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## Rossville-Alvin, Hoopeston Area look to future after vote

### Results 'bittersweet thing' for Price

ROSSVILLE—"It was a bittersweet thing," said Dennis Price, Rossville-Alvin school board president Wednesday morning after Tuesday's vote to allow deactivation of the high school.

In a 746-418 vote, district residents approved deactivating the high school and sending students to either Hoopeston Area or Bismarck-Henning high schools.

"You know what's right, you know what the kids need but you hate to see it come," Price said. And while Price is sorry to see the high school closing, he stressed that life in Rossville can still revolve around school activities - just at a younger level - at the grade school.

That deactivation passed did not surprise the seven-year board member. "A week ago, I probably would have been," he said. Over the last week, however, Price said he could tell more and more people were listening. At last Monday's public meeting on deactivation, the questions asked were better and body language was different than it had been, leading Price to believe people were hearing what the board was saying.

Had the referendum failed, Rossville would have had to make drastic cuts in staff and programs. "If we had to do that, there was not going to be a quality of education," Price said. "It's a board's job to make sure that quality is there."

With the vote behind them, Price said the board will now try to help students and parents educate themselves as to the offerings at both Hoopeston Area and Bismarck-Henning. Both schools have held open houses for students and parents and there is talk of possible mentoring programs at each to allow stu-

**See RESULTS on other side**

### Community effort makes vote successful

Hoopeston Area Superintendent Mark Conolly was pleasantly surprised when he read the news Wednesday morning that a referendum to add 90 cents to the district's education fund was successful.

"Often referendums don't pass on the first vote," he said. "It was a surprise."

Conolly said it was a community effort that allowed the measure to pass by a 1,608-1,220 vote. "We certainly want to thank everybody who had a part in making the referendum successful," he said, giving special thanks to Russ Leigh and the citizens' committee that had signs made, sent letters to registered voters, made phone calls and advertised the need for the referendum.

At 90 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, the district had hoped to receive about \$600,000 through the referendum. However, Gov. Blagojevich's tax relief program which increased both the homeowner's and senior citizen exemptions will mean the loss of perhaps as much as \$100,000 of the increase, Conolly said.

Since the district had a November ballot issue, it will begin receiving money next year. The owner of a \$50,000 home will see an increase of about \$150 on his property tax bill; the owner of a \$100,000 house will pay an additional \$300 in taxes.

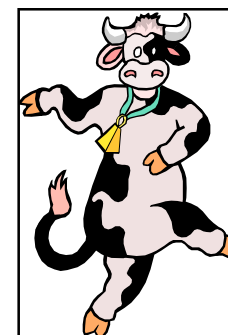
Hoopeston Area, which had the lowest tax rate in the area, will see the rate go from \$3.76 per \$100 to \$4.66. It is the first time in more than 30 years that the district has sought a tax increase.

The money will be used in the education fund, which pays for teachers' salaries and other items related to student education and will allow the school board to stave off cuts in programs and extra-

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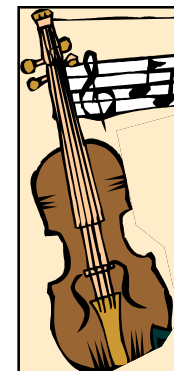


**Steak  
Fry**

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Saturday, Nov. 6  
6 p.m.

Hoopeston Community  
Church of the Nazarene  
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Guests include:

**Rich Stipp**

**New Life Singers**

**Bill Crozier**

**Chestnut St. Cowboy Church Band**

*Public invited*



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Open 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Monday-Friday  
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday

Briefly

Tiny Tots

“Click, Clack Moo” is the theme of this week’s Tiny Tots story program at the Hoopeston Public Library children’s room. Tiny Tots meets at 10:30 a.m. Fridays and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and is for children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Winners

Winners in the October Women Making a Difference drawing are \$25, George Houmes, \$25, George Houmes, \$15, Larry Houseman, \$15, Mary Jo Houseman, \$10, Mary Jo Peterson and Vicki Gaddis.

Winner of the IGA grocery raffle is Holly Braun of Cissna Park.

The group is selling cookbooks for \$8 each.

Blood drive

The Hoopeston Jaycees are sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive from 9 a.m. -1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6 at the Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. Second Ave. You are eligible if your last donation was on or before Sept. 11. For an appointment, call Jimmy Polson, 283-4645. Walk-ins are welcome.

Petitions available

Citizens interested in running for municipal, school board or library district seats in the April election may pick up nominating packets at the office of each elective body.

★

Police News

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**Tyrone T. Jaskula**, 39, of 837 E. Penn was arrested at 9:40 a.m. Tuesday at city hall. He was charged with theft over \$300 on a complaint from a 32-year-old Hoopeston man in connection with an Oct. 31 incident in the 800 block of East Penn.

Jaskula was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

An **unknown semi** tractor trailer struck an AmerenCIPS pole at East Penn and Seventh St., damaging the pole and electrical wires.

✉

Letters to the Editor

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**Please use skating rink**

Dear citizens of Hoopeston,

My name is Ryan Reed. I’m 15 and I go to the skating rink every Friday and Saturday evening. It’s like my home, as well as a lot of kids. It’s where we go to have fun and hang out with our friends.

But there’s a problem. They’re not going to stay open for much longer if we don’t do something. They’re not making enough business to stay open and wee need you, the citizens of Hoopeston, to help

us. Whoever else reads this, please help us support the skating rink so that kids who like to skate can have someplace to go.

They are open Friday and Saturday nights from 7-10 p.m. It costs \$4 if you have skates and \$5.50 if you don’t. They are also pen on Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. It costs \$2 if you have skates and if you don’t, it costs \$3.50. It’s also a great place for birthday parties. It’s a good place to hang out and have fun.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Reed  
Hoopeston

Results continued from other side

dents to get a bird’s-eye view of a day in the schools. “They need to ask of these other schools what they asked in the deactivation,” he said.

The board will also begin working on ways to solve the \$485,000 deficit. Possible solutions include issuing bonds and borrowing against future money, Price said.


Weather

Chance of rain today. High 59. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 33. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 49, low 33

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service (217) 283-6221.

Petitions and other forms may be filed from Jan. 17-25.

Openings are available on the Rossville village and school boards, Hoopeston city council and school



Black Sheep Pub

125 S. Chicago, Rossville  
(217) 748-4114

Open Thursday nights for winter  
Serving Beef Manhattans or  
Beef Stew with mashed potatoes  
Your choice \$6.95  
Serving 5-9 p.m.

Classifieds

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1 bedroom apt. \$300/mo, \$300 deposit. Lease required. (217) 283-7698.

292-303

HOUSES FOR RENT

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2 bedroom house. Great location. Detached garage. References + deposit. No pets. (217) 283-6025 299-310

3 bedroom house, corner lot, basement, 2 car garage, no pets, references, \$450/Mo, 1 mo. deposit (217) 283-7406

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Matching couch & love seat, 2 end tables, coffee table, Kimball electric organ Swinger 500. (217) 375-4483 after 5 p.m. or leave message.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1999 Subaru Legacy. Silver. 47,500 mi. Power windows, locks, All-Wheel-Drive. \$12,500. (217) 283-6258

1993 Dodge Caravan. 107,000 miles. Brand new tires, brakes. AM/FM/CD/Cassette. AC. Asking \$3,200 OBO. Call Steve or Kathleen at (217) 283-5216. If no answer, please leave message.

Call (217) 283-9348