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Monday, January 21, 2008

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.net

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Hoopeston Area High School plans constitutional change

Future Hoopeston Area juniors will get a reprieve from a mandated test.

The Constitution test, which students must pass to graduate high school, is normally given to students in their junior year. However, at Thursday night's Hoopeston Area School Board meeting, history teacher Eric Zorns said in the future, the test will be given in the senior year as part of Clinton Mathewson's government class.

"It logically fits into government," Zorns said, adding that moving the test will allow him to teach more history. "It was hard to get past Vietnam with the time constraints," he said. "The kids got out of school thinking the Cold War was still going on."

In unrelated discussion, the board heard from middle school Principal Anne Burton about a proposed fifth and sixth grade boys and girls basketball teams.

Starting up such a program would cost about \$6,400 each for boys and girls teams, including 30 uniforms of varying sizes, salaries for coaches, assistant coaches and officials and transportation costs to away games. The second year of the program is expected to cost about \$4,000 each. In the sixth year, the cost would rise again because new uniforms would be needed.

Burton told the board that Hoopeston Area teams could be worked into conference and non-conference schedules of area teams for 2009-10.

Practice for girls teams could be held at Honeywell, Maple or when openings exist at John Greer. Boys teams could practice at Honeywell or available openings at John Greer or Maple.

The board is expected to make a decision on the proposal in February or March.

In other matters, the board approved two policies: the gun free school expulsion policy and the military

recruiter access to secondary student information policy.

The recruiter policy allows military recruiters to have the same access to student information as colleges, unless an objection is made by a student's parent or guardian. Forms allowing a parent to opt a student out were available at registration and can be put in the student handbook, said Superintendent Hank Hornbeck.

Under the gun-free school expulsion policy, any student who "uses, possesses, controls or transfers a weapon or object that can reasonably be considered or looks like a weapon shall be expelled for at least one calendar year but no more than two calendar years." However, the superintendent may change the expulsion period and the board may modify the superintendent's decision on a case-by-case basis.

Along with weapons such as firearms and knives, the policy covers everyday school items, such as pencils, pens and baseball bats if they are used to cause bodily harm.

The policies were found to be missing from district guidelines during a recent Title 1 audit. Two other policies - one which would allow students to transfer to another district if Hoopeston Area were to be deemed unsafe by state board of education standards and one which would allow parents to have their students transferred if district Title 1 schools did not make adequate yearly progress - were presented to the board for approval next month.

In unrelated business, the board:

- Heard from Hornbeck that state money is expected this week after a six-month delay. Officials expect to receive \$300,000 in additional funding over last year, but, Hornbeck said, the district has had to dip

See SCHOOL on other side

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Briefly

Martin Luther King Day of Service

Hoopeston will observe Martin Luther King Day with a presentation at the Hoopeston Historical Society meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Hoopeston Public Library. The presentation will be given by Vista volunteer Jean Minick and the Mayor's Youth Council.

Additionally, a food drive will be held to benefit Grant Township Food Cupboard. Collection points include Grant Township offices, library, City Hall and any school.

Election judges needed

Grant Township needs election judges for the Feb. 5 primary. Pay is \$100 for the day plus additional stipends for other duties.

Grant 1, 2, 5 and 6 are short both Democrat and Republican judges while Grant 4 is short Democrat judges. Extra judges are also needed on a stand-by basis in case scheduled judges are unable to work.

Anyone interested may call Vermilion County Clerk Lynn Foster's office at (217) 554-1908 or 554-1901

Meetings

• Rossville Village Board, 7 p.m. Monday, village office

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This week's Specials:

Monday: Spaghetti

Tuesday: Chicken & Noodles

Wednesday: Meat Loaf

Thursday: Pork Chops

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Lunch served 11-1:30; Dinner 4:30-8:30 daily

Saturday night:

Terry Buhrmester & Smoke River

8:30-12:30

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Police News



A **58-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 10:45 a.m. Thursday that someone took several electronic items and housewares from her home in the 600 block of South Fifth St.

Kenneth D. Dale, 27, of Hoopeston was arrested after a traffic stop at 7:04 p.m. Thursday at Maple and Second Ave. He was ticketed for driving while license suspended and was released on a notice to

appear in Vermilion County Circuit Court.

Jacob L. Kinnaird, 25, of Hoopeston was arrested at 2:40 a.m. Saturday in the 600 block of East Washington.

Police allege Kinnaird was driving erratically as he approached South Fifth and East Lincoln, then failed to stop at the intersection. When emergency lights on the police car were activated, someone allegedly

threw a beer bottle from the vehicle.

Kinnaird was charged with driving under the influence, blood alcohol content over .08 and disobeying a stop sign. He was released on \$300 cash bond. His vehicle was towed from the scene.

Robert G. McCrory, 47, of Hoopeston was arrested at 10:05 a.m. Saturday on Conservation Club Rd, (1700 E).

McCrory, wanted on a Nebraska warrant for intent to deliver, was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await extradition to Nebraska.

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New Books at the Library



Children's Room Fiction

The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio by Lloyd Alexander

Beauty and the Beaks: a Turkey's Cautionary Tale by Mary Jane Auch

Because - - by Mikhail Baryshnikov

Count with Dora! by Phoebe Beinstein

Thank you, God! by Kathleen Long Bostrom

Arthur's Neighborhood by Marc Brown

Goodnight Moon 123: a Counting Book by Margaret Wise Brown

Emma's Turtle by Eve Bunting

Nancy Drew by Daniela Burr (based on the screenplay)

I Don't Like to Read! By Nancy L. Carlson

No More Pumpkins by Peter Catalanotto

Clarice Bean, Don't Look Now by Lauren Child

Obituaries

KOCH - Deborah Koch, 51, of Hoopeston, formerly of Palm Bay, Fla., died at 7:43 a.m. Friday, Jan. 18, 2008 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Cremation rites will be accorded. Burial

School continued from other side

into savings while waiting for the state funds.

• Heard from high school Principal Larry Maynard that 22 of 35 Rossville-Alvin eighth graders have signed up to attend Hoopeston Area next year. Next year's freshman class is expected to have approximately 127 students, he added.

• Also heard from Maynard that Hoopeston Area High School's 12-step disciplinary plan was featured in a recent issue of the Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. The publication is sent to all principals in the state.

• Approved Stephanie Herman's resignation as cafeteria worked and hiring Jacqueline Griner in the cafeteria and Angie McGill as half time personal aide at Maple.

will be in Mount Emblem Cemetery, Elmhurst, at a later date. Visitation was 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Wolfe Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

PRESTIN - Helen Marie (Tucker) Prestin, 89, of Hoopeston died Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008. A family celebration and private burial will be at Mt. Olive Cemetery, Champaign. Memorials are suggested to Champaign County Humane Society or Country Terrace Apartments, Hoopeston. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Mrs. Prestin was mother of Christie Read of Hoopeston.



Weather



Cloudy today. High 28. Tonight, snow likely. Low 14. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 21, low 10.

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

Classifieds

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