

Tuesday is Senior Citizens Day

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Gobble up
these activities at
Pla-Mor Lanes

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Birthday Party for Eric Gress

DJ/Karaoke \$1.50 beer

Thursday, Nov. 25

Closed. Happy Thanksgiving!

Friday, Nov. 26

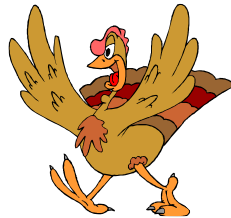
Karaoke Finals 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 27

"Judge Metal"

8:30-12:30 - No Cover

719 W. Elm, Hoopeston (217) 283-5195



Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

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Briefly

Music Booster winners

This week's winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: Nov. 22, Bernie Deany; Nov. 23, George and Amy Linares; Nov. 24, Marguerite McCormick; Nov. 25, Barbara Yates; Nov. 26, Lori Kotleba..

Tiny Tots

Tiny Tots will not be held this week because of Thanksgiving.

Miracle Tree screening

Screenings for the Miracle Tree, along with the Grant Township Food Cupboard, Lions Club Christmas baskets and Jaycees Toys for Tots is going on through Friday, Dec. 3 at the Grant Township office, 525 S. Market. Screenings will be done from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. each business day. Applicants are asked to bring proof of address, effective LINK card, proof of income and Social Security cards for everyone in the household.

No paper Thursday

Just the Facts will be closed Thursday for Thanksgiving. Publication will resume Friday. We wish everyone a Safe and Happy holiday!

**Need an inexpensive gift for teachers,
friends, co-workers, family members?**

We now have wire candle holders

(Fits jar candles, too!)

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Trumpeting the season

Dustin Hurt, a member of the John Greer concert band, plays a selection during Saturday's Christmas luncheon for children at the Hoopeston American Legion. Band and choral students are kicking off the start of Music Booster calendar sales. Calendars are \$25 and offer a chance to win \$50 each weekday and \$100 on concert days. Calendars may be purchased from any elementary, middle school or high school band or chorus member and at Global Fashions, Brown's Woodwork, Carolynn's Beauty/Razor's Edge and Russ Leigh and Associates. There will be no phonathon this year. 2005 drawings will begin the last week of January.

Don't forget
Thanksgiving flowers
for the cook!

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The Grill

4:30-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday
Bar open until 9 Monday-Thursday,
late Friday & Saturday

Every Tuesday is
LADIES & SENIOR CITIZENS DAY

Take \$2 OFF our already low price! Our
professionals are here to serve you.
Quality Service You Can Trust!

Hoopeston Express Lube

Hoopeston Plaza Rtes. 1 & 9



Stop. Go. Pennzoil.

Superintendent writes to mayor, R-A people

At a recent Rossville Village council meeting, the mayor of Rossville criticized the administration and school board of Rossville-Alvin CUSD 7 for “pushing forward with deactivation” and “fighting” the establishment of a TIF district in the village of Rossville. I did not see where any of the mayor’s statements were supported with factual information. While the mayor may like to deal in the realm of “wishful thinking,” the

school board must act on the basis of cold, hard facts. According to the United States Census Bureau, the population of Vermilion County was 83,919 in the 2000 census. You have to look back in history to the census year 1910 before you find a census figure lower than the population of Vermilion County was in 2000. Projections by the University of Illinois are 83,305 in 2005, 81,989 in 2010, 80,848 in 2015 and 80,560 in 2020. Our local school district projections of future enrollments mirror this declining trend. The county is getting smaller. The schools are getting smaller. The villages of Rossville, Hoopeston, Bismarck and the city of Danville can create all the TIF districts they want but until people have the opportunity for gainful employment in the county, there will be no growth.

The mayor will argue that creating jobs is the reason for a TIF district to be created, yet when the Rossville TIF district was created, it was created primarily as a residential TIF - it’s primary purpose being the creation of new housing. The cornerstone of the project proposal was finding a developer willing to build an “assisted living” complex for senior citizens. The devastating Rossville fire did not occur until after the creation of the TIF. The school district will lose its ability to collect the taxes generated by any growth in assessed value from the properties contained within the TIF district. In other words, the school sacrifices potential revenue growth to the village for the next 20 years.

