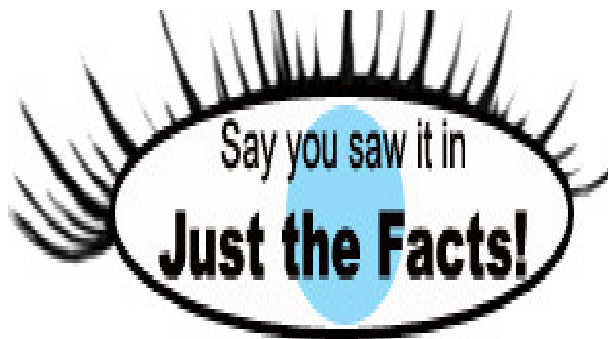


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Hoopeston Area schools cut 15 positions to save money

Fifteen employees of Hoopeston Area school district have been notified that they will not have jobs after this year.

At Thursday's meeting, the board approved cutting the positions as a Reduction in Force (RIF) measure to compensate for the state's tardiness in payments.

Employees who received RIF notices include third grade teacher Jena Schaumburg and aides Dawn Samet, Lori Montez, Jennifer Wagoner, Melissa Huckleby, Andrea Glotzbach, Alisa Costa, Debbie Edwards, Whitley Klaber, Karen Byrnes, Diana Judy, Annette McMillan, Jane Long and Brenda Granados. Andrea Marble's position as a speech language paraprofessional has also been eliminated.

The action was part of a cost-cutting effort which is estimated to save the district \$457,260, said Superintendent Hank Hornbeck.

Of that, \$170,000 will be saved by eliminating the Title I and special education aides. Those positions were funded this year through stimulus funds, Hornbeck said.

The state used federal stimulus money to pay state aid payments received in February and March. "The big question is how is the state going to pay this \$1 million next year," he said.

Other cuts approved by the board include:

Cost savings from the retirement of high school media teacher Dan Reed.

Elimination of one section of sixth grade through the retirement of teacher Mary Conolly.

Elimination of one section of Early Childhood Special Education through the retirement of teacher Linda Martin.

Elimination of one special education high school aide position through the retirement of Sheila Browne.

Elimination of the Children at Risk Educationally

(CARE) program, a savings of \$15,000. One certified teacher and one aide position will be reassigned.

One high school custodian position, for a \$20,000 savings.

Fifty percent reduction in summer custodial help, estimated to save \$17,000.

Twenty percent reduction in the athletic budget, estimated to save \$8,000.

A 15 percent cut in the building/district/technology budget, for a \$33,060 savings

PBIS will be cut 10 percent, saving \$2,200.

One year freeze on purchasing athletic uniforms, a \$15,000 savings.

One year freeze on textbook purchases, estimated to save \$33,000.

A one year freeze on bus purchases, with an estimated cost savings of \$90,000.

Hornbeck said the state owes the district about \$399,000 and is currently 150 days behind on payments.

More funding cuts are planned at the state level, including the reading block grant and safe schools grant. Additionally, a \$450 per student cut in state aid has been proposed, Hornbeck said.

If those cuts come to pass, Hoopeston Area will probably have to use reserve funds to meet next year's budget. The district's education fund, which pays for all costs associated with education students, had \$4.7 million in it at the end of February, he said

Those affected by RIF cuts were notified last week. Hornbeck said if funding improves, employ-

See HA on other side

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Police News



A **66-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 1:03 p.m. Wednesday that someone entered his home in the 700 block of Trego Drive and took several items.

Ulises DeLos-Santos, 21, of Hoopeston, was ar-

HA continued from other side

ees will be hired back as money allows. If that happens, school officials will try to return employees to their original buildings, if possible. “We may not know until over the summer where people will be or if they’ll be coming back,” he said.

Hoopeston Education Association president Carolyn Eyrich-Mastin told the board that while the HEA approved the cuts, the action will affect students, especially those in need of assistance. “Some students meet daily with those people, so it’s a pretty important thing,” she said.

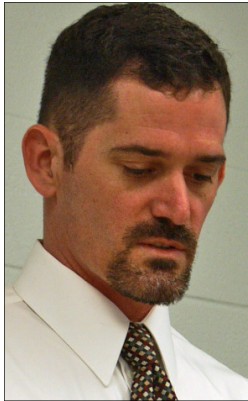
In other business, the board approved a \$57,000 bid from ADT for a security system at the high/middle school. The bid was one of five received for the project, which will include interior cameras and exterior key cards, as well as a video/phone system to allow visitors into the buildings.

The project will be paid for through an \$11,000 Cadle Foundation grant and \$50,000 from the City of Hoopeston’s Tax Increment Financing fund. Money over the base cost will be used to purchase cables to make the system functional, Hornbeck said.

