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Hoopeston Area schools toast employee with appreciation day



Debby Klaber watches as Betty Richards looks over gifts presented by John Greer School. Friday was proclaimed Betty Richards Appreciation Day throughout the Hoopeston Area School District.

For 20 years, Betty Richards has helped administrators, staff and students from her office at Hoopeston Area High School. Last Friday, the district showed her how much she is appreciated.

"Betty Richards Appreciation Day" kicked off when Richards came to work Friday. A sign outside her office proclaimed the special day. "That's what she saw when she first walked in this morning," said high school secretary Heidi Crouch, who, with Kelly Ankenbrand at Maple, organized the event.

Beginning at 9 a.m., representatives of each school

brought tokens of their regard.

As Rosellen Cornelius came bearing gifts from Maple School, tears came to Richards' eyes. "I don't do anything special," she protested. "I don't do any more than anyone else."

District employees past and current would disagree. "There's only one word she doesn't know and that's NO," said retired teacher Tommy McMillan who visited Richards on her special day. "She's always willing to do anything she's asked and she always has a smile."

Those sentiments were echoed by Richards' supervisor, Superintendent Mark Connolly. "I've known Betty Richards since she started with the school district in 1985," he said. "She is an exemplary employee who is intelligent, hardworking and kindhearted. She is an absolute pleasure to work with. What makes Betty special is that she goes out of her way to make people feel comfortable and she will do whatever she can to help them. Her engaging smile and pleasant disposition touches everyone who walks into this office."

"As a school district we are extremely fortunate to have Betty Richards as an employee. She's a true professional who makes all our jobs easier," he said.

See APPRECIATION on other side

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7.	Caddy Shack	22	24
8.	Adda Girls		20
9.	Family Circus		24

Briefly

Coat collection

Price Less Foods, 317 S. Market, Hoopeston, is collecting coats and food for local underprivileged people.

Coats may be left in a specially-marked cart at the store.

Non-perishable foods and paper items may also be donated. All food items will be given to the Grant Township Food Cupboard.

Well Baby Clinic

The Hoopeston Well Baby Clinic will be held from 9-11 a.m. Thursday at the Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center, 801 E. Orange. The free clinic is for children from birth to school age. Children will be

weighed, measured and given needed immunizations. For an appointment, call 283-5644. Walk-ins are welcome. Free will donations are appreciated.

Former resident graduates

Catherine J. Busch-Buchanan has recently graduated from DePaul University in Chicago with a bachelors degree in liberal arts focusing in public health management. She is a 1984 graduate of Hoopeston-East Lynn High School, and the daughter of George and Alice Busch of Hoopeston.

Buchanan resides in Springfield Illinois with her husband, William and their children Heather and Ryan. She is employed by the Illinois Department of Public Health in the Illinois State Cancer Registry as a


Appreciation continued from other side

To show their appreciation, employees throughout the district contributed to large gifts or gave personal gifts of their own, Crouch said. Maple School presented her with a certificate to a luxury hotel and she also received a certificate for a massage. "Those are a couple of things she can do to pamper herself," she said.

The day was organized "mainly just to show how much she's appreciated by everybody in the district," Crouch said. "Sometimes she might feel unappreciated."

In a letter to employees - seen by all except Richards - Crouch and Ankenbrand asked staff to show their appreciation in other ways, too, such as emails and cards.

But many employees chose to give gifts to Richards on her day. "I've got a trunkload to deliver to her," Crouch said. "They've been coming in for like two weeks."

Weather 

Mostly sunny today. High 28. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 14. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 37, low 23.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopes-

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Classifieds

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