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**Thursday, June 29, 2023**  
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!  
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## New state law not expected to change HPL practices

A new law signed into law earlier this month by Gov. J.B. Pritzker is not expected to change how Hoopeston Public Library chooses books and other materials.

On June 12, Pritzker signed HB2789 into law, banning book bans in the state, tasking the Illinois State Librarian and Illinois State Library with adopting the American Library Association's (ALA) *Library Bill of Rights* statewide, or, alternatively, "work together to develop their own written statement, declaring that libraries must provide an adequate collection of books and other materials to satisfy the people of Illinois," according to a press release on the new law.

The release stated that in 2022, there were 67 attempts

to ban books in the state. Targeted books cover a wide range of categories and predominantly consists of stories by and about people of color and the LGBTQ+ community, according to the release.

Under the provisions of the new law, which takes effect January 1, 2024, Illinois libraries would only be eligible for state-funded grants if they adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights.

While proponents of the law tout that it is the first such law in the nation and opponents say the vague language makes the law "bunk," for Hoopeston Public Library staff, it will be business as usual.

"I don't feel this law will change how I do my job," said library Director Tricia Freeland. "I believe everyone has the right to read what they want to read. I just make it available. And if we don't have something on the shelf they are looking for, we are connected to almost 400 libraries in Illinois that we can likely borrow from."

The goal of Hoopeston Public Library District is "to provide materials and services to help our community obtain information to meet their educational, cultural, and entertainment needs," Freeland said. "We make available a wide diversity of views and expressions, sometimes including those that are unpopular. We try not to limit what's on the shelves. Parents have a responsibility to know what their child is reading, but not restrict what others are reading."

HPL has a "request for reconsideration form" available to those who would like to challenge an item on the library's shelves, she said. On the form, a person can explain their concerns. Freeland then takes the form to the library's board of trustees for a decision. "This has only happened once since I have been director and we did not remove the item," said Freeland, who has served as director since October 2014.

The reconsideration form includes the following statement: *The American Library Association supports the First Amendment of the United States Constitution guar-*  
 See HPL on other side

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## Briefly

### At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include:

**Operation Discovery:** Kids ages 4-12 are invited for hands-on activities with Kellie Blanden of WILL, Illinois Public Media on Thursdays. 1-2 p.m. for ages 4-8 and 2-3 p.m. for ages 9-12.

**Free Family Carnival,** 1-3 p.m. Friday on the library grounds. All ages welcome! Games, prizes, fun, Big Bubble activities, Rotary Ice Cream and superheroes will be on hand!

**City Chat** with Mayor Jeff Wise, 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

For more information on library programs, stop by 110 N. Fourth St. or call (217) 283-6711.

## Letters to the Editor

### Thoughts on the storm siren issue

My fellow Hoopestonians,

Doing away with the warning sirens makes me think of the words of a famous fictional character, Forrest Gump: "Stupid is as stupid does."

John Palmer  
Hoopeston

## Two-vehicle accident claims lives of three people Tuesday night

The names of three people killed in an accident Tuesday night were not released as of Wednesday morning, pending notification of family.

The accident occurred at 7:23 p.m. Tuesday, when an eastbound Toyota Camry on 3550 N, near Rt. 49, ran through a stop sign and hit a Jeep in the driver's side.

The driver of the Camry and two people in the Jeep were killed, according to police reports. Rt. 49 was closed for about six hours while the crash was investigated and the site cleared of debris.

The Camry had been reported stolen from Rantoul Monday. At 7:10 p.m. Tuesday, an officer spotted the Camry, which was eastbound at speeds estimated at 100 m.p.h., according to published reports. Concerned for officer safety, the officer stopped pursuing the Camry at 900 E and 3100 N in Champaign County. The officer reported the car was northbound.

State police reported that about 15 minutes later, the car was involved in the fatal crash.

## Obituaries

**KUNTZ** - Charlo W. "Charlie" Kuntz, 95, of Hoopeston, died at 4:46 p.m. Friday, June 23, 2023, at Autumn Fields, Hoopeston. Visitation will be 3-7 p.m. Wednesday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Floral Hill Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to IMH Hospice, 200 Laird Lane, Watseka IL 60970. Condolences may be shared at [www.anderson-funeral-home.com](http://www.anderson-funeral-home.com).

## From the Blotter

James Brayboy, 25, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 7:06 p.m. Tuesday at West McCracken and North Seventh Ave. Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, he was processed at the police station, then taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

## Fire Calls

**Hoopeston Fire Department** was called at 7:26 a.m. Tuesday for mutual aid with Rossville Fire Department for a structure fire at East Attic and North 1830 East Rd.

**Firefighters were called** at 8:07 p.m. Tuesday for lift assistance at Centennial Manor, 426 E. Honeywell.

## HPL continued from other side.

*anteeing all individuals the right to express their ideas without governmental interference, and to read and listen to the ideas of others freely. The Freedom to Read Foundation was established to promote and defend this right; to foster libraries and institutions wherein every individual's First Amendment freedoms are fulfilled; and to support the right of libraries to include in their collections and make available any work which they may legally acquire."*

Current board members, who would be tasked with reviewing such a request, include Tom Theesfeld, president, Rita Carter, vice-president, Janet Crouch, secretary, Lawrence Jahn, treasurer, and trustees Sherry Miller, Debby Dixon and Linda Masengale.

Some libraries depend on state grants to a larger extent than does HPL. The bulk of the local library's funding comes from the property tax levy of .15% of the equalized assessed value. In its most recent fiscal year, the levy was \$200,000, Freeland said.

Other money comes from the Personal Property Replacement Tax from the City of Hoopeston and Grant Township. This money - about \$65,000 from the city and \$5,000 from the township last year - is collected by the state and paid to local governments to replace money lost when local governments lost the power to impose personal property taxes on corporations, partnerships and other business entities, Freeland said. HPL also receives around \$3,000 of Rossville tax increment financing money for being part of the library.

Each year, the library applies for a grant from the Illinois State Library through the Public Library Per Capita and Equalization Aid grant, which is about \$12,000. Donations and memorials round out the library's funding sources, Freeland said.

Tenets of the American Library Association Bill of Rights, originally adopted in June 1939, are:

- Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

## Weather

Chance of thunderstorms toay, tonight. High 90, low 68. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms, showers likely late. High 90, low 67.

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

- Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

- Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

- Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

- A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

- Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

- All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Silgan Containers is hiring an Electrician - Industrial/Maintenance Technician. Please apply online at: [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13392](http://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13392)

Aquality Solutions is looking for men or women to deliver its products to area businesses and residential customers. This position offers benefits and incentive bonuses. Apply in person at 102 N 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

Truck Drivers needed. Must have clean driving record. Contact Brent @ 815-405-4000 [sintruckinginc@gmail.com](mailto:sintruckinginc@gmail.com)

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

### RUMMAGE SALES

HOOPESTON: 809 W. Main. Thurs. & Fri. 7-4, Sat. 7-1. Five family sale. Something for everyone!

HOOPESTON: 520 S. Fourth St. Thurs., 5-7, Fri. 8-4, Sat. 8-? Scrubs, shoes, Nike items, PINK, Farewell dresses, Cornjerker clothing, lots of teen girl clothes, and plenty more to check out. Check out our bargains for your back to school shopping. Many items are new with tags. Glotzbach/Butzow/Goble

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