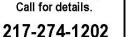
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Be A Part of It group gets tentative permission for billboard

The original and only......

Birthplace of "Jerky" and the

CORNIERKER NATION

The proposed Cornjerker Nation logo, designed by Hoopes-

ton High School alumnus Curt Ellis, depicts a cornfield,

flag-draped map of America and the Jerky, Hoopeston

Area High School's mascot. The design has come under fire

Capital of

Be A Part of It, a volunteer group, got tentative permission for a billboard at the north side of Hoopeston, provided group members work with Hoopeston Area Sports Boosters on the design.

That compromise was suggested by Hoopeston Area Superintendent Hank Hornbeck at a special Hoopeston Area School Board meeting Thursday evening.

Approximately 20 people attended the meeting, called to discuss the issue of Cornjerker Nation and the billboard.

Sue Comstock, who, with Susie Sheppard, formed Be for using the Jerky without permission. A Part of It, said it was Be A

Part of It, not Cornjerker Nation, that originally approached the board in May about a billboard. "That is the only thing that is on the table for us," Comstock told the board.

Some board members and attendees expressed reservations about the term "Cornjerker Nation" and the proposed design for the billboard. Both Cornjerker Nation and the design are the ideas of Hoopeston High School graduate Curt Ellis.

Hornbeck suggested a compromise where Be A Part of It would work with the Sports Boosters to come up with a billboard design, then present it to the board for approval.

Asked by the board if Be A Part of It is part of Corn-

jerker Nation, Comstock said Be A Part of It is under the umbrella of Cornjerker Nation but that each has separate goals.

Be A Part of It is a volunteer group interested in improving Hoopeston, while Cornjerker Nation is predominantly an online presence for alumni of Hoopeston's high school.

At an informational meeting on July 7, Ellis told the audience that he hopes Cornierker Nation expands to include a philanthropic arm which would seek donations from alumni for the betterment of the school district, including scholarships.

Ellis said at the informa-

tional meeting that because no usable copies of Jerky existed for the Class of 1968's 25th reunion, he drew the current version of Jerky in 1993 and that his appearance at the meeting was to get the school's blessing, but not its approval, for Cornjerker Nation.

That rankled some who attended the meeting, including Russ Leigh, Sports Boosters past president, who said Ellis came in "laying claim to the Cornjerker. I've got legal issues with that."

Leigh said the Sports Boosters have spent years trying to protect the integrity of the Cornjerker from various retail outlets.

School district attorney Bill Nelson said if the Jerky,

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Police News



A red Murray 10 speed bicycle was found at 6:35 a.m. Thursday at Hoopeston Plaza. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

An 18-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 5:37 a.m. Friday that someone keyed his pickup truck while it was parked in the 700 block of East Seminary.

A 52-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 5:38 p.m. Friday that someone took a gas can from her garage in the 200 block of East Honeywell.

A 33-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Saturday that someone cut the wires inside her vehicle, damaging the electrical system. The damage occurred in the 600 block of East Young.

A set of silver keys was found at 9 a.m. Saturday on Thompson. The owner may identify and claim them at the police station.

Kenneth C. Torres, 32, of East Lynn, was arrested after a traffic stop at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Route 1 and 4000 North Road.

Wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant for



failure to appear/reckless driving, he was also charged with driving while suspended and possession of a controlled substance.

Torres was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Bradley R. Milburn, 24, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 1:08 a.m. Sunday in the 100 block of East Lincoln. He was charged with trespassing on a complaint from a 24-year-old Hoopeston man who alleged Milburn did not leave his prop-

erty when asked.

The man called police, who told Milburn to comply or be arrested. Milburn left but then allegedly returned and was charged.

He was released on a notice to appear.

Billboard continued from other side

the brainchild of former Coach Dick Hobbs, was done within the scope of his duties at the school, then the school district owns ther Jerky and may license it to whomever it wishes. Should the issue become a copyright fight, "nobody's going to win that without spending a lot of money," he said.

Board president Mark Wagoner said the Cornjerker is a high school thing and that's where it should stay, adding he "has a problem with Cornjerker Nation and the way (Ellis) approached it."

Board member Chris Small displayed a photocopy of a Jerky carrying a gun and grenade and wearing a Kevlar vest, reportedly done by Ellis. "I'm afraid to go with Be A Part of It, that (Ellis) will say I'm part of it, too, and boom."

Others said Cornjerker Nation is a great idea. Board member Larry Jahn commended Ellis for coming up with something to benefit the school and said Ellis is not doing it for personal gain. "For Curt, it's payback to the school."

Also, Jahn said, a social networking site like Cornjerker Nation provides "a lot of possibilities" for the district.

Jahn added he believes Hobbs came up with the idea of the Cornjerker and Ellis illustrated it and expressed surprise that Comstock was willing to "pull Be A Part of

It away from Cornjerker Nation."

Asked if Ellis would take down Cornjerker Nation, Jahn said he believes Ellis will not do that "until this battle is fought."

Attendee Jim Hurt also likes the idea of an alumni association. Talking about Music Booster calendars, Hurt said sales have been flat for a while and that an alumni association would provide a targeted group of people who might purchase not only calendars but other items sold as school fundraisers, and that a proposed Cornjerker Nation foundation could also benefit the district.

Comstock said those who have a problem with Ellis don't know him. "He's not well," she said. "He wants to give back to the school. He may come across as a little different but he has the best interests of Hoopeston."

In 1996, the school district registered a state service mark on three drawings of the Jerky and the words "Cornjerker", "Cornjerkers," "Jerker," "Jerkers," and "Jerky."

Leigh suggested the board file a federal trademark on

Obituaries

HUCKLEBY - Jimmy Huckleby, 67, of Hoopeston, died at 5:24 a.m. Thursday, July 22, 2010, at home. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Visitation will be one hour before service at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Court Dispositions



July 1

Kathleen Robbins, Rankin, pleaded not guilty to disorderly conduct; trial September 2.

Twyla Tosh, Danville, pleaded guilty to criminal damage to property; fined \$180.

Barbara Linares, Hoopeston, pleaded not guilty to disorderly conduct; trial September 2.

the materials, saying that, while costly, it could solve future problems.

He added that the last time he checked, the cost of filing a federal trademark was \$15,000 to \$20,000.

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