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Rossville-Alvin students to choose new high schools today

ROSSVILLE—Next year's high school students have until the end of school today to choose a high school to attend in 2005-2006.

In the Nov. 2 election, voters approved deactivating Rossville-Alvin High School and paying tuition for students to attend Hoopeston Area or Bismarck-Henning high school. An agreement between the three districts set Dec. 15 as the cutoff date for students to decide which school to attend.

Rossville-Alvin students were given forms Friday on which to indicate what school they want to attend, said Superintendent Carl Sartwell on Tuesday. Students initialed a sheet that they had received the forms and their names will be checked off as they return the forms.

Students who do not return a form will be assigned to one of the two schools, Sartwell said.

Each form must be signed by the student and at least one parent or guardian. The numbers will be tabulated and Bismarck-Henning and Hoopeston Area officials notified by phone Thursday of the total number of students each will receive.

Sartwell estimated that about one fourth of forms handed out Friday had already been returned by

Tuesday morning.

Hoopeston Area and Bismarck-Henning will use the numbers to plan for staffing for next school year. By state law, the districts must take a percentage of Rossville-Alvin's teachers equal to the percentage of the district's students they are receiving.

Briefly

Coat collection

Price Less Foods, 317 S. Market, Hoopeston, is collecting coats and food for local underprivileged people.

Coats may be left in a specially-marked cart at the store. Non-perishable foods and paper items may also be donated. All food items will be given to the Grant Township Food Cupboard.

Well Baby Clinic

The Hoopeston Well Baby Clinic will be held from 9-11 a.m. Thursday at the Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center, 801 E. Orange. The free clinic is for children from birth to school age. Children will be weighed, measured and given needed immunizations.

For an appointment, call 283-5644. Walk-ins are welcome. Free will donations are appreciated.

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Fashions

Health department reports mounting cases of whooping cough

The number of confirmed cases of pertussis in Vermilion County continues to mount. Public health officials say they now have two confirmed cases of whooping cough. "Symptoms can appear in from 5 to 21 days," according to Communicable Disease Coordinator Sherrie Shoemaker, who added, "We are still in the early stages of identifying potential cases."

To date, the Vermilion County Health Department is reporting one probable case; two confirmed; two negative; four additional individuals are awaiting test results; and one individual is considered to be a 'suspect' case, awaiting the results of further testing.

Shoemaker said so far, all but one of the individuals tested are either from the same families, or are school-related illnesses. She said those individuals tested earlier either had never been vaccinated against pertussis or did not receive the full series of pertussis immunization. "That's why we continue to urge parents to be certain

their children receive proper immunizations." She said those awaiting tests this week had either had whooping cough or had been vaccinated as children but the effectiveness of their immunization may have waned with age.

Symptoms can include a long series of coughs or coughing "fits", followed by a whooping noise. Health officials say older children, adults, and infants may not develop the "whooping" sound. Shoemaker said there is generally little or no fever with pertussis, but coughing can be followed by vomiting, difficulty breathing, and skin coloring may take on a shade of blue. Usually, coughing increases at night.

Shoemaker said anyone exhibiting cold symptoms that worsen in one to two weeks should contact their medical provider. For more information, call Shoemaker at (217) 431-2662, or visit the health department's website at www.vchd.org.



New Books at the Library



Fiction

Ain't No Mountain by Sharon Ewell Foster (inspirational)

Dumping Billy by Olivia Goldsmith

The Confessions of Max Tivoli by Andrew Sean Greer

Justice For None by Gene Hackman and Daniel Lenihan

With by Donald Harington

Sister Slam and the Poetic Motormouth Road Trip by Linda Oatman High (young adult)

The Laws of Invisible Things by Frank Huyler

The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

The Blue Mirror by Kathe Koja (young adult)

The Taking by Dean Koontz

Hondo by Louis L'Amour (western)

The Sacrifice by Beverly Lewis (inspirational)

A Loving Scoundrel: a Malory Novel by Johanna Lindsey

The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers

Folly and Glory: a Novel by Larry McMurtry

The Yellow Rose by Gilbert Morris (inspirational)

Including Alice by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor (young adult)

Wild Heather by Catherine Palmer (inspirational)

Weather



Sunny today. High 39. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 25. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 39, low 26.

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