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Just the Facts

Monday, April 22, 2024

Hoopeston's only locally-owned news publication!

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High school principal named new Milford superintendent

John Klaber has been a Cornjerker for most of his life. Born in Wellington, his family moved to Hoopeston when he was four. He attended Hoopeston schools and after graduating college, returned to teach in Hoopeston Area schools.



KLABER

Come July 1, however, his allegiance will shift to bearcats and bats.

Klaber was named superintendent of Milford Area Public Schools #124 at Wednesday's MAPS board meeting.

The district includes K-12 students from Milford and Sheldon. The Sheldon school is used for a morning pre-kindergarten class and other programs, like one for credit recovery.

The opening at Milford was created when current MAPS Supt. Michele Lindenmeyer announced in January her intent to retire June 30. The board began an Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) search for her replacement.

Klaber decided to apply based on several factors, including the district's rich history, a high level of community support, upgraded facilities, and familiarity with the area and community. "However, what stood out most to me was the distinct motto of "building the extraordinary," as it resonated deeply with my own values and aspirations in educational leadership," Klaber said. "This motto encapsulates a commitment to not just meeting expectations but surpassing them, fostering a culture of innovation, excellence, and inclusivity in education while inspiring greatness in students, educators, and the community. The opportunity to become a superintendent and help lead a district in that vision was incredibly compelling to me."

MAPS board President Mary Ronna said five candidates were interviewed in the first round, with three called

back for a second look. "Mr. Klaber stood out as the top candidate," Ronna said, adding Klaber was "very reflective" and "energetic." His familiarity with the area was also a plus, as well as his understanding of the needs of the district and students. Additionally, she said, he was well-versed in the latest technology. Saying Klaber is an "outstanding person," and friendly, she said the district is looking forward to his leadership. "Mr. Klaber brings innovative ideas to the district; will continue to build the extraordinary education offered to MAPS #124 students.

Klaber's appointment approved in a 7-0 vote. A three-year contract was approved, with an official start date of July 1.

Ronna did not respond to a request for Klaber's starting salary.

Officially hired at Milford on Wednesday, Klaber's resignation as Hoopeston Area High School principal was accepted by the Hoopeston Area board at Thursday's meeting, effective June 30. Hoopeston Area will conduct a search to replace him, said Supt. Robert Richardson. "I believe the teacher shortage is being observed in the search (shortage of) administrators," he said. "I have optimistic goals to have a candidate before the end of the school year."

Richardson, superintendent since 2019, had praise for Klaber, calling him "a great human with great people skills and I believe he will use his talents very well to serve the students, staff and families of Milford Area Schools."

After graduating Hoopeston Area High School, Klaber attended Eastern Illinois University, completing a bachelor of science in health studies degree, with a teacher education. See SUPERINTENDENT on other side

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Cheeseburgers for Paradise

For every Cheeseburger purchased from 5 pm - close on Tuesdays, we will donate \$5 to that night's featured Church. This week's recipient is

Bismarck First Christ Church
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Briefly

P.E.P. Party

Hoopeston United Methodist Church will hold its free monthly People Enjoying People potluck party at

Superintendent continued from other side

cation major in December 2004; a master's in educational administration in August 2011; and a specialist degree in education in May 2023.

Klaver was hired at Hoopeston Area in 2005, teaching middle school science and high school health for 11 years.

He was student support services coordinator for two years and was named high school principal in 2018.

Asked what strengths he will bring to his new position, he said, "I firmly believe that a high school diploma is the cornerstone of lifelong success, and I am dedicated to ensuring every student achieves this milestone. My strengths in team building and collaboration enable me to foster a supportive environment where educators work together to personalize learning experiences and address the diverse needs of students. With a focus on empowering both students and staff, I will leverage these talents as superintendent to continue to help maintain the culture of excellence, equity, and innovation in the Milford district."

Overseeing a district will be different from overseeing a building. "Transitioning from a high school principal to a superintendent entails a shift from operational management to strategic leadership, focusing on district-wide initiatives rather than just school-specific issues," Klaver said. "As a superintendent, my scope of responsibility will extend beyond the confines of a single school to encompass the entire district, requiring a broader understanding of educational policies, community involvement, and fiscal management.

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve the students, staff, and community of Hoopeston Area," Klaver said. "I am proud of the progress we have made together in advancing the mission and vision of HAHS and the Hoopeston Area School District, and I am immensely grateful for the support and opportunities I have received during my time here. I will cherish the memories and relationships formed here and carry them with me as I embark on this new journey."

It's not like Klaver is shutting himself off from his Hoopeston Area roots. Carrying on the Cornjerker connection are his wife, Whitley, who is the district curriculum assistant, daughter Mady, who is 15 and a HAHS freshman, and son, Rhett, is five and in pre-kindergarten.

5 p.m. Monday at the church, 403 E. Main St.

Main dish, drinks and table service provided. Those who want to bring a side dish or dessert to share are welcome to do so. All are welcome to come.

At the Library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include:

Littles @ the Library, 10:45 a.m. Tuesdays. Pre-school story, craft and playtime for children from birth to age 5 and their caregivers.

