

July 4th Celebration Pla-Mor Lanes

Bring your family & friends to the best place in town to see the fireworks! Free hot dogs & chips from 7-8:30 p.m. DJ & Karaoke with Lazer & Lights from 8:30-close. Free sand volleyball, pool, shuffleboard & Foozeball all night. \$1.50 domestic beer all night

Hoopeston Rock Service

Free delivery in Hoopeston! Half off delivery to other areas! thru 6/30

Rock: ¾" 1¼, 2", landscape rock, pea gravel, sand, road pack.

Delivery/spreading available. Hours by appointment.

Rich Stipp, owner

(217) 283-5492

(217) 304-0884



Tacos are back!

Thursday

3-8 p.m.

**\$1 beer
V.F.W.**

All Your Protection Under One Roof

Phone (217)442-8120

I can help you with all your insurance needs and financial services. Count on me for prompt, friendly service. Call today.

JEFF STIPP AGENCY

Cell: (217) 304-0882

711 N. Gilbert St. W. Suite, Danville, IL



All Your Protection Under One Roof

© 2000 American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries
American Family Financial Services, Inc.
Home Office - Madison, WI 53783 • www.amefam.com

NA-16960

Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

Just the Facts[©]

Phone/Fax:
(217) 283-9348
Email:
publish@justthefacts.net

Wednesday, July 2, 2003

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

www.justthefacts.net

Witch school out after 'religious opposition,' director says

"I'm not going to go through with it. You guys have won your fight here tonight."

With those words, the Rev. Ed Hubbard, director of witchschool.com, and his followers, left the Hoopeston Council chambers Tuesday night.

Hubbard called the attention drawn to the school "something of a media circus," adding he wanted to locate the school in Hoopeston because it is a "community with space to breathe." However, efforts of locals to block the school's opening is "becoming known as the second witch trials. I've never faced this level of religious opposition in my life," he said.

Nearly 100 people packed the council chambers to discuss the Wicca school. Mayor Chalmers Flint put off discussion until the council meeting adjourned. In a statement during the meeting, Flint said the issue is a private one between school officials and building owners but Flint admitted he was opposed to the school coming to Hoopeston.

After the meeting, aldermen were asked whether they favored the school. Alderman Rod Kaag said as an alderman, he had no opinion but that as a private citizen, "I'm personally opposed by my faith."

Expert: cooperative school not best way to merge districts

A cooperative high school is not the best way for school districts to merge, according to an expert in the field.

Dr. William Phillips spoke separately to the Hoopeston Area and Rossville-Alvin boards on Monday, outlining the types of reorganization available and the benefits and drawbacks of each.

Phillips outlines seven of the eight ways of reorganizing, including:

11-A consolidation, where a new unit district is formed. Petitions may be brought to the regional su-

perintendent by the school boards or citizens. The issue then goes to the state superintendent before it is placed on the ballot.

Other council members did not respond.

Hubbard was asked what it would take to keep the school from the community, then he countered, asking what it would take for the community to welcome the school. "Change your religion," one person said. "Find Jesus," another answered.

"You don't understand the spiritual darkness you're bringing into our community," said Sam Ristow. "There are forces of power you're dealing with that are very harmful."

The Rev. Chuck Alt said the school and the Christian community have different value systems. "We'll never meet," he said.

While Hubbard said he would not go through with opening the school, he has put earnest money on the \$40,000 building. Whether sellers Arlen Alwardt and Larry Tobeck will agree to breaking that contract is unknown.

And despite Hubbard's claim, many residents at the meeting don't believe the school is a dead issue. "I think we made him mad," one resident said. "He'll be

perintendent by the school boards or citizens. The issue then goes to the state superintendent before it is placed on the ballot.

Annexations, where a large district combines with one or more smaller districts. "It's kind of like getting married," Phillips said. "You co-mingle your assets and liabilities and (the smaller district) takes your name."

Dissolving a district, where a school board or citizens petition the regional board of trustees. The trustees can annex the dissolved district to another or parti-



4th of July Flag Sale

American Flags

regularly \$9.98, \$12.98, \$24.98

1/2 Price

**Looking for a bank that's
customer friendly and on the go?**

That's us!

Community Bank

Hoopeston, Illinois

Your hometown bank since 1913

221 Bank St. (217) 283-7733 Rtes. 1&9 283-9723

221 E. Main, Wellington (815) 984-3130



Member FDIC

JULY 4 CELEBRATION

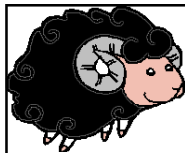
at the VFW

Public invited!!

\$1 beer all day! Chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs provided. Serving starts at 6 p.m. Bring a covered dish & come out to watch the fireworks!

**Want a yard that's
pretty as a picture?
Call T& L Landscaping
(217) 283-7214**

**We have rubber mulch & brown
& red wood mulch.**



Black Sheep Pub

(formerly Rickey G's)

Thursday Night Special
\$1 off steak dinners



Your event
can be listed
FREE on
hoopeston.org
Email: additions@hoopeston.org.

Vacancy Notice - Building Custodian

Rossville-Alvin School District is seeking a full-time building custodian to work days when school is not in session and evenings (3-11 p.m.) when school is in session. Benefits include board contributions to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), health insurance or annuity options, life insurance, paid vacation and sick leave days. Beginning hourly rate is \$9.72 per hour. Additional pay and overtime hours can be earned by obtaining a bus driver permit and providing substitute driver services to the district.

