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## Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

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## Grayville, Wenona have smaller turnouts at prison hearings

If sheer numbers mean anything, Hoopeston is the front runner in a bid for a new maximum security prison.

A public hearing Wednesday in Hoopeston was attended by approximately 1,000 people. Hearings Thursday in Wenona and Saturday in Grayville—each a finalist for the prison—drew significantly fewer attendees and more opposition than was expressed in Hoopeston.

Between 300 and 400 people attended Thursday's hearing in Wenona, in Marshall County. This is Wenona's fourth try to land a prison.

According to news reports, five people spoke against the prison at the hearing, compared with one here.

According to the Evansville Courier & Press, eight people registered to speak against the prison in Grayville but only five spoke, including a representative of the Edwards County Farm Bureau.

Grayville's hearing was kicked off with two high school bands and cheerleaders. More than 500 people attended the hearing, which represents Grayville's third attempt to snag a prison.

Prison officials are expected to compile data from the hearings and make a recommendation to Gov. George Ryan in about two weeks. Ryan is expected to announce which community will host the prison sometime in February.

The prison is expected to house 1,600 inmates and an additional 200 in an adjoining work farm. It will hire more than 750 workers and have an annual payroll estimated at \$45 million.

Construction, set to begin this spring, would employ nearly 400 trades people for 24 to 30 months.

## — Briefly

### Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: Monday, Hoopeston shuttle; Tuesday, Lafayette, Ind. (leave at 9 a.m.); Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville

For more information or to arrange a ride, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Community center activities include: Monday, ladies bridge, noon; Thursday, men's coffee, 9:30 a.m., men's euchre, noon.

This week's Teen Reach activities are: Monday, games; Tuesday, Patty, U of I, Character Counts, 5:30; Wednesday, crafts; Thursday, video "Fatherless in America," 5:30; Friday, karaoke.

#### **GED** classes

Anyone interested in evening GED classes in Ross-

ville this spring is asked to call Cathy Douglass, 748-6044 or Judy Henry, 748-6650. Deadline to sign up for the spring session offered by DACC, is Feb. 1.

#### Last day to file

Candidates for the April election have until 5 p.m. Tuesday to file their paperwork. Petitions and other forms may be filed with off office overseeing each contest.

In Grant Township, independent candidates may file for supervisor, trustee, clerk, assessor or highway commissioner seats. However, those who participated in the Republican caucus may not file as an independent candidate.

#### Meetings

The Hoopeston Industrial Corp. annual meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Hoopeston municipal building.

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#### **Police News**

**Castillo Icenacio,** 21, of 10 Dellas Acres, Rankin, was arrested at 4 p.m. Thursday in the 700 block of West Washington on Vermilion County warrants. He was released on \$600 cash bond.

**Perry D. Carswell,** 38, of 702 E. Elm, was arrested at 9 p.m. Thursday at the VFW, 428 W. Orange.

Carswell was charged with aggravated battery and domestic battery on a complaint from a 28-year-old Hoopeston woman.

Police said Carswell and the woman argued inside the establishment before leaving the building. As the woman walked back into the building, Carswell slammed a steel door on her hand, severing a portion of her right ring finger, police said.

The woman was taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital for treatment.

Carswell was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await filing of formal charges.

A 32-year-old Hoopeston man was treated Friday for injuries he received following an altercation with two unidentified men.

The injured man told police the altercation occurred near his home in the 600 block of West Lincoln.

**Terry A. Burton,** 47, of 805 W. Penn, was arrested at 11:45 a.m. Friday at the police station.

Burton was arrested on a Jefferson County warrant for contempt of court. He was released on \$730 cash bond.

**Steven J. Conner,** 25, of the 600 block of East McCracken, was arrested at 5:06 p.m. Friday, charged with domestic battery and aggravated battery on a complaint from a 34-year-old woman.

Police said the woman reported Conner broke her arm during a domestic dispute.

The woman was taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital for treatment.

Margaret F. King, 41, of 824 Wyman, was arrested



#### Letters to the Editor



An Open Letter to the Citizens of Hoopeston:

As you wake up this morning, feel good about yourselves, pat yourselves on the back; better yet, pat your neighbor on the back. Walk with pride! You did it!

Wednesday night you sent a message loud and clear to Director Snyder and the Department of Corrections to convey to Gov. Ryan: **Hoopeston over-whelmingly supports the correctional center**.

In the last week, there has been an excitement in this city that has never been seen before. People of all walks of life came together for the good of the city. No matter what differences there may have been in the past, everyone worked as a united team to turn the public hearing into a job fair mixed with March Madness. Those who spoke, spoke from the heart. All who showed up or signed a petition expressed their feelings with passion.

We tried to describe the type of excitement this community would have to the Director and his staff during the hearing in Springfield. You showed up in massive numbers and showed how much you care about your fellow citizens, the local economy and your hometown. Words cannot describe how proud we are of this community and each one of you for your efforts.

Once again Hoopeston, you showed that we truly are a "Community That Cares."

Respectfully, Robert Ault, Mayor Mark Drollinger, Chief of Police

### New Books at the Library



#### **Non-fiction**:

The Bone Density Diet by George J. Kessler Strong Women, Strong Bones by Miriam E. Nelson The Prostate Cancer Protection Plan by Robert Burns

### Weather



Partly sunny today. High 35. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 23. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, chance of flurries late. High 37, low 23.

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

at 10:35 p.m. Friday in the 300 block of East Main.

She was charged with driving on revocation and was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville, in lieu of bond.

**Janna M. Hodge,** 16, of Hoopeston, was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident after an accident at 9:48 p.m. Saturday at Bank and Penn.

Police said Hodge, in a 1992 Chevrolet, was westbound in the 100 block of East Penn, behind a 1997 Chevrolet truck driven by Kyle J. Zarate of Hoopeston. Zarate stopped to avoid hitting a car and was struck by Hodge.

Two people in Zarate's vehicle were injured, as was Hodge.

A 23-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 7 p.m. Saturday that a man who had helped push her car to the

side of the street grabbed her by the hair and forced her into the car.

The woman kicked his shin, forcing him to let her go. The man then left the scene in his vehicle.

The incident occurred in the 700 block of West Washington.

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