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Wednesday, June 18, 1997

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

Heavy rains provide key to some flooding, alderman says

Last Thursday's rains may have provided the key to eliminating at least some flooding in Hoopeston.

During last week's downpour, city workers located a leak of storm water into a sanitary sewer, said Alderman Drew Allen at Tuesday's city council meeting.

The leak is in the alley between McNeil and Wyman, but the results are best seen in a manhole at McCracken and Sixth Ave., he said. "Water was actually floating that manhole," he said.

Allen estimated that as much as 1,500 gallons per minute at times entered the sanitary sewer there.

While the site of storm water infiltration has been found, what remains to be determined is how the water is entering the sewer.

Allen suggested water might be entering through stacked rings that make up the manhole, but said a definitive reason will not be known until the area is

excavated.

Although more work must be done, Allen is optimistic about what has been discovered so far. "At least we have a starting point," he said. "It's just a matter now of stopping those leaks and I think we can do that relatively inexpensively."

In related business, Allen said renovations at the treatment plant are "in the neighborhood of 75 percent completed," and work should be done on time. The project has an August completion date.

In unrelated business, Alderman Mark Drollinger reported that approximately 80 percent of the sidewalk on the north side of the 200 block of East Main has been torn out and forms set up on the east end of the block for new sidewalk.

The project is "if not right at, a little bit ahead of schedule," he said.

R-A board to look at random drug tests for student groups

ROSSVILLE—School officials here are considering joining a growing number of districts doing random drug tests on students.

The possibility of testing was discussed Monday night by the Rossville-Alvin school board, said Superintendent Phil Smith.

Recent decision by boards at Bismarck-Henning and Covington, Ind., prompted the suggestion. "It's getting to be the thing," he said.

Smith said a suggested policy, expected at the July 21 meeting, may call for random testing of athletes and students involved in other extra-curricular activities, as well as students who drive to school or who are in driver's education.

A1995 Supreme Court decision gives districts the right to test students, Smith said, although "you can't

test everybody." Only specific groups of students may be tested, he said.

How much such a policy will cost the district has not been determined. "I've heard anywhere from \$12 to \$40 (per student) but we haven't got that far," Smith said.

In other action, the board:

□will pay \$1,000 to \$2,000 for flashing wigwag lights across Route 1 between the high school and grade school. The village and state will pick up the remainder of the cost, estimated at about \$5,000.

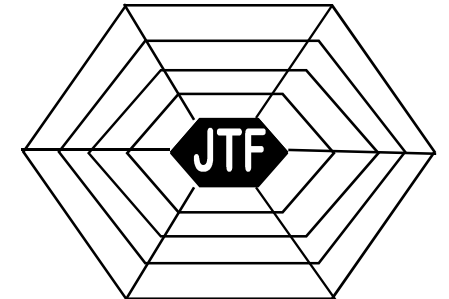
□has placed a proposed change in the math and social studies curricula on display. The proposal has "significant changes" for the entire district, Smith said.

□set a board meeting for noon Thursday to meet with an architect to discuss Life Safety work at both district buildings.

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McFerren Park, Hoopeston

Rossville officials hire new village collector, set public auction for two land parcels

ROSSVILLE—Chris Pierce was hired Monday by the Rossville village board as the new collector.

Pierce replaces Kathy Roark, who was dismissed by the board Monday.

Pierce's annual salary will be \$16,000.

Roark was suspended as collector last month pending a Vermilion County Sheriff's Department investigation into missing funds.

She was indicted May 5 by a grand jury on charges of theft over \$300 and official misconduct.

Roark also serves as the village clerk.

In other action, the board will sell two parcels of land during the July 21 meeting.

The first parcel is 9.544 acres near Chrisman Park. A small part of the parcel is wetlands.

The second parcel is lot 116 in the southwest corner of Railroad and Stewart.

Both parcels may be viewed prior to the auction, officials said.

Appointments may be made by calling the village office at (217)748-6217.

Hoopeston's Current Weather Conditions



(217) 283-6221

Local man gets 12 years in county's biggest cocaine bust

A Hoopeston man has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for his role in Vermilion County's biggest drug bust.

Jose Julio Castaneda, 36, pleaded guilty Monday to a charge of criminal drug conspiracy.

Castaneda was arrested Feb. 26 following a raid at 327 Front St., where police seized 20 ounces of cocaine. The drug had an estimated street value of \$140,000.

Castaneda was arrested after an investigation by the Vermilion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group and Illinois State Police Drug Conspiracy Task Force.

A second man arrested, Manuel Ramos, 25, of Chicago, pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Charges were dropped against a third person, Elizabeth Ibarra, 19, also of Chicago.



Police News



Steve Bridgeman of 730 E. Main reported Monday that someone damaged bushes and aluminum siding at his home.

Easy Rider Redden, 17, of 216 Stewart, Rossville, and two 16-year-old boys were arrested at 8:14 p.m. Monday at Sixth St. and East Wyman.

Redden was charged with disorderly conduct and the 16-year-olds charged with battery after police said they were called to stop a fight.

All were released on notices to appear.

Nettie Kelnhofer of 946 S. Sixth Ave. reported Tuesday that the north and south sides of her home had been damaged. Police said bb holes were found on both sides and scrape marks were found on the

south side.

A keyring with two keys was found Tuesday at Thompson and Market. The owner may identify and claim them at the police station.

Court Dispositions



June 5: Donald Blakey, Hoopeston, \$657 due; failed to appear.

Richard Brantley, Cissna Park, speeding, illegal transportation; continued to July 3.

Joseph Heffelfinger, Milford, \$95 total.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

June 16, 1997

Admitted: Pauline Burnett and Geneva Kaye, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High in the mid 80s. Tonight, cloudy. Low in the low 60s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 85, low near 64.

Obituaries

ROCHA - Janette Anne Rocha, of East Lynn, infant daughter of Janette Ann Mendoza and Mario Rocha Jr., died at 5:23 p.m. Monday, June 16, 1997 at United Samaritans Medical Center, Logan campus, Danville. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Classifieds

CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Jack F. Cox of Hoopeston would like to thank everyone who showed their sympathy and outpouring love. Your generous gifts of flowers, cards, memorials and food was most appreciated. He would have been pleased to have known how many peoples' lives he had touched. Thank you so much for your support, prayers and compassion which helped so much to sustain the family in a time of loss of a loved one. God Bless you all, peace and happiness.

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