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# Just the Facts

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

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Louridine Florek, Owner

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## HA board unanimously votes against pay raises, takes a look at in-town transportation

Raises for Hoopeston Area district staff were tabled after the district board unanimously voted against a suggested increase.

At the October 21 meeting, the seven-member board voted against a proposal suggested by Supt. Robert Richardson for raises for administrative assistant Rosellen Cornelius; Tim Walsh, building and grounds supervisor; network technician Tim Hillard, Denise Bray, transportation director; business manager Mark Eighner and Chrissy Coffman, payroll clerk.

Richardson said his recommendation was patterned after what educational support personnel received, with Walsh, Hillard and Eighner receiving a three percent increase. For Cornelius, Bray and Coffman, Using the collective bargaining agreement, Richardson suggested a one-time bump for each, based on their years of service.

The district finance committee was scheduled to meet Thursday to discuss the raises, but not take action. "They will give me a direction to shoot for," Richardson said.

In unrelated action, the board discussed the possibility of purchasing vape sensors for high and middle school bathrooms.

The monitors were discussed by the board's buildings and transportation committee after officials received reports of students being excused from class to go to the bathroom. Students text each other to meet up in the bathroom. "You can end up with 25 kids," Richardson told the board.

If approved, vape monitors would send a silent alarm to the office so an adult could check on students.

A 2019 Illinois law makes it illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to use e-cigarettes or vapes.

In other discussion, the board:

- Learned replacing middle school bleachers could take two years to get. An estimate sought last year put the price tag for replacing both sides at \$175,000, expected to be higher now.

- Discussed in-town bus service, an idea that came out of the September strategic planning session. The board discussed a software program that would identify how many

students get on at each bus stop, at a cost of \$750 per month and also a routing system for \$2,500. In all, the setup, including hardware, is expected to cost \$12,000 per year.

- Board President Dave McFadden reminded the board that they "don't need to reinvent the wheel on this. We did this for years up until four years ago."

- Heard from principals Dan Walder and Suzi Root about lost instructional time due to absences and tardiness.

Walder, at John Greer, presented a graph to the board that lost hours due to absences, including close to four weeks when Covid was keeping students home. September attendance was the lowest "compared to forever,"

## Briefly

### Bulk garbage day

Bulk garbage day, for Hoopeston residents only, will be held from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday at Hoopeston City Hall parking lot. Residents are limited to one load per bulk day and must unload their own load or bring someone to help.

Dumping of electronics, appliances, paint, liquids, tires, batteries, yard waste, construction/demolition material or anything that fits in the provided blue totes is not allowed. Items from apartments with a dumpster will not be allowed and items from businesses and contractors will not be permitted.

### Tire collection

A free tire collection for Hoopeston residents will be held at 8-10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 6 at McFerren Park Annex. Enter on South Ninth Ave. off West Elm. The collection is for car and truck tires only. Residents may dispose of up to six tires.

Semi and tractor tires, as well as those from businesses, will not be accepted.

Those unable to come that day or who have no way to get tires to the collection are asked to call Ald. Kel-

See BRIEFLY on other side

although at the time of the board meeting, October was looking higher."

While some absences can't be helped, other can. Walder said he hoped over time, parents could be convinced that a birthday isn't a reason to keep a child from school and that a celebration can be held in the evening.

Root, at Maple, said in October, 25.5 hours of instruction were lost due to tardiness. "Every minute counts," she added.

- At a special meeting before the regular meeting, the board approved banning Gilda Lina from school property for not more than one year. The action stems from a verbal altercation on October 12 in the middle school. Lina

See BOARD on other side



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## Sports

### *Cornjerkers have winning season, lose regional soccer championship*

After decisive wins against Watseka (9-0) and St. Anne (7-4) in rounds one and two of the IHSA soccer regional, Hoopeston Area fell to Bloomington Central Catholic, 8-0, in the regional championship on October 16.

The loss ended a great season for the Cornjerkersm

### *Briefly continued from other side*

lie Ferrell, (217) 597-5760 with number of tires before November 6. Anyone willing to volunteer to help pick up tires before collection day, please contact Ferrell.

#### **Resident reminders**

- The Hoopeston slab is for yard waste only - branches, leaves, grass clippings, etc. Construction and other debris is not allowed.
- Please do not mow grass/rake leaves into the street, as they can clog city sewers. Please place leaves at curbside but not in the gutter.

who finished 19-6-1 overall and 11-0 in conference. The seniors finish their high school career with a record of 60-23-4 in four years and all three years participating in a regional final. There was no post season last spring.

HAHS would like to thank the parents and athletes for making this year something special. The following seniors will be missed next fall: Kayden Wallace, Nick Hofer, Ben Brown, Isaias Diaz, Kamerin Cade, and Derek Drayer. The coaching staff will miss these young men, but are excited about building on this year.

Hoopeston Area will be returning Harrison Woods, Talan Nelson-Gredy, Phoenix Webber, Dylan Judy, Owen Crase, Gavin Montez, Trenton Montez, Preston VanDeVeer, Kaleb Hollen, Mason Rush, Cameron Zorns, Sean Hudson, and Owen Root.

The underclassman finished their junior varsity season with a record 3-0. The team was unable to get many games because few schools had a JV team.

The great thing about playing the three JV games was that in order to fill a JV team, underclass varsity members could get extra minutes in JV action to fill out a full HAHS JV roster. This allowed all returning players for next year to practice in a different position from the spot they started at the varsity level.

By having to move them around, the Cornjerker coaching staff feels this will just increase their depth for next fall, as well allow them to have moving piec-

### *Board continued from other side*

was at the school to complain about her grandchild being picked on.

Middle school Principal Michael Blacketer testified that several adults responded to the office area because they thought a physical altercation might have happened. Blacketer said he believes threats were made to staff during the incident.

This was the second time in less than two months that people were barred from school property. On August 20, three people were barred after a physical altercation broke out as school was dismissing.

## Weather

Frost, then mostly sunny today. High 44. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 48. Tomorrow, sunny. High 47, low 30.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit [justthefacts.net/weather/](http://justthefacts.net/weather/).

es to counter or take advantage against their opponent.

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

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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.

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.

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.

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