The board approved Chris Small’s appointment to the board, replacing Steve Highfill, who moved from the area.

Small is an accountant at Hoopeston Regional Health Center, where he has worked for the past two and a half years. A Dubuque, Iowa, native, Small spent 15 years in the military.

He married Hoopeston native Becky Barker Small after the two met at Vanderbilt Hospital. The family includes an 18-year-old son who lives in Nashville, Tenn., a seven-year-old daughter and four-year-old son. Small, his



SMALL

rested at 4:23 a.m. Wednesday in the 500 block of East McCracken on a Vermilion County traffic warrant. He was released on \$123 cash bond.

Derek J. Hyde, 32, of Hoopeston, was arrested at

wife and two younger children, moved to Hoopeston in 2004.

In unrelated business, the board:

- Approved resignations of Jeff Ohlemeyer as high school dean of students/high school boys’ track coach; Mike Caparula, high school student council sponsor; Ashley Gondzur, high school yearbook sponsor; Kevin Root, high school boys’ basketball coach; and Johanna Thorndyke, high school drama teacher.
- Accepted a letter of intent to retire from Debbie Klaber for the end of the 2010-11 year.
- Employed non-tenured teachers for 2010-11.
- Hired Brenda Granados as Maple personal aide for the rest of this school year.
- Learned Linda Sheppard, Linda Martin, Curt Spaur, Sue Spaur and Sheila Browne will be honored at the Golden Ruler banquet on April 27.
- Heard from high school Principal Larry Maynard that the school is considering adding some classes, including replacing a section of Biology II with anatomy/physiology and blending the components of speech class into other classes.



Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area middle/high schools

- MONDAY: Chicken nuggets or ham & cheese, corn, applesauce, cake, milk
TUESDAY: BBQ rib/bun or chicken salad wrap, California blend/cheese, peaches, milk
WEDNESDAY: Cook’s choice, milk
THURSDAY: Cook’s choice milk
FRIDAY: Pizza Hut, salad, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area grade schools

- MONDAY: Chicken strips, green beans, mandarin oranges; Maple: Pizza Hut (sausage), green beans, mandarin oranges, milk

11:25 p.m. Wednesday in the 300 block of East Penn on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for rule to show cause. He was released on \$414 bond.

Amanda L. Roberts, 17, of Hoopeston, was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident at 8:51 a.m. Thursday.

Police said Roberts, in a 1995 Pontiac, was southbound on Fifth St., when she stopped at East Orange, failed to yield and hit a 1993 Buick driven by Todd C. Longest, of Hoopeston.

Longest was taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital where he was treated for injuries.

Hoopeston Fire Department was called to the scene for a wash-down.

Obituaries

BAKER - Mildred Baker, 91, of Hoopeston, died at 12:47 p.m. Saturday, March 20, 2010, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

GRESS - Joseph K. Gress, 47, of Tilton, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 6:10 p.m. Sunday, March 14, 2010, at home. Funeral Mass was at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. John Baptist Church, Le’rable. Burial was in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Cremation rites were accorded. Wolfe Funeral Home, Hoopeston, coordinated arrangements.

- TUESDAY: Pepperoni pizza, salad, pears; Maple: chicken strips, green beans, pears, cookie; milk
WEDNESDAY: Pancake & sausage nuggets, tri-tater, peaches, juice, milk
THURSDAY: Cheese quesadilla, salad, chips & salsa, pineapple, milk

Weather



Mostly cloudy today. High 54. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 32. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 59, low 41.
For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Migrant Head Start is accepting applications for the following positions:

Families Service Coordinator, this applicant must be bilingual spoken and written, have social work education but a degree is not required. Some work experience and familiar with migrant families. This position is full-time during the season.

Education Coordinator must have a degree in early childhood education or a minimum of a CDA or State equivalent credentials. Have knowledge and experience of Head Start philosophy and practices, Spanish speaking preferred but not required. Must be healthy which does not interfere with responsibilities and have the education or experience in collaborating with parents to educate their children. This position is full-time during the season. **Assistant Coordinator** must be bilingual spoken and written, assist in the operations of the center. This position is part-time during the season.

Bus aides, this is a split shift position, part-time during the season. Age requirement for all positions is 18, due to the requirement of passing the background check. Please fax resumes to 815-984-4500 or send to HMHS, P.O. Box 136, Wellington, IL 60973, or call 815-984-3706 and leave a message. Accepting applications until 4/30/2010 EOE.

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Hoopeston: 843 E. Seminary. \$475/mo.. No pets. For application, call (217) 304-3477

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