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Hoopeston Area board to begin superintendent search

Hoopeston Area school board members are beginning the search for a new superintendent.

At Thursday night's regular meeting, the board announced a special meeting to be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

The board will meet with Dave Love of the Illinois Association of School Boards to discuss how the IASB can help with a search for a new superintendent, said interim Superintendent Don Dean.

The board is looking for a new superintendent after the December 16 death of Mark Conolly.

Dean told the board that Love will discuss the two

levels of service for searches that are available. With the more in-depth service, at a cost of \$3,600, the IASB will help Hoopeston Area find a candidate that meets district needs. "It's not one size fits all," he said.

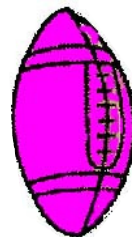
In unrelated action, a rural Hoopeston family will be allowed to take its 160 acre farm to the Paxton-Buckley Loda district if a similar land parcel is added to Hoopeston.

Dean told the board that an unnamed family, whose land borders the PBL district, would like to annex to the district so a child who has been home-schooled can take driver's education. Dean said the boy's mother told him the family shops and attends church in Paxton and therefore would like to annex their farm to the district.

"My feeling is if somebody is in this situation, it's better off to let them go and get on with their life," Dean said, adding Hoopeston Area would lose no state aid since the student is home-schooled, and little property tax on 160 acres.

However, board members worried that the action might start a precedent that would affect larger families and larger farms. "It's fine in this situation but what if their neighbor has 400 acres and five kids," said Russ

See HOOPESTON AREA on other side



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DEANO's
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Super Bowl Party
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Join Lori and Angie at

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Ladies Football Party

February 4th, starting at 3 p.m.

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Hoopeston Lions Club

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Saturday, Feb. 3 5 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Police News



Christopher T. Ford, 24, of 830 E. Seminary was arrested at 8:47 p.m. Wednesday on Route 1, one quarter mile south of Hoopeston.

Ford was charged with possession of cannabis under city ordinance and was released on a notice to appear.

A **Casey's General** Store employee reported at 9:15 p.m. Thursday that someone in a red or maroon

carry-all type vehicle left without paying for gas from the store at 225 E. Orange.

A **34-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Thursday that someone took an undisclosed amount of money from his home in the 600 block of East Thompson.

Apolinar Solis, 17, of 38836 N 1830 East Rd., was arrested at 9:58 a.m. Friday at Hoopeston Area High School.

Obituaries

HOFFMANN - Wayne E. Hoffmann, 82, of Cissna Park died at 6:05 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Union Church, Cissna Park. Private graveside service will be held. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Sunday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

McVICKER—William "Bill" McVicker, 90, of rural

Hoopeston died at 2:45 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007 at his home after an extended illness. Funeral service was at 3 p.m. Saturday at Wellington United Methodist Church, Wellington. Burial was in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Visitation was 1-3 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the church. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Hoopeston Area continued from other side

Walder.

Board member Sara Johnson suggested a land swap, which the board agreed upon, leaving Dean to tell the family that unless a similar parcel can be added to Hoopeston Area, the board is not interested in agreeing to the request.

In unrelated business, the board:

- Learned district finances are on track midway through the year. In the education fund, 57 percent of budgeted revenue has been received and 49 percent of expenses paid. In the building fund, 95 percent of income is in and 19 percent of expenses paid. And in the transportation fund, 60 percent of income has been received and 55 percent of expenses spent.

- Heard from Dean about the possibility of offering an early retirement buyout to non-certified staff. A previous buyout was paid off in January and Dean suggested offering another - under which non-certified staff could pay for five additional years of age and time served - towards retirement. The issue will be discussed further before Dean's suggested spring deadline.

- Learned the district will be purchasing electricity from

the Illinois Electric Consortium, a group of schools coping electric service. Hoopeston Area has been a co-op member for several years but has purchased electricity from Ameren because of its low cost. With the end of the electric rate freeze in Illinois, however, the consortium will be able to provide electricity more inexpensively.

- Approved the countywide calendar for 2007-08 and 2008-09.

- Approved resignations from middle school English teacher Lois Peterson, who is retiring; Carrie Vallero high school computer teacher; and Jay Sandefer, head high school football coach.

The board also named Matt Dix as high school drama coach for the spring musical.

Weather



Chance of flurries today and tonight. High 29, low 19. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 30, low 20.

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

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