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Looking for a quiet, peaceful place



By
BERTHA PARSONS

The election is over. I sure hope you voted. The leaves are falling, the winter winds are blowing and I'm looking for a peaceful place. Why is it when fall turns into winter and the sun shines less, everything in our life seems worse? So we have to turn ourselves around and find some peace. Whatever is "normal" life as we know it? It's that rush to get everything done on a certain day and a certain time, for what? Having a "normal" day may not be normal at all. Usually we find ourselves in crazy situations, we run out of time and out of money. We blame our spouse, the unruly kids, the neighbor's loud music, even the Pastor who's sermon was just for me. Peace, where are you? So much going on and out of control that if we aren't careful we could go crazy. My husband often says, "You can't save the whole world." Why not? It certainly needs saved and I could give it a try. My mother often said, "If each of us did just one kindness a day what a wonderful world we would have." So let's try and help our corner of the world.

Where to look for that peaceful place? Let me help you with a few awesome places that I bet you never thought of. That old recliner under a low light bulb creases your body with peace and joy. I love reading a book and find myself peacefully in another time and place. Our library is a beautiful peaceful place to relax, read, study or just do nothing.

Old pictures in albums or in stacks on the floor as you sit with your legs crossed as you hold those pictures in your hands the memories flow peacefully through you. Perhaps you have a special place in your home or outside that fills the bill for your peaceful place.

Each of us needs a retreat, a corner of peace. When you find your peaceful place or a peaceful activity hold it close to your heart. In your peaceful place, you may find quiet joy, a new way to see a better life, a friend or a new job that fulfills your need for peace.

Looking for a peaceful place in all the right places. Start now!

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Lourdine Florek, Owner

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HA basketball coach resigns for second time this year

For the second time in less than a year, Matt Colston has resigned as Hoopeston Area head basketball coach.

At a special meeting Monday night, the district board, in a 5-1 vote, accepted Colston's resignation. Lisa Leigh was the sole no vote.

Sixteen people spoke on Colston's behalf after board President Mark Schaumburg told the audience that speakers would be limited to three minutes each and that anyone attacking the board, being rude or obnoxious would be removed from the meeting.

Supporting the coach were the basketball team, parents and fellow coaches. Players called Colston "a great coach," "best coach we ever had" and said "he pushed us to be better."

"He makes us better people and more respectful people," said Keegan Roark.

Ross Bryll, head girls basketball coach, said Colston "is definitely held to a different standard." Bryll asks for things and is told yes, while Colston asks for things and is told no. "He does more for this school than any other coaches," Bryll said. "To fire him because of personality clashes (is wrong). If it can happen to him, it can happen to any of us."

Colston was one of four coaches whose resignations See COACH on other side

Second Hail to the Chief to feature music, BBQ drawing

Don't shop until you drop on Black Friday and miss the second annual Hail to the Chief event.

Hail to the Chief - a fundraising event for one of former Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger's favorite causes - will give area residents cause to celebrate the day after Thanksgiving.

The event, to benefit United Community Fund of Grant Township, will be held from 7-10 p.m. Friday, Nov. 23 at Chief Drollinger's favorite local watering hole, Hoopeston American Legion, 502 E. Penn.

Entertainment will be provided by El Guapo. There is a recommended minimum \$5 donation at the door. All proceeds will benefit the nonprofit organizations served by Grant Township Community Fund.

A 50/50 drawing will also be held and winners of the community fund's Barbecue Raffle will also be chosen.

On tap for the raffle is a Char-Broil electric smoker, \$100 gift certificate from Rawhide Meat Co. in Danville and a basket filled with grilling supplies. The prize package is valued at \$600.

Tickets for the raffle are \$5 each or five for \$20 and are available at the Legion, Hoopeston Public Library, First Farmers Bank & Trust, First Financial Bank, Hoopeston Multi Agency, Iroquois Federal, and Heritage Health.



The raffle package for Hail to the Chief, valued at \$600.

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Coach continued from other side

were sought in March. Two of those - Colston's and that of volleyball coach Samantha Pugh - were tabled after nearly 50 people showed up to protest the action.

In May, the board named Colston district athletic director, replacing Michl Kearney, whose resignation as AD was approved at the March meeting. Colston's appointment was for the 2018-19 school year.

Colston was hired in 2012 and is listed as the high school's world geography teacher.

In other business, the board heard information about Redefining Ready, a national initiative from the

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American Association of School Administrators (AASA) that relies less on test scores and more on what it calls "new research-based metrics" to determine if high school students are ready for college, career and life.

According to AASA literature on the program, "standardized test scores - traditionally used as the primary readiness indicator - do not always provide an accurate representation of our students' potential. Today's students are driven by ideas and innovations. They should not be reduced down to, or defined by, a single test score. Our students are MORE than a SCORE."

Ways of achieving that goal include offering students classes in both career and college paths, dual enrollment in college courses and internships in local businesses, among others.

High school principal and assistant principal John Klaber and Kimberly Hutzler presented information on Redefining Ready and Kevin Root, business/accounting teacher, had suggestions for long-range programs, if the board is willing. Those programs include help desk certificates, with testing by Adobe; Amazon Store; School Spirit Store, Cornjerker Café; Distribution Education Clubs of America (DECA); screen printing at the school; curriculum development; internships; and courses in programming/coding game design, service and product marketing and introduction to small business; and a think tank for future planning.

Klaber said "If we are able to expand our programs, there are cost savings, not just money going out, it'll bring money into our school."

Root added that they also want to start a Future

Prairie Green to host community Thanksgiving worship service

Prairie Green Church of Christ will host the annual Community Thanksgiving worship service, which will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday. Sponsored by Hoopeston Area Ministerial Association, all are welcome to the service of praise and thanksgiving.

Weather

Sunny today. High 36. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 24. Tomorrow, chance of snow, then rain/snow. High 35, low 26.

Business Leaders of America club.

Presentations on Redefining Ready and The Happiness Advantage/Orange Frog were to be discussed at a business after hours Tuesday at Hoopeston American Legion. Hors d'oeuvres were to be held at 6 p.m., followed by the presentation at 6:30.

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