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**Tuesday, June 17, 2003**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942**

**[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)**

### **Ross-Al board votes down co-op school on new HA proposal**

ROSSVILLE—In a 4-3 vote, the Rossville-Alvin School Board on Monday opted not to pursue a cooperative high school with Bismarck-Henning after Hoopeston Area made an 11th hour offer.

During approximately 90 minutes of discussion, Hoopeston Area Superintendent Mark Conolly announced his district was willing to have a co-op high school.

Citing the long history between the two districts, "the Hoopeston Area district doesn't want to see that end," Conolly said, adding he made the offer to R-A board president Dennis Price Monday afternoon. "If you're going to down that path (of a cooperative high school), Hoopeston Area is prepared to meet the offer made by Bismarck-Henning."

R-A board member Dale Lithgow asked whether that meant Hoopeston Area was ready to form a northern Vermilion County cooperative high school.

"No, I am not," Conolly replied.

Rossville resident Rick White asked if the offer meant Hoopeston Area is willing to change its school mascot and colors.

"Yes," Conolly answered.

Asked by what authority he made the offer, Conolly responded that five board members at the meeting "agree to what I've just stated."

Hoopeston board member Duane Sheppard echoed Conolly's sentiments. "We want Rossville," he said. "We'll do whatever it takes to get Rossville."

Several residents urged the board to hold off on a decision. Others told the board to keep both the grade and high school open by whatever means necessary. "A whole lot of us don't want to go down this route," said Jo Lynn Sutton of Alvin. "What's the rush? I think people on this board have an agenda and want it closed."

Some Alvin residents wondered whether they would be allowed to petition out of Rossville and into Bismarck. "You've been a good partner," said board member Ray Rice. "It would be only fair to let you go to Bismarck if you want."

Residents questioned course offerings at Bismarck-Henning and Hoopeston Area. Debby Wilson, a Rossville teacher who served on the curriculum committee, spoke favorably about Hoopeston's courses. "It was overwhelmingly apparent that Hoopeston had more to offer our students than Bismarck," she said.

Some board members and residents questioned Hoopeston's inclusion on the state's academic watch list and statistics that appeared to show many HA students drop out.

Conolly explained that the scores were on a new test, the results of which some in education believe to be invalid. As for the graduation statistic, he said most of the students did not drop out but moved from the district after recent factory closings and layoffs.

HA High School principal Hank Hornbeck said the high school is adding and dropping classes in an effort to boost test cores. "We realize we're on the list but we're not just standing still," he said.

Rossville board members Eric Roberts, Rice, Craig Potter and Lithgow voted against the co-op agreement, which had already passed the Bismarck-Henning board.

Voting in favor of the agreement were Roger Satterwhite, Lynndel Davan and Price. "It was a close vote because they're both good school districts," Price said after the vote.

With a cooperative high school agreement, a new board would be set up to oversee the high school in an advisory capacity. Schools would pay per student tuition for the cooperative high school.

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Music Booster calendar drawing are: June 16, Hoopes-ton Awards & Signs; June 17, HAHS Student Council (donated back); June 18, Rose M. Cress; June 19, Paul Carder; June 20, Kathy Franklin.

Soccer signup

Signup for Rossville Youth Soccer will be held from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 17 and 9-11 a.m. Wednesday, June 18, at the Rossville Park pavilion.

Youngsters aged 4-14 but who have not entered high school are eligible. Cost is \$45 per child and \$35 for the second child in a family.

For more information, call Tia Petersen, (217) 748-4162.

Wresting camp/weight lifting

Hoopeston Area athletes may work out at open weight lifting, which will be available from 3-6 p.m. Mondays and 7-10 a.m. and 3-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Thursdays.

Urban fishing program

**HOLLEN** - Cleo Earl Hollen, 84, of Hoope-sotn died at 7:45 a.m. Saturday, June 14, 2003 at Veter-ans Affairs Illiana Health Care System Danville. Grave-side services with military rites will be at 11 a.m. Tues-day at Floral Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Wolfe Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

**KLOCKE** - Elston Klocke, 88, of Hoopeston died at 8:08 p.m. Saturday, June 14, 2003 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the United Methodist Church, 403 E. Main, Hoopeston. Private family com-mittal service will be held at Floral Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Memorials are suggested to Hoop-eston United Methodist Church, Alzheimer’s Associa-tion, American Diabetes Association or a charity of the donor’s choice.

the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will sponsor the Urban Fishing Program from 8-11 am. Tuesdays at McFerren Park. Participants will meet under the pavilion north of the swimming pool. For more information, contact Tony Wantland at (217) 427-5246 or

Solution to last week’s puzzle

1 J	2 A	3 B		4 S	5 L	6 A	7 B		8 S	9 O	10 F	11 A
12 U	S	E		13 H	O	L	Y		14 Q	U	I	P
15 S	I	N		16 E	V	E		17 S	U	R	G	E
18 T	A	C	19 K	L	E		20 L	I	E			
		21 H	I	T		22 C	A	R	A	23 V	24 A	25 N
26 A	27 T		28 D	E	29 P	O	T		30 K	A	L	E
31 L	A	32 P		33 R	E	L	I	34 C		35 T	A	R
36 E	X	I	37 T		38 T	O	N	A	39 L		40 S	O
41 C	I	T	I	42 Z	E	N		43 B	A	44 T		
			45 N	O	R		46 W	I	G	W	47 A	48 M
49 C	50 A	51 R	G	O		52 M	A	N		53 I	R	E
54 O	V	A	L		55 M	O	V	E		56 S	E	E
57 T	A	M	E		58 A	B	E	T		59 T	A	T

Classifieds

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