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Just the Facts

Monday, November 9, 2020

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

www.justthefacts.net

Local basketball on the bench; superintendents sign letter

While in Indiana, high school basketball is up and running, in Illinois, the sport has become a political football. Just in the last few weeks, the competitive sport was called foul by state officials. IHSA concurred, then relented and it was on.

Now, for many schools, including Hoopeston Area, it's off again.

Supt. Robert Richardson, in a post on the district webpage, announced last week that the district would follow Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) guidelines. IDPH considers basketball a higher-risk level activity but allows for basketball at a Level 1: no contact practices and training only.

While some Illinois schools may choose to disregard the guidelines, Hoopeston Area will follow them, Richardson said in his post, writing that the district will follow guidelines for "educational activities to keep our students and staff safe and our schools open."

Richardson said an IHSA statement allowing for contact does not identify what liability risk is for a district that decides to "defy the IDPH guidance. In plain language, this means the district could be held responsible if any negative outcomes occur," he wrote.

The decision to sideline basketball was made after consulting with legal and insurance representatives, he said. "Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 will continue to await direction from the state about when it is safe to resume play before taking any further action to schedule our basketball season," he said.

Although he is following the guidelines, Richardson is one of 200 superintendents - representing more than 200,000 students in the state - who signed a letter to Gov. J.B. Pritzker, asking for a partnership among superintendents, athletic directors and coaches with the IDPH to "provide interscholastic competition in a safe environment."

The letter originated from Collinsville United

School District on November 5. Collinsville Supt. Mark B. Skertich thanks Pritzker for the work he has done to mitigate risks of COVID-19 but asks that he consider the experience and perspectives of educators.

The missive outlines negative effects students are experiencing due to the limitation on several school activities, including "depression, anxiety, lack of motivation, and loss of self. Despite the resilience of children, negative consequences are appearing and we fear this is the tip of the iceberg as these issues continue to rise."

The letter lists three points why school activities should be reconsidered, including:

- Districts have shown they can find a balance between health and safety and still educate students.
- Districts are creative and have come up with creative ways to educate students and celebrate milestones such as graduation.
- In most cases, positive cases in schools come from outside the school. "When it comes to athletics, schools will provide a safer environment with procedures and accountability with more fidelity than a travel or club program every single time. Without the opportunities in our schools, students will play for unregulated clubs and travel teams while traveling out of state to do so," the letter read.

"We as superintendents are calling on you to allow our students to participate in extracurricular activities and interscholastic competition. While each scenario is different, schools have shown that we are adaptable, vigilant, and accountable while keeping the health, safety, and well-being of our students as the highest priority."

Other area signatories of the letter were Bill Mulvaney, Armstrong Township; Scott Watson, Bismarck-Henning; David Andriano, Iroquois County CUSD #9; Michele Lindenmeyer, Milford Area Public Schools; Larry Maynard, Oakwood; Cliff McClure, Paxton Buckley Loda; Phil Cox, Salt Fork; and Brian Brooks, St. Joseph -Ogden.

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From the Blotter

Daytan L. Davis, 24, of Rantoul, was arrested after police were called at 3:25 p.m. Thursday to a civil disturbance in the 700 block of South First Ave. While at the scene, police found Davis to be on the property. He was charged with trespassing and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Marci Howey, 46, of Indianapolis, Ind., is facing several charges after a traffic stop at 6:42 p.m. Friday in the 1000 block of West Penn.

She was arrested on preliminary charges of possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, unlawful use of a weapon, defacing of firearm, driving while license suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 75. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 60. Tomorrow, breezy, partly sunny, then chance of thunderstorms, showers. High 74, low 36.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

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Briefly

Meetings

Hoopeston City Council finance committee, 3:15 p.m. Tuesday. Agenda and remote link available at www.cityofhoopeston.com.

Hoopeston Historic Preservation Commission sesquicentennial meeting, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Hoopeston City Hall. Agenda available at www.cityofhoopeston.com.

