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6:30 - 11 a.m.
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Friday, March 15, 2019

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

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Incumbent Small, newcomer Catron seek seats on HA board

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles profiling candidates for Hoopeston Area School Board and Hoopeston City Council in the April 2 election. Voters will choose two people from four candidates seeking seats inside Grant Township 23N Range 12W the congressional township in which the district was established. Today, incumbent Chris Small and newcomer Connie Catron are profiled.

Only one of two candidates is seeking reelection to the Hoopeston Area School Board, representing inside the congressional township.

Board President Mark Schaumburg, serving since 2007 did not seek re-election. Chris Small, elected in 2011, is



SMALL



CATRON

asking voters to choose him for another term.

Small is currently the body's vice president and serves on the board's extracurricular/curricular and police and community relations committees.

The 51-year-old Small is a veteran. He has a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting and is employed by thyssenkrupp Presta in Danville.

If reelected, Small said he will bring his previous board experience to the table, as well as his financial background. In his tenure on the board, he was the only mem-

See BOARD on other side

Hoopeston Education Association Board Candidate Forum

7 p.m. March 20

The Lorraine Theatre

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School Board

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Board continued from other side

ber to vote against \$900,000 bond issues in 2016 and 2019, both of which the district self-funded and which were paid for by taxpayers. He has said he is not in favor of increasing taxes without good reason.

Small said he is seeking another term to serve the community and because, with two children in the district, he has a vested interest in Hoopeston Area.

Asked what the top two issues are facing the district, Small cited the state's financial crisis and student discipline. "It's very difficult to operate a district when you live in a failed state," he said. As for discipline, "I would like to see parents play a bigger role in student discipline."

Small and his wife, Becky, have three children. In his spare time, he enjoys working out, baseball, fishing and spending time with family.

Connie Catron also selected student behavior/discipline as one of the top two issues facing the district. She would like to make parents part of the learning process so that there is accountability at home which, she said, "Would go a long way toward modifying misbehavior." Students should face consequences for their actions but she does not believe out-of-school suspensions are the answer. "I feel that collaborating with parents to find an approach that can be followed both at home and school will provide the best outcome for these kids," she said.

The second issue Catron chose is teacher retention, which, at 70 percent, is the lowest in Vermilion County, she said. "I think we need to discuss with our teachers/Hoopeston Education Association to determine why this number is so low," she said. In other county schools, retention rates range from 90 percent at Salt Fork to 77 percent at Georgetown-Ridge Farm, she said. "If we continue to have high teacher turnover every year, how can we expect to have consistency with our teaching," she asked.

Catron, 46, is a 1990 graduate of Milford Township High School and has a master's degree in nursing from

Texas A&M University. She is a family nurse practitioner at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center's Milford clinic and has two sons, Jacob and Christopher, who attend Hoopeston Area High School.

If elected, Catron said skills she will bring to the position include the ability to make tough decisions after looking at all sides. Through her employer, she has a working relationship with the district, which gives her insight into conditions under which teachers, administrators and the board work.

As the sole provider at the clinic, she is responsible for its operation, including cost control. "I am very conscientious of spending and I am conservative," she said.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department and Arrow Ambulance were called at 8:02 a.m. Wednesday to the 300 block of North Ninth Ave., for a strong electrical odor. No fire was found.

Firemen were called at 3:07 p.m. Wednesday to the 400 block of South Third St. for an illegal burn.

Obituaries

JOHNSON - Francis "Hup" Johnson, 88, of Hoopeston, formerly of Danville, died Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Private family service will be held. Memorials are suggested to Heritage Health, 423 N. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston IL 60942. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements.

Weather

Chance of rain/snow today. High 39. Tonight, cloudy. Low 26. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 40, low 25. Sunday, mostly sunny. High 45, low 27.

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The City of Hoopeston is now accepting applications for Seasonal Employees for several of our departments. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. Hoopeston.

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