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**HOOPESTON** 

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Lourdine Florek owner/publisher

# Just the Facts®

Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348 Email:

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Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

www.justthefacts.net

## 2003-04 school budget to use most of remaining surplus

The budget approved by the Hoopeston Area School Board Thursday will nearly eliminate the district's surplus of funds.

The budget is nearly \$1 million short in the education fund, which is used to pay most school expenses, said business director Don Dean. "The surplus basically will be used up at the end of this year," he said.

With dwindling savings, the district will, in the next couple of years, have to look at increasing revenue and making cuts. "I don't know if we can do it only on one side," Dean said.

Besides the education fund, other funds expected to show a negative year-end balance include the building, transportation and Life Safety funds.

In unrelated action, the board:

learned Hoopeston Area lost 43 students from last year. Six-day enrollment figures, used to compute state aid, show this year's total at 1,373.

Hoopeston's enrollment has see-sawed over the past 15 years but has been steadily declining since 1995's high of 1,691, according to figures released by the dis-

"We'd like to see that turn around," said Superintendent Mark Conolly, "but with business and industry declining, I'm not sure that's going to happen."

learned the district has received paperwork to take part in a study with other north Vermilion County schools regarding consolidation. Conolly said the study will look at all aspects of school, including, books, staff and technology. The study, done by Dr. William Phillips and

#### Weather



Sunny today. High 72. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 50. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 77, low 46.

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

Associates, will also look at Rossville-Alvin, Bismarck-Henning and Armstrong-Potomac grade and high schools.

The state will pick up the tab for most of the estimated \$10,000 cost of the study. Rossville-Alvin, who has considered joining Hoopeston Area or Bismarck Henning, has offered to pay about \$2,000 not covered.

reiterated that school will be in session Tuesday, the first day of the Farm Progress Show. Other districts have dismissed school for the three-day event, and Hoopeston Area may close for the final two days, depending on the local impact Tuesday.

Several Hoopeston Area High School students are volunteering at the event.

## Classifieds

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