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Just the Facts

Friday, December 30, 2022

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Kankakee judge rules parts of SAFE-T Act unconstitutional

A Kankakee County judge on Wednesday struck down parts of Illinois' criminal justice reform law, the SAFE-T (Safety Accountability, Fairness, and Equity-Today) Act.

Chief Judge Thomas W. Cunningham, of the 21st Judicial Circuit, ruled late Wednesday that the bail reform and pre-trial release provisions of the bill are unconstitutional. The ruling came just days before the Pretrial fairness Act was set to become effective across the state.

Kankakee County State's Attorney Jim



LACY

Rowe, a Democrat, led the consolidated case of 64 Illinois counties' state's attorneys who voiced opposition to portions of the Democrat-sponsored law.

Rowe filed suit in September against Gov. J.B. Pritzker, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and the heads of the House and Senate.

Jacqueline Lacy, Vermilion County State's Attorney, also filed suit against state officials in September, saying the law posed "a serious threat to public safe-ty, specifically to victims of and witnesses to violent crimes in our community."

In October, the state Supreme Court consolidated the cases into one, naming Rowe, Lacy, and the state's attorneys of Kendall, Sangamon, McHenry and Will counties as lead counsel.

Cunningham ruled the bail reform, which would have eliminated cash bail, and pre-trial release provisions of the law, are unconstitutional on the basis that it violates the Separation of Powers clause and the Victim Rights Act and unconstitutionally amends Article 1 Section 9 of the Constitution because voters were denied the right to vote on such amendments.

"It is important to note that the Illinois Constitution is not a grant, but a limitation on legislative power," he said in his ruling. "If a statute is unconstitutional, this court is obligated to declare it invalid. This duty cannot be evaded or neglected, no matter how desirable or beneficial the legislation may appear to be."

The ruling means those provisions will not be enforced in the 65 counties that were party to the suit.

Raoul said he will appeal Cunningham's ruling directly to the Illinois Supreme Court.

In a statement issued Thursday, Lacy said "I firmly believe that this well-decided ruling affirms that the sacred Constitutional Rights of all of the citizens of

See RULE on other side

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Rule continued from other side

the State of Illinois are inalienable. The Pre-Trial Fairness Act alone denies crime victims their constitutional rights. Article 1, section 8.1 of the Illinois Constitution codified in the Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act, mandates that crime victims shall have the right to have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered in denying or fixing bail the amount of bail, determining whether to release the defendant and setting conditions of release after arrest and conviction. Requiring an unwarranted additional presumption of no bail clearly contradicts previously

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established and superior law, places crime victims at a greater risk to be re-victimized, and unnecessarily subjects witnesses to threats and intimidation.”

In a statement issued Wednesday night, Pritzer said, “Today’s ruling is a setback for the principles we fought to protect through the passage of the SAFE-T Act. The General Assembly and advocates worked to replace an antiquated criminal justice system with a system rooted in equity and fairness. We cannot and should not defend a system that fails to keep people safe by allowing those who are a threat to their community the ability to simply buy their way out of jail. I thank the Attorney General for his work on this case and look forward to the Illinois Supreme Court taking up the appeal as soon as possible.”

Weather

Chance of rain today. High 47. Tonight, rain likely. Low 35. Tomorrow, chance of rain, then mostly cloudy. High 43, low 34. Sunday, mostly cloudy. High 48, low 38.

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

Briefly

New Year's closings

- Just the Facts will not be printed Monday.
- Hoopeston Public Library will be closed Saturday, Dec. 31. It will reopen with regular hours on Monday, Jan. 2.
- Hoopeston administrative offices will be closed Friday and Monday. Hoopeston Police Department will be open for the holiday.

Community blood drive

A Hoopeston blood drive will be held from noon-4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30 at First Presbyterian Church community room, 915 E. Orange. For an appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org.

Obituaries

KAEB - Urban R. Kaeb, 93, of Cissna Park, died Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022, at home. Private visitation and graveside services were held December 27, with burial in German Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Cissna Park. Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

Cheer card

Steve Baker has successfully completed his stem cell procedure and would enjoy hearing from friends and residents. Cards and letters may be sent to him at: Steve Baker, Room 105, c/o IMD Guest House, 1933 W. Polk St., Chicago IL 60612

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

MILFORD CROSSROADS YOUTH CENTER is seeking a **DIRECTOR.**, Flexible Hours. Working with youth in grades 2-10. Applications available at Milford Building & Loan, Milford Village Hall or on Facebook at Milford Crossroads Youth Center . Contact Rod at (815) 471-4634. Immediate start date.

Hoopeston Police Department is accepting applications until December 31, 2022 for a full time Dispatcher. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W. Main St., or online at www.cityofhoopeston.com.

Fast Lanes looking for weekend Breakfast waitress and cooks. May lead into other days or nights! We also need night waitresses. MUST be available for weekend shifts. Experience helpful! Stop in and get an application! No phone calls/FB messages.

First Christian Church has immediate opening for a secretary, Tuesday-Thursday 8 am-noon. Send a Resume to FCC, PO Box 115, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

Cade's Heating and Air seeks a HVAC service/ installer tech. IL DR license required and Freon license preferred. Must have mechanical ability. HVAC experience preferred. send resume to: ramcade@frontier.com:101 E Penn St. Hoopeston, Starting pay based on experience.

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Operators. Please apply online at: <https://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12655>

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Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/ Maintenance position. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12406/0



The City of Hoopeston Water Department is seeking sealed bids for its 1996 Dodge Service Truck. Bid specs are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. The truck can be viewed in the alley of the Hoopeston Water Plant. Bids are due by 10 am Friday, January 13th at City Hall. Bids will be open at 10 am Friday, January 13th, 2023.

As we move

Out with the Old and In with the New,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps make Just the Facts possible.

Thank you to my advertisers, who realize the importance of a local news publication and recognize that everyone is not plugged in to social media!

Thank you to the people who submit pictures and stories!

Thank you to those who point out my mistakes so I can correct them!

Thank you to those who take extra steps to make my job easier!

Thank you to those who read Just the Facts, not only locally, but around the world, and who let me know how much it means to them.

Here's to a healthy and bountiful 2023!

Lourdine