

Bertha's C o r n e r



By
BERTHA PARSONS

Change and Chaos

I'm not talking about change in my piggy bank. Yes, I'm saving for a cruise someday. Is it changing my clothes to work outside and tackle the weeds in my flower bed? Is it moving from a large two-story house to a one level ranch kind of change?

Ok! Here we go! Change of any kind is hard. That's a fact. You don't like it; I don't like it! Real Chaos! Why? That's a question each of us would answer differently. We like the familiar.

Chaos when changing jobs, changing locations, change because of age, a death, marriage, babies, graduation, a divorce, fear, loneliness to name a few. For most of us we can mark several or all the items on this list! When chaos comes into our life, and it will, we must resist it at all costs.

Is there an alternative to accepting chaos in your life and mine? Yes! It is creating a positive perspective. It is getting your attitude in the right place. Knowing that this chaos will pass! What happens when you think, "I could make it through this chaos." Your stress becomes less. It is amazing what our minds can do for us!

Don't waste today thinking about tomorrow's changes and chaos. Do not look forward to changes of this life in fear; instead look to them with hope!

Keep your mind limber by accepting what you can't change. Decide to not let chaos take over. Concentrate on doing what must be done to make things better. We cannot avoid chaos in our lives. However, we can think positive; we can believe in ourselves; we can decide to stand up to chaos and do something about it!

We can be joyful and helpful to others, finding that is the key that locks chaos out!

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School forum addresses safety, finances, several other topics

A variety of topics was covered in a public forum sponsored by Hoopeston Area School District Wednesday.

The evening began with Hoopeston Police Officer Clayton Cahoe giving an update on school safety. County officers recently held active shooter ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training in the district, he said. Training is done in age-appropriate ways for each building to minimize threats and violence. "There's no way to make sure nothing ever happens," he said, adding police are not onsite every day - "generally only when something happens."

Supt. Robert Richardson then took to the podium. "Have you folks ever been to a Gallagher show," he joked, looking at empty seats in the front rows, while the more than 40 attendees gathered in back row seats.

He gave a pared-down presentation on school finances "Because we all have to work tomorrow, we're not going over the full gamut," he said.

Districts get revenue from three main sources: local property taxes, state taxes that are distributed based on an adequacy equation, and federal tax dollars provided as grants and other funding mechanisms. Grants and donations from other sources round out district funding.

Hoopeston Area residents pay approximately \$5.05 per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation, Richardson said.

The district budget is divided into nine categories. The education fund, used to pay things directly related to teaching students, is the district's largest fund for income and expenses. Other categories are transportation, operation and maintenance, bond and interest, social security/Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, capital improvement, working cash, tort and fire prevention and safety.



Hoopeston Area Supt. Robert Richardson explains school funding at a district-sponsored public forum Wednesday.

After the financial presentation, Emily Brown, district curriculum director, and Craig Lee, board vice-president, read questions submitted prior to the forum. Some topics included:

Parental involvement in the schools. "We love parental involvement," Richardson said. There are multiple

See FORUM on other side

Cheeseburgers in *Paradise*

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Darren M. Wood, 34, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police responded at 10:36 a.m. Saturday to a domestic battery call in the 200 block of West Maple. He was released and a report sent to the Vermilion County State's Attorney.

Preliminary approval given for Thompson improvements

Officials have given preliminary approval for the full scope of Hoopeston's plan to repair Thompson Ave.

At last week's Hoopeston City Council meeting, Mayor Bill Crusinberry said preliminary approval was given at a September 12 meeting with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) officials.

Pending documentation, Crusinberry said a green light was given to the city's plan to improve Thompson from the CSX tracks to the eastern city limits.

Tracy Fullen, engineer with Donohue & Associates, said previously that work from Market to the city limits was FHWA-eligible but she was unsure the portion from the tracks to Market.

Hoopeston will ask for FHWA funds to cover 80 per-

Forum continued from other side

ways to be involved, from regularly checking the district website for news, volunteering at a school, parents interacting with their children about their school day and activities, and serving on a parent advisory group.

A one percent school facilities sales tax. Voted down in 2018, county superintendents are expected to ask voters to reconsider.

Board president Dave McFadden expects the board to vote in October or November whether it will support a resolution putting the question to voters in the April 2021 election. "My position - and I'm only one of seven - is I intend to support it," he said. For it to be on the ballot, boards representing more than 50 percent of all public students in the county must vote to have the measure on the ballot.

How the district handles bullying. Richardson called bullying "unacceptable behavior" and said it is handled in accordance with board policies. Bullying includes not only in-person activity, but also cyber-bullying. Students who see bullying activity are encouraged to say something to teachers or administrators.

How many middle and high school teachers are not certified in the area they are teaching? Richardson

A 62-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 9:33 a.m. Saturday that windows were broken on a vehicle in the 900 block of West Orange.

Brody Powell, 18, of Hoopeston, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia prohibited after

cent of project costs, with the city picking up the remainder with motor fuel tax funds the city has been accruing for several years.

Crusinberry said the plan is to go out for bids between October and December 2020, with construction in 2021.

While roadwork is being done, Crusinberry hopes to address storm water issues in the area, saying he and Fullen are discussing ideas on how to handle it.

In unrelated business, the council:

- Heard from Ald. Chad Yaden that cemetery cleanup will begin October 1.

- Received a request from Brenda Adams, Keep Vermilion County Beautiful director, to increase its donation from its current business level of \$150 to corporate membership at \$1,000.

talked about the state teacher shortage and that Illinois is looking at ways to get more people interested in teaching. Locally, Hoopeston is "growing its own" teachers, as former students get a degree and return to teach at their alma mater, he said, calling it an "Out of the box idea to help solve the problem."

Addressing the number after the meeting, Richardson said nine people, all substitutes, are teaching at levels in which they are not certified. These include three serving in unfilled positions, four covering maternity leaves, one as a certified teacher finishes her student teaching and one is substitute who is completing licensing requirements.

How Hoopeston Area implement Illinois law mandating public schools teach historical accomplishments of LGBTQ people. How that history is to be taught has not been decided by the state but "Once we find that out, the district will follow the law, he said.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 79. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 59. Tomorrow, chance of storms. High 77, low 53.

a traffic stop at 6:59 p.m. Saturday. He was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Steven Coon, 61, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an accident at 12:44 p.m. Sunday in the 600 block of East Honeywell. He was charged with leaving the scene of an accident, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident after police said his 1999 Chevrolet Carryall struck an Ameren pole.

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