Bowling practice going on

Hoopeston Area boys' bowling practice will be held at 4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Fast Lanes. All who are interested are urged to attend.

Veterans' Day service

This year's Hoopeston Veterans' Day service will be

Obituaries

MONTEZ - Antonio "Toney" Montez Sr., 81 of Hoopeston, died at 6:20 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Private family service will be held at a later date. Memorials are suggested to the family. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

held virtually. It may be viewed beginning at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11 on NewWave channel 16 or at www.hoopeston.k12.il.us.

Township, MTAD prefilng

Grant Township offices and Grant-Butler Assessing District (MTAD) will hold prefilng this week in preparation for Republican caucuses in December.

Prefilng will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Monday and 1-3 p.m. Tuesday at Grant Township office, 525 S. Market St., Hoopeston.

MTAD filing will be for assessor and township filing will be for supervisor, road commissioner, clerk and four trustee positions.

Township will hold its caucus December 1 and MTAD will hold its caucus December 2.

Miracle Tree forms available

Thursday is the last day to sign up for Miracle Tree and

Santa Cares, Too at Grant Township offices, 525 S. Market. The programs are for Hoopeston children ages 0-12.

Forms may be picked up at the township office from 12:30-2 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays during food cup-board hours. Use the parking lot on the west side of the building and the west side door. Forms, along with proof of address and children in the household, must be returned by November 12. Late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants will receive a receipt as proof of signup. In case gifts are not turned in, the receipt is proof the applicant signed up. This step eliminates fraudulent activity that has occurred in the past.

Leaf cleanup to begin

City of Hoopeston leaf cleanup will begin Monday, weather permitting. Residents are asked to rake their leaves to the curb, but not in the street.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Large 2 bedroom upstairs apartment, washer & dryer room, new flooring many updates. \$500 month 217-495-2274

HELP WANTED

Driver w/CDL needed. Home every night. Trips within 100 miles of Hoopeston. (217) 304-1943.

Autumn Fields of Hoopeston is looking for CNAs part time hours, every other weekend and shared holidays. Please call Autumn Fields @ 217-283-2222

KSi in Cissna Park is seeking a qualified Controls Technician for project site startups and in-field customer training for controls systems. The ideal candidate will possess excellent communication, electrical, technical, and troubleshooting skills. An understanding of PLCs and HMI applications is preferred. Travel is required. Apply online at www.ksiedge.com or send resume to hr@ksiedge.com.

Vermilion County Animal Shelter is hiring kennel workers, full and part time available! Email ksnyder@vercounty.org or visit www.vercounty.org/jobs_general.htm for an application.

Dogtown Heating, Air, & Plumbing is in search of an experienced HVAC technician to help serve our customers in the area. Pay based on experience. Health insurance, Life insurance, and 2 weeks paid vacation. We have a family atmosphere that serves our customers with honesty and integrity. Email brad.dogtown@gmail.com

United Prairie-Hoopeston has openings for Fall help for the following: CDL Drivers and Non-CDL. Please pick up applications at 18978 E 3850 North Rd, Hoopeston, IL 60942. For more

information, please call the office, 217-888-0164 or Jordan Reese, manager, 217-918-2876.

Mechanic wanted. Experience with heavy truck, construction, and agricultural machinery preferred. Call 217-474-8349.

Cade's Heating and Air HVAC installer/ service tech. must have valid IL drivers license and EPA freon license. Please send resume to ramcade@frontier.com or 101 E Penn St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking full time and seasonal help. Requirements include at least a Class B CDL and ability to pass a drug test. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

Teasdale Latin Foods has immediate openings on 2nd shift in both Distribution and Manufacturing. Pay to be determined based on experience level. Stop by the Human Resources office at 215 W. Washington Street, Hoopeston, for more detail. Please no phone calls.

Aquality Solutions is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1st Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

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