

John Zollar

Saturday, Sept. 25
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Hoopeston Area boosts substitute pay, approves administrative salary/benefits package

Hoopeston Area approved a bump in long-term sub pay in hopes of finding and keeping substitute teachers.

Due to a teacher shortage in Illinois, Hoopeston Area, along with many other districts in the state, use subs not only to cover when a teacher is sick or on maternity leave, but also to place educators in unfilled teaching positions.

The district had been paying substitutes \$90 per day, said Supt. Robert Richardson, adding other districts are paying \$100 to \$105. Vermilion Area Special Education (VASE) is paying \$85 but, Richardson said, the director there said they can't get enough subs.

To remedy the situation, the board approved bumping the pay \$100 per day for days one-five and \$115 for days

six-45. On the 46th day, substitutes will become part of the bargaining unit and get the daily rate of the base pay.

The board also approved a reward for retired teachers who return as long-term subs, paying \$115 per day for days one-five and \$125 for days six-45. They, too, will be on the base pay scale starting on day 46.

"We are on the upper end of what county schools pay and that's where we would like to stay," Richardson said, adding the increases would become effective immediately after they were passed.

In related action, the board approved administrative salaries, including a recent hire and two transfers.

Katherine Coulter was recently named assistant middle school principal. She will receive a base salary of

\$63,700, with \$6,300 toward retirement, \$9,005.40 toward district health insurance and \$21.60 for district-paid life insurance.

Michelle White, former middle school principal, was named curriculum director at a salary of \$65,520. She will also receive \$6,480 towards retirement, \$9,005.40 towards health insurance and \$21.60 for life insurance.

After White's transfer, Michael Blacketer, was named middle school principal at a base salary of \$70,999.11, plus \$7,021.89 retirement, 9005.40 for health insurance and \$21.60 for life insurance. He was formerly middle school dean of students.

Other administrative compensation for fiscal year 2022
 See PAY on other side

Hoopeston Area praised for reactions shown after injury

A competitor school is praising Hoopeston Area for its reaction to an injury during a recent football game.

At Thursday's district board meeting, Supt. Robert Richardson said that during the HA-Momence game on Sept. 7, one player from each team hit head-to-head. It was a legal hit and the unidentified Cornjerker did not suffer severe injury.

The Momence player, also unidentified, was not as fortunate. The student fell to the field and was unable to get up.


Due to training from AD and athletic trainer Nate Burkowski, coaching staff knew what to do and what not to do. The young man was not moved and EMS was summoned to the Momence field.

The youth was taken to a local hospital, then to a children's hospital, suffering from dislocated vertebrae.

At the field and afterwards, Hoopeston Area players, coaches and others reached out to Momence, actions that were noticed by Supt. Shannon Anderson, who wrote to Richardson, saying the actions taken by
 See INJURY on other side

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Pay continued from other side

includes:

Supt. Robert Richardson, \$125,459.99/\$12,408.13/\$18,010.80/\$21.60.

John Klaber, high school principal, \$88,617.11/\$8,764.33/\$9,005.40/\$21.60

Suzi Root, Maple principal, \$78,428.84/\$7,756.70/\$9,005.40/\$21.60

Dan Walder, John Greer principal, \$84,507.86/\$8,357.92/\$9,005.40/\$21.60

Kim Hutzal, assistant high school principal, \$71,599.70/\$7,081.29/\$1,358.40/\$21.60.

In other personnel matters, the board:

• Hired Connor Gilonske as middle school classroom aide, effective September 9.

• Hired William Rosser as high school Response to Intervention (RtI) teacher, effective September 22.

• Approved Madison Baer as district special education

Injury continued from other side

the students and others in the few days after the injury “spoke volumes” about Hoopeston area. He commended the district for “an excellent display of class and a great reminder of why we do what we do.”

The story has a happy ending as a day or so later, someone asked if the injured athlete was able to move yet. The answer was he “is on the mend, walking and eager to come to school tomorrow,” Richardson related.

Weather

Chance of showers today, tonight. High 64, low 47. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 66, low 47.

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

consultant, effective August 30.

• Hired, pending paperwork completion, Lea Morgan as long term sub for reading interventionist at Maple, effective August 25.

• Hired Terry Griffith, pending proper licensure, as long term sub for middle school PE, effective August 18.

Obituaries

WRIGHT - James Earl Wright, 83, of Woodland, died Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021, at home. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Wednesday and 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Thursday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will follow in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland. Memorials are suggested to Iroquois Memorial Hospice. Condolences may be left at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

Classifieds

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United Prairie-Hoopeston has opening this Fall for the following: CDL Drivers and Non-CDL. Pick up applications at 18978 E 3850 North Rd Hoopeston. For more information call 217/888-0164.

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for a seasonal employee for the Parks Department. Applications are available at Hoopeston City Hall, 301 W. Main St., or online at www.cityofhoopeston.com.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. ****Increased Starting Pay**** We offer great benefits and 11 paid holidays! For more information and to apply, please follow this link: <https://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11980>

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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

• Approved Marta Lesak’s retirement as Maple classroom aide, effective October 29.

• Approved Allison Mann as high school volleyball volunteer.

Court Dispositions

July 21

Travis L. Houser, Rossville, failed to appear at initial appearance for disobeying police. A default was entered and sentencing set for August 11.

Dennis L. Thomas, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty at initial appearance to general nuisance, fined \$180; status hearing August 11.

Juan R. Salas, Hoopeston, initial appearance for two cases of general nuisance, failed to appear. A default was entered for both and sentencing set for August 11.

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