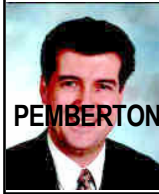


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Dugouts to be built at Hoop-Area baseball, softball fields

Planned improvements at Hoopeston Area's baseball and softball fields may held the district attract regional tournaments.

At Thursday's school board meeting, the board approved constructing dugouts at each of the fields.

The district will pay for materials - estimated at \$9,000 for four dugouts - from the Besselieu Trust, said board president Larry Lobb.

Not only will dugouts allow the school to hold regional competition but they will also provide more safety to players during inclement weather, Lobb said.

In other sports-related discussion, high school

principal Hank Hornbeck told the board that Hoopeston Area may be faced with making a football conference decision within the next two years.

HA is currently in the Sangamon Valley Conference, along with other area schools such as Milford and Rossville-Alvin. That conference and the ICC Conference formed the SIA Conference for football.

However, Hornbeck said, the SIA may fold and talks are underway about forming a Route 1 Conference to include schools from Watseka to Georgetown.

If the SIA folds, Hoopeston Area will be faced with



Winning yard

A snowman and Santa wave to passing motorists from Todd and Kelly Underwood's yard. Their outdoor decorations took first place in the Hoopeston Jaycees Christmas yard decorating contest held last week. The Arnold Martinez yard, at 610 W. Chestnut, took second place. Also receiving several votes was John and Judy Martin's yard in Wellington. The contest is co-sponsored by Just the Facts.

Photo by Lourdine Florek

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**Just the Facts
will not be printed Monday &
Tuesday for Christmas.
Publication will resume
Thursday.**



Police News



Beverly J. Vaughn, 28, of 514 E. Main, was ticketed for failure to yield the right of way after an accident at 11:35 a.m. Thursday at East Lincoln and South Market.

Police said Vaughn, in a 1989 Mazda, was eastbound at the intersection when she hit a 1984 Buick driven by Sandra D. Latham of 861 E. Maple.

No injuries were reported.

Clifford O. Crabtree, 36, of 701 N. Fourth St., was arrested Thursday at his home. He was charged with metered service unless otherwise approved. Police said he installed a water meter at his residence in violation of a city ordinance.

Crabtree was given a notice to appear.

Robert L. Welch, 42, of 222 W. Orange, was arrested at 7:51 p.m. Thursday in the 200 block

See HA on other side

HA continued from other side

deciding whether to stick with the Sangamon Valley Conference or join the Route 1 Conference.

Superintendent Mark Conolly reminded the board that Hoopeston Area was formerly in the Wauseca Conference and when that disbanded, the school had difficulty joining another organization until the Sangamon Valley Conference allowed them to join about four years ago.

The Sangamon Valley Conference also includes Clifton Central, Paxton-Buckley Loda, Gibson City-Mahomet Seymour, Armstrong, Watseka, Blue Ridge, Tri-Valley, LeRoy, Fisher, Cissna Park-Crescent Iroquois, Iroquois West, Momence and University High.

The ICC is made up of Westville, Georgetown, Salt Fork, Oakwood, Bismarck, Schlarman, Unity and St. Joe.

In unrelated action, the board:

- approved Bill Nelson as school district attorney for 2003. Nelson will receive a \$2,000 retainer.
- approved the 2003-04 and 2004-05 county-wide school calendar.
- heard a first reading of two policies.

The first states no student will be disciplined because his parent or guardian refuses to administer or agrees to administer psychotropic or psychostimulant

of West Orange.

Welch, wanted on a Sangamon County warrant for failure to appear on traffic charges, was released on \$300 cash bond.

Steven R. Bridgeman, 19, of 730 E. Main, was ticketed for operating an uninsured motor vehicle after an accident at 7:10 p.m. Friday at 714 W. Orange.

Police said Bridgeman, in a 1986 Mazda, backed out and struck a 1997 Chrysler driven by Carissa D. Cahill of East Lynn.

No injuries were reported.

Stuart R. Anthony, 29, of 209 Fifth St., Cissna Park, was arrested following a traffic stop at 1:31 a.m. Saturday on West Honeywell at Rt. 1.

Anthony was charged with driving on sus-

medication to the student. The policy, mandated under the federal No Child Left Behind program, was created primarily to address children with Attention Deficit Disorder/Hyperactive Disorder (ADD/HD), Conolly said.

The second policy states that students may engage in individually-initiated non-disruptive prayer.

Hoopeston Area currently enforces both policies but they had to be put in writing, Conolly said.

• learned VASE will offer a behavior disorder program for grades 1-4 at McMillan School next year. A similar program is now offered for older students.

• learned students have been raising money for various causes. At Maple, students collected \$400 for the family of two children who recently died in a mobile home fire. Honeywell third graders collected food for the Grant Township Food Cupboard and Friday, the middle school student council held their annual charity auction. Half the proceeds will go to the state Big Brothers/Big Sisters program and 25 percent going to

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 35. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 20. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 28, low 20.

For current weather conditions, call the Hoopes-

pension and speeding. He was released on a notice to appear.

Charles E. Crawford, 34, of 123 W. Attica, Rossville, was arrested at 1:54 a.m. Sunday at the Rossville American Legion, 107 Thompson.

He was arrested on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear on a traffic warrant.

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