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Just the Facts

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Hoopeston's only locally-owned news publication!

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

Board taps Hutzel to be new Hoopeston Area High principal

A familiar face will have a new role when Hoopeston Area High School is back in session.

Kim Hutzel, who has served as assistant principal since May 2019, has been named HAHS principal, effective July 1.

She replaces John Klaber who is resigning June 30 as HAHS principal to serve as superintendent of Milford Area Public Schools #124.

Originally from Auburn, near Springfield, Hutzel earned her undergrad degree in history with an education endorsement from Eastern Illinois University in 2001. In 2006, she received a master's degree in applied history from Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, Penn., and her administrative degree from Hood College in Frederick, Md., in 2012.

Before coming to Hoopeston, Hutzel spent 17 years in



HUTZEL

Hagerstown, Md., teaching social studies for 14 years at Williamsport, Md., then three years at the district office as the high school social studies content specialist for Washington County Public Schools.

"My family and I were looking to get back closer to my family and hometown and we were in a good position to move," Hutzel said, adding the family moved to Hoopeston in August 2018.

Applying to be high school principal "just felt like the next natural step in my career," Hutzel said. "I love this building and staff, and I want to be able to continue all of the great things that John Klaber and I have started at the

See PRINCIPAL on other side

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 with a Rib Eye Sandwich
Saturday, June 29!

Played in the Shade

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Enjoy the tree-shaded, breeze-cooled course in
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Open 1:30-7:30 p.m. daily

Weather permitting
 Enjoy a free popsicle after your game!



Photo contributed

Take me to your leader

A motorist on the way to work Friday snapped a picture of the cell tower at the city slab, looking like an alien being hovering over Hoopeston in the morning fog.

Principal continued from other side

high school.”

Asked whether she might use this move as a springboard to a larger district or a superintendent’s position somewhere, Hutzel said, “I do not see myself going on to a larger school or becoming a superintendent. I never thought I would be in high school administration because I loved being in the classroom, but I have really found administration to be rewarding in a way that I never thought it would.

“There are many things that I like about being the assistant principal, such as the variety of interactions I get to have with the students. I see them in the hallways and lunchroom, but I also get to pop into their classrooms to see what they are working on and learning. I love to ask the kids to explain what is going on to me so I can hear it from their perspective.

Asked what she liked least about that job, “that would be hard to say,” she said. “Some interactions with students can be difficult, but it is all about relating what they are doing now to their lives beyond HS. Sometimes students have a hard time seeing that, but continuing to be supportive as they work through the process is really important.”

As assistant principal, Hutzel said there is a balance between dealing with students and administrative issues and doesn’t see that changing much in her new role. “I do realize there will be more administrative issues that I naturally will have to take over, but I want to continue to maintain my interactions and relationships with the students. I feel that is one of my most important jobs as an administrator in general, to have a good understanding of the pulse of the building.”

Along with her educational credentials, Hutzel said she has personal skills to bring to the table, as well. She said she is “very organized and I would describe myself as very hands-on,” wanting to be involved with many aspects of the building to better understand it and support it “so that we can see success.” Another skill is prioritizing tasks, a variety of which can be thrown at administration at any moment. Knowing how to prioritize those tasks is also very important in running a school building smoothly and safely,” she said.

Weather

Partly sunny, slight chance of thunderstorms today. High 93. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 72. Tomorrow, sunny. High 94, low 71.

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

Supt. Robert Richardson said the district was looking for a servant leader to oversee the high school and that Hutzel brings experience, familiarity with students, staff and the system to the position.

The opening was posted internally at the school on applicant tracks and the Illinois Association of School Administrators job bank website. Three people applied and were interviewed. Hutzel was the only candidate in-district to apply, he said. Hutzel was selected and offered a one-year contract with a base salary of \$95,000, he said.

As assistant principal, Hutzel’s base salary was \$76,697.61.

In addition to her skills, Hutzel also provides a couple of students for the district, in son Colin and daughter, Maci. Her husband, Sean Hutzel, is a retired correctional officer and currently works for the district as a custodian. “In our spare time, we like to travel and spend time with our family here in Illinois and back in Maryland,” she said.

With the principal’s position filled, the district has turned its attention to filling the spot Hutzel is vacating. The job is posted in the same places as the principal search, Richardson said.

City Hall to be open as cooling center Thursday-Saturday

Beginning at 8 a.m. Thursday, June 20, 2024 through 7 p.m. Sunday, June 23, 2024, the City of Hoopeston will open city hall to be used as a cooling center.

Residents are reminded to stay hydrated, stay in air-conditioned rooms, stay out of the sun, and check up on relatives and neighbors. Take extra precautions if you work or spend time outside. Anyone overcome by heat should be moved to a cool and shaded location and call 9-1-1 immediately.

If pets are outdoor animals, make sure they have plenty of fresh, cool water and have a shaded spot outdoors or make arrangements to bring them inside.

Obituaries

MATTHEWS - Bruce Edward Matthews, 72, of Rossville, died June 16, 2024 in Watseka after a long illness. A wake will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at Holy Family Catholic Church, Danville, followed by a funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Burial will be private. Memorials are suggested to Iroquois Memorial Hospice, Watseka, or Family Service in Champaign. Anderson Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at anderson-funeral-home.com.