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- Please vote Tuesday, April 5**
Your vote DOES matter!

Paid for by Citizens to Elect Lourdine Florek Mayor



Lourdine Florek
 owner/publisher

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www.justthefacts.net

Four seats, six candidates for Hoopeston Area School Board

Hoopeston Area voters will have a choice of four candidates for two seats in the former Hoopeston-East Lynn part of the district and two candidates for two seats in the outside area of the district.

Candidates and their positions include:

Loni Gress, 54, a lifelong Hoopeston resident. Gress graduated from Hoopeston High School and attended Danville Area Community College. For the past 15 years, she has been employed as office manager for the City of Hoopeston.

The biggest issue facing the district, Gress said, is operating under a balanced budget. "State funding has been cut drastically and we are going to be faced with budget cuts. Hopefully we can find a way to overcome the funding shortage without cutting the quality of programs we now offer. Quality of education should be our first priority."

Gress said her job will help in dealing with problems the district may face in the future. "I feel that I have the ability to make rational decisions not only for the students and staff, but for the district and the community," she said.

Lawrence B. Jahn, 64, who was appointed to the board approximately six months ago to fill Jeff

Stipp's unexpired term. Jahn has a BS in business education and a MS in education administration and is owner of LBJ's Services. He served as a teacher in the Hoopeston Area district, technology coordinator and consultant. He has more than 40 years of teaching experience here and at Danville Area community College and has served on various school-related boards and the local and county level. He is also a member of the Hoopeston Public Library board.

"I have seen first-hand the challenges faced by students, faculty members, staff, administrators and previous boards," Jahn said.

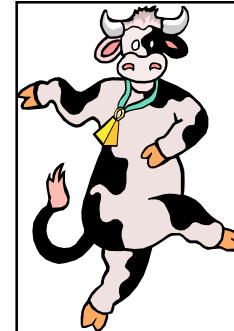
Jahn was involved with the administration in developing the cooperative vocational agreement with Rossville-Alvin that has been in effect for more than 25 years and was instrumental in bringing Hoopeston Area into the technology age, creating the first district computer lab in the county. "The district is known county-wide as a premier leader in information technology for primary and secondary schools," he said.

Issues facing the district include improving communication of policies among the board, administration, faculty, staff and students. "If elected, I would work for the board to evaluate the present discipline policy and develop ways to enforce the policies so they are fair and consistent for all students within the district," he said.

Other areas of concern include declining enrollment - and resulting loss of state aid, improving test scores, and maintaining quality education. To address these, Jahn said he supports the planned vocational education cooperative between Hoopeston Area, Bismarck-Henning and DACC at Rossville-Alvin High School; sharing facilities, instructors and resources for higher-level classes with surrounding districts; and would encourage the state to find other sources of revenue that

Vote For

Loni
Gress



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Jahn

for

Hoopeston Area

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See **CANDIDATES** on other side

Candidates continued from other side

equitable than property taxes.

Dwight Judy, 32, a Hoopeston Area graduate with a BS in accounting from Illinois State University. He is currently CPA/comptroller at Hubner Industries, LLC.

Judy said his financial background will be an asset to the board, as will interpersonal skills honed working as a public accountant. "I have learned patience and listening can go a long way in reaching a common ground in any situation," he said.

The biggest issue facing the district is its finances. Judy said he would welcome comments and suggestions from the community. "In the future, it is going to take some thinking outside the box and different perspectives to come up with new ideas to make sure the district is operating at its best financial efficiency," he said. "The current board has already begun the process of working with other districts to build efficiencies and I am sure this will be expanded in the future."

Judy a lifelong resident, said he encourages everyone to vote. "It all starts with the voters," he said. "Being an elected official is a great responsibility but an even greater responsibility lies with each voter as they let their voices be heard at their local polling place."

Larry Lobb, 61, who has served on the board for seven and a half years and is currently board president. Lobb earned a BS from Eastern Illinois University and an MS from the University of Illinois. He is a retired teacher with 37 years' experience.

The major issues facing the district include declining enrollment, a need for increased vocational education through DACC at Rossville-Alvin High School and under-funded state and federal mandates. To alleviate the issues, Lobb said he favors working with other area school districts, continued improvements in the vocational area and working with legislators to improve the funding problem.

"I would like very much to stay on the board of education as long as I can," Lobb said. "I am available at 283-7884 24 hours a day, seven days a week for citizen concerns."

Candidates outside the old district include:

Sara Jane Johnson, 50, who graduated from

Rossville-Alvin High School, Danville Area Community College and earned a BS from the University of Illinois. She has more than 20 years of substitute teaching experience in Hoopeston Area and Rossville-Alvin and was a home ec teacher at Rankin High School, has been involved in the Girl Scout program for many years and has a lifelong commitment to 4-H.

Johnson sees the loss of several programs, teachers and aides as an issue. "We will be facing several teacher retirements over the next several years and I don't want to see some of their programs combined or retooled just to save money," she said. She would also like to work on more vocational offerings. "Many of our graduates are not going to college so we need to work on giving our students the best skills they can have to go out into the workforce."

Johnson said she is "a good listener" who likes working with adults and children. "Being a member of the Hoopeston Area School Board is something I have wanted to do for many years but feel now is the best time for me," she said.

Russell Walder, 40, a Hoopeston-East Lynn graduate who earned an agriculture degree from Danville Area Community College. He is currently parts manager at Arends Bros. in Hoopeston.

A positive attitude is an asset Walder said he

Briefly

Correction

The time for Saturday's performance of *Bells are Ringing* was incorrect in Wednesday's issue. The performance will be at 1 p.m.

Neighborhood Watch

Sgt. Nathan Wells, who has served in Iraq with the Illinois National Guard, will be the featured speaker at the April 4 Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at Country Terrace.

Weather



Partly cloudy today and tonight. High 55, low 36. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 51, low 32.

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

will bring to the board. "I have worked with the public in business for 20 years and feel that I can bring that experience to the board. I will strive to gather information on different issues to make a fair judgment."

Declining enrollment and increasing costs are

Vote April 5, 2005 to elect

Dwight Judy

Hoopeston Area School Board

I appreciate your vote.

Paid for by supporters of Dwight Judy

Classifieds

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851 E. Seminary, Hoopeston. Fri. 9-noon, Sat., 8-noon. Name-brand adult & children's clothing, shoes, housewares, strollers, 2 walkers, toys & misc.

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