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**Just the Facts**

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## Bank may sue over housing authority over loan conundrum

ROSSVILLE—A federal ruling that Vermilion County Housing Authority cannot use federal funds to repay the remainder of a \$1.6 million loan is causing Longview Bank and Trust to strongly consider suing the housing authority.

Bank officials and the VCHA board met Tuesday at the county housing authority's Rossville office to discuss the situation.

Perry Albin, bank board chairman, said a lawsuit seems to be the only course of action for repayment. Foreclosing on the loan is not an option, he said, because the bank does not want the housing authority properties, which include Centennial Manor in Hoopeston, along with prop-

erties in Rossville, Georgetown, Allerton and other towns outside Danville.

The housing authority is part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, providing housing for low-income residents.

In about 2005, Tony Hasbargen, then-VCHA executive director, took out a \$1,662,500 loan from Capstone Bank, which later merged with MainSource Bank. Funds were used for property renovations in Hoopeston, Rossville and Allerton. He then used federal funds to repay the loan.

In 2012, \$872,619 was refinanced by Longview Bank and Trust, with branches in Georgetown, Paris and Chris-

See CONUNDRUM on other side

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United Community Fund

**2018 Barstool Golf Tournament**  
March 17 Tee-off: Noon

Locations: Hoopeston VFW,  
Bzzzz Place, The Pump

\$60 for a 4-person team with 100% of donations benefiting local community non-profit organizations

Winners announced at After Party:  
3:30 p.m., Hoopeston VFW  
50/50 Drawing.

**Prizes for best costume:**  
Craziest Golf Attire  
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Most Entertaining Costume



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Thursday-Friday-Saturday  
Feb. 28-March 1

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|                                 | 14 oz. pk. | <b>\$5.99</b>      |
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| <b>IQF Cod Loins</b>            | 4 oz.      | <b>\$1.50 ea.</b>  |
| <i>Boneless/Skinless</i>        |            |                    |
| <b>Grouper Filets</b>           | 4-6 oz.    | <b>\$8.99/lb.</b>  |
| <b>Seafood Salad</b>            | 12 oz. pk. | <b>\$3.99 ea.</b>  |

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## Conundrum continued from other side

man. Also in 2012, two additional loans, totaling \$362,000, were received from First National Bank of Georgetown, now part of Longview, said Terry Prillaman, VCHA board chairman.

In 2013, Hasbargen was fired from his position amid allegations of improper spending. Then, the Office of the Inspector General discovered the loan and informed the board that the loan was not legal because mortgaging federal property is illegal, said Prillaman, who joined the board in 2014. Current members were not on the board at the time the loan was approved or refinanced, he said.

That doesn't keep the board from being on the hook for the loan and having little other revenue to repay it.

Prillaman said the only non-federal money VCHA receives is \$200 to \$500 per month in laundry service fees.

Bank officials said they have been patient about repayment, but have received no payment since 2012. Albin agreed with everything said about the loan's history, adding they hoped VCHA would get a waiver from HUD to allow federal funds to be used. That waiver is "not coming apparently," he said.

It's not like officials haven't asked for a waiver. R.M. Jackson, current VCHA executive director, spent several months going through records, putting together checks

## Indiana man dies of injuries in four-vehicle accident

An Indiana man died Tuesday as a result of injuries he received in a four-vehicle accident.

Glenn W. Kolzow, 75, of Lafayette, Ind., died from injuries received in an accident at 11:09 a.m. on Rt. 1 at 500 North.

According to police reports, Mr. Kolzow was stopped on Rt. 1, waiting on oncoming traffic, before he turned west. His station wagon was hit from behind by a semi driven by Kenneth R. Swanson, 53, of Midlothian. The truck pushed the station wagon into southbound traffic, a car driven by Seth T. Moody, 29, of Danville and a minivan driven by David K.Y. Chin, 42, of Urbana.

Mr. Kolzow was taken to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Chin and a passenger, Stephen J. Robbins, 70, of Rantoul, were treated at a local hospital for what police called minor injuries. It was unknown if Moody was injured.

Swanson was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

and other documents of how the money was spent and the work that was done, hoping HUD would grant one.

Prillaman has also contacted U.S. Rep. John Shimkus for help but has not heard back from him. The board has also contacted HUD Secretary Ben Carson.

Now HUD wants a \$14,000 environmental study done, more money VHCA doesn't have. The housing authority could not even have its lawyer at the meeting because they cannot pay him with federal money.

Also, last month, the board received a letter from HUD, giving them 14 days to come up with a solution to the situation.

VCHA board member believe they have an ethical duty to repay the loan, but not the money, said Prillaman. He will reach out to Danville Housing Authority to see about a possible merger as a long term solution.

## Court Dispositions

### February 1

**Jonathan Goodrum**, Hoopeston, failed to appear; continued for further enforcement.

**Francisco Arce**, Hoopeston, status check April 5.

**Emil Michaels**, Hoopeston, failed to appear; continued for further enforcement.

**Mason English**, Hoopeston, failed to appear on two cases; continued for further enforcement.

**Nathaniel Sims**, Hoopeston, status check March 1.

**Andres Garcia**, Hoopeston, failed to appear; continued for further enforcement.

**Jamie Wyatt**, Hoopeston, status check March 1.

## Weather

Breezy, showers today. High 48. Tonight, cloudy, blustery. Low 28. Tomorrow, sunny. High 44, low 26.

**BINGO**  
**7 p.m. every Thursday**  
**Hoopeston**  
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Bank officials expect a lawsuit to be filed in the near future.

**Smoked BBQ**  
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**Rossville Family Restaurant**  
715 S. Chicago  
**Lunch & Dinner**  
**Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**  
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