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Lourdine Florek  
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**www.justthefacts.net**

## Rossville-Alvin, Hoopeston Area committees talk sports co-op

The Bobcats are looking for a lair to share.

Representatives of the Rossville-Alvin school district met Tuesday with Hoopeston Area officials to discuss the possibility of a cooperative sports program.

Hoopeston Area was represented by the school board's extra-curricular committee, including chairman Duane Sheppard, Mark Eighner and John Smiley, as well as athletic director Kevin Root, high school principal Hank Hornbeck and Superintendent Mark Conolly.

Representing Rossville-Alvin were committee members Roger Satterwhite, chairman, Ray Rice and Dale Lithgow, board members Dennis Price, Craig Potter and Lyndel Davan, principal Mark Janesky, athletic director Kevin Thomas and Superintendent Carl Sartwell.

"You can tell by having our whole board here that this is something we're seriously interested in," said Price, president of the Rossville-Alvin board.

Satterwhite explained the reason the district is considering a cooperative sports program is because of declining numbers. "It's getting harder and harder to field teams, competitive teams," he said.

Currently, Rossville-Alvin has cooperative teams with Hoopeston Area, Bismarck-Henning and Armstrong-Potomac. R-A officials hope to find one district with which to share all sports programs. Because of the shared athletic program, as well as sharing academic and vocational courses, "you guys are a logical choice for us," Satterwhite said.

Sartwell brought a 25-point checklist used by the Jamaica and Catlin districts when they formed the Salt



Fork cooperative. The list included topics such as drug testing of athletes, which Rossville-Alvin has implemented but Hoopeston has not; equal division of expenses and revenues for sports programs; which district would hire head coaches and assistants; whether

Rossville-Alvin would retain some sports and co-op others; and whether a cooperative would establish new school colors and a new mascot.

Whether a new mascot would be a stumbling block to a joint venture is undecided.

"If you're going to have a successful program drawing communities together, the easier you blend the communities, the better it's going to be," Price said.

Some Rossville-Alvin students are excited about choosing a new name and mascot, Satterwhite added. "It's not a do-or-die issue," he said. "It is a high priority issue."

From Hoopeston-Area's standpoint, a name change "could be an issue for people in this community," Eighner said.


Sheppard and Smiley spoke of the uniqueness of the Cornjerker name. "It's different than being a Ranger or a Hornet or a Duke," Smiley said.

While addressing the individuality of the Cornjerker name, "I hate to see that become an issue," Sheppard said. "There's pride in both communities and that's the way it should be."

Combining sports teams may be a first step toward combining the districts. "We're working towards reorganization or consolidation down the road," Rice said.


Price said, "I think eventually we'll have not only a passing interest but a pressing need," he said. "It would

**See CO-OP on other side**

  
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## Briefly

### Tiny Tots

“Green” is the theme of this week’s Tiny Tots story program 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Hoopeston Public Library children’s room.

Tiny Tots is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

### Extended hours

Extended hours for voter registration will be held the next four Saturdays. New registrations, as well as address and name changes, will be done from 9 a.m. to

### Obituaries

**DECK** - Noah W. Deck Sr., 66, of Hoopeston, died at 11:40 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2003 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are pending at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home.



### Ink spots

Officer Steve Bane of the Hoopeston Police Department fingerprints third-grader Charlie Strawser at Honeywell School on Wednesday. The day marked the end of Project KidCare, sponsored by Hoopeston Regional Healthcare Foundation.

noon on Feb. 8, 15, 22 and March 1 at the Vermilion County Clerk’s office.

To register, applicants must be U.S. citizens aged 18 or older.

For more information, call (217) 431-6688.

### Reunion meeting

The Hoopeston High School class of 1968 will hold a reunion meeting at 7 p.m. Feb. 11 at Tater’s Bar and Grill.

### Police News



**Brandy L. Owens**, 24, of Maple Park, was ticketed for failure to yield after stopping after an accident at 2:37 p.m. Tuesday at West Main and Sixth Ave.

Police said Owens, in a 2001 Chevrolet Blazer, was eastbound, stopped at the intersection, did not see a 1991 Cadillac driven by Eva Cordova of 319 N. Sixth Ave., and struck her.

No injuries were reported.

**Tony L. Irvin**, 21, of 712 E. Washington, was arrested after a traffic stop at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday at 300 S. Market. Irvin was charged with driving on suspension and was released on a notice to appear.

A **63-year-old** Claytonville woman reported Wednesday that she lost her wallet at 1030 W. Chestnut. The wallet contained her license, Social Security card and other items.

### Co-op continued from other side

be nice to have our teams always in Rossville but we fear the inevitable.”

Calling the meeting a “fact-finding mission,” Sheppard said the extra-curricular committee will present the information at the Feb. 20 school board meeting. The board may make a decision this month or may take time to consider the matter, he said.

### Weather



Chance of snow today and tonight. High 28, low 5. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 23, low 12.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

### Rural residents asked to call

Rural Hoopeston residents who were charged the Hoopeston telecommunications tax are urged to call city hall, 283-5833, in the next 30 days to have the tax deleted.

## Classifieds

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Having out of town visitors? We have two brand new 1 bedroom furnished apartments available by the night or by the week. TV, phone, utilities included. (217) 283-7996.

The Northfork Conservation Club of Hoopeston will resume their weekly fish fry on Friday, Feb. 7, 2003. Meals will be served from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. The public is cordially invited. Call (217) 283-6401 or 283-5399 for further information.

### AUCTIONS

Thinking of having an auction?

Go to [www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com](http://www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com) or call (217) 748-6289!

### HELP WANTED

Part time bartender/waitress needed, 3-10 p.m.. Apply in person at Hoopeston American Legion, 502 E. Penn.

Kitchen help during Bingo at Hoopeston American Legion. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays. Great opportunity for high school students. Apply in person at 502 E. Penn.

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