Contact Mr. Carl Sartwell, Superintendent, Rossville-Alvin School District 7, 350 N. Chicago St., Rossville, IL 60963, (217) 748-6600 to obtain an application. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, resume and application by July 22, 2003. Rossville-Alvin CUSD 7 is an EOE.

tion it into

~~See MERGE on other side~~

Merge continued from other side

more than one district. Dissolving cannot be done in districts with more than 5,000 residents.

Unit district conversion, for districts with 250 or fewer high school students. The district must touch a dual district and may then convert its K-12 district to a K-8 one. High school students are tuitioned to a different high school

Deactivation, in which tuition is paid for students to attend another school. This option, which has been done five times in Illinois, is used by communities that want to keep their grade schools. Deactivation is done by agreements of one to two years.

11-D consolidation which has not been done in the state. Under this method, unit districts are changed to the dual district format, forming individual community grade schools and a high school district that encompasses one or more communities.

Cooperative high school, which also has not been done in Illinois. Under this form of reorganization, each district retains its board and a new board of control is established. The new board can do anything but levy taxes, which are still levied by the previous boards. Cooperative agreements must be done for a minimum of 20 years and may only be broken if one or both districts permanently reorganize with each other or other districts.

“Some of the rules and regulations (of a co-op district) are kind of sketchy,” Phillips said. For example, the state board has made no rules on teacher salaries and setting a specific number of members for the board of control. Currently, the number may range from six to 10, he said. “The concept is ok but it needs to be fleshed

Police News



Peter Liszka, 23, of Burbank, was ticketed for failing to yield/stop at a marked intersection after an accident at 2:41 p.m. Monday.

Police said Liszka, in a 1999 Volvo, approached the intersection of West Penn and First Ave. and did not realize that Richard C. Mader of 413 E. Main, in a 2000 Buick, did not have to stop. Liszka entered the intersection and struck Mader.

out,” he said.

Additionally, districts pay tuition for students to attend a co-op high school and that tuition may include the cost bonded debt, such as construction indebtedness, Phillips said.

Finally, since it has never been done before, the co-op option would require extensive use of an attorney

The final means of consolidation involves dual districts - those with separate districts for grade and high schools - and does not apply to Hoopeston and Rossville, he said.

Financial incentives are available to districts which use permanent reorganizations, including all but deactivation and the cooperative option. Four incentives are offered, including:

General state aid difference, where state aid is calculated with the districts combined and as they were. The new district gets the higher amount for a maximum of four years.

Deficit fund balance, where the state pays the debt of a school district operating in the red in the education, transportation, building and working cash funds. This would not apply to Rossville and Hoopeston, Phillips said.

Teacher difference salary adjustment, also paid for four years. In this, the state pays the difference in teacher salaries between the lower and higher-paid districts. A Hoopeston/Rossville union would net about \$502,000, Phillips said.

A \$4,000 payment per certified employee of the incoming district. In the case of Rossville and Hoopeston merging, the total would be \$637,000 for two years, bringing total incentives to \$1.7 million, Phillips said.

With state budget cuts, some school officials wonder whether incentives will still be paid. “When you’re dealing with the government, never say never, but I think so,” Phillips said.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 88. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 65. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 88, low 68.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Having out of town visitors? We have two 1 bedroom furnished apartments available by the night or by the week. TV, phone, utilities included. (217) 283-7996.

AUCTIONS

Auction - Pearl Lind Est., 706 E. Penn, Hoopeston. Sat., July 12, 11 a.m. A 90-year collection of furniture, appliances, household items, antiques, collectibles, lawn & outdoor equip., misc. Far too much to list. Also, 1996 Mercury Grand Marquis w/26,850 mil & 1997 Ford F150 XLT truck w/25,618 mi., both like new. Bill DeWitt, CPA IL #040000372. Info? (217) 283-7161

HELP WANTED

HS ASSISTANT FOOTBALL COACH - Requirements are teaching certification or I.S.E.P. class. Send letter of interest to Attn: Carl Sartwell, Rossville-Alvin High School, 350 N. Chicago St., Rossville, IL 60963, phone (217) 748-6600.

Part-time kitchen help 5 nights, average of 25-30 hours per week. Must be extremely dependable, clean, very fast-paced and someone who enjoys cooking. If you are interested in joining our team, see Jeanne at the Milford Dairy Queen.

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom home. Refrig., range, washer, dryer, dry basement, water softener, 2 car garage, central AC. \$450/mo. with deposit. No pets. Available Aug. Call (217) 283-5107 for application.

HOUSES FOR SALE

Houses for sale. Will accept contract. Nice, 2 bedrooms, new furnaces, new carpet. (217) 283-6025 (days) or (217) 304-4486.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: Ladies ring, sapphire surrounded by diamonds w/gold band. If found, please call (217) 283-4253 or 283-4012

PRODUCE

Raspberries for sale. (217) 283-7805

SERVICES

Pampered Pet Grooming. Lots of TLC. Call anytime for appointment. (217) 339-2340.

A-RIGHT-WAY Sewer & Drain. Low cost rodding. \$65. Senior citizen discount. (815) 435-2186.

Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad.