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Lourdine Osborne  
editor

**just the facts**

Wednesday, June 29, 1994

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

Susan Comstock  
ad manager

## New concept coming to HA junior high this fall

A change at Hoopeston Area Junior High School next year is expected to help students make the transition from grade school to high school.

The junior high will go to a middle school concept next year, said principal John Burkey.

The concept includes six basic components. They are:

- ♦ an advisor/advisee program, where each student has a teacher who is an expert on the child. The two will meet regularly, and the child will be able to go to the teacher for help.

Approximately 40-50 students participated in that facet this year and more will be included next year, Burkey said.

- ♦ a block time schedule, with most blocks cover-

ing two time periods. Blocks will include one for science/math, another for history/physical education and a third for language arts, including reading and English. The final two periods will encompass band and chorus or home ec. art and a study hall

- ♦ interest-based extra-curricular activities, which, Burkey said, are already offered at the school.

- ♦ a hands-on approach to learning.

- ♦ providing transition from elementary to high school.

- ♦ treating students as early adolescents, giving them more responsibility and freedom, but not as much as high school students receive.

See **CONCEPT** on other side

## Local communities set Independence Day schedules

### Rossville

"Sparkling with Today's Youth" is the theme of the 1994 Rossville Fourth of July parade.

The event is scheduled to kick off at 10:30 a.m. July 4, said Pam Bell, of the Rossville Women of Today, parade organizers.

The parade is open to "the young and the young at heart," she said.

Anyone interested in participating should call Bell at 748-6395, or Leda at 748-4153.

A flea market is scheduled Saturday and Sunday in downtown Rossville.



### Hoopeston

The night sky will be filled with pyrotechnics Monday as Hoopeston once again presents fireworks.

The display will begin at dusk at the McFerren Park annex, said Jeanne Lotz of the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber, for the past several years, has sponsored fireworks in Hoopeston, collecting donations from residents and businesses.

### Rankin

Centennial Park will be the place for food Saturday, sponsored by the Rankin Lions Club. Children's games will be held throughout the day, with fireworks at dusk.

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## Concept continued from other side

The change will especially affect next year's seventh graders, Burkey said. "to keep kids from getting lost in the shuffle."

The transition from grade school to junior high school was especially difficult for some students. The old system did little to help, Burkey said. "It was nothing more than a miniature high school."

In order to accommodate the concept, several changes are being made.

First, students will spend less time at their lockers. Seventh graders will make three to four trips to their lockers instead of seven or eight.

That should eliminate what Burkey called a "chronic problem": students getting to classes on time. "We had to do something," he said.

Also, students will stay together as a class through at least the first three blocks of the day.

Next, many electives offered at the school have been dropped, allowing teachers and students to concentrate on basics.

"We were offering too many electives," Burkey said, adding that under the previous system, some students spent less than half their day studying academics. Some students spent much time in elective classes such as shop and speech class.

## Police News



Lonnie L. Cornell, 406 W. Lincoln, reported Monday that someone took a hood ornament from his 1985 Cadillac while it was parked at his home. Cornell later reported that someone cracked the windshield and slashed the tires on his 1991 Ford van while it was parked at his residence.

Police are investigating both incidents.

Jewel Wise, 806 E. McCracken, reported Tuesday that someone had keyed the passenger and driver's side doors of her 1992 Oldsmobile four door.

A boy's blue, green and white Western Flyer bicycle was found Tuesday behind Vermilion Iron. The owner may claim it at the police station.

while others were scheduled for two study halls daily.

Finally, subjects will be more integrated. For example, Burkey said, writing will not only be done in the language arts block, but also in history and science.

Also, each student will receive computer training during the language arts block, rather than in a separate class. All students will get equal time on computers and will do actual reports rather than practice copying material from books. "No student will slip through," Burkey said.

The planned changes will make the junior high what Burkey believes it was meant to be. "The high school is more subject-oriented," he said. "The elementary school is more student-oriented. The middle school, ideally, should be half of both."

Few changes are planned for eighth graders under the new system. "We do need to get them ready for high school," Burkey said.

And the format change will do little to solve a problem plaguing the school, that of having junior high and high school students in what is essentially the same building.

"I think everybody, from the school board on down, wishes it didn't have to be that way, but it's a building situation," Burkey said.

## In the Hospital



### Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

June 27, 1994

**Admitted:** Adela Castaneda, Hoopeston; Randy Pratt, Alvin.

**Discharged:** Thomas Frederick, Hoopeston; Clair Dewey, Rossville.

## Weather



Partly sunny today. High in the low 80s. Tonight, clear. Low around 60. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 85, low near 65.

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Rossville

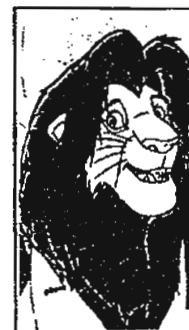
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