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**Just
the Facts[©]**

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Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348
Louridine Florek, owner

www.justthefacts.net

Failing report card producing good changes in schools

A failing report card on standardized tests has produced changes that are already helping, according to Hoopeston Area school administrators.

Superintendent Hank Hornbeck reminded the board at Thursday night's meeting that Maple and Honeywell failed to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the last two years, while the high school has not met the goal for four years. The district as a whole is listed as needing corrective action.

While the schools' scores don't measure up, administrators say ongoing efforts are expected to help.

A midyear district meeting of principals and administrators after the district report card was released resulted

in changes that are expected to help teachers teach and students learn.

One thing the district will be doing is adopting Common Core methods, which will be used in the schools, providing continuity for teachers and students.

Each building is working on an improvement plan for that school, and each building sends representatives to a district-wide meetings. As a result, teachers are relating more with other teachers, as are administrators, said Linda Sheppard, Honeywell principal. The end result will be better communication and flow as students move through the district, she said.

See SCHOOLS on other side

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**Sunday, December 4, 2011
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Tuesday: Beef/Chicken & Noodles
Soups: Chili & Loaded Baked Potato

**Open Bowling all evening \$2.50/game
free shoe rental**

Wednesday: Ribeye Sandwich & Spaghetti
Soups: Vegetable & Wisconsin Cheese

9-8-7 Tournament at 7 p.m. - Open to anyone!

Thursday: Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday: Closed for lunch
Open Bowling 2-close

Saturday: Open Bowling 2-close

Sunday: Open Bowling 12-close

**We now have
ALL ILLINOIS LOTTERY GAMES
Coming Saturday, Dec. 10
TONY BOOTH**

Schools continued from other side

Dan Walder, John Greer principal, called the midyear district meeting “unusual,” indicating “this is somewhat of a crisis situation, but it is also an opportunity situation.”

Walder said he is encouraged by the attitude of staff in his building and reminded officials that “anything worthwhile is going to be hard and stressful.”

Sheppard said her students probably won’t make the grade again next year, when, under No Child Left Behind, 92.5 percent of students are expected to meet or exceed standards. “But if our goal is for each child to have

growth, we’ll make that,” she said.

Hoopeston Area isn’t the only district failing to meet standards. Hornbeck said at the October meeting that 1,250 Illinois schools failed to make AYP. “As other schools fail to make AYP, they’ll be doing these things,” he told principals and the board. “We’re not in this alone.” And, despite the failing grade, “We are doing a good job. Our children are learning. Our teachers are

doing a good job.”

In unrelated business, the board:

- Approved allowing Upchurch Group of Champaign to draw up construction documents which will allow the district to move forward with its planned district office/transportation building. Cost for the service is \$22,000.
- Approved the 2011 tax levy of \$3,150,500, up eight percent from last year.

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A **Frontier Communications** employee reported at 10:52 a.m. Thursday that someone stole four rolls of cable wire from the office at 310 E. Penn.

Alexis Grove, 19, of East Lynn, was ticketed for failure to yield when exiting an alleyway after an accident at 12:47 p.m. Thursday. Police said Grove, in a 2001 Chevrolet, was westbound from the alley between East Main and Seminary when she hit a 1999 Pontiac, driven by Monica Novak, of Hoopeston. No injuries were reported.

Robert Welch, 68, of Hoopeston, was arrested after

an incident at 5:40 p.m. Saturday in the 400 block of East Honeywell. He was charged with assault on a complaint from a 56-year-old Hoopeston woman and was served a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Clinics to close for Thanksgiving

Hoopeston Regional Health Center’s Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center, Rossville and Cissna Park clinics will all be closed Thanksgiving Day. Rossville and Cissna Park will also be closed the Friday after, as well.

Lunch Menus

Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: Chicken strips, green beans, applesauce, fruit snacks, milk

TUESDAY: Maple-Pizza Hut cheese, salad, peaches, milk; Honeywell & John Greer: hotdog/bun, mac & cheese, peaches, juice, milk

WEDNESDAY: Maple-hotdog/bun, mac & cheese, peaches, juice, milk; Honeywell & John Greer-Pizza Hut cheese, salad, peaches, milk

THURSDAY-FRIDAY: No school

Hoopeston Area Middle/High schools

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets or ham & cheese, green beans, applesauce, cookie, milk

TUESDAY: Pork BBQ/bun or cheeseburger, mac & cheese, peaches, juice, milk

WEDNESDAY: Pizza Hut, salad, pears, milk

THURSDAY-FRIDAY: No school

Weather

Mostly cloudy today and tonight. High 51, low 43. Tomorrow, chance of showers. High 52, low 36.

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

● Heard a request from Walder to have a speech team at John Greer at a cost of about \$1,700.

● Heard from Hornbeck that Hoopeston Area, Rossville-Alvin and Bismarck-Henning representatives are working on a new tri-party agreement for Rossville-Alvin high school students. The only change agreed on so far is the date by which eighth graders must choose which school to attend. Formerly the decision had to be made by January 15; it will now be March 1.

Obituaries

QUEEN - Marjorie (Griswold) Hall Queen, 88, of Hoopeston, died at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Wolfe Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Visitation will be 4-6 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to American Cancer Society or a charity of the donor’s choice.

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Thank you!

As Thanksgiving draws near, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the advertisers and readers who have made Just the Facts such a vital part of Hoopeston. As I start my 19th year of Just the Facts, I am thankful for all of you who have trusted me with your advertising needs and who have welcomed Just the Facts into your daily routine. May God bless each and every one of you and may God bless Hoopeston! Just the Facts will not be printed Thursday but will resume Friday.

Lourdine