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Lourdine Osborne
 editor

just the facts

Susan Comstock
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Wednesday, May 11, 1994
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
 (217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Rossville principal accepts position at Westville

Rossville-Alvin Grade School will have a new principal next year.

Principal Melinda Tucker was hired by the Westville school board to serve as principal at Judith Giacoma School.

Tucker, who has been at Rossville-Alvin for four years, said she sought the position because it will allow her more time for her family. The school serves children in kindergarten through fourth grade. "Extra-curricular activities are almost non-existent, so my time will be my own," she said.

As principal at Giacoma, Tucker will oversee 535 students, compared with 340 kindergarten through eighth graders at Rossville-Alvin.

Tucker's new contract is for 200 days, compared with the 11-month contract she has had

at Rossville.

The new contract will cover 180 school days, plus 20 days during the summer.

Tucker's base salary at Westville will be \$39,600, compared with \$40,000 at Rossville-Alvin.

The decision to leave Rossville was not an easy one to make, Tucker said. "I've come to know the students and the community," she said. "The last three weeks have been especially tough because people have come up to me and said they'd miss me."

The sentimentality will not make her change her decision, however. "I haven't signed on the dotted line yet, but once I give my word, that's it," she said.

Tucker's new position begins Aug. 1.

Obedience, protection training offered at new facility

Tom Guzik believes you can teach an old dog new tricks.

Guzik, of rural Hoopeston, is the owner of Great Dog, Inc., a new dog training facility two miles north of Hoopeston.

The business, which opens June 6, will offer beginning, intermediate and advanced obedience classes and Command, Control Aggression training.

Ideally, dog training starts at about six months, but almost any age dog will be accepted, Guzik said. Problem dogs will also be accepted, although "if we have a dog that's a psychopath, I'll tell the people there's nothing I can do," he said.

Each dog and owner will have four private obe-

dience lessons before going into group sessions. Guzik, who studied dog training in Chicago, will teach obedience classes.

Command, Control Aggression training, which teaches dogs to protect their owners, will be conducted on Sunday afternoons by Chicago police officers.

Guzik recommends that dogs with proper temperaments receive protection training. "It's a fallacy to think your dog is going to protect you automatically," he said. "He might - but then again, he might not."

Protection training will consist of three areas: 360 protection, bite work and home protection.

See **TRAINING** on other side

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Training continued from other side

Guzik explained that dogs trained in 360 protection will watch anyone who approaches their owners from any direction. Bite work, he said, teaches dogs not only to protect their owners, but to bite aggressors on the arms or legs. After training in the final category, home protection, trainers will schedule a "break-in" to judge the dog's performance. "Good dogs don't bark when nobody's home," Guzik said.

Gun control laws make trained dogs especially appealing, Guzik said. The former Chicagoan cited crime statistics for that city, saying guns were outlawed there five years ago. "Now, the only people who have guns are the police...and the criminals," he said, adding that in the five-year time span, crime rose 179 percent.

To show people what protection-trained dogs will do, Guzik has scheduled an obedience and dog protection show/match for 2 p.m. April 29. The show portion will include trained dogs from the Chicago area, including a champion protection Doberman, owned by Phil Carr, a Chicago police officer.

Carr's dog will demonstrate various protection techniques, including being commanded to stop in the middle of chasing an attacker. Guzik said the dog will then heel and the aggressor will shake hands with the dog. "That dog is perfect," he said.

Police News

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 3:15 p.m. Monday.

A car driven by John R. Gillis, 127 W. Attica, Rossville, struck a curb at 709 S. First Ave. Gillis was shaken, but otherwise not hurt, according to police reports.

Notice

The Community Potluck dinner at the EIMPC will be at noon today. Calendars sent out had the event listed for May 18.

Area dogs are welcome to participate in the match portion of the event. "There are going to be a lot of beginners," Guzik said. "The judges are going to be very lenient."

Beside offering obedience and protection training, Guzik plans to tattoo dogs to provide identification if they are stolen.

Guzik, 44, became interested in dog training after he was injured and could not return to his job as a Chicago Fire Department paramedic supervisor. "I made history," he said. "I was the first paramedic in the U.S. to become permanently disabled in the line of duty," he said.

Guzik broke his back while on a call at a Chicago housing project. He tried to return to work, but found he could not lift injured people. After nine surgeries and learning to walk again, Guzik decided to change careers.

The paramedic turned dog trainer compared himself to Father Flannigan, founder of Boys Town. "I don't think there's a bad boy," he said. "I don't think there's a bad dog."

To register for the show/match, or for more information, Guzik can be contacted at (217)283-5800.

Great Dog, Inc. is located two miles north of Hoopeston on county road 100, in the home formerly owned by Dan Silver, Jr.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
May 9, 1994

Admitted: John Klaber, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Darren Hasselbring, East Lynn; Abby Staley, Gertrude Evans and Marie German, all of Hoopeston.

Weather

Partly sunny today. High in the low 80s. Tonight, fair, low in the lower 50s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 74, low near 50.

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