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Two incumbents hope to keep seats on Hoopeton Area board

Editor's note: This is the final part in a series on candidates for tomorrow's Hoopeton Area school board race.

Two incumbents are among eight candidates seeking three seats in Tuesday's Hoopeton Area school board race.

Ed Layden Jr., a life-long Hoopeton area resident, has been on the board for 12 years and has been board president for six years. He has had three children graduate and currently has two children in Hoopeton Area High School.

Layden, a local farmer, sees many strengths in the district, including curriculum. "If you compare us to schools our size, we have a much larger curriculum," he said.

Another plus is administration, Layden said. "I hope we would continue to do that in the future," he said. "We don't try to stick our heads in the sand."

The district has few problems, the incumbent said. "Overall, we do a pretty good job. I don't see anything that's a major, major problem."

One area that needs, and is receiving improvement, is the district's math program. "We've made great strides, I think, but there's some improvement (still needed) there," he said.

Layden said he will continue to seek re-election "as long as I feel I'm contributing. I enjoy it. It's quite a bit of fun, really."

Another reason he decided to serve on the board is
See INCUMBENTS on other side

Briefly

High school play scheduled

The Hoopeton Area High School Drama Department will present "Squad Room" at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the high school auditorium.

Tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for students.

1996 Festival chairman named

Bob Porth was named 1996 Sweetcorn Festival chairman at Saturday's Hoopeton Jaycees Festival banquet. As chairman, Porth will oversee all aspects of the 1996 event.

Porth is the first Jaycee to chair three festivals. He was elected as festival chairman in 1987 and 1991.

Fall concert

The Hoopeton Area Middle and High School bands and choruses will host a fall concert at 7 p.m.

Tuesday in the middle school auditorium.

Music Booster winners

Winners in this week's Hoopeton Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: Nov. 6, Chuck Little, Miami, FL.; Nov. 7, Wayne Ryder, Stockland; Nov. 8, Martha Merritt, Hoopeton; Nov. 9, Bob and Louise Wity, Hoopeton; and Nov. 10, Tim Totheroh family, Wellington.

Recycling workshop

The Hoopeton Public Library will host a recycling workshop at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Lowell Null of M&N Pallet will present information on what can be recycled locally.

Refreshments and door prizes will be offered.

For more information, contact the library at 283-6711.

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Police News



Glenn R. Hackney, 46, of 309 S. Second Ave., turned himself in to police Thursday. Hackney was wanted on a warrant and was released on \$500 cash bond.

Ahagain Lee Staley, 824 E. Wyman, was treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital Thursday after her 1991 Mercury was struck by a 1980 Ford driven by Sonya Lee Sanford, 17, of Hoopeston.

According to reports, Sanford entered the parking lot at Jerry's IGA at 12:40 p.m.. Staley drove from behind parked vehicles, striking Sanford, who was

Incumbents continued from other side to return to the community some of what he has received. "I think people in the community should give back to the community," he said.

Layden is a member of the Hoopeston Rotary, Soybean Association, Farm Bureau and past member of the Hoopeston Lions Club. He attends St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

Gary Jett is the second incumbent seeking reelection.

Jett, 55, a six-year member, said the district's strengths include and "excellent superintendent," capable of making sound financial decisions, strong extracurricular programs, the district's computer program, a good curriculum and long-term teachers.

Weaknesses are seen in the math and science programs, according to Jett. "We've made significant progress but there's more work to be done," he said.

Another weakness is dealing with the state because district officials are never sure what the state will do to school funding.

Jett has lived in Hoopeston for 24 years. He has two sons, both in college. He is a member of the American Legion and past president of Hoopeston Little League. He is also a charter member of the Sports Boosters club.

ticketed for driving too fast for conditions.

The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 5:57 p.m. Thursday to smoke coming from 505 E. Main.

Christina Shields, 20, of 418 S. Fifth St., turned herself in to police Friday. She was wanted on a warrant and was released on \$100 cash bond.

Stephanie Weyand reported Friday that someone threw a brick through a window at 204 N. Market.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 4:40 p.m. Friday.

A 1990 Dodge van, driven by Stefanie A. Cornelius, 705 S. Market, struck a 1991 Chevrolet truck driven by Billy Hudson, 426 S. Fourth St., which struck a 1991 Chevrolet driven by Michael P. Gossett, 412 S. Fifth St. The accident occurred in the Price Less parking lot. Cornelius was at fault for failing to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident Friday. A truck owned by Hoopeston Fertilizer was parked at 317 W. Thompson when it slipped out of gear and struck a parked 1991 Chevrolet Cavalier owned by Rhonda R. Rutledge, 201 N. Walnut, Milford.

Obituaries

PARKER - Paul A. "Pete" Parker, 87, of Hoopeston, died at 1:05 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, 1996, at Hoopeston Community Nursing Home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Bruial will be in the Rankin Union Cemetery. Visitation was 5-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Westside Nazarene Church.

Weather

Becoming cloudy and warmer today with a 40 percent chance of rain. High 55-60. Tonight, continued rainy. Low in the mid 40s. Tomorrow, morning rain, then clearing. High near 54, low near 45.

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