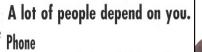


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Rossville-Alvin board cuts 11 positions but plans hire-back

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 fiveyear 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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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

- 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

Down

- 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 instruc-
- tion

- 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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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.



Sunday

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 un-

derway.

Weather

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

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