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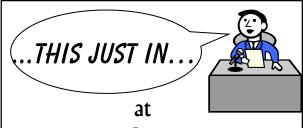
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# Residents ask Hoopeston Area board to save school mascot

Some Hoopeston Area residents asked the school board Thursday to preserve history and keep the Cornjerker name if the district unites with Rossville-Alvin.

Misti Kaag presented the board with a petition containing 1,072 signatures of people who want to keep the Cornjerker name. Signatures were collected in a 48-hour period.

Kaag acknowledged the importance of Hoopeston Area's discussions with Rossville-Alvin but asked the board keep the mascot if possible, saying the school symbol is important to multiple generations of Hoopeston residents.

Jean Minick, asked why the issue would not be left up to the student body. If Rossville-Alvin unites with Hoopeston, those students, along with those from Ranking, East Lynn and Welllington, "didn't like Jerky, that would be their chance to get rid of it," she said.

R-A board president Dennis Price, who attended the meeting with other board members and Superintendent Carl Sartwell, indicated his district would be willing to let students decide.

"You guys would be willing to let students make the decision," asked HA board president Larry Lobb.

"For the most part, yes," Price responded.

Kaag asked Price whether keeping the Cornjerker name would break a deal between Hoopeston and Rossville.

"I think the educational part of it is most important to everyone on the board," he replied. "I can't see that being the determining factor. Education is more important than the uniform they wear on the sidelines."

Sartwell said a mascot "is nothing but a symbol but refusal to compromise on that is also symbolic."

Rossville resident Rick White, who at the



Misti Kaag of Hoopeston reads a statement at Thursday's Hoopeston Area School Board meeting. Kaag presented a petition with 1,072 signatures asking the board to save the school mascot.

Rossville-Alvin board meeting last Monday, asked whether Hoopeston was willing to compromise on the Cornjerker name, said he asked the question, not because of animosity towards Hoopeston but "to show the commitment, the level of sacrifice" of Hoopeston Area.

Asked what the Rossville district is sacrificing, Sartwell answered "Our sites. That's the major sacrifice our district will make."

Talk of changing the Cornjerker name came after last Monday's Rossville-Alvin board meeting. The board was to vote on an agreement to form a cooperative high school with Bismarck-Henning when Hoopeston Area Superintendent Mark Conolly, joined by five of the seven-member board, offered to meet Bismarck's offer.

The R-A board voted 4-3 not to accept the co-

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**Gary L. Catron,** 30, of 609 E. McCracken, was arrested at 2:45 p.m. Thursday in the 600 block of East McCracken.

Catron, wanted on two Vermilion County warrants for failure to appear, was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of bond.

**Mandy M. Caraballo,** 22, of 324 N. Eighth Ave., was ticketed following an accident at 5:38 p.m. Thursday at First and Main.

Police said Caraballo, in a 2002 Ford Focus, drove from the alley without stopping and hit a 1997 Oldsmobile driven by Vera Brown of Hoopeston. Police said Caraballo left the scene and was later found in the 500 block of North Seventh Ave.

Caraballo was cited for leaving the scene of a property damage accident and failing to stop before emerging from an alleyway. She was released on her license.

A set of keys was found Friday near the McFerren Park Civic Center. The owner may identify





and claim them at the police station.

**James L. Carl,** 17, of 724 Scott Dr., was arrested at 9:56 p.m. Friday in the 600 block of East Wyman. He was charged with battery on a complaint from a 16-year-old boy who alleged Carl hit him in the eye.

Carl was released on a notice to appear.

**Seth J. Gredy**, 18, of 330 W. Washington, was arrested at 11:31 p.m. Friday at West Main and Sixth Ave. on charges of driving under the influence, driving on suspension, illegal transportation of alcohol, resisting arrest and improper lane usage.

Police said they saw Gredy driving erratically on west Main. Gredy allegedly stopped in the 100 block of West Main and fled on foot before being caught by officers.

Gredy was released on \$300 bond for the traffic offenses and \$100 bond for resisting arrest.

op agreement, leading that board to come to Hoopeston's meeting Thursday.

#### See HOOPESTON AREA on other side

## Hoopeston Area continued from other side

Price said at Hoopeston's meeting that Ross-ville-Alvin wants to have a cooperative high school so that the district grade school can stay open. In a survey of residents, "we were told you must keep our grade school and junior high," he said. "The co-op was the only way to do that."

Price acknowledged that as finances dwindle, "it's likely Rossville-Alvin Grade School and Junior High will close" but for now "we looking at ways to improve the education of our high school kids and keep our grade school open."

While many residents want to keep the Cornjerker, others were more concerned about the cost. "You need finances to pay for education," said Larry Johnson. "We need Rossville- no ifs, ands or buts. We've got to be willing to give that up to educate our children."

HA board member Duane Sheppard said both sides have valid points. "I know all of us are very sensitive to the Cornjerker," he said. "Cornjerker blood runs through our veins."

But, he continued, "what it comes down to is

**Jesse J. Wisecup,** 18, of 29155N 2000E Rd., Alvin, was arrested after a traffic stop at 2:14 a.m. Saturday at West Main and Sixth Ave.

Wisecup was charged with driving on suspension and speeding and was wanted on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear for a violation hearing.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building in lieu of bond.

A 46-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Saturday that someone took her cell phone and \$8 from the bar area of Pla-Mor Lanes, 719 W. Elm.

An 18-year-old man reported Saturday that someone took his sister's bicycle from their yard in the 800 block of East Seminary. The bike is black and white.

A girl's 10-speed Pacific Voyager bicycle was found Saturday in the 100 block of North Mar-

ket. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

A 52-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Saturday that someone damaged a 1985 Chevrolet while it was parked in the 400 block of East Penn.

**Brenda L. Cannon**, 34, of 914 W. Main, was arrested after a traffic stop at 4:03 p.m. Saturday at Fifth Ave. and West Penn. She was charged with no valid driver's license and was released on a notice to appear.

Three people were arrested after police responded to an alarm at 1:28 a.m. Sunday at the Clark station, 301 W. Penn.

Tyler A. Inman, 17 and Ryan L. Inman, 24, both of 224 W. Maple and a 15-year-old Stockland boy, were charged with burglary and possession of burglary tools after police said they broke into the men's bathroom at the station. The three allegedly had

financial responsibility, the education of our children in the future. Maybe Rossville will be sensitive to our issues. We can give something and they can give something. We're doing our darndest."

In other business, the board:

- discussed new student handbooks that will be distributed at registration. Changes include policies adopted by the board last year and a policy on racial harassment.
- announced school will be dismissed early through Labor Day as it has for the past several years.
- learned sophomore test scores for a pre-ACT

#### Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 3:03 p.m. Saturday to a garage fire at 323 W. Lincoln. Ambulance personnel also responded.

### Weather



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