The mayor and the consultant tried to represent the TIF district as a potential boon for the school by bringing more students to the district. The mayor still alludes to that argument by stating the deactivation should have been pushed back two more years to allow for the TIF to develop. Our question for the mayor has always been how will the creation of a senior citizen assisted living complex bring new

students to town? How will the creation of a subdivision bring new families to town if there are no jobs to support them?

How many new students would need to be added to the enrollment of Rossville-Alvin School District to make it feasible for the district to continue operating a high school? We asked ourselves that question and did the calculations. The answer was, at the very least, 80 additional students would be needed to maintain the status quo but 100 was more workable. We are glad that the businesses destroyed in the damaging fire lie within the TIF district and that the village will be able to help foster rebuilding the downtown; but let’s be honest - replacing the retail businesses that were lost will not generate enough jobs to bring 80 more students into this school district in the next two years.

We certainly support the revival of the village of Rossville and support the mayor and the village council’s attempts to spearhead that revival. That is one reason why we acquiesced to the created of the TIF district. But it is not factual and it is not fair to lay the blame for the village’s struggles on the back of the school district. The mayor is right when he stated deactivation might be in the best interests of the students. Who is it, by the way, that the school board is here to represent? Thank you for that admission at least, Mr. Mayor!

On a broader scope, I have noticed a backlash of allegations and accusations from those who were opposed to the deactivation or who have been convinced they were misled by the school board. The board and I certainly understand the emotions surrounding this action and we are sympathetic to those students upset by it. But we are also convinced this was the right course of action for the district to take and will result in more educational opportunities for our students. We presented factual information to the public, based upon years of discussion and study. We did everything we could to educate the public and to obtain input from the public prior

to this vote. I know we have critics in the community and they are certainly entitled to their opinions. But what purpose is served by creating divisiveness now that 65 percent of the voters have spoken in favor of deactivation? Who will be harmed by this divisiveness? Please think about that before you vent about what the village or the school board is attempting to do.

Both public bodies have their constituents’ best interest in mind but both are faced with tough decisions that must be made in these trying times. Fighting for what you believe is important but coming together after a decision has been made and trying to make it work will contribute more to the success of the community than bickering about what has been done in the past.

Carl Sartwell, Superintendent
Rossville-Alvin Community Unit School District 7

TATER'S Bar & Grill
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Turkey Week
Wednesday - Free Jukebox
Friday - “A Life Without”
9 p.m.-1 a.m.

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Obituaries

KELNHOFER - Kenneth W. Kelnhofer Sr., 69, of Hoopeston died at 10:49 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, 2004 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Brown Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to American Heart Association or American Lung Association.

Weather



Chance of rain today and tonight. High 56, low 40. Tomorrow, chance of rain or snow early, chance of snow late. High 43, low 25.

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

Four arrested on drug, weapon charges as investigation goes on

Hoopeston police arrested four people on drug and weapons charges at 1:43 a.m. at 219 W. Maple.

Kenny D. Dale II, 24 and Tiffany J. Smith, 23 of 219 W. Maple; Michael A. Abbott, 35, of 204 E. Honeywell and Daniel Caswell, 23, of 2055 E 670 North Rd., Milford were all charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Additionally, Smith and dale were charged with permitting the unlawful usage of a building for the manufacture of a controlled substance and unlawful use of a weapon after police allegedly found a sawed-off shotgun.

Chief Mark Drollinger said the investigation into the gun is still open. “Depending on the amount of cooperation - or lack of - we may seek assistance from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms,” he said. If BATF becomes involved, federal, rather than state charges may be filed, he said, adding he believes one or more people may have been involved in sawing the barrel off of the gun.

Caswell was also charged on a Ford County warrant for failure to appear and Abbott was wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant.

All were taken to the Public Safety Building to await arraignment.