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 con-

Lunch Menus

Maple/John Greer

MONDAY: Hotdog/bun, baked beans, cucumber slices, applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: BBQ/bun, green beans, celery sticks, pears, milk

WEDNESDAY: Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, gravy, celery sticks, peaches, milk

THURSDAY: Ravioli, Max Stick, baby carrots, salad, pineapple, milk

FRIDAY: Cheese pizza, salad, mixed fruit, Veggy Juice, milk

Hoopeston Area Middle School

MONDAY: Popcorn chicken, green beans, veggies, applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: Biscuit & gravy, sausage links, hash browns, veggies, mandarin orange, milk

WEDNESDAY: Spaghetti, Max Stick, salad, pears, milk

THURSDAY: Taco Max Snax, refried beans, chips & salsa, salad, pineapple, milk

FRIDAY: Pizza, salad, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area High School

MONDAY: Popcorn chicken or hot ham & cheese, salad bar, green beans, applesauce, milk, juice

TUESDAY: Biscuit & gravy or Hot Pocket, sausage links, hash browns, salad bar, mandarin orange, milk, juice

WEDNESDAY: Spaghetti or calzone, Max Stick, salad bar, pears, milk, juice

THURSDAY: Taco Max Snax or cheeseburger, refried beans, chips & salsa, salad bar, pineapple, milk, juice

FRIDAY: Pizza or chicken strips, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk, juice.

versation!

Kids STEAM Lab, 3:30 p.m. Thursday. This week's project Engineering milk carton birdfeeders.

An herb gardening workshop will be held at 1:30 p.m. Monday, April 29, presented by Ford-Iroquois Master Gardeners. The free program will focus on growing and using various herbs. Advance registration is recommended. The first 10 people to sign up will be entered for to win an herb pot. Free herb seeds will be available.

HMA activities

Women's Morning Donut Group meets at 8:15 a.m. every Wednesday in the large room at Hoopeston

Obituaries

JOHNSON - Edgar E. Johnson, 85, of Cissna Park, died Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at Accolade Healthcare of Savoy. Visitation was 2-5 p.m. Sunday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park and 9 a.m. until the 10 a.m. funeral Monday at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cissna Park. Burial will follow in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Cissna Park, with military rites by Cissna Park American Legion Post 527. Memorials are suggested to the Elevator Fund at Trinity Lutheran Church. Condolences may be shared at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

RAINWATER - Robert Leonard "Bob" Rainwater, 68, of Hoopeston, died at 2:15 a.m. April 13, 2024 at The Loft Rehabilitation Center, Decatur. Graveside service will be at Floral Hill Cemetery at a later date. Rortvedt Funeral Services & Crematory is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at www.rortbedtfuneralservices.com.

From the Blotter

Joel J. Garcia-Hernandez, 30, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 7:33 p.m. Friday in the 400 block of West Penn. Wanted on Vermilion and Douglas county warrants, he was processed at the police station for processing and was later released on bond with notices to appear in each county court.

Weather

FROST ADVISORY 2 a.m.-8 a.m. Monday. Areas of frost, then sunny today. High 65. Tonight, chance of showers. Low 49. Tomorrow, showers, partly cloudy late. High 61, low 37.

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

Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave. Come join us!

Card group meets Wednesday for euchre starting 12:30.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Multi Agency is hiring a Van Driver 2-3 days a week from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday- Friday. Applications can be picked up at the Hoopeston Multi Agency. A valid driver's licenses and safe driving record is required.

Join Our Team! We're seeking a skilled Technician/Mechanic passionate about their craft. If you're a self-starter who thrives in a team environment, we'd love to hear from you. Candidates should possess their own tools and a valid driver's license. Offering a competitive pay of \$25/hr (flat rate). Interested? Visit us in person to apply at 1919 E 500 N Rd, Milford, Illinois 60953. Let's build something great together - no online inquiries, please. Apply in person to take the first step towards your new career.

Robinson Chiropractic is looking for energetic, enthusiastic, self-motivated, and a strong individual who has an interest in natural healthcare. Candidates will be trained to assist with patient care. Medical insurance experience is welcomed but not required. We have competitive wages, PTO, and a Simple IRA contribution. Full-time employees receive free Chiropractic care. If interested, please send your resume to trina.keller@robchiro.com.

Hubbard Trail Golf Course is hiring bartenders/waitstaff. We are looking for friendly faces to provide exceptional service to our guests in a friendly and timely manner. Also maintain and keep the bar and dining area clean. Candidates must have Food Handlers and Basset or be willing to obtain these licenses. Applications can be filled out at Hubbard Trail Golf Course, 13937 E 3680 N Rd Hoopeston IL 60942

Hubbard Trail Golf Course is hiring a Part-Time Greens Keeper. Duties include but not limited to mowing fairways and greens, trimming and edging around trees, pulling weeds, picking up sticks, and raking. Applications can be filled out at Hubbard Trail Golf Course, 13937 E 3680 N Rd Hoopeston IL

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at silgancontainers.wd1.myworkday.com/en-US/silgan/job/Mechanic_R168.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is hiring for 2nd Production Machine Operators, \$18/hour. Apply at www.full-fill.com Applications available onsite. EOE

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.

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.