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Monday, July 10, 2023
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
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Largest ever state construction program includes local work

SPRINGFIELD - Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Friday unveiled the largest-ever construction program in state history that includes a couple of small projects in northern Vermilion County.

Pritzker announced the \$33.2 billion, multi-year program at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) headquarters in Springfield. The new program is the first time in more than a decade that IDOT is releasing a comprehensive approach to invest in all modes of transportation: roads and bridges, aviation, transit, freight and passenger rail, waterways, as well as bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

In IDOT District 5, which includes Vermilion County, \$30 million of the pot will be used for resurfacing 7.2 miles of I-74, ramp repairs, bridge replacements, bridge deck overlay and other improvements from US 150/ Illinois 1 to the Indiana state line.

Closer to home, \$1.5 million is earmarked to replace a bridge 1.9 miles south of Hoopeston. In the Bismarck area, \$8,500,000 is slated to replace a bridge over the east branch of the Vermilion River, west of Bismarck and \$500,000 for a bridge at Painter Creek, one-tenth mile south of Holloway Ave.

In District 3, Iroquois County will see an estimated

47.9 million spent of resurfacing 15.3 miles, bridge repairs, bridge deck overlay and additional improvements from the Ford County line to Buckley interchange and from Illinois 54 to U.S. 24.

According to a press release, the [Fiscal Year 2024-29 Proposed Highway and Multimodal Improvement Program](#) aims to invest \$27.03 billion in roads and bridges, with \$4.6 billion identified for the current fiscal year. A total of \$13.96 billion is programmed for other modes, which includes \$9.85 billion for transit, \$2.67 billion for freight and passenger rail, \$1.25 billion for aviation and \$190 million for ports and waterways. [Projects are spread out across state and local transportation systems](#), touching each of the 102 counties in Illinois.

The release said that on the highways side, the program aims to improve 3,006 miles of roads and just over 9.8 million square feet of bridge deck on the state system, with anticipated funding maintaining 738 miles of roads and 1.1 million square feet of bridge deck for infrastructure overseen by local governments. Overall, the program will increase the investment in Illinois roads and bridges by \$2.43 billion over six years, due in part to engineering and planning efforts in the early years of Rebuild Illinois starting to result in more construction activity.

Meteorologist to be featured at HPL program Thursday

Meteorologist Jacob Dickey of WCIA-TV, Champaign, will speak at 2 p.m., Thursday, July 13, at Hoopeston Public Library. The program is open to all area residents - adults and children. Dickey will share about his job and the wild, wacky weather of central Illinois.

A native of Gibson City, Jacob grew up watching WCIA 3 News. He was a Weather Watcher for Judy Fraser, a Kidscaster for Robert Reese, and an intern for Derick Faibert. Now, he gets to forecast and cover the weather for the communities he grew up caring about and loving.

Jacob graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Sciences Education with a Secondary Teaching License. He holds a Master's degree in Professional Meteorology with an emphasis in Broadcast from Mississippi State University (MSU).



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Briefly

At the library

Mary Hartwell Catherwood Book Club, 1:30 p.m. Monday. The selection is "The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris.

Obituaries

HAMRICK - Frieda L. (Egolf) Hamrick, 93, of Cissna Park, died Monday, July 3, 2023, at Ascension St. Mary's Hospital, Kankakee. Visitation was 1 p.m. until the 3 p.m. funeral Saturday at United Methodist Church, Cissna Park. Burial was in Amity Cemetery, Goodwine. Memorials are suggested to the church or Cissna Park Fire Department. Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

WEBSTER - Greg E. Webster, 90, of Houston, Tex., formerly of Rankin, died July 4, 2023. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Thursday at First United Methodist Church, Watska. Burial will be in Prairie Dell Cemetery, with military honors by American Legion Post 23. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Knapp Funeral Homes is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

Jacob Dickey, WCIA meteorologist, will speak at 2 p.m. Thursday. The program is open to all area residents of all ages.

For more information on library programs, call (217) 283-6711.

Coffee, Craft & Conversation 10 a.m.-noon Wednesdays. Crochet, knit, sew and other needlecraft, along with those who do other portable handcrafts are inviting to bring their projects and enjoy a morning of fun and conversation!

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

Koffee & Konversation

Hoopeston Methodist Church will hold Koffee & Konversation at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays. Free coffee, sweets and conversation. All are welcome!

HMA activities

Women's Morning Donut Group meets at 8:15 a.m. every Wednesday in the large room at Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave. Come join us!

Card group meets Wednesday for euchre starting 12:30.

For more information on Multi Agency programs, call (217) 283-5544 or stop by 206 S. First Ave.

Music service

Chestnut Street Church has started up its evening music service again. It will be held at 6 p.m. the third Sunday of each month. Everyone is invited. This month, special music will be provided by Jeff Good and his band.

Resident reminders

● Residents are asked to not put grease down sinks or toilets as it causes blockages in city sewers. Residents are also asked not to flush so-called flushable wipes down the toilet. They do not break down and create blockages.

● Residents are asked to refrain from mowing grass into city streets. Those who do may be issued a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

● Hoopeston residents are reminded that blue garbage totes are to be placed five feet away from vehicles, buildings and each other to allow trucks to pick up quickly and safely.

Weather

Sunny today. High 86. Tonight, mostly clear Low 62. Tomorrow, sunny, chance of thunderstorms late. High 88, low 65.

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

From the Blotter

Clarence Callahan IV, 23, of Hoopeston, was ticketed after a traffic stop at 2:59 p.m. Friday in the 700 block of East Honeywell. He was charged with expired registration, no insurance and violation of classification/motorcycle, and was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court.

Kyla Wiesner, 32, of Battle Creek, Mich., was arrested after police were called several times to the 500 block of West Maple for a domestic dispute.

Wiesner was arrested at 4:01 a.m. Saturday, charged with disobeying police. After being processed at the police station, she was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Samantha Morgan, 36, of Rankin, was ticketed after a traffic stop at 8:14 p.m. Saturday at South Second Ave. and West Penn. She was charged with failure to obtain appropriate registration and operating an uninsured vehicle.

Morgan was released on notices to appear in Vermilion County Traffic Court. Her vehicle was towed from the scene.

Court Dispositions

June 14

Arben Gashi, Orland Park, appeared for general nuisance. He complied and was fined costs only of \$80; paid in full, case closed.

James A. Bieber, Dugger, failed to appear at status hearing for disobeying police, found guilty by default, fined \$180; status hearing July 12.

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

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 1st 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

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.

Email publish@justthefacts.net to place your ad or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!

Just the Facts

Summer Snaps

Photo Contest

June 20-September 20

1 photo selected each week to compete for a \$25 monthly prize.

One photographer will win a

\$100 Grand Prize!

Open to amateur photographers only. Limit 1 photo/week/person. Decision of the judges is final. By submitting photos, photographer gives Just the Facts all rights to photos.

Entries must be less than 2 MB in size. Email photos to publish@justthefacts.net and include "photo contest" in subject line, names of subjects in photo (if applicable), location and photographer's real (not screen) name.

