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Rossville-Alvin board cuts 11 positions but plans hire-back

ROSSVILLE—Eleven employees of the Rossville-Alvin school district may not have jobs next year if state funding is cut. However, the board is planning on at least some funding being restored and hopes to rehire many of those let go.

The board on Monday issued Reduction in Force (RIF) notices to two tenured and nine non-tenured employees including two elementary teachers, three aides, one custodian and one secretary, said Superintendent Carl Sartwell. Additionally, the C.A.R.E. (Children at Risk Educationally) program was cut, eliminating one teacher and one aide, a Title 1 position was cut and the junior high computer instructor position was eliminated.

Districts routinely RIF employees at the end of each year, then rehire them when state funding is renewed. School officials throughout the state had heard rumors that districts would not receive the last two state aid payments for this year, causing many schools to plan

deeper cuts, said board president Dennis Price, adding the latest word from the state is that schools will receive all of one payment and 80 percent of the final one. "If that's the case, we've crushed a bunch of people emotionally and it didn't have to be done," he said.

If the latest word is correct "I think the vast majority will be rehired," Price said. The board is creating a plan to rehire dismissed teachers. That plan may be brought to the board at a meeting later this month, he said.

In unrelated action, the board:

- approved joining the Vermilion Valley Conference - what had been called the Route 1 Conference.
- approved a plan for summer school that expands the program from one teacher to two. The summer classes offer remediation to students in the district.
- approved changes in the district-wide survey

High-speed wireless internet firm gets perch on water tower

A high speed wireless internet provider will be perched on Hoopeston's water tower.

In a 4-3 vote, the Hoopeston City Council on Tuesday approved DTN Speednet's request to put wireless internet equipment on the tower.

The contract calls for DTN to pay the city \$250 per month or five percent of receipts, whichever is greater; provide wireless internet access for the police department; pay \$15 monthly for electricity and contribute \$500 when the water tower is repainted.

Two areas, limiting the number of dishes and antennas that can be placed on the tower and language about what happens if the company defaults on the five-year contract, will be added before Mayor Chalmers

Flint signs the agreement.

In unrelated business, Alderman Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, set finance committee meetings for March 31 and April 8 to prepare the 2003-04 budget. He asked aldermen to prepare budgets conservatively because "income's really going to be down this coming year.

In other action, the council:

- is asking residents to help control the mosquito population by eliminating standing water and other breeding areas. Citizen involvement may defray the cost of spraying later.
- learned the city has been approved for an EPA brownfields grant if state funds are available.

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Rossville residents to pay more for March gas consumption

ROSSVILLE—Residents will see an increase in the price they pay for gas in the village.

Gas for March will cost 82 cents per therm, up 16 cents or about 24 percent. The announcement was made at Monday’s village board meeting.

In related business, trustees announced sign-up for budget billing will begin in May. Residents who wish to take part may sign up at the village office.

Rossville
American Legion

Sunday

Across

1. Floated through the air

7. Baby buggies, in London

12. Personal magnetism

13. Stand for hot utensils

14. Adult insects

15. Faraway

16. Make edging

17. A toast

19. 'All __', wrong

20. Rage

22. Pope's name

24. Of planes

26. Bon voyage galas: hyph. word

30. Straight man

32. Spookier

33. Skillet-cooked: hyph. word

35. Very: French

36. __ up, judge

Down

37. Donkey

38. Revive (one's memory)

41. Thinks (over)

43. Three: prefix

46. Incarnation

48. __ pile, nuclear

50. Spitefulness

51. Unruffled

52. Censure

53. Styles

1. Be ready or at hand

2. __ mater

3. Tailor's need

4. Pull (at)

5. Jagged

6. Office piece

7. Introduction

8. Wheel part

9. Declare

10. Apportion

11. Printer's instruction

In unrelated action, the board approved the 2003-04 budget ordinance with expenses of \$1,171,857 and income of \$1,190,135. The village, like other government bodies, will see less money from the state next year and had to make budget cuts to accommodate the decrease, said village clerk Chris Pearson.

In other action, the board:

named trustees Richard Birkey, Mark Catron and Mike Clutter to a Farm Progress Show committee to work with the Rossville Community Organization and others.

named Bruce Spencer as village dog catcher.

learned the Henderson railroad project is underway.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 65, low 48. Tomorrow’s high 62, low 45.

For current weather conditions, call the Hoopes-

13. Housebroken

18. Ajar: poetic

21. Housetops

23. Varieties

24. Viper

25. Greek letter

26. Attack

27. Adam and sons: 2 words

28. Charge

29. Upperclassmen: abbr.

31. Make a wry face

34. Snaky fish

37. Fall flower

38. Side post

39. Elliptical

40. Fiesta

42. Bringing up the rear

44. Outer layer

45. Hot-day treats

47. Dickens' 'Tiny' one

49. Iron in the rough

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