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Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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Hoopeston Area High School fails to meet state standards

Hoopeston Area High School is on the state's Academic Early Warning list after students failed to meet standards for adequate yearly progress under the federal No Child Left Behind program.

Lourdine Florek

owner/publisher

The board of education reviewed the 2008 district school report cards at Thursday night's meeting.

Honeywell, John Greer and Hoopeston Area Middle School all met standards. Maple's standards are based on Honeywell's scores, said Principal Lori Eells. However, high school students failed to meet 62.5

percent meet/exceed in both reading and math and the 75 percent graduation rate.

Only 45.3 percent of students met reading standards and 37.3 percent met math standards. The school's graduation rate was 69.4 percent.

High school Principal Larry Maynard said students showed improvement over last year, with reading scores up 5.3 percent and math scores increased 1.3 percent. For the 2007 report card, 55 percent of students had to

See STANDARDS on other side

Family: action against principal; police: acting within duties

MAYNARD

The family of a 14-year-old Hoopeston Area High School student want the school district board to take action against the high school principal.

Relatives of David Stephens attended Thursday's Hoopeston Area school board meeting to discuss an incident that occurred at the October 10 football game.

Family members allege that David Stephens and an unidentified boy were involved in horse play when Principal Larry Maynard intervened and, in the process, choked Stephens.

However, Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger issued a press release Friday saving an statements from witnesses during an investigation into the incident showed Maynard "acted within his official duties as a school official."

Stephens' father, David, said after Thursday's meeting that he received a call from a friend, advising him to come to the school. When he arrived at the football field, "everybody's telling me (Maynard) choked my son," he said.

Mr. Stephens said his son was suspended for four days for the incident - which, he said, school officials called "aggressive behavior" and that while he may participate in sports, the younger Stephens is banned from being a spectator at extracurricular activities for five months.

Family members tried to discuss the incident during the public comment section of Thursday's meeting, despite a warning from board president Mark Wagoner before public comments that "at no time is talking about personnel permitted."

Sherry Coon, Stephens' aunt, asked "what is the policy for a teacher or a principal or a superintendent to put their hands on a child? It's the children I'm concerned about."

Wagoner responded that the issue would be discussed in executive session. "I made that very clear to the parties involved," he said.

See PRINCIPAL on other side



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Police News



A 61-year-old Hoopes-

ton man reported at 6:55

a.m. Monday that someone

took a black and pink

Huffy 10 speed bicycle

from a patio in the 800

block of East Elm.

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Rafael Resendez, 23, of Hoopeston, was ticketed after an accident at 12:15 a.m. Thursday in the alley west of the 200 block of South Fourth St.

Police said Resendez, in a 1993 Mercury station wagon, was eastbound in the alley when he struck a barricade owned by the City of Hoopeston.

He was ticketed for diving while license suspended and no proof of insurance.

Resendez is set to appear in Vermilion County Circuit

Standards continued from other side

meet or exceed reading and math standards and a minimum of 72 percent of seniors had to graduate. The high school met that requirement with 73.9 percent.

Superintendent Hank Hornbeck told the board that if one school in the district fails to make adequate yearly progress, the whole district fails to make it - at least in the state's eyes.

The district does have a plan in place to work on improvement, Hornbeck added.



FREE Pilates[®] Classes Wednesday, Oct. 22 5:54 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24 12:15 p.m.-12:50 p.m. Hoopeston Hospital Community Room (can be accessed at south entrance to Nursing Home) Classes will run for 4 weeks to start. The public is welcome to both sessions, however, priority is given to hospital employees for the Friday afternoon time frame. Please bring a blanket or exercise mat and wear clothes you can easily move in. For more information, call the Hospital Therapy Department, (217) 283-5531, ext. 230

Court.

A 23-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 1 p.m. Thursday that someone took her Winnie the Pooh purse from the 500 block of North Tenth Ave.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 8:25 a.m. Friday at McNeil and North Seventh St.

Police said Thelma C. Lugo, of Hoopeston, in a 2006 Hyundai, and Sally O. Swartz, also of Hoopeston, in a 2003 Chevrolet, collided in the intersection. Michelle B.R. Castellano, 23, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 8:33 p.m. Sunday at Jerry's IGA, 1030 W. Chestnut.

She was charged with retail theft after store employees allege she put several items of clothing into a diaper bag and tried to leave the store without paying for them.

Castellano was released on \$100 cash bond and a notice to appear.

• Heard from Hornbeck that October 28 is the first day



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No Child Left Behind was enacted in January 2002. Illinois, which dovetailed its standards with the federal law in 2003, has set 2013-14 as the year when schools must have 100 percent of students meeting or exceeding standards.

In unrelated business, the board:

• Will hold a community meeting at 7 p.m. Nov. 10 in the high school auditorium. The purpose of the meeting is to get input for long-range planning. Dave Kietzmann of Danville Area Community College will facilitate the

chools to circulate petitions for the April 2009 school board election. Four seats will be up in the race. Petitions may be filed January 21-26.

meeting.

• Heard from Maynard that the high school will host a Veterans' Day assembly at the school.

• Approved Anthony Linares' resignation as seventh grade boys basketball coach and appointed Wayne Bandy to the position.



Sept. 18

Jennifer Downing, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, fined \$180, converted to 23 hours' public work;, status hearing Dec. 18.

Principal continued from other side

During the executive session, Stephens family members stood in the hall and gym at Honeywell School, waiting their turns to talk to the board.

During an interview while he waited, Mr. Stephens said his son had red marks and swelling on his neck and that he was taken to the hospital for an examination.

Maynard was also taken to the hospital that evening, after Michael R. Carswell, a cousin of Stephens, allegedly battered him when Maynard attempted to break up the two boys. Maynard was treated for injuries to his face and knees.

Carswell was taken into custody by auxiliary police,

Jennifer Downing, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, fined \$230, converted to 30 hours' public service work; status hearing Dec. 18. Jacqueline T. Ashby, new status hearing Nov. 6.

charged with two counts of aggravated battery and possession of cannabis.

School officials had no comment on the matter.

The issue has been referred to the Vermilion County State's Attorney's office for further review, according to the police department press release.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 59. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 41. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 59, low 45. For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.