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Lourdine Florek, Owner

Wednesday, November 22, 2017

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

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Hoopeston Area Middle School to host new Teen REACH site

Anne Burton, Hoopeston Area Middle School principal, was so excited at last week's district school board meeting, one might have thought she had gotten an early Christmas gift.

In fact, the early gift will be for her students.

Burton announced at the meeting that Teen REACH will be coming to the school in the near future.

Teen REACH (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring, Hope) will begin sometime before Christmas break, she told the board. Project Success of Danville will oversee the program and is currently hiring staff for the grant-funded initiative.

Project Success received a \$216,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services to operate Teen REACH in four sites: Georgetown's Mary Miller Middle School, where the program has been offered for a while and has a waiting list, along with new sites at HAMS, Westville Junior High School and Kenneth D. Bailey Academy, an alternative middle school in Danville, said Rickey Williams, Project Success executive director. The grant runs through June 30, 2018.

Westville is totally new, while Danville's Teen REACH had previously been hosted by Danville Housing Authority. Although the program is open to youngsters ages 11 to high school seniors, the decision was made to focus on middle school students so Danville's

program was moved to the Bailey Academy, he said.

All together, the program will reach 120 students, or roughly 30 per school. Each location will have a site manager and assistants to oversee activities. Williams was scheduled to finish up interviewing for those positions on Tuesday. Asked if the Hoopeston site would have Hoopeston employees, "We very much hope to," he said.

At some sites, staff are either from the school or from the community but Hoopeston's is expected to be a blend of both.

At Teen REACH, youngsters will receive "a holistic approach," Williams said. "It's a really comprehensive program."

Academics are important and tutoring is offered, but the program is about more than academics. "Academics, yes, but it's also about teaching them to make good life choices," he said, adding students will get "hands-on fun and learning."

One of the most popular activities is Cooking Club. A limited number of youngsters may participate in a given session, so there is usually a waiting list for that, Williams said.

Participants will also hear from speakers on topics including violence and drugs, among others. Recreation, See TEENS on other side

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Simply Treasures
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★ 20% off Christmas & Fall Decor
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Hoopeston Area Women's Club
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Wednesday, Nov. 22
4:30-8 p.m.
Hoopeston American Legion
Carryouts available•Raffle•Bake Sale
Tacos \$2 ea. Corn or flour shells.
Nachos, Nachos Supreme, Refried Beans, Black Beans
Proceeds benefit Scholarship/Carnival programs

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Monday: Taco Salad (chicken or beef) or Tenderloin (grilled or breaded)
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Wednesday: Ribeye Sandwich, Prime Rib Sandwich or Pork Chops
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Friday: Closed for lunch
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*From my family to yours,
Happy Thanksgiving!*

Lourdine

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Court Dispositions

October 5

- Francisco Arce, Hoopeston, status check November 2.
- Ashley Simpson, Hoopeston, status check November 2.
- Carrie Robinson, Hoopeston, status check December 7.
- Ray Williams, Hoopeston, status check November 2.
- Richard Strawser, Danville, status check November 2.
- Trinidad Hernandez, Hoopeston, status check December 7.
- Allison Habied, Paxton, status check December 7.
- Michael Briggs, Rossville, status check November 2.

- Kayla Robinson, Hoopeston, status check December 7.
- Matthew Minard, Hoopeston, status check November 2.

Obituaries

FURROW - Mary Lucille (Carter) Furrow, 94, of Hoopeston, died at 10:45 a.m. Monday, Nov. 20 2017 at home. Graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Iroquois Memorial Hospice, 200 Laird Lane, Watseka IL 60970. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements.

Teens continued from other side

sports cultural and artistic activities will also be available to participants.

Once implemented, Teen REACH will begin immediately after school dismisses each day and last for three hours. During the school year, the program will be closed on major holidays and when school is not in session, such as Christmas break.

A summer session will be offered weekdays from May 29 to June 29, beginning with lunch at 11:30 followed the three-hour program, Williams said.

This is not the first time Teen REACH has been implemented in Hoopeston.

The program came to Hoopeston Multi Agency in 2008. Less than two years later, a lack of funding threatened to close it and its counterpart at Georgetown-Ridge Farm High School.

Funding was restored, backlogs of bills were paid and the program continued on until the 2015 state budget crisis, which closed the program statewide for more than a year.

During that time, Multi Agency staff created Rising Leaders, funded by local donations and open to a larger age range. That program was disbanded in November 2016 when Teen REACH funding was restored.

The financial situation was "the perfect storm for a while but it looks like we're going to attain stability," Williams said.

Weather

Sunny today. High 36. Tonight, increasing clouds. Low 26. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 43, low 30.

"The Multi Agency was a wonderful partner to us," he said, but often youngsters didn't have a ride to the agency and program numbers suffered. By moving Teen REACH to the middle school, the problem of getting kids there will be solved.

Multi Agency officials are fine with the changes. "On behalf of the Multi Agency board, we're glad the program's going to continue," said Lawrence Jahn, member of both the Hoopeston Area and Multi Agency boards, at last week's school board meeting.

Applications for Teen REACH are available at Hoopeston Area Middle School.

Targeted students are those who have individual or family risk factors, including being in a single-family home or home receiving TANF funds; those experiencing academic difficulty, who have been held back or who are truant; youngsters who bully or have been bullied; those who are unsupervised after school; youth who have witnessed or been a victim of family violence; those who are or have siblings who are teen parents or who are part of the juvenile justice system; homeless youth and those reported to gang-involved.

Classifieds

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