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Just the Facts

Monday, August 16, 2021

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From the Blotter

Woman charged in graffiti incidents

A Hoopeston woman was arrested Friday afternoon in connection with a rash of graffiti in the downtown area.

Julie R. Stevens, 39, was charged with criminal damage to property for allegedly spray-painting graffiti - called "tagging" - at Pizza King, 111 E. Main, at 12:33 a.m. Wednesday.

The arrest came after police received multiple calls at 1:54 p.m. Friday from representatives of several downtown businesses that a woman was tagging their businesses at that time.

Those businesses included City of Hoopeston, 301 W. Main, Sheridan's Appliances, 224 E. Main, Edward Jones Investments, 209 E. Main and Bricks and Ivy Event Center, 207 E. Main.

Stevens was charged with criminal damage to property in those incidents and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

In other police news:

On August 11, Milford Police arrested Jason T. Shields, 45, of Goodwine. According to information from Iroquois County Sheriff's Department, he was charged with possession of methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia and was taken to the Iroquois County Jail, where he was released on bond.

Hoopeston police investigated a report of a damaged auto, made at 7:25 a.m. Thursday. A 50-year-old woman reported her vehicle was damaged in the 400 block of South Fourth St.

Police arrested Max Jones, 49, of Hoopeston in connection with the crime, charging him with criminal damage to auto. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

A **53-year-old Hoopeston** man reported at 12:52 p.m. Friday that someone took property from his yard in the 300 block of North Ninth Ave. Police are investigating.

Mark Caddell, 24, of Sheldon, was arrested after police were called at 5:29 p.m. Friday to Hoopeston Mar-

athon, 714 W. Orange, for a report of retail theft. On the way to the business, police apprehended Caddell, allegedly with the stolen items.

He was charged with retail theft under \$300 and was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Court.

Roy Jones, 47, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 8:37 p.m. Friday at South Sixth Ave. and Orange. Known to not have a valid license, a computer check confirmed the information. He was charged with driving while license suspended and was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Court.

Letters to the Editor

Safe return to school

Hoopeston Area Families,

Since Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2021-18 on Wednesday, August 4, mandated masks in school for all individuals, HACUSD #11 school leaders and school board members have been working diligently to adapt our previous plans, and to prepare for the upcoming school year.

In our plan, www.hoopeston.k12.il.us/article/510558, you will find many details which our district will need to enforce in the coming year. While this is not what many of us would choose, we implore our

communities to rally together so that we can work as a team to provide continuous in-person educational opportunities to our students.

We also thought it prudent to note that we are aware of potential protests and demonstrations speaking out against the statewide mask mandate and our district's decision to comply with the Executive Order. Our hope is, that while everyone has a right to protest decisions that they disagree with, we ask you to please allow us to operate a school environment that is conducive to learning. No doubt many efforts will be made by citizens of Illinois to ask the governor to withdraw the mask mandate and return to local decision-making. While we all wait to see if the mandate will change, our school year is beginning, and we need to clarify, anyone without an agreed upon medical exemption who chooses not to wear a mask will not be permitted into our buildings or learning environments.

We absolutely want the opportunity to educate students in person again. While our district was considering or had already recommended a mask-optional

See LETTER on other side

Obituaries

BELL - Eric James Bell, 54, of Rossville, died at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021, at OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center, Danville. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the noon funeral Tuesday at Alvin Church of God. Burial will follow in Mann's Chapel Cemetery, rural Rossville. Memorials are suggested to Special Olympics, 133 19th St. NW, 12th Floor, Washington DC 20036-3604 or Schultz House, 340 Bryan Ave., Danville IL 61832. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

DOSS - Richard E. Doss, 71, of Georgetown, died at 8:20 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021, at Clark Manor Skilled Nursing Facility, Chicago. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 2:49 a.m. Thursday to Parkview Court, in the 500 block of South Sixth Ave., for an activated fire alarm and the smell of smoke. There was no report of injuries.

Briefly

Men's addiction recovery group

Addiction recovery group for men. 6 p.m. Sundays in Rossville. Call/text 217-304-4211 or 217-260-1361 for details.

Meetings

- Rossville Village Board, 7 p.m. Monday, village office. Items include an ordinance to issue up to \$1,718,000 in sewage system revenue bonds; discuss a cannabis dispensary and license fees; and hear from Jeremy Deck about a possible liquor license/video gaming license. Full agenda is available at www.villageofrossville.org.
- Hoopeston City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Hoopeston

Letter continued from other side

approach, we now find ourselves in this difficult position. The mask issue is a challenging one, but it should not detract from our primary mission, which is educating students.

To assist with an understanding of why an Illinois school district would choose to comply with a state mask mandate, consider the following profound impacts that are potential outcomes of non-compliance:

- Loss of recognition for our school district with ISBE, which means our students would not be able to earn an accredited diploma from Hoopeston Area CUSD11.
- Loss of Evidence Based Funding (EBF) revenue (last year's funding was \$8, 072,651)
- Loss of federal funding (last year's federal funding was \$1,979,009)
- Loss of Elementary Secondary School Emergency Relief funds (ESSER revenue outstanding is approximately 5 million)
- Inability to participate in IESA/IHSA recognized interscholastic sports or competition, which would mean no school sanctioned, in-state, competitive sports for any Hoopeston Area students
- Loss of tort immunity shield, litigation could be brought against individual board members as well as the district

The majority of school district funding for HA-CUSD #11 is not from local sources. If HACUSD #11 were to lose ISBE recognition, our property tax rate would need to increase approximately 350% to accommodate the loss of state and federal revenue.

