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Just the Facts

Friday, Jan. 21, 1994

Lourdine Osborne, Editor Susan Comstock, Ad Manager

HA looks at forming football conference

Hoopeston Area High School's football team, without a conference for the past several years, is looking for a home.

And it might find one with seven other schools. At Thursday night's Hoopeston Area school board meeting, Mark Conolly, high school principal, told board members that a conference may form, with Hoopeston in the center.

Schools involved would range from Peotone and Momence in the north to Casey in the south. Driving to member schools would add only 152 miles to existing miles travelled for football games, Conolly said.

Joining a conference would be advantageous because it would help the team get into state play-offs, said superintendent Don Dean. "There are only two ways to get into the play-offs," he said - you either win the conference or be an at-large.

One of two things could keep Hoopeston from the conference, Conolly said.

First, Hoopeston Area has, for several years, wanted to join the Illini Central Conference based in Danville. "If there's an opening and we're invited, we're gone," Conolly.

The second thing is whether Moweaqua A&M, near Decatur, will join the conference or combine with one in the Decatur area. "If Moweaqua goes with them, this is all moot," Conolly said.

Neither Dean nor Conolly see disadvantages to joining the conference. "There's no built-in rivalries, like there is (between Hoopeston and) Prairie Central," Dean said.

It would be at least two years before Cornjerker football fans would attend a game played in the new conference, Conolly said, because the school has commitments for next year.

In other action, the board approved final contracts for the Maple School addition. The district will spend \$1,584,600 on the project, which will add rooms for all kindergartens in the district.

The district will save \$15,000 by having the bus loading zone paved with concrete and \$3,000 by moving playground equipment before April 1.

In unrelated action, parents of children with Attention Deficit Disorder again requested the board formulate a policy for the handicap. Dean said he will make a recommendation in February or March.

Mother Nature sets off chain reaction in area

Cold temperatures locally caused a chain reaction for utility service Wednesday.

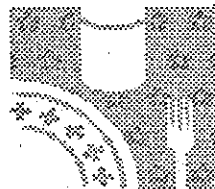
The chain started at approximately noon Wednesday when a downed power line near Danville relayed back to a Hoopeston area substation. A frozen breaker here was unable to handle the situation, interrupting power for approxi-

mately four hours, said Kim Smith, manager of Central Illinois Public Service in Hoopeston.


Power was interrupted in part of Hoopeston, plus Rossville, Alvin, Bismarck, Henning, Po-
 See "MOTHER NATURE" on other side

More Just the Facts on the other side

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Mother Nature continued from other side
 tomac, Cheneyville and the rural areas in between, Smith said. Approximately 3,500 customers were affected.

And most of those customers caused a slow-down in telephone service.

According to Tom Osborne, local GTE manager, the Hoopeston telephone switch was at 90 percent capacity at 12:19 and again at 12:45.

Telephone usage normally runs at 20 percent capacity, he said.

Osborne said most of the calls went to the CIPS office.

A substantial number also went to the Hoopeston police department, said dispatcher Judy Pierce. "We had calls and calls and calls," she said, adding that the specific number was not tallied. "We couldn't keep track," she said. "People tried to call (CIPS) and if they couldn't get through, they called here."

Smith said the electrical situation "could've been a lot worse," although adverse weather conditions made repairing the problem more difficult. "The same situation, on a better day weatherwise, we could have had everybody back on in an hour or so," he said.

Power and telephone workers were not the

only ones trying to keep up with the effects of the cold weather. City water personnel kept warm answering service calls, while those at the wastewater treatment plant were busy trying to keep equipment thawed.

Steve Baker, city water supervisor, said the department's five employees responded to about 200 calls between last Friday and yesterday. "Really, I'm surprised," Baker said. "A lot of people left their water running, which means we didn't have to work as hard as I thought we would."

Most calls from residents were problems either in the meter well or under people's homes, Baker said. While city employees worked to thaw meters, plumbers were called for residential pipes.

And at the city's wastewater treatment plant, Greg Gress, newly-hired supervisor, had a hectic first week.

"We've had a lot of things frozen up out here," Gress said yesterday. "It's tough to deal with things freezing. This is only my fourth day here, so I'm still learning what's what and what's where."

Despite freezing components, Gress said the plant was able to handle all incoming waste.

Obituaries

GIGLIO, Jeanette S., 86, of Watseka, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 8:25 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 19, 1994 at Magnolia Wood Healthcare Center, Watseka. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. today at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home with visitation one hour before services. Burial will be in Michigan City, Ind.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Jan. 19, 1994
Admitted: George Wagoner, Rossville.
Discharged: none.

Court dispositions

1/6/94 Uninsured: Regina Cambre, Penfield, showed proof of insurance; Jason Longfellow, Hoopeston, \$500 and costs; Charles Richardson, Jr., Hoopeston, \$500 and costs; Gabriel Sosa Alfaro, Hoopeston, \$500, costs, one year court supervision.

Weather

Sunny and warmer today. High in the upper 20s. Tonight, clouds developing. Low in the upper teens or low 20s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 35, low near 21. Sunday, partly cloudy. High near 45, low near 25.

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