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Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

www.justthefacts.net



Police News



Caleb D. Thrasher, 16, of Hoopeston was cited for operating an uninsured motor vehicle after an accident at 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the Hoopeston Area High School parking lot, 615 E. Orange.

Police said Thrasher, in a 1988 Jeep Wrangler, was making a left turn, struck the curb, over-corrected and hit a 1998 Chevrolet truck driven by Alexis A. Pickett, also of Hoopeston.

Police said Thrasher was at fault for improper lane usage.

A **49-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 3:29 p.m. Friday that someone took an MP3 player from the 1000 block of West Main.

Christopher E. Searcy, 18, of 811 W. Main, was arrested at 8:15 p.m. Friday at city hall, 301 W. Main.

He was charged with predatory criminal sexual assault

stemming from an incident that occurred Feb. 7.

Searcy was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Brian K. Johnson, 40, of 513 E. Wyman was charged with criminal damage to property over \$300 on a report from a 41-year-old Danville man who alleged Johnson kicked his 2007 Ford truck.

The incident occurred at 2:56 p.m. Saturday in the 500 block of East Wyman.

A **21-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 12:52 a.m. Sunday that he had been bumped by another man while mosh pit dancing at Second Chance Saloon, 102 N. Market. A fight broke out and police were called.

Police were called at 12:52 a.m. Sunday to Deano's on Main, 306 E. Main for a report of a fight about to

See POLICE on other side

Hoopeston Area board approves five-year retirement plan

Non-certified employees in the Hoopeston Area school district may take advantage of an early retirement plan unanimously approved by the board Thursday night.

The Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund plan would allow non-certified staff to purchase five years of age and five years of experience, allowing them to retire early.

To participate, employees must have at least 20 years of service and be 50 years old. To retire without penalty, employees need to be 60 years old with 35 years of service.

Seven district employees meet the criteria, said Superintendent Don Dean. Of those, one is interested in early retirement this year. If that person chooses to leave, it will cost the district \$28,000 with a four-year payback,

he said.

A second person may go next year, costing the district \$57,000 with a seven-year payback, he said.

The district may offer such a plan every five years, Dean said. It may, however, pay off the plan in two years, then offer another five-year plan.

The plan is similar to one offered to teachers.

In related personnel matters, the board approved resignations from Matthew Dix, middle/high school choral director. Also, three teachers will retire at the end of the year: Sadie Evans, Title 1, Honeywell/Maple; Theta Lee, elementary band; and Jean Sollars, Maple TMH.

The board also approved rehiring non-tenured staff, including first year employees Daphne High, Heather Ohlemeyer and Jeff Ohlemeyer; second year teachers

See HA on other side

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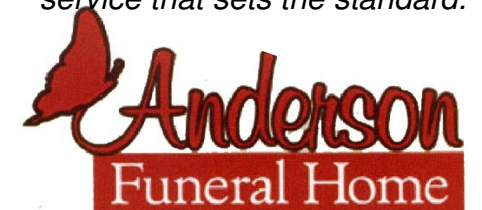
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Letters to the Editor



Schools thank volunteers

Hoopeston Area Middle and High School would like to thank the following individuals who helped with the services for Dan Park. These people came in on Sunday morning and/or afternoon and spent several hours helping prepare for the services.

Brian Hodge	Dan Reed
Jana Fesser	Jamie Miller
John Klaber	Josh and Kara Haley
Kevin and Suzi Root	Mitch and Nikki Pruemer
Curt and Sue Spaur	Heidi Crouch
Samantha Crouch	Anthony Hornbeck
Hank Hornbeck	Brooke Judy
Ann Potter	Karen Berryman
Rosellen Cornelius	Rich and Nancy Stipp
Betty Richards	Jerry Prorise
Missy Butter worth	Brenda Crusinberry
Jean Drollinger	Tina Samet
Wendy Michael	Pam Goble
Mary Ellen Davis	Amy Pickett

Kathy Neal
Travis Dean
Lupe Martinez
Carolyn Eyrich-Mastin
Brad Glover
Debbie Klaber
Frank Fink
Nathan Symmonds
Mark Allen
Linda Martin

Jane Comrie
Nancy Konieczki
Donny Neal
Steve Mastin
Kay Brown
Wayne and Gwen Bandy
Jac Sollars
Katelyn Sheppard
Brandon Spaur
Mike Caparula

Mark, Daniel and Betsy Wagoner

If we have overlooked someone, please accept our apology. We truly appreciate the support and compassion shown during this difficult time.

