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Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1999  
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## New Ward 1 alderman gets Hoopeston council approval

Ward I residents have a new face representing them. Rodney Kaag was approved Tuesday by the Hoopeston city council to replace Mark Drollinger. Drollinger resigned his seat Dec. 31 to become the city's police chief.

Kaag, 36, comes to the council without preconceived ideas of what he will accomplish. "I have no plans other than to do my best for my constituents and the people of Hoopeston," he said. He is pleased to be a part of something that will "hopefully make by children as proud to call Hoopeston home as I have been."

The newest alderman is a lifelong Hoopeston resident and 1980 graduate of Hoopeston-East Lynn High School and attended Danville Area Community College.

For the past 14 years, he has been employed by the

Vermilion County Sheriff's Department. He spent nine years on patrol, more than three years in drug investigations and is currently assigned to criminal investigations.

He is a Grant II Republican precinct committeeman and has been involved with several electoral campaigns, including those for state Sen. Judy Myers, former sheriff Gene Hughes and recorder Nancy Kelly.

Kaag is a member of the East Lynn United Methodist Church and the Sons of the American Legion, Hoopeston. He and his wife, Misti, have four daughters, Katie, 15; Courtney, 14; Kali, 11; and Keri, 6.

"I look forward to the opportunity to serve the people of Hoopeston," Kaag said. "I hope I can do as good a job as my predecessor."

Kaag plans to run for the seat in the April election.

## Mayor says trustees will work with special prosecutor

ROSSVILLE—Trustees here will work with a special prosecutor investigating allegations of wrongdoing by the village board.

The issue was discussed at Monday's Rossville village board meeting, said Mayor Merv Smith.

Former Vermilion County state's attorney Mike Clary last year requested a special prosecutor to look into allegations made by a citizens' group and trustee Bill Gallo-way.

Papers filed by Clary on July 21, 1998, state that allegations stem from 1993 to 1998 and include failure to follow bidding procedures required by state law, conflicts of interest with board members voting on matters, irregularities in setting natural gas rates, use of motor fuel tax money for improvements on private property and intentional misrepresentation of the village's finances in official reports.

Clary's motion said that some village residents with information on the allegations were unwilling to speak with his office or investigators affiliated with the office and that, to avoid the appearance of impropriety, a special prosecutor should be appointed.

Smith said the prosecutor, from Springfield, has not yet been at the village office. "We will cooperate fully with the special prosecutor and his assistants whenever they arrive," Smith said.



In other business, trustees approved crediting residents who have let their water run to avoid freezing pipes and water meters. Details of the credit will be worked out by the water/sewer committee, Smith said.

In unrelated action, trustees:

□ approved spending no more than \$7,000 to purchase a rebuilt engine for a village tractor.

See PROSECUTOR on other side

 **Hoopeston Lions Club**  
**Pancake & Sausage Day**  
Saturday, Feb. 6 6 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
St. Anthony's Parish Hall  
\$3.50 per person, under 6 free  
All you can eat  
Whole hog sausage, bulk or patties, \$2/lb.

 **DANCE**   
Saturday, Jan. 23 9 p.m.-1 a.m.  
**Hoopeston American Legion**  
Featuring **Full Circle**  
\$4 single, \$6 couple  
All door proceeds to  
American Cancer Society

 **LPHABET ACADEMY**  
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## Rossville-Alvin schools receive \$32,000 technology grant

ROSSVILLE—Students in the Rossville-Alvin school district will have improved computer training thanks to a state grant.

At Monday's meeting, the school board learned the district received a \$32,144 technology grant which will be used to provide Internet access, as well as equipment upgrades and teacher training, said Superintendent Phil Smith.

In other action, the board approved seeking bids to

repair the grade school roof. Bid forms and specifications are available at architect Robert Hible's office in Danville, Smith said.

The board also approved staying with the five-district group discussing consolidation but approved keeping lines of communication open with the Hoopeston Area district.

Finally, the board approved adding the ag business course to the district's core business offerings.

## — Briefly —

### CIC meeting

The Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce's Community Involvement Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the daycare room at Hoopeston Community Nursing Home. Representatives of Hoopeston organizations are asked to attend.

### Tiny Tots

"Madeline" is the topic of this week's Tiny Tots at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room. The program, at 10:30 a.m. Friday, is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

### Police News



**Police are investigating** a hit-and-run accident reported at 4:30 p.m. Monday, when an unknown vehicle hit a parked 1994 Chrysler owned by Teresa Carpenter, 409 E. Attica. Carpenter's vehicle was at Pamida, Routes 1 and 9, when it was hit.

**Steven R. Bridgman**, 38, of 730 E. Main, turned himself in to police at 12:50 p.m. Tuesday. Bridgman, wanted on a warrant, was released on a \$1,000 recognizance bond.

### In the Hospital



**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**  
**Jan. 18**

**Admitted:** Dolores Brown, Everett Wagoner, Hoopeston.

**Discharged:** Mabel Brewington, Pauline Jaynes.

### Weather



Sunny then cloudy. High 45. Tonight, chance of rain. Low 40. Tomorrow, cloudy, rainy. High 47, low 42.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

### Obituaries

**HAMBLETON** – Gale C. Hambleton, 84, of Hoopeston, died at 5:35 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19, 1998 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to charity of the donor's choice.

**REETZ** – E. Jane B. Reetz, 80, of Hoopeston, died at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1999 at Heartland Health Care Center, Paxton. Arrangement are pending at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home.

### Prosecutor continued from other side

□approved a 260-foot sewer line to a new home in the northeast corner of the village. The project will be let for bids and is expected to cost \$6,500 to \$9,000, Smith said.

□commended city workers for their efforts during the snowstorm earlier this month.

Snow removal has cost the village in excess of \$7,000 in overtime and removal fees, Smith said.

## Fish Fry

5-8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22

**American Legion**

502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

**Fish Dinner \$5.50 Shrimp Dinner \$6.50**

**Chicken Dinner \$7.00**

Includes slaw, baked beans, roll & fries.



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