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Thursday, Nov. 2, 1995

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(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL 60942

Children, teaching experience cause challengers to run

Editor's note: This is the second in a series on the eight candidates running in the Nov. 7 election for Hoopeston Area school board seats.

The third candidate seeking one of three seats on the Hoopeston Area school board is Sharon Roark, 40, a self-avowed "open and opinionated person."

Like most other candidates, Roark's reasons for seeking election are her children. "I'd like to see parents interact more," said the mother of two 14-year-olds and one 17-year-old. "A lot of parents don't realize what their kids are achieving," Roark said. "We have a lot of talented kids out there."

The district has much to be proud of, including strong music and athletic departments, Roark said. Another strength is the diversity of activities allowed students. "The fact that our kids are allowed to experiment and expand in more than one (area of sports or music) is good," she said. "I guess lots of districts are forcing them to choose."

District finances are also a plus. Having the lowest tax rate in the county "is a wonderful thing," she said. "I would like to see that continue, if possible."

While Roark is unaware of major issues facing the

district, improving the math department is needed. "I've heard there are problems trying to get the math department up and going," she said, adding several new teachers have joined that department.

Roark considers herself a mixture of conservative and liberal views. "It depends on the issues," she said, adding "I lean more toward the liberal than the conservative. I would hope I'm the best of both."

Roark, a 22-year Hoopeston resident, is vice president of the All Sports Booster club and has been a sorority and Junior Woman's Club member. She is employed as instant oats administrator at Quaker Oats in Danville.

Bringing a new view to the board is why challenger Deborah Catron is seeking election.

"I think every school board should have an educator on it," said Catron, a fourth grade teacher at Garfield Elementary School in Danville. "I'm a very strong believer in that fact that you know what it's like behind those closed doors. If (board members) don't get into the school, they don't have any idea the changes that have made made in the last few

See **CHALLENGERS** on other side

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Challengers continued from other side years."

Hoopeston Area is a good district, Catron said. "I think sometimes we don't toot our own horns enough," she said.

Things which make the district good include "excellent teachers" and the board putting students first.

Offered courses are also first-rate. "I would hold them up against any other school district in this county," Catron said.

District finances are also sound. "The administration has done an excellent job of keeping our district in the black when a lot of districts run in the red," she said.

Issues facing the district include possible changes in the education system and class size.

Catron said many states have gone to the voucher system, allowing parents to choose schools. Illinois, she said, may face that one day and the Hoopeston Area district must be prepared.

Also, she said, local class sizes may need to be cut. "There may be only four more kids," she said, "but a study has shown for every kid over 25, it's like adding another five.

Also, she said, more work needs to be done on the curriculum, "so you don't have a teacher teaching dinosaurs in second grade and again in third grade and again in the fourth grade because they like to

teach it."

Curriculum, she added, is more than classes offered. "It's like a road map for teachers," she said.

The candidate, who calls herself politically conservative, is a Sunday school teacher at the Presbyterian Church. She is also secretary for the Hoopeston Girls Softball Association and is a Music Boosters member. She has a 16-year-old daughter in the school system.

Police News



A Hoopeston woman was treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital following an accident Tuesday.

Enna K. Reynolds of 914 S. Sixth Ave., was treated for wrist pain following the accident, at 3:37 p.m. in the 1000 block of East Thompson.

Reynolds' 1990 Plymouth struck a 1993 Suzuki driven by Mark A. Catron, 21, of 528 S. Wyman.

According to reports, Catron turned from the Schumacher parking lot and did not see Reynolds approaching.

Catron was ticketed for failure to yield when making a left turn.

Randall Martin reported that someone threw a beer bottle through the back window of his 1983 Chevrolet pick-up while it was parked at 938 S. Sixth Ave.

In the hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Oct. 31, 1995

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Debra McClafflin, Rankin.

Weather



Cloudy and colder today with occasional rain or drizzle. High in the low 40s. Tonight, rain changing to snow, likely. Low near 30. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 42, low near 39.

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Bowen, Sharie Carter-Bane

Last week's answer: The time fell back one
hour last Sunday