Railroad tracks are danger to handicapped

This is to whoever is in a wheelchair and has tried to cross the railroad tracks here in Hoopeston. The road commissioner should try it. If you want to just ride up-town and have to cross the tracks, neither the sidewalk or road is a good idea. Why can't CSX and Hoopeston

get in a wheelchair and try it? They would be surprised at the danger it imposes on the wheel-bound people. In the very near future, I will probably be one of those people. My son is. He has come to my house and said to find a good crossing is nonexistent.

The handicapped people need help getting from point A to point B. Guess the only hands it will be in is the good Lord's.

Jean Akers
Hoopeston

Briefly

Tiny Tots

"Cats" is the theme of Tiny Tots at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Hoopeston Public Library. Friday's Tiny Tots at 10:30 a.m. will have special guests Miss Barbara and her preschool's Japanese exchange student.

Tiny Tots is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Open auditions

Open auditions for "Oklahoma" and "Pippin" will be held from 1-5 p.m. Sunday at The Academy for the Per-

forming Arts, 203 E. Main. Hopefuls are asked to bring a photo and resume, if available and prepare 32 bars of any song with sheet music. An accompanist will be provided. Tapes or CDs are not allowed. Candidates should wear suitable shoes for a dance audition.

"Oklahoma" will need 4 male and 4 female principals plus a large vocal/dance ensemble for adults, children and teens. "Pippin" has 4 male and 3 female principals plus a 6 men and 6 women dance/vocal chorus.

For more information, call Carol at (217) 283-6553 or Kathleen, 283-5216.

Police continued from other side

start in the parking lot. After two groups of people were dispersed, a 46-year-old Hoopeston woman reported to police that a member of the opposing group had yelled a threat at her.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 8:04 a.m. Sunday at 814 E. McNeil.

Police said Rita M. Rayls of Hoopeston, in a 2005 Chrysler, was westbound on McNeil and Jessica A. Wardall, also of Hoopeston, was eastbound in a 1996 Dodge when the two collided.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 10:28 a.m. Sunday at 417 W. Lincoln.

Police said Michael Burke of Danville, in a 1998 Buick and Warren Hart of Hoopeston, in a 1989 Chevrolet, were traveling in the same direction when Hart slowed and pulled to the side of the road as if to park. Burke passed him on the left and Hart turned, striking Burke.

Burke was at fault for improper overtaking, police

said.

John T. Morgenroth, 18, of 318 E. Washington was arrested after a traffic stop at 9:46 p.m. Sunday in the 1000 block of West Penn.

He was charged with speeding and illegal possession of alcohol/driver. He was released on notices to appear. His car was towed from the scene.

A 45-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Monday that her Chevrolet truck was damaged March 10 during an altercation between two women outside Deano's on Main, 306 E. Main.

Weather



Partly cloudy today. High 51. Tonight, chance of thunderstorms. Low 37. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High 60, low 53.

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

HA continued from other side

Sherree Benjamin, Amanda Ellis, Dawn Ferguson, Jana Fesser, Korinne Hollis, John Klaber, Jamie Miller, Mitchell Pruemer, Allyson Smith, Adam Tinken and Eric Zorns; third year, Kara Haley and fourth year, Josh Haley.

The board also approved hiring social worker Carlee Johnson and Barbara Nuetzmann for middle/high school art.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

The City of Hoopeston is taking applications for the position of City Dog Catcher. Applications can be picked up at the Hoopeston Police Department or you may drop off a resume. Position to be filled by April 1, 2007.

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