of his previous work has involved determining the economic feasibility of alternative technologies and production practices for both crop and livestock producers.

He received several honors from Oklahoma State Uni-

versity and the University of Tennessee. His work has been published in such publications as the *Journal of Dairy Science*, *The Professional Animal Scientist*, the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Agronomy Journal* and *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*.

Laptops/tablets are not required for the workshop; however participants are encouraged to bring them, if possible, to acquire firsthand experience using the crop basis tool.

Light refreshments will be served.

Obituaries

SCHULER - Sarah L. (Anderson) Schuler, 88, of Watseka, formerly of Hoopeston, died Sunday, March 11 at Iroquois Resident Home, Watseka. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery, Watseka. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice.

Protest continued from other side

knee to pray for the families of those who died in the shooting and those around the world who are affected by gun violence.

Hankins said he is not anti-gun but "I like it when people use them for the right reasons." Asked if he blames the shooter or the gun, "I don't blame anybody for it, honestly," he said. "It's their choice and they just do what they do and nobody stops them from doing it."

Instead of shooting, Hankins suggested people talk to their family, friends or a pastor to help them understand the thought and feelings they experience.

While high school students gathered in groups, talking quietly among themselves, middle school students were more exuberant, running and jumping and being reminded by staff that the protest was to be peaceful.



HANKINS

Weather

Sunny today. High 46. Tonight, clear. Low 24. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, chance of snow/freezing rain late. High 41, low 28.

From the Blotter

Police are investigating a report made at 3:50 p.m. Tuesday when an employee of Dollar General, 415 S. Dixie Hwy., reported someone left the store without paying for merchandise.

Two people are facing drug charges after a traffic stop at 10:58 p.m. Tuesday at Fourth St. and Young.

Mindi L. Parsons, 27, of Champaign and Cadence M. Hanshaw, 21, of Brook, Ind., were arrested after police allege they found more than 15 grams of cocaine in the vehicle and on the driver's person.

Police did not identify which was driving the vehicle.

The pair were arrested on preliminary charges of possession of a controlled substance (cocaine), possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), possession with intent to deliver and obstruction of justice.

Both were taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

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