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HA deficit budget lessened by extra state aid payments

A last-minute state aid payment helped boost Hoopeston Area schools' bottom line, leaving only a \$10,000 budget.

Superintendent Mark Conolly reported on district finances at Thursday's board meeting. In June, which marks the end of the fiscal year, Hoopeston Area schools received four state aid payments. While school officials thought the overpayment was for a state aid payment not received seven years ago, Conolly learned the district will not receive any payments in July.

"It makes last year look very nice," Conolly said, calling the practice "state board of education accounting - a lot of sleight of hand."

The \$10,000 deficit will be covered through district surplus funds. And while the district will be able to cover shortfalls for a while, if they continue, other action will need to be taken. "We can do this for three years or so and it won't hurt us," Conolly said. "But three, four, five years from now, if enrollment decreases and taxes remain the same, we're going to have to look at it."

Next year, district officials expect to lose 50 students, at \$4,300 each in state aid, Conolly said.

In unrelated action, the board filled all but two coaching positions. Troy Hatton was hired as head wrestling/assistant football coach and high school boys physical education teacher; Shawn Lane, head basketball, volleyball and softball coach and high school girls physical education teacher; Jane Bray, high school girls track coach; and Rudy Linares, seventh grade boys basketball coach.

Still open are coaching positions for eight grade girls volleyball and high school assistant girls softball, Conolly said.

In related personnel matters, the board hired Tara Hoffman as Maple first grade teacher and Lisa May-

berry as cafeteria worker, and accepted resignations from Jason Bally, high school geometry/algebra teacher and Shayla Foley, high school physical education aide.

In unrelated action, the board:

■learned YMCA programs are scheduled to begin in Hoopeston in January 2000. An advisory board of area residents was finalized this week, Conolly said, adding he serves on the board along school board members Sharon Roark and Steve Unger.

The types of programs to be offered will be decided by the advisory board and the Danville YMCA board. "We have a lot of work to do but there's still plenty of time," Conolly said.

■discussed the Hoopeston city council's proposed tax incremental financing (TIF) district. Alderman Bill Goodwine will contact Conolly when the council meets again with representatives of Economic Development Resources, Conolly said. The company is assisting the city in formulating a TIF plan.

"Everybody has expressed the fact that they don't want the schools negatively impacted by this," he said.

■learned the school, along with Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital and the Hoopeston Rotary club, will participate in a native prairie project behind the hospital.

Approximately two acres of ground behind the hospital will be planted with native grasses and wildflowers. High school science students are expected to use the area as a nature study center, Conolly said.

■approved Photography by John & Co. of Tilton as the school photographer.

■approved bids for foot items, gas and satellite products for next year.

**He's Here -
Spangles,
the Beanie Bear**

First drawing

4:30 p.m. Friday

\$1 to register

(money donated to the War Memorial)

Second drawing

4:30 p.m. Saturday

Third drawing

2:30 p.m. Sunday

Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert

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Briefly

Sports physicals

All-sports physicals for grades 7-12 will be given Tuesday, July 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at Hoopeston Area High School. Cost is \$10.

All students entering ninth grade are required to have a complete physical before starting school. This physical replaces the sports physical for Grade 9 only.

Physical forms are available at local doctors' offices.

Class of '59 reunion

The Hoopeston-East Lynn class of '59 will hold their reunion Friday and Saturday. Friday activities kick off at 5:30 p.m. with a casual gathering at Jack Gregory's home. Sandwiches and beverages will be furnished. Gregory's home is located at the corner

south of the Antioch Church.

A more formal dinner is set for 6 p.m. Saturday, with a buffet at Hubbard Trail Country Club.

Midget Football sign-up

Sign-up for Hoopeston Midget Football players and cheerleaders will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Midget Football field. Cost is \$30 per child, with a family maximum of \$60.

Vacation Bible school

Treasure Hunt Bible Adventure will be held at the First Church of God, 1004 E. Orange, July 26-30. Classes will be from 6:30-8:45 p.m. Sponsored by the United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church and First Church of God, it is for children ages three years

through junior high. For information or to register, call Marilyn Unger, (217) 283-5337 or Pat Catron, 283-6288.

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Police News

An **unidentified** Hoopeston business reported Wednesday that it had received counterfeit money. The money was forwarded to the Secret Service in Springfield.

A **girl's 20"** pink, purple and white Huffy bicycle was taken Wednesday from a yard in the 700 block of North

Seventh St. The bicycle is valued at \$60.

Three male juveniles were arrested at 10:15 a.m. Thursday in connection with six auto burglaries. All were released to their parents pending filing of juvenile petitions.

A **man reported** Thursday that his wallet is missing. The wallet contained a driver's license and Social Security cards.

A **rear license plate** was reported missing Thursday from a local vehicle.

New books at the Library

Fiction:

The Dowry of Miss Lydia Clark by Lawana Blackwell
The Burglar in the Rye by Lawrence Sanders (mystery)
The Survival of Juan Oro by Max Brand (western)
Dangerous Kiss by Jackie Collins
Lake News by Barbara Delinsky
High Five by Janet Evanovich
Redemption by Howard Fast

Nonfiction:

Timeframes by Ian Jeffrey
For the Time Being by Annie Dillard
The Year in Pictures 1998 by Life Books
The Onassis Women by Kiki Feroudi Moutsatsos
The Serbs by Tim Judah
Every Man a Tiger by Tom Clancy
The Moonlit Garden by Scott Ogden
The No-Time-To-Cook Cookbook by Joanne Abrams

In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

July 14

Admitted: Susan Henning, Alice Smith, Homer Baker, John Alkire, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather

Partly sunny, humid today, tomorrow and Sunday. Highs 90, lows 70. Chance of afternoon and evening thunderstorms Sunday.

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

COMPTON'S

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Friday Night Specials

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