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Ross-Al board seeks resident input on future of school district

ROSSVILLE—Local residents will have a chance for input into the future of the Rossville-Alvin school district at a special meeting Thursday.

The Rossville-Alvin School Board will host a town meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday in the high school gym to discuss the future of the schools.

"We're trying to look ahead to the future," said board president Dennis Price. "We're not broke. We're not closing our district down."

While the district is not financially flush, a decision will have to be made in the next two to four years - "four being the realistic end of it and two depending on the scenario," Price said.

The "scenario" may be caused by state government officials in one of two ways. School officials throughout the state wonder if the last two state aid payments of the year will materialize. The second scenario is that some type of reorganization will be mandated by the state as a cost-cutting measure.

A bill now in the state House calls for high schools with a minimum of 250 students, Price said. There is some speculation that the number could be raised to 500 or 750 students, Price said.

To stave off being forced into a situation, the board has looked at options and will present

those to the public Thursday. Options include:

- leaving the district as it is. However, "if the people want to stay, it's going to cost," Price said. To maintain the district, voters would have to pass a property tax referendum to raise more money or the board would have to approve bonds, increasing the district's debt. The current school tax rate is 4.6 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, he said.

- a cooperative effort between Rossville-Alvin and another district. Currently, the district co-ops some sports programs with Hoopeston Area, Bismarck-Henning and Armstrong-Potomac and some classes with Hoopeston Area. The board has talked with those districts about co-oping all of its sports.

- reorganization through consolidation, annexation or dissolving the district.

The town meeting is a precursor to a survey that will be sent to district residents on the fate of the district. That survey, which was approved at the March board meeting, is expected to be mailed this month unless something is added as a result of Thursday's meeting, Price said.

Public input is important to the board as they guide the district into the future. "We don't

Chestnut Street Church of Christ to celebrate new building

The Chestnut Street Church of Christ/Cowboy Church will hold a dedication ceremony of its new fellowship hall and education center.

The ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday at the church, on the corner of Sixth St. and Chestnut.

Former minister Paul Ziebart will be the guest speaker. The service will be held in the sanctuary with refreshments and a tour of the new building to follow.

Board chairman Rex Wilson will be in charge of the service.

Most of the construction for the project was done by church members and friends, assisted by local contractors. The new building meets the need for additional space due to the large increase in membership which has grown tenfold in the last three years.

For more information, contact Wilson at (217)

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U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson recovering from car accident

U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson (IL-16) is resting in his Urbana home after receiving a fractured rib and punctured lung in a car accident Sunday evening.

Johnson was injured when his vehicle and another collided near the parking lot of Mt. Olive Church, 808 E. Bradley, Urbana.

Johnson was scheduled to speak during a special service to celebrate the completion of a new church

sanctuary.

After the accident, Johnson, believing he was unhurt, spoke to the congregation. He later went home and experienced shortness of breath. He went to an Urbana hospital for x-rays, which showed the injuries. He was admitted to the hospital and was later released. He is scheduled to return to the hospital on Thursday morning to have his progress checked.

Letter to the Editor

Postal workers say thanks

All of us at the Hoopeston Post Office would like to extend a warm "Thank You!" to everyone in the community for their help with last year's food drive. A very special thanks goes out to our friends at Price Less Foods and Hoopeston Foods. Without them, we would not have had the great success that we did. We sincerely hope that we can all join forces once again when our 2003 Food Drive rolls around once more on May 10.

The Hoopeston Post Office "Gang"

Karaoke Touch of Blues

9 p.m.-1 a.m.

9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Friday



Wellington Lions Club
Pancake Day
Saturday, March 15, 2003
6-10 a.m.

Park Shelter, Wellington, IL
\$4 adults, \$1.50 children 12 & under

New Books at the Library



Fiction:

The Cat Who Brought Down the House by Lilian Jackson Braun

Winner Take All by T. Davis Bunn

Silent Partner by Stephen W. Frey

Final Justice by W.E.B. Griffin

Police News



Jamie D. Huckleby, 20, of 611 E. Irving, Milford, was arrested after a traffic stop at 11:46 p.m. Monday in the alley behind the 200 block of East Main.

Huckleby was arrested on an Iroquois County warrant for failure to appear. She was turned

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 58. Tonight, chance of showers, thunderstorms. Low 43. Tomorrow, chance of showers. High 58, low 35.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

Huge Little Tykes/Day Care Sale in front of Global Fashions Saturday 10-3

Large round preschool tables/chairs

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