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Young people discuss concerns at Youth Council town hall

Hoopeston youth have the same concerns as adults: the local economy, lack of jobs and few activities.

On top of those issues, they also worry about drugs, alcohol, peer pressure, stress and racism.

Those issues surfaced during a poll of 300 Hoopeston Area High School students, conducted recently by members of the newly-formed Mayor's Youth Council.

Youth council members will work with city officials on issues facing Hoopeston, as well as the needs of young people.

The council met with citizens Monday night at a town hall meeting to talk about the survey results and get input from residents.

Other concerns rated by students include not enough opportunities, boredom, poor parenting, school issues and the need for stronger authority figures.

On the plus side, 86 percent of those surveyed said they are supported by their parents. Other support comes from friends (76 percent), teachers (42 percent) and (64 percent).

Only six percent of students said they receive support from a religious source, a cause of concern to some reli-

See YOUTH on other side



Alice Ellsworth, member of the Mayor's Youth Council in Hoopeston, laughs with Mayor Bill DeWitt at Monday's town hall meeting between youth council members and members of the community. The council will work with civic leaders on community problems.

Hoopeston Area teachers, board to meet again Wednesday

Negotiating teams for Hoopeston Area teachers and the school board will meet with a federal mediator Wednesday night.

The two sides failed to reach an agreement on a new teachers' contract after five hours of negotiating Monday night.

Members of the Hoopeston Education Association bargaining committee made a counterproposal during the Aug. 22 session, said committee member John Brown. Monday night, the board made a counterproposal which was delivered to the teachers at about 8:30.

The union committee was preparing a list of counterproposals when, at 9:20, they were told the board's negotiating committee had to adjourn. Brown said the teachers' committee stayed until about 10 p.m. finishing up their counterproposal, which is expected to be presented first thing when both sides meet with the mediator at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

"There was some movement in the board's proposals, so we are prepared to stay as long as needed to get a settlement on Wednesday," Brown said.

The sides have met about 10 times since April.

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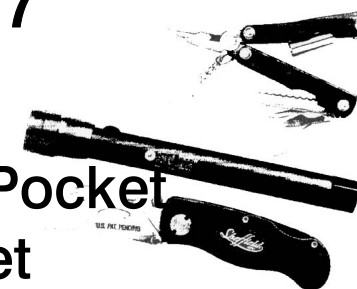


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Youth continued from other side

gious leaders who attended the meeting.

One way of meeting some of the challenges young people face is through one-on-one mentoring with younger children. Thirteen high school students have signed up to mentor youngsters at Maple and Honeywell elementary schools under the Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentoring program.

However, more people are needed to mentor the children, said Rose Henton of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. A program initiated at the former Rossville-Alvin High School has been started at Hoopeston Area. The program is currently funded by BB/BS after the agency decided to "kinda put our money where our mouth is," she said.

Reaching youngsters early is a key to helping them

Obituaries

BREYMEYER - Helena M. Brey Meyer, 86, of Milford died at 8:25 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23 at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. John's Lutheran Church, Schwer. Burial will be in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Schwer. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Friday at Segur-Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka and one hour before services at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church or a charity of the donor's choice.

RISTOW - Opal Faye Ristow, 96, of Cissna Park died at 10:30 p.m. Sunday at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Claytonville UB Church. Burial will be in Amity Cemetery, Goodwine. Visitation was 5-8 p.m. Tuesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park and one hour before service Wednesday at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church. **RYAN** - Catharine D. Ryan, 97, of Paxton, formerly of Rankin died at 8:35 p.m. Sunday at ASTA Care, Paxton. Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Berquist Fellowship Hall at Rankin United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Rankin Union Cemetery. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Rankin. Memorials are suggested the church.



cope. "You can't start at 13 trying to raise them," Henton said. "You've missed the boat. A lot of things can be combated with mentoring."

Beth Thrasher, representing the local Nazarene Church, said that group is trying to find a home for a youth center that would meet the needs of what students said they wanted: an all-age, alcohol-free place to meet on Friday and Saturday nights that offer activities such as indoor paint ball.

Betty Shaffer talked about the Teen Reach program available at the Hoopeston Multi Agency, which offers mentoring, homework help and activities but only until 7 p.m. She offered the site to other groups to hold activities later but said she doesn't have the staff or the funding to keep the center open longer.

Another suggested activity, a skate park, has been discussed and fund raisers held.

Youth council members will follow up on concerns and suggestions after meeting with each other and talking to residents. Another town hall meeting may then be

Local man critical after accident

A Hoopeston man was listed in critical condition at Carle Foundation Hospital following a one-car accident Sunday night.

Dee Evans, 46, was airlifted from the scene after his Chevrolet Lumina hit a utility pole, said Captain John Howard of the Vermilion County Sheriff's Department.

The accident occurred at 7:41 p.m. Sunday at 18123 E 4200 N Rd., in rural Hoopeston.

The accident is still under investigation, Howard said.

Police News



Hoopeston police reported Monday that an unknown vehicle hit a mailbox at 918 S. Sixth Ave., then left the scene.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today and tonight. High 74, low 52. Tomorrow, chance of showers early, then partly cloudy. High 58, low 38.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

held.

Mayor Bill DeWitt said he is willing to meet with the group and work on solutions to Hoopeston's problems. "You have my respect," he told the young people, adding the students want to "take the wheel and drive awhile."

Classifieds

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