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Monday, December 20, 2010

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Teacher pleads passionately for band trip to Liberty Bowl

Hoopeston Area band teacher Wendy Ronna made an impassioned request to allow band students to travel to Memphis, Tenn., next December to take part in the 2011 Liberty Bowl.

Speaking at Thursdays, school board meeting, Ronna told the board that her 60 students "work hard and they do so much for the community. They deserve a trip." Her voice cracking, Ronna said "we're asking for our chance to shine and do something amazing."

To participate in the opportunity, offered by Bowl Games of America, students would have to raise \$30,000, or about \$500 each. If the board allows the

Urich Motors

DEAL OF THE WEEK



RONNA

band to go, fundraising events would be scheduled. "We have a ton of ideas to help the kids fundraise," she said.

For students who don't want to raise funds, they would be responsible to pay \$45 per month.

While in Memphis, students would not only perform in the half time show, but also in the Liberty Bowl parade down Beale Street. A guest artist

would be available to students and a clinic, featuring national musicians, would also be held.

Students would receive a semester of fine arts credit for attending, she added.

Students would have strict security while on the trip, which would be from December 29, 2011-January 1, 2012. Bowl Games of America provides guides and security and would notify Ronna of students who fail to follow guidelines, she said.

Ronna said she hadn't said a word to students about

See BOWL on other side

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Rt. 1. Hoopeston



Bowl continued from other side

the opportunity, saying she didn't want "hearts to break," and reiterated how hard students work. "They deserve to go. They're some of the best musicians in Vermilion County. Hopefully you'll give us this chance to prove to you that we can handle it."

The board took no action on Ronna's request, but member Lawrence Jahn said \$30,000 is a lot of money to raise. "I think it would be rough for 60 people to raise that kind of money," he said.

The school must confirm its plan to attend by May,

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Ronna said, adding a quicker decision would be better because she could lock in current rates.

In unrelated business, the board:

- Heard from Superintendent Hank Hornbeck that the district had received "the lion's share" of mandated categoricals money for fiscal year 2010 and that state aid continued to come in on time and at the correct amount.
- Approved the internet safety policy.
- Approved rehiring attorney Bill Nelson for another year, at a \$2,000 retainer.
- Will review the district's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) policy before approving it.
- Heard from Hornbeck that a copyright attorney still

has not gotten back to him about the Cornjerker logo, despite Hornbeck having made several phone calls. He will seek another attorney.

• Heard from high school Principal Larry Maynard that Rossville-Alvin eighth graders and their parents will be invited to an open house from 6-7 p.m. January 6. The event allows R-A students and parents to see what Hoopeston Area has to offer, as students in that district attend high school either at Hoopeston Area or Bismarck-Henning.

On January 7, Rossville eighth grade students will be at Hoopeston Area, paired with HA students, to attend classes and have lunch.



Police News



No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 5:55 p.m. Thursday at Sixth Avenue and Route 9. Police

— Briefly

Library closed for Christmas

Hoopeston Public Library will be closed December 24-26 for Christmas and will reopen with regular hours on Monday, Dec. 27.

Weather



Chance of snow today. High 31. Tonight, wintry mix. Low 28. Tomorrow, chance of wintry mix. High 34, low 23.

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

struck a 2005 Ford driven by Rhonda Coffey, of Hoopeston, who was stopped to make a turn. **Luis Avelar-Montano**, 30, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 1:57 a.m. Sunday in the 300 block of East Seminary.

said Bailey M. Pate, 18, of Rossville, in a 1999 Buick,

Wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure to appear/no valid driver's license and failure to wear a seat belt, he was also charged with no valid driver's license, no insurance and expired registration.

Avelar-Montano was released on \$200 cash bond.

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