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Finances are key to keeping district healthy: candidates

Editor's Note: In the next several issues, Just the Facts will look at candidates for Hoopeston city council, Hoopeston Area school board, Rossville village board and Rossville-Alvin school board.

ROSSVILLE—The possibility of consolidation is on the minds of two candidates running for the Rossville-Alvin school board.

The candidates, newcomer Ray Rice and incumbent Ed Perkins, agree that taking a hard look at finances is necessary to provide a good education.

Consolidation may be necessary at some point, said



Rice, "but my first priority is keeping this school system going for as long as possible."

Rice, 46, said he will represent all points of view, including "teachers (married to one), farmers (was one), the hourly wage earner (am one) and the per-

son who pays property taxes to support this school district."

A Rossville-Alvin High School graduate, Rice attended DACC for one year, was a farmer for 25 years and has been a postal carrier for 26 years.

He said his strengths include a firm commitment to quality education, a willingness to share ideas and work with others and the ability to listen to both sides and be decisive.

See CANDIDATES on other side

Candidates continued from other side

Neighborhood Watch to kick off murder investigation Monday

A localized version of the mystery game "Clue" will begin at Monday's Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Hoopeston police chief Mark Drollinger has the scenario outlined and will give those attending a chance to figure out who killed the victim.

At Neighborhood Watch meetings over the next several months, interviews with representatives of various law enforcement and social agencies will present programs designed to lead up to the announcement of the killer, scheduled for October or November.

Monday's meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Hoopeston city hall. The public is invited.

Help is closer than you think (So is April 15)

A timely reminder that no one else has more experienced preparers at more convenient locations than H&R Block. Our rates are reasonable, and we stand behind our work. So while tax time is just around the corner, the good news is, so are we.

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Police News



An unidentified 23-year-old Hoopeston person was arrested at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, charged with communicating with a witness. Police said the person communicated with a 21-year-old witness in a case.

Sarah E. Highfill, 17, of 827 E. Penn, was arrested at 3:37 p.m. Wednesday on a preliminary charge of possession of under 2.5 grams of cannabis. She was released on a notice to appear.

Two people were arrested at 7:03 p.m. Wednesday in the 800 block of East McNeil.

Andrew M. Linares, 18, of 813 E. McNeil, and Anthony J. Chandler, 17, of 719 S. Fifth St., face a preliminary charge of possession of under 2.5 grams of cannabis.

Each was released on a notice to appear.

A Hoopeston man reported Thursday that his 1986 Mazda pickup truck was broken into and several items taken while it was parked at 10 Pin Alley, 719 W. Elm.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 5:03 a.m. Thursday at South Sixth Ave. and West Washington.

Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area schools

MONDAY: No school.

TUESDAY: Sausage pizza, *hamburger/bun, salad, applesauce, milk.

WEDNESDAY: Ham & cheese/bun, *turkey/bun, corn, *tri tator, *cookie, pineapple, milk.

THURSDAY: Taco/shell, lettuce, tomato, cheese, *salad, graham cracker, *cookie, apple slices, milk.

FRIDAY: Corn dog, *fish/bun, *fries, baked beans, macaroni salad, bread, butter, peaches, milk.

Rossville-Alvin schools

MONDAY: No school.

TUESDAY: BBQ rib sandwich, California blend/cheese, corn, pretzel sticks, milk

WEDNESDAY: Breaded pork tenderloin, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, butter, brownie, milk.

THURSDAY: Chicken patty/bun, baked potato, fruit salad, cherry crisp, milk.

FRIDAY: Sloppy Joe, tator tots, peaches, rosy applesauce, milk.

*denotes high school/middle school selections.

Police said Mary C. Lake of Hoopeston backed a 1998 Chevrolet S-10 into a 1986 Cadillac driven by Eloseo A. Montoya, also of Hoopeston.

Perkins, 47, said whether the district consolidates, joins a co-op or stays as they are, "it is the duty of our board to make their decisions based on sound information and not on personal desires. Our primary goal should be to provide the best education available to our student while maintaining the financial integrity of our district."

Perkins said his background, as owner/broker of Perkins Real Estate and Appraisals, and being a parent and taxpayer, will help him determine district needs.

Perkins graduated Rossville-Alvin schools and Eastern Illinois University.

Obituaries

GOODRUM – James O. Goodrum Sr., 68, of Hoopeston, died at 3:10 a.m. Wednesday, March 31, 1999, at home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation with military graveside rites will be 5-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
March 31

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Anna Trent.

Weather



Chance of rain or thunderstorms all weekend. High today 74, low 57. Tomorrow's high 73, low 56. Sunday, high 68, low 54.

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



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