Dr. Carmen Ayala, State Superintendent of Education, emailed a letter to all superintendents in Illinois,

City Hall. Action items include approval of ARPA Block 1 funding and a decision on the new Emergency Management Agency building. Agenda and zoom link are available at www.cityofhoopeston.com.

Bowling meetings

Organizational meetings for bowling leagues at Fast Lanes include Monday Night Ladies League, 6:30 p.m. August 16 and ongoing Youth League signups. For more information, call Doug at Fast Lanes, (217) 283-6505.

At the library

Stitchin' Time, 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays. Crochet, knit, sew or other needlecraft, bring your project and coffee and enjoy a morning of fun and conversation!

in which she makes it clear that non-compliance with the mask mandate is not an option. Ayala states, "Local boards of education, schools, and school districts do not have the authority to deny the Governor's Executive Order requiring universal indoor masking in schools. Doing so not only puts students' health and safety at risk but also opens the district to extraordinary legal liability – potentially without any insurance to cover damages. I strongly recommend that each district consult with its legal counsel and insurer to fully understand the repercussions. Further, ISBE has and will use its regulatory authority, pursuant to 23 Ill Admin. Code 1.20, to ensure school districts protect students and staff; if school districts fail to do so, this risks State recognition." Click on this www.hoopeston.k12.il.us/article/510557 to read the complete letter sent by Dr. Ayala.

In the midst of all of the controversy around masking, we want to stay focused on education, and help our students learn. Again, as district leadership, we appreciate your patience and support. We have the opportunity to make the best of a situation we all wish we were not in, and help our kids through this challenging circumstance. We will get through this together.

Robert Richardson
Superintendent Hoopeston Area Schools

Weather

Mostly sunny slight chance of thunderstorms today. High 80. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 63. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 81, low 66.

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

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Floral Hill Cemetery is seeking applications for a full time cemetery employee. Must be willing to work in the elements, have basic computer skills, and work well with the public. Questions, please call City Hall at 217-283-5833 or Floral Hill Cemetery at 217-283-6311. Applications may be picked up at City Hall, 301 W Main St. at the Administration Office Monday-Thursday, 8 am-3 pm and Friday, 8 am-1 pm and must be turned in to the Administration Office at City Hall. Applications available to fill out online at www.cityofhoopeston.com/Services/EmploymentOpportunities.

Part-time Housekeeper wanted (approximately 15 to 20 hours a week, Monday thru Friday daytime) for small, private home without children in Rossville. Must be detail oriented, mature and reliable. We offer competitive wages with flexible hours.

General duties include overall cleaning and tidying of home (living areas, bathroom, kitchen, etc.); changing linens; drop off and pick up service for laundry; cleaning interior windows; removing garbage and recycling; management of household supplies. Optional duties can include running errands (grocery shopping, mail, etc.) and preparing meals for the family.

Email ethomas@hubcitymedia.com with experience and contact information.

Greene Galvanized Stairs seeks a full time customer service representative in East Lynn. Position covers receptionist, data entry, and administrative support duties. Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills and demonstrate attention to detail. General computer usage and data entry skills required. Send resume and cover letter with salary expectations to PO Box 191, East Lynn IL 60932 or careers@greenebinstairs.com.

East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking a full time applicator. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

HIRING Immediately! Local Class A CDL Driver. SIGN ON BONUS. HOME DAILY. Email your contact information to cremeenstrucking@gmail.com. Call Jennifer at 217-799-5762.

KSI is looking for qualified candidates for the following full-time positions in our Cissna Park, IL facility:

***Controls Technician *Production Associate**

***Work Study** – This position is specifically for an incoming high school senior looking for work study credit for the upcoming school year. The student will work in the production and/or shipping departments.

For job descriptions and benefit information, visit our website, www.ksiedge.com and click on the "Join Our Team" tab. Fill out an application from our website, send inquiries to hr@ksiedge.com, or call 785-284-0600 ext. 1422. Applications may also be picked up at our location: 454 N State Route 49,

Cissna Park, IL 60924.

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11620

Silver Brothers is looking for part-time mixer drivers. Hours will vary. Must have Class B CDL, pass a drug test, be able to climb a ladder, and lift 75 lbs. Pay will be \$20/hour to an experienced driver. Perfect opportunity for a retired person wanting some extra money. Stop by 105 E. Washington, Hoopeston for application.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, is offering many job opportunities for full-time applicants, with a full benefit package, or part-time positions. 1st and 2nd shifts available. We offer a part-time flexible work schedule from 8 am-4 30 pm M-F for Moms & Dads.

Graduating seniors that are 18 looking for a summer job or not pursuing a college career, we offer career opportunities.

Apply on-line at www.full-fill.com go to employment or Employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is looking to hire 2-3 part time assistant teachers. Requirements include 18 or older, high school diploma or GED, college credits are preferred but not mandatory for the right candidate, willing to undergo a background check and fingerprinting, flexible and able to work as early as 6 30 a.m. and as late as 5 30 p.m., and have reliable transportation. Please email mustardseed.christiandaycare@gmail.com for application information.

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

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

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 St. in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

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