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Ross-Al board hopes to expand scope of feasibility study

ROSSVILLE—The Rossville-Alvin School Board hopes to expand the scope of a proposed feasibility study on school reorganization.

At Monday's meeting, the board heard a resolution passed by the Hoopeston Area board last Thursday. The resolution in part indicated a strong interest in a feasibility study between the two districts.

Discussion on the resolution prompted board member Dale Lithgow to ask why the study could not be expanded to include the Bismarck-Henning and Armstrong-Potomac districts as well.

"Let's get a real good study so we have all the information in front of us when it comes time to make a decision," he said. "The more information we have, the better decision we can make."

Also, he added, since Rossville-Alvin currently has sports cooperative agreements with other districts, not

asking them to take part in the study "would be an injustice."

And while Hoopeston's resolution said Hoopeston Area would be willing to pay for the study, board member Roger Satterwhite suggested Rossville-Alvin bear the cost. "I don't think we should have someone else pay for it," he said.

The feasibility study, expected to be done by consultant Dr. William Phillips, will cost about \$10,000. The state budget includes a line item to help districts pay up to \$7,500 for studies but that line item currently has no money in it. Rossville has requested to be on the list for when funds are available.

The study will include interviews with school boards, teachers, administration and residents in each of the affected districts, as well as information on buildings,

See STUDY on other side



Getting acquainted

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, second from left, meets Monday night with Maria, Margarita and Juan Linares of Hoopeston. Blagojevich was at the Deluxe Restaurant in Danville as part of a bus trip through central Illinois. Speaking to approximately 150 people, Blagojevich talked about the state economy, including the budget deficit and cuts associated with it and his plans for economic development. The governor also attended the groundbreaking at Baltimore Aircoil in Paxton. On Tuesday, he was expected to hold a bill-signing ceremony at the University of Illinois.

Photo by James Eyrich

King and Queen of the
summer garden

Colorful Zinnias

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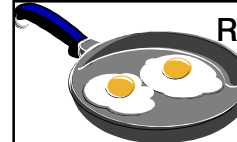
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Briefly

Project Playground build day

Construction on Project Playground has been rescheduled.

Build days for Project Playground will be from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, July 26 and 27. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served to those who volunteer to assemble the new playground equipment at McFerren Park.

A ribbon cutting is planned for 5 p.m. Monday, July 28.



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McFerren Park
Rt. 1, Hoopeston

Bowling meeting

Tuesday Night Classic League will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Pla-Mor Lanes. More bowlers with an average of 165-180 are needed.

If interested or unable to attend, call Randy Hiltz,

Study continued from other side

curriculum, transportation and other areas. From that information, a recommendation will be made on the type of reorganization and with whom Rossville-Alvin should merge.

The recommendation could be anything from Rossville-Alvin reorganizing with one district to a suggested northern Vermilion County high school. The latter possibility would be of little help to Rossville-Alvin which was involved in - and pulled out of - earlier talks about a high school district in the northern part of the county. "Then we're back to square one," he said.

Sartwell expressed concern about opening the study up to too many districts. For example, Armstrong-Potomac has dual districts - one for the grade schools and high school - which might complicate matters. "I'm just concerned we'll end up with a lot of different options and still have that one basic question - what's best?," he said.

Satterwhite said the board should move forward with the survey. "We need to make a decision," he said. "Other districts are waiting for us to make a decision."

Police News



Antonio Perez, 22, of 601½ E. Lincoln, was arrested at 10:21 p.m. Tuesday at Bank and Main. He was charged with possession of under 2.5 grams of cannabis after police said they say Perez allegedly make a narcotics transaction.

Perez was released on a notice to appear.

An **18-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Tuesday that her front license plate was missing. The woman later reported the plate had been found.

A **79-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Tuesday that someone took five ceramic figures of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs from her yard in the 200 block of East Washington.

(815) 889-5472, Doug Wagoner, (217) 283-6541 or Pla-Mor Lanes, 283-5195.

Trash Walkers

Trash Walkers, a weekly volunteer clean-up group, will meet from 9 -10 a.m. Saturday at the south entrance

School reorganization has become a divisive issue in the community, he said. "We all know this has been a very sensitive issue in our community," he said. "It's a sensitive issue among the board. We want to make the best decision for the kids, a decision that has the least impact on the community."

The board approved asking other districts to take part in the study. "We'll start with an invitation to other districts and see where that leads us," Sartwell said.

In unrelated action, the board reviewed finances for the fiscal year which ended June 30. The combined funds had revenues of \$3,003,330 and expenses of \$3,237,050 for a loss of \$233,720.

The district's education fund had the greatest loss, with \$2,270,561 in revenue and \$2,444,150 in expenses. Other shortages include the building fund, -\$32,094; bond and interest, -\$3,320; transportation, -\$74,006; IMRF, -\$1,519; and Life Safety, -\$2,353.

The deficits were caused by lower assessed property values, including that of the ConAgra plant, lower interest rates on investments, absent state aid payments and, in some cases, by programs for which the district has spent money but not has not yet been reimbursed.

Obituaries

CHRISTENSEN - Ruth E. Christensen, 89, of Hoopeston died at 9 a.m. Monday, July 21, 2003 at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. Thursday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today and tonight. High 75, low 57. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 78, low 58.

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

to McFerren Park to pick up trash in the area. Anyone who wishes to volunteer is welcome.

Youth football/cheerleading signup

Hoopeston Youth Football and Cheerleading will hold signups on from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday and noon- 2 p.m. Sunday at the football field.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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