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Superintendent: 'unusual' winter calls for preparedness

With more than 13 inches of snow on the ground, and more predicted for this weekend, school officials are keeping a close eye on the sky.

"I think it's quite obvious to everybody that this winter is going to be quite unusual compared to recent past winters," said Hoopeston Area superintendent Mark Conolly. With the worst weather historically in mid- to late January, "I think we're just seeing the beginning of this winter," he said.

Winter weather that can change quickly poses special challenges for the school and its students, such as making sure children are properly dressed and aware of what to do when schools dismiss early.

Conolly offered tips for parents to help get students through the winter cold, including:

1.) Make sure children are properly dressed, with winter coats, gloves and scarves. "Frostbite is a very real danger," he said.

2.) Have a contingency plan with your child regarding where to go when school dismisses early. "Our greatest fear is we get out of school early, the boy or girl walks home and nobody's home and the door is locked," he

said. "This is particularly problematic, especially with little kids."

If the contingency plan involves having the student ride a different country bus, the bus driver should be told, Conolly said.

3.) Listen to local radio and television stations, including Channel 41, for news of closings. "When we know we're going to close, we get the information out immediately," he said.

Additionally, parents may decide not to send their child to school if they believe it is dangerous to travel, or get the child out early if conditions become dangerous. "We don't know if your particular road is open," he said. "Every parent has to make a decision."

The decision to close school entirely or dismiss early is based on several factors, including snowfall, wind speed and reports from Grant Township road commissioner Jim Crouch.

Wednesday's early dismissal was prompted by
See **WINTER** on other side

Winter continued from other side

United Fund's 1998 drive far surpasses \$30,000 goal

The money just keeps coming in. The Grant Township United Fund 1998 campaign has netted more than \$38,000. That announcement was made at Wednesday's United Fund board of directors meeting.

The total tops the 1998 goal of \$30,000 and shows promise for meeting next year's \$40,000 goal.

Of the 1998 total, 92.73 percent is given to receiving agencies, up from 80.6 percent in 1997.

While pleased with drive results, the board hopes to

increase the total received from residential next year. The 1998 campaign collected only \$470 from that segment.

In other business, the board approved the existing slate of officers to serve a second term, including president Mike Pemberton, vice president Chalmers Flint, treasurer Aly Jackson and secretary Susan Redden.

In unrelated business, secretary Susan Redden said distribution of 1999 allocation checks began Jan. 6.


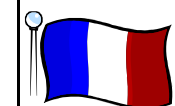
The group's next meeting is Feb. 3.



Steak Fry
Friday, Jan. 8
5:30-8 p.m.
American Legion
502 E. Penn, Hoopeston
Steak - \$10
Chicken - \$7

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Across

1. Observe
4. Spaghetti, for one
9. Utters
13. Pilgrimage to Mecca
15. 'Knock for ___', astonish: 2 words
16. Nevada's neighbor
17. Jacob's twin
18. Sailboat
19. Burrowing animal
20. Dried meat ration
22. Hobbled
24. Recite a psalm
25. Trim
26. Soap opera, for example
29. Purplish: hyph. word
32. Stoves' parts
33. Winter vehicle
34. Spanish linear measure
36. Site for circus acts
37. ___ in the back, betrays
38. Particle
39. Ski area in 16-Across

Police News



Milton S. Mattison, 709 S. First Ave., reported Tuesday that someone took a bicycle tire from his front porch.

Titus T. Barber, 20, of 721 S. First Ave., Apt. C, was arrested at 11:39 p.m. Tuesday, charged with unauthorized production or possession of cannabis.

Police said they found several marijuana plants and paraphernalia at his home.

Barber was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville; the marijuana plants were confiscated.

Matthew J. Baker, 20, of 410 E. McNeil, was arrested at 1:29 a.m. Wednesday, charged with criminal damage to property, illegal consumption of alcohol, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Police said they were called to the Coffee Cup, 517 S. Dixie Hwy., because Baker would not leave. When they arrived, Jamie M. Johnson, Hillcrest Apt. 4, Rossville, told them Baker kicked out a car window.

After a brief search, Baker was arrested and was released on notices to appear.

Crouch, who notified the school of worsening township road conditions.

4.) shovel sidewalks, if possible, to keep students from walking in plowed streets.

5.) motorists should use caution because students walk in the street when sidewalks are not cleaned.

"We're trying to think of the safety of the kids first and foremost," Conolly said. "We all have to work together and cooperate."

40. Begin growing
41. Part of a play
42. Rescue (goods)
44. More vicious
45. Dirt road
46. Soft fabric
47. Mutual agreement
50. ___ with, crashes into
54. Mid-European
55. Chicago airport
57. French river
58. Unadulterated
59. Land divider
60. Not any
61. Cassandra, for one
62. Liberates
63. Legislator, for short
12. Outbuilding
14. Censuring severely: 3 words (slang)
21. Cleopatra's maid, in Shakespeare's play
23. Dander
25. Freshman cadet
26. Marsh bird
27. Iniquities
28. Designer, Oscar de la ___
29. English poet
30. Consumed
31. Nonworker
33. Put on (a play)
35. U. S.: abbr.
37. Tie, as in basketball
41. Vend
43. Diversity: abbr.
44. Riots
46. Impel
47. Vipers
48. Sleuth's lead
49. 'C' in TLC
50. Chair-seat material
51. Colleague of 28-Down
52. Feudal slave
53. Leak
56. Pronoun
1. Name for a collie
2. Comfort
3. Dutch cheese
4. Inventor of the mathematical triangle
5. Soothe
6. Before long
7. Also
8. Claps
9. Annual respite: 2 words
10. On
11. Ivy League university

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Jan. 4

Admitted: Ethel Kuntz, Potomac; Salome Gudeman, Cissna Park.

Discharged: Robert McIntyre.

Jan. 5

Admitted: Robert Eades, Hoopeston.

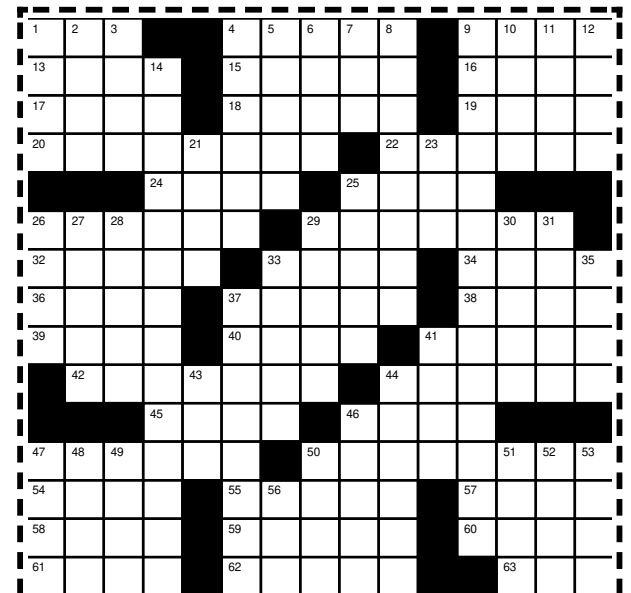
Discharged: Ethel Kuntz.

Weather



Sunny, becoming cloudy. Daytime high 13, warming to 22 tonight, with a chance of snow. Tomorrow, flurries. High 30, low 18.

For the current weather conditions, call the Hoopeston Weather Line at (217) 283-6221.



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