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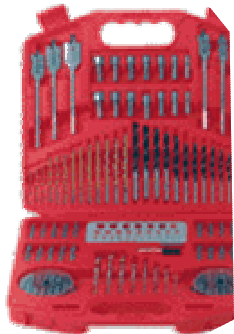
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Letters to the Editor

R-A voters were misled

On Nov. 2, 2004, Rossville incurred another devastating blow, the loss of our high school. The voters in our school district agreed with the recommendations made by the Rossville-Alvin School Board...deactivation. The voters carefully made their decision based upon all the facts that were published, along with public meetings conducted by the school board. This is where the trouble begins.

This school was placed in jeopardy at the very first public meeting when board President Dennis Price made the following introductory statement: "We are in trouble, we've made all the cuts that we can and there is nothing else we can do." This pretty much sets the stage for a loss of credibility and an impending sense of doom.

The board then followed by announcing it would need a \$1 per \$100 increase in the EAV tax structure to perhaps buy us two more years. Who in their right mind would want to throw that kind of money at a doomed school district? This one-two knockout punch was followed by a survey mailed to all voters, asking if they wanted to support a tax increase, deactivate, consolidate or look at forming a co-op with Bismarck and/or Hoopeston. The rest is history.

Board President Price was quoted in Just the Facts on Nov. 2, "We want the voters to have the facts, there are half truths and misinformation circulating around." I would like to respond to some of the "facts" promoted by the school board.

See LETTER on other side

Health department adds to list of flu immunization clinics

Additional flu immunization clinics are being planned at the Vermilion County Health Department, (200 South College Street, Suite A, in Danville) for those individuals considered to be most at risk from influenza. Walk-in flu shot clinics are now scheduled at the health department from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, Tuesday, Dec. 7, Friday, Dec. 10, and Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 13-15.

No additional flu clinics are planned for other sites in Vermilion County. Cost of the flu shot is \$18.00. Immunization will be available on a walk-in basis for anyone meeting the high risk definition: those who are 19 years of age and older with documented chronic illness, or anyone who is 65 years of age or older.

"We will continue to offer flu immunizations to high risk Vermilion County residents for as long as we have vaccine available," said Administrator Steve

Laker. The health department began offering vaccine to those most at risk November 15, with clinics held in Danville, Westville, and Hoopeston. To date, the health department has immunized over 2,000 of those individuals considered to be most at risk from influenza. "We have sufficient vaccine available to immunize our high risk population," Laker said, adding "Today's extremely busy clinic still leaves us with 3,500 doses of vaccine available."

Once the county's high-risk population is vaccinated, the health department will offer the remainder of the vaccine to other health departments in the state who are still attempting to vaccinate their high risk populations." "However," Laker said, "we will continue to offer flu clinics here as long as we have a need among our high risk population."

For more information, call the health department at 431-2662, or visit their website at www.vchd.org.

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Letter continued from other side

Fact #1 - "There are no more cuts that can be made." Of course there are cuts that can be made! The board proposed more cuts shortly before the Nov.2 vote at their last meeting. When questioned why we have a grade school principal, Mr. Price responded by saying, "I guess we could have saved some money there."

Fact #2 - "The school district will have a \$485,000 deficit." This was a budget based on a "worst case scenario." If current spending practices continue, it could happen, but not likely. In fact, one board member on the finance committee admitted "those deficit figures are not quite accurate. We expect the deficit to be closer to \$250,000." The public was never informed that the deficit would likely be less.

Fact #3 - "If the deactivation fails, coupled with no tax increase, the school will be shut down." This is the most

outrageous unfounded "fact" that was presented at the last public meeting. The statement was made by Russ Leigh, school accountant. Not one board member or Supt. Sartwell bothered to correct that statement. They either didn't know any better or, as I believe, it suited their purpose not to.

Fact #4 - "We are doing this for the kids' sake." Give me a break. If the lack of some classes to be offered is your driving force to shut our school down, then why didn't we close our school 20 years ago? Smaller schools never have been able to compete with larger schools' curriculum offerings. In spite of this "handicap," Rossville-Alvin has a proud tradition of doing well in State Scholastic competitions. How many lawyers, doctors, businessmen and good citizens can you count that have passed through our halls?

There are several missed opportunities that are just around the corner, such as Bill 750, an education reform bill, state money for co-op contracts between schools, and the TIF district, which is in its early stages in Rossville. This is a drawing card for residential development that can bring more students to our school. Unfortunately, we need a healthy, complete school system to achieve that goal. After the high school is gone, and when the grade school is closed, property owners can expect to watch their investments slowly dwindle away. When our property values decline, the tax revenue declines. What do you think the other taxing bodies are going to be forced to do? You guessed it, raise their rates!

It is a shame our voters were given only information that was slanted towards deactivation. I truly can't understand our board's eagerness to be at the helm when our ship went down. It's certainly a distinction I would not be proud of.

Gene Roach

Proud graduate of Rossville-Alvin High School

Bowling Scores

Hoopeston Women's Bowling League			
11/15/04			
1. R&R Body Shop	32	4	
2. Gillins Oil	20	16	
3. Olympic Hardware	20	16	
4. Adda Girls	19	17	
5. Pla-Mor Girls	19	17	
6. Unger's Jewelry	18	18	
7. Henning's	17	19	
8. Caddy Shack	16	20	
9. Weber's	13	23	
10. Family Circus	6	30	

High Team Handicap Game: R&R Body Shop 1,075, Henning's 1,071, Family Circus 1,068; **High Team Handicap Series:** R&R Body Shop 3,120, Henning's 3,081, Family Circus 3,080; **High Individual Scratch Game:** Karen Porth 243, Mona Birch 226, Diana Edwards 215; **High Individual Scratch Series:** Patti Lowe 588, Glenda Reed 584, Dollie Boots 562.

Police News

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 12:07 p.m. Monday in the Jerry's IGA parking lot, 1030 W. Chestnut.

Police said Thomas E. Tull of Hoopeston, in a 1997 Chevrolet, was eastbound in the lot when he tried to turn right and slid on wet pavement. He struck a 1995 Jeep driven by Jose Jesus Gonzalez, also of Hoopeston.

Thursday Night City Men's League			
11/18/04			
1. Team America	48	29	
2. Tax Service Plus	47	30	
3. Noble House Construction	46	31	
4. U-Need Construction	45	32	
5. Lazer 'N Lights	44	33	
6. Lawson Products	39	38	
7. Hooterville Broadcasting	33	44	
8. Ross Electric	31	46	
9. Pla-Mor Lanes	31	46	
10. ConAgra Foods	21	56	

High Team Handicap Game: U-Need Construction 879, Ross Electric 871, Noble House Construction 852; **High Team Handicap Series:** Noble House Construction 2,522, Ross Electric 2,487, U-Need Construction 2,474; **High Individual Scratch Game:** Steve Bruens Jr. 258, Kris Hall 255, Dave Hughes 239; **High Individual Scratch Series:** Kenny McVicker 660, Dave Hughes 652, Steve Bruens Jr. 645.

Hall of Shame: Don Gay Jr. 107.

Weather

Partly cloudy today and tonight. High 41, low 25. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 40, low 26.

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

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