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Use of 'Cornjerker,' 'Jerky' still not settled after meeting

Whether a group can use the word "Cornjerker" and a likeness of "Jerkey" is still unsettled after a meeting Wednesday. The Hoopeston Area school board, members of Be a Part of It and former Hoopeston resident Curt Ellis met with about 30 people Wednesday night in the Hoopeston Area High School auditorium to discuss the controversy.

Be a Part of It is a community organization of volunteers that wants to improve Hoopeston, while Cornjerker Nation (www.cornjerknation.com) is currently a website for Hoopeston alumni to get together but Ellis hopes to expand it to include philanthropic works for

the community and a scholarship for the school district.

"We do this either way," Ellis

told the audience. "We came here tonight to get their blessing, not their permission. You have been selling my design for 17 years without asking. I am the artist who created the Jerky that you sell today."

Ellis said he was approached by a member of the Class of 1968 to design a Jerky for the class' 25th reunion because no usable copies were available.

And while Ellis claims credit for the design, the image he displayed at Wednesday's meeting and one gracing the cover of the 1973 Picayune (Hoopeston Area High School's yearbook) look the same.

Dick Hobbs, former Hoopeston coach and athletic



Sue Comstock of Be a Part of It and Curt Ellis, creator of the Cornjerker Nation website, listen to an audience member at a meeting Wednesday.

director, is credited with drawing the original Jerky.

At odds is whether the groups can use the Jerky and the word "Cornjerker" in their materials. Hoopeston Area school district holds trademarks on artist renderings of Jerky, as well as the words Cornjerker, Cornjerkers, Jerker, Jerkers and Jerky.

Originally filed in 1996, the trade/service mark was recently updated and is in force until September 2, 2014, according to the Illinois Secretary of State web page.

While the school district holds the trade/service mark registrations, Hoopeston Area All Sports Booster Club See CORNIERKER on other side



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Police News



Robert G. Glenn, 33, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 3:35 p.m. Thursday in the 500 block of North Eighth Avenue. Wanted on a Benton County, Ind., warrant for family offense, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of \$2,100 bond.

Trisha M. Thrower, 20, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 7:46 p.m. Thursday in the 400 block of East Thompson. Wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for failure

Hoopeston Area Sports Boosters 7th anual Golf Outing Saturday, July 31 Hubbard Trail Country Club Tee times: 8 a.m & 1 p.m. Forms available on the school district website, www.formeston.cd2.lus



to appear, she was released on recognizance bond. **Vernon F. Fink III**, 37, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 6:51 p.m. Friday in the 600 block of East Seminary. He was cited for no valid driver's li-

Cornjerker continued from other side

has been responsible for decided who may use the trademarked items. Representatives of the Boosters attended Wednesday's meeting to voice their concerns, especially not being asked about using the Jerky and Cornjerker.

"I wish someone had talked to the Sports Boosters," long-time member Linda Leigh said. "We had no idea." Russ Leigh, Booster past-president, commented on a

survey sent to Cornjerker alumni, which reportedly asked what makes a Cornjerker. Leigh said he felt the question was "loaded."

Ellis agreed it "probably was," although communication to him said if Cornjerker Nation used the term without permission, "we weren't considered Cornjerkers." That, Ellis said, would mean "they have a fight on their

Who: All Athletes planning to play a sport during the 2010-11 school year. Exceptions if you are going into 6th or 9th grade

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What: Sports Physical

(all athletes must have one on file to participate in athletics.)

When: Tuesday, August 3, 2010 3:30 – 5:00 pm walk-in

Where: Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center 801 E. Orange Street • Hoopeston

Cost: \$15



Physicals for Fall sports must be completed and turned in by August 11, 2010

cense, speeding and too fast for conditions and was released on notices to appear.

David Riley, 27, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 11:41 p.m. Friday in the 300 block of

hands." However, he added, the survey wasn't meant to be offensive but was a means of gathering information.

Ellis told the group that, as a courtesy, he shut down the Cornjerker Nation website on June 18 in response to a call he received about the issue. He said the site was down until Wednesday, when it was reactivated so it could be displayed at Wednesday evening's meeting. However, after the meeting, some residents said they were able to access the site during the time when it was reportedly unavailable.

One question Sports Boosters had was whether the site plans to sell Cornjerker items. Ellis said the site will not contain items with the Cornjerker on it unless the Sports Boosters ask them to do so. He pointed out that the Cornjerker Nation website has a link to the Boosters' online store.

In the future, boards directors will be set up to oversee both the community-building and school-supporting arms of Cornjerker Nation, complete non-profit status. Leigh suggested that a Sports Booster representative be allowed on the boards.

Cornjerker Nation also has links to the communities that have joined to become Hoopeston Area school district: Wellington, Rossville, East Lynn and Cheneyville. Ellis added Rossville since some of their high school students also attend Hoopeston Area High School.

"We'd like to make this thing the biggest tribute to this area that has ever been created and we want all of you to be a part of it," he said.

Weather

Thunderstorms likely today. High 85. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 67. Tomorrow, chance of storms. High 85, low 67.

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

North Third St. He was charged with felony driving under the influence, expired registration, driving while license revoked, no valid insurance and no headlight and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Saying there should be stewardship of Cornjerker material, Ellis said Jerky is "a living, breathing being. When Jerky was created, it was an embodiment of all of us. It's time for the controversy to end and for all of us to work together."

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