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Letters to the Editor

Performance often not reason for discharge

I am responding to the letter from Kari Matthews in the December 4 Just the Facts.

Her letter made innuendos about the possible reasons for Dr. Kuha's dismissal. She admits that she has no personal knowledge of the reason but "in her experience, people who lose their jobs are those whose performance has been lacking." I do not know what her experience is but I was an employee of the Illinois Department of Employment Security for 25 years and for the last 15 years of my employment, until my retirement three years ago, my major responsibility was to adjudicate cases of separation caused by quits or discharge.

My experience was that the major cause for discharge was attendance problems (tardiness an absence). The next most common reason was a personality clash or difference of opinion between employer and employee. Very often there was no discernable reason for the discharge. Performance reasons for discharge were very infrequent. So let us not leap to conclusions as to the reason for Dr. Kuha's discharge. Speculation does no one—Dr. Kuha, Dr. Timmons, or the community—a good.

All this being said, we need to remember that the emergency room at the hospital has been contracted to Dr. Timmons. This is his business and he has the right to run it the way he thinks is best. He does not owe anyone an explanation.

Joan Dugle
Hoopeston

Residents should learn facts of dismissal

I'm so glad Ms. Matthews wrote another letter, because it gives me a reason to respond. Since the hospital belongs to the community, we all deserve to know the facts. And it is very clear that Ms. Matthews has no

facts, just a devotion to Dr. Timmons. Reread her letter and you will not find one fact, just innuendo and bias.

Regarding Dr. Kuha, the nurses could gladly tell you who the best doctor to work with is since they work with all of them. Ms. Matthews seems to know more about that than the nurses. And she seems to insinuate that Dr. Timmons is "professional," while the other doctors and nurses are somehow inferior. In spite of her opinion, the nurses can tell you every aspect of the care each physician gives, and they gladly signed the petition to keep Dr. Kuha. Would they have signed a petition to keep any other doctor? You'll have to ask them. Their opinions are based on facts, which indeed does make them relevant. Can anyone seriously dispute that? And knowing Dr. Kuha as we do, it no longer matters why he was dismissed, because we know it has nothing to do with his capabilities, as I've stated before.

She also asks if any board members signed the petitions? You've got to be kidding me! She just proved that she has no clue. The board dismissed this situation as "too political". In my opinion (not a fact), some of the board members do not want to risk offending Dr. Timmons or other board members. Some of them, in fact, were upset that the employee petition was even sent to them at all, an idea I still can't comprehend, since they are the governing board! And these petitions are not meaningless, no matter what Ms. Matthews thinks. (What is this, a dictatorship?) The community and HCMH staff, who according to Ms. Matthews "lack the tools to make an adequately informed decision" (I think she just called us stupid) have every right to voice our opinions because we are the hospital and its customers. We as a community can make or break it, so we should be heard. Those of us who signed the petitions should

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Letters continued from other side

not be ignored, no matter how inconvenient for the board or Dr. Timmons.

Also, the implication that Dr. Timmons has somehow single handedly resurrected HCMH is absurd. It should be remembered that there are, perhaps, a few employees who have had maybe a little something to do with that as well. In fact, the entire staff deserves the credit.

Obviously, Ms. Matthews is an extremely ardent fan of Dr. Timmons, and I have nothing ill to say about him, the hospital, or anyone else. But let's ask a few questions, shall we, and see if the community is

"astute" enough to find the facts about a few problems. After all, she has more or less called me dishonest and the public uninformed. What were her words again, "people who lack the tools to make an adequately informed decision"? The community has every right to know the answers.

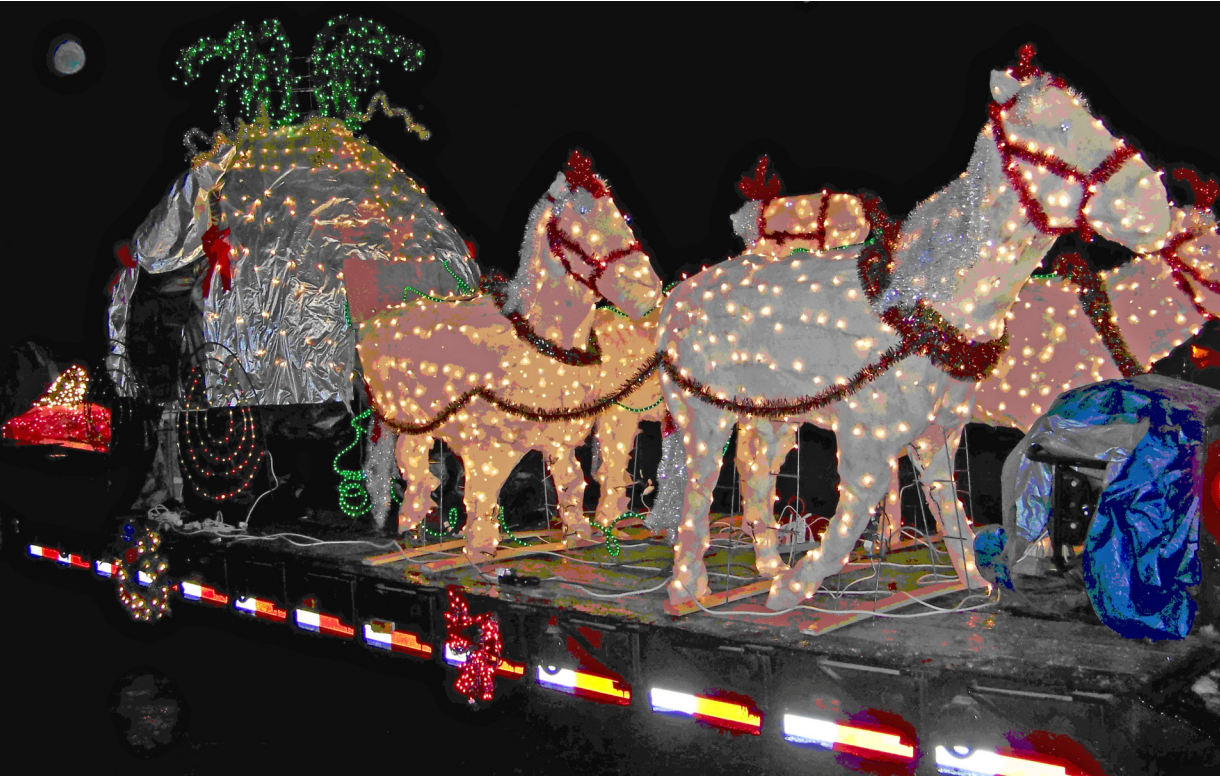
Firstly, should the community support the HCMH? Absolutely, no question! It is a great facility (fact or opinion, you decide) with a great staff.

