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School group nixes plans for north county high school

ROSSVILLE—One high school for five northern Vermilion County schools is not a feasible option now, according to a committee assigned to investigate the proposal.

Representatives of each district - Armstrong-Ellis, Armstrong High School, Bismarck-Henning, Potomac and Rossville-Alvin - met Tuesday to discuss financing, curriculum and possible siting of a high school for a combined district.

The committee's site committee suggested a school be built on farmland 1.5 to 2 miles west of Henning on Route 136. However, reports from the committee's financial subcommittee closed the door on a new high school, at least for now.

According to information prepared by the finance committee, a new high school for the combined district would cost approximately \$14 million and place each district at the maximum of its bonding capacity.

"We'd be looking at a levy of \$1.15 at the very, very minimum up to \$1.65 (in bonds)," said finance committee member Tim Thornsborough of the Rossville-Alvin district. "All we'd be doing is putting everybody at risk."

The committee instead will consider making each of the existing three high schools magnet schools, offering

specialized study at each of the three.

For example, one school could focus on math and science, while another could focus on fine arts, while the third could stress vocational training.

Transportation for magnet schools could provide a challenge, committee members said. Also, fewer state incentives would be available.

The finance subcommittee will continue to meet to discuss combining extra-curricular activities and will be ready to apply for state money should funding for new schools be granted.

No new building also means the curriculum committee must scale back its suggestions. In a curriculum subcommittee report, Marj Welchans of Armstrong-Ellis Grade School aid the committee "started at ground zero to design anything we wanted to design for a school, everything from vocational education to going directly into the workforce to going to a major university."

The subcommittee will now focus on combining course offerings for the magnet school concept.

The next meeting of the five districts will be at 7:30 p. m. June 24 at Armstrong High School, with representatives reporting on board reaction to the change in plans for a new high school.

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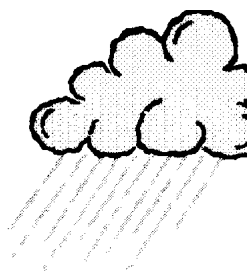
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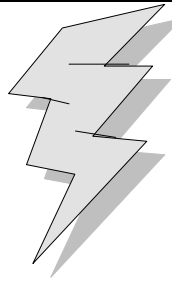
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Letter to the Editor

Mayor Ault deserves support April 1

Dear Editor:

An important issue is upon us that will affect the future of our city.

The mayoral election on Tuesday should not be taken lightly. Each of us needs to thoughtfully consider our vote and decide on the best candidate based on their merits.

Mayor Ault has proven he can and will give his all to promoting business in Hoopeston as well as bringing other business here. He and his fellow council members have much on their shoulders as they make decisions that will affect our city and I am sure those decisions are not always easy to make. Nor are they always popular. However, we must remember that it is not only a mayor who makes decisions, but the council as well.

The landfill was not a popular decision among many

people. Many do not understand or choose to ignore that the decision was made for the landfill to keep control of it and not let other governing bodies take it over and make decisions which might not be in our best interest as residents of Hoopeston.

Mayor Ault is a proven leader. He doesn't need to suggest hiring a city manager for a large salary to do the job he was elected for. He has the time and energy, as he has shown, to manage Hoopeston. He presents himself well when dealing with corporations and businesses who may be considering coming to Hoopeston, and has helped in keeping a balanced budget, works towards grants and funding to help keep our city running smoothly and supports Hoopeston with his heart.

Isn't that the kind of mayor you want for Hoopeston?

Sincerely,
Charlene Ervin

Police News

Thomas D. Wilson, 33, of 309 S. Market, was

arrested at 6:55 a.m. Wednesday charged with domestic battery and violation of an order of protection on a complaint from Penny Hofer of the same address. Wilson was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday in the 200 block of East Main.

Mary L. Barten, 13363 E 4200 N Road, in a 1991 Dodge Spirit, was backing up and was hit by a 1986 Ford Tempo driven by Otis E. Thrasher, 311 S. Third Ave.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
March 25, 1997

Admitted: Pauline Merino, St. Anne; Mabel Sorenson, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather

Mostly sunny, warmer today. High near 70. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low near 50. Tomorrow, chance of showers. High near 66, low near 48.

Obituaries

VINES - Lester Faurot Vines, 91, of Hoopeston, died at 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 26, 1997, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Private graveside services will be held at a later date at Floral Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Memorials are suggested to the First Christian Church of Hoopeston or Eureka College. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



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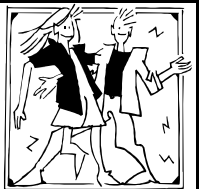
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