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Monday, December 17, 2007

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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Iroquois County Clerk indicted by grand jury on felonies

WATSEKA—A grand jury returned an eight-count indictment against Iroquois County Clerk Mark Henrichs, alleging felony charges of theft, forgery and official misconduct.

The indictment was returned December 6 and was unsealed last week after a six-month investigation by the Illinois Attorney General's office.

Henrichs, 51, of rural Buckley, is expected to be prosecuted on two counts of felony theft of government property, two counts of forgery and four counts of official misconduct.

According to published reports, Henrichs deceived Iroquois County officials into thinking that a \$17,500 1996 Holiday Rambler trailer was purchased from Expert Auto Sales, Chicago. Investigators allege that Henrichs forged documents to make it look as though the

sale had taken place, when, in fact, Henrichs, not the auto dealership, owned the trailer, which Henrichs allegedly claimed to want as a mobile voting unit.

The case was brought to the attention of the Iroquois County Sheriff's Department. Iroquois County State's Attorney Jim Devine asked the attorney general's office to investigate.

Henrichs, a Republican, has been county clerk since December 1, 1998 and was most recently reelected in November 2006. He faces the possibility of up to 15 years in prison, if convicted.

Henrichs is set to be arraigned at 11 a.m. January 10. According to an agreement with Henrichs and his defense attorney, Frank Simutis of Watseka, Henrichs will not be arrested but will present himself at the sheriff's department for booking after the arraignment.

Workplace smoke-free signs available from state online

Vermilion County businesses facing changes January 1 when Illinois goes smoke free have a new resource for information.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has a new website with information and a place to download signage that is required to be posted under the new law.

"We have been inundated with phone calls and questions for weeks, and we are certainly pleased the state now has this resource available," says Vermilion County Health Department anti-tobacco coordinator Linda Bolton.

The website address is: www.smoke-free.illinos.gov

Bolton said in addition to sample signs that can be downloaded, the site also has guides for workplaces and restaurants and bars as they become smoke-free, along with general information about the new law.

"Right now, the businesses that have been calling us

are most concerned about getting signs made, and this site will give them samples that can be downloaded," Bolton said.

The state site can also be accessed through the health department site at www.vchd.org. Bolton can be reached at (217) 431-2662 for information.

The new law prohibits smoking in public places and places of employment and bans smoking within 15 feet of entrances to those sites.

There are unresolved issues with the law that were not clarified by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, a legislative committee that has rule-making authority. That group met December 11 but failed to act on rules applying to outdoor businesses, such as beer gardens, until its next meeting, Jan. 9. Also not yet spelled out are issues such as who will be enforcing the law and who will levy fines.

Sheila Fix

Office: (217) 283-7729

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HA basketballers win against Milford, drop one to Manteno last week

Hoopeston Area split two, dropping one against Manteno but defeating Milford in basketball action Thursday and Friday.

In Thursday's contest against Manteno, the Cornjerkers were outgunned in three of the four quarters, losing by a final of 53-36.

Clayton Snyder was the top scorer for Hoopeston Area, with 12 points, followed by Brock Baker with 11. Also contributing were Hayden Cornelius with seven, Logan Davis with two and one each for Cody Eells and Jordan Wyss.

Baker, with 22, was the leading scorer in the Cornjerkers' victory over Milford, with a final score of 70-58. He was joined on the scoreboard by Snyder with 15, Jordan Flint with 10, Brad Lawson, eight, Davis with six, Matt Silver, five, and Wyss and Cornelius chipping in two each.

Baker had seven assists, seven rebounds and four rebounds in the match, while Snyder snagged 10 rebounds and Lawson had seven. Silver contributed five assists.

Ryan Kunce was high scorer on the Milford side, with 23 points, followed by Justin Garretsl with 14, Adric

High with six and Jordan Scherf and Calvin Van-Hoveln with five each. Rounding out Milford's bench were Michael Bell with three and Charles Hopkins with two.

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Police News

Chase A. Kimberling, 17, of Talbot, Ind., was arrested after a traffic stop at 5:38 p.m. Thursday in the 600 block of East Orange. He was charged with no valid driver's license and disobeying a traffic sign and was released on a notice to appear.

His vehicle was towed from the scene.

A **62-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 5:58 p.m. Thursday that someone took several bags of aluminum cans from her property.

Rheanna K. Wardall, 22, of Hoopeston was arrested at 2:434 p.m. Saturday in the 800 block of South Third St. Wardall, wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear for status check, was released on \$198 bond.

A **27-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 10:47 p.m. Sunday that someone entered his vehicle without permission. His vehicle was at Deano's On Main, 306 E. Main, at the time of the burglary.

New Books at the Library

Fiction

The Reincarnationist by M.J. Rose

Breaking Free: a Novel by Lauraine Snelling, inspirational)

Love, Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli (young adult)

Home to Big Stone Gap: a Novel by Adriana Trigiani

Non-Fiction

Yoga and Multiple Sclerosis: a Journey to Health and Healing by Loren Fishman

The Craving Cure...Break the Hold Carbs and Sweets Have on Your Life by Rena Greenberg

Women of the Harvest: Inspiring Stories of Contemporary Farmers by Holly Bollinger

Secrets From the Jerry Baker Test Gardens: Over 1,436 Tips, Tricks, and Tonics From America's Master Gardener, for Lush Lawns, Amazing Annuals, Eye-Popping Perennials, Beautiful Bulbs, Vibrant Veggies, and Much, Much More! by Jerry Baker

Obituaries

BAUER—Arch Bauer, 80, of Cissna Park died at 2:10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007 at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Funeral service was at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. John's Lutheran Church, Ash Grove. Burial was in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, Ash Grove, with graveside rites by Cissna Park American Legion post. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park, and one hour before services Saturday. Memorials are suggested to the church, Iroquois Memorial Hospice or Cissna Park Fire Department.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 26. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 18. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 37, low 27.

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

Classifieds

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3 BR upstairs apt. Stove, fridge furnished. 1 car garage & basement access. \$400/mo., \$400 dep. No pets. References required. (217) 772-1254

CHILD CARE

Little Rascals Daycare now has part and full time openings. Call Lacey, (217) 504-1334

Dana Burk's licensed child daycare in East Lynn will have full-time openings available in late-January. (217) 304-5356

HELP WANTED

Local financial services industry seeks administrative assistant. Position available immediately. Part time, may become full time. Successful candidate will be able to deal with the public, maintain confidentiality and have excellent organizational skills. Common sense a plus. Send resume to Box D, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

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