Secondly, does the community know how much the Timmons group is paid annually for their services, not

including their malpractice insurance, which the hospital also pays? I DO! Does everyone know if it is almost double what the ER doctors were paid before the Timmons group was hired? I DO! Do we all know how the board hired and signed a contract with the Timmons group, and if the job was opened for other bids? Do we know if the hospital loses money from this group, since they are paid whether the hospital is reimbursed or not? I DO! Do we know the manner in which Dr. Kuha was dismissed? I do, and I think the community should know, too. If anyone doesn't know the answer to these

questions, you owe it to yourself to find out!

Eric Drain
Hoopeston



Lighting the way

The North East Vermilion FFA Chapter entered two floats in the Rossville Community Organization Lighted Christmas Parade in Rossville on Saturday. The Cinderella-themed float, above, received first place and included four near life-size white horses, a full-size carriage complete with a driver (Sarah Schmid), Cinderella (Danielle Brown) and Prince Charming (Wesley Leemon), lighted pillow and glass slipper. The frames of the carriage and horses were welded by the HAHS ag mechanics classes and were covered and lit by FFA members after school and on the weekends. A second float included three holiday "dolls" (Heather Smothers, Amanda Hays and Rachel Rademacher) with lighted dresses.

Court Dispositions



November 15

George E. Haynes, Watseka, new status hearing January 17.

Ryan L.J. Bell, Hoopeston, failed to appear at status hearing; case to be filed with Vermilion County Circuit Court.

Amy Salter, Hoopeston, new status hearing December 20.

Cyndi R. Houston, Hoopeston, failed to appear at

Briefly

Concert rescheduled

Hoopeston Area Middle/High School band and chorus Christmas concert has been rescheduled for 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16 in the middle school gym.

Unclaimed photos

Two pictures of youngsters with Santa have not been claimed by their owners. The photos may be picked up at the water department at Hoopeston City Hall

Yearbooks in

Hoopeston Area High School yearbooks are in and may be picked up in the high school office. Books may be purchased for \$30 each.

Weather



Cloudy today. High 33. Tonight, chance of snow. Low 28. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 33, low 21.

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

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

3 BR upstairs apt. Stove, fridge furnished. 1 car garage & basement access. \$400/mo., \$400 dep. No pets. References required. (217) 772-1254

CHILD CARE

Little Rascals Daycare now has part and full time openings. Call Lacey, (217) 504-1334

HOUSES FOR RENT

Two bedroom house for rent in Hoopeston. Great Neighborhood! No Pets. \$425 per month, Deposit and References Required. Call 217-304-6547 for Application.

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Country Home south of Hoopeston. 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath ranch in a wooded setting. New custom kitchen, interior paint and carpets, maintenance free exterior, all on 1.75 acres. Asking \$179,900. Call 217-304-6547 for more info & a private showing.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Old cupboard \$150; refrigerator \$25; Colonial desk \$30. Cathy Brooks. (217) 758-6968 leave message

NOTICES

Village of Rossville accepting sealed bids, minimum bid starting at \$4,000 for a 1997 Chevy 4X\$ truck until Monday, Nov. 19, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at village office. Bids will be opened at board meeting at 7 p.m. on Mon., Dec. 17, 2007. Village reserves right to reject any or all bids.

Chris Pearson
Village Clerk

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

The Village of Rossville will be accepting sealed bids for a 2 story home at 123 E. Attica St., circa 1900, newer roof, vinyl siding, some newer repl. windows, newer Trane furnace never used. Interior needs finishing. Approx 2450 sq. ft. Large lot. Zoned B-1, majority of rewiring completed. Minimum bid \$20,000. Redevelopment agreement with terms/conditions. Call or pick up details at Municipal office 748-6914 or call Mayor Prillaman 748-6900. Bids to be opened 7 pm, Dec. 17, 2007.

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