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Rossville-Alvin board to discuss reactivating high school

ROSSVILLE—Rossville-Alvin School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday to discuss reactivating the district's high school.

At the meeting, to be held in the grade school library, the board is slated to have discussion and a vote on the possibility of reactivating the school, which was deactivated in 2006 after voters approved a 2005 ballot measure.

Since 2006, Rossville-Alvin eighth graders have had the option of attending either Hoopeston Area or Bismarck-Henning high schools. Rossville-Alvin pays tuition for students attending those high schools.

Deactivation came after Rossville-Alvin saw number of students declining, leading to decreased state aid.

Illinois legislature approves 66 percent tax hike by 1 vote

While Illinois residents slept early Wednesday, the Senate voted to raise the personal income tax rate by about 66 percent.

The vote came at about 1 a.m. Wednesday, when the Senate approved the tax hike 30-29. The Illinois House approved the measure Tuesday night by a 60-57 vote.

The measure goes to Gov. Pat Quinn's desk for his signature, but according to published reports. Quinn was in attendance for the Senate vote. Quinn campaigned on increasing taxes and is expected to sign the measure.

State Sen. Shane Cultra (R-Onarga) voted against Senate Bill 2505 to increase the Illinois income tax rates. "Illinoisans have lost out with this massive tax in-

crease," he said in a statement released Wednesday morning. "Our state will continue to export jobs to Indiana and other surrounding states. Illinoisans will directly feel the 67 percent tax increase and also feel the 45 percent tax increase that will be levied on business."

Cultra added that passage of the tax hike means Illinois will have the third highest tax rate in the nation.

Cultra said other major components of the tax hike plan include:

- 46 percent increase employers;
- Guaranteed 10 percent increase in governmental expenditures in Fiscal Year 2012;
- Guaranteed 17 percent increase in governmental spending over the next four fiscal years;
- Reinstated death tax;
- Raising taxes on businesses that suffer losses.

According to published reports, lawmakers intend to make spending cuts part of the plan but specific cuts have not been announced.

Officials, including Quinn, have stated increased taxes are necessary to help balance the state's budget, which is approximately \$15 billion in the red.

However, the Better Government Association panned

See TAX on other side

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Briefly
Card shower
 A surprise card shower is being held for Dorothy Wagoner's birthday. She will be 87 on January 17.

Police News 

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 6 a.m. Tuesday in the 1000 block of South Dixie Highway.

Police said Antonio D. West, of Danville, in a 1999 Chevrolet van, left the road and turned over in a ditch. West and an unidentified passenger were checked at the scene by emergency personnel and released.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 12:37 p.m. Tuesday at Hoopeston Regional Healthcare, 701 E. Orange.

Police said Melody J. Andrade, of Crescent City, struck a sign at the facility.

A 16-year-old boy was arrested after an incident at 2:07 p.m. Tuesday in the 700 block of West Main. He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 52-year-old Hoopeston man. The boy allegedly left the scene and was later found and charged with resisting a police officer and interfering with reporting of domestic battery.

The boy was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Jerry R. Crawley, 24, of Potomac, was arrested after a traffic stop at 9:19 p.m. Tuesday at East McNeil and North Fifth Street. He was charged with driving while registration suspended, no insurance and only one red tail light.

Crawley was released on \$100 cash bond.



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Letters to the Editor

Wake up county residents!
 What wind turbine companies don't tell you can hurt you! Lower taxes? Doubled electric bills! You do the math. Contact your local county board member and ask them about the following (and not what the companies say, but what is in their site plan with the county):

Have they talked to people in areas where wind farms have been installed?
Who is responsible for tearing down the turbines if the company goes bankrupt or is nonresponsive to calls?
 Ultimately, the county.

Does the energy reduced pay for itself with no government subsidies: No

Do turbines create obstacles to TV reception, telecommunications, broadband and digital radio? Yes

Can the company put a lien on the signer's property? Yes.


How have property values (market values, not assessments) been affected? Depressed if able to sell at all.

Did the counties always get the amount of proposed taxes? No, some have had to go to court and settle for less than the original amount.

Tax continued from other side
 the state's tax hike, decrying the lack of public hearings and unwillingness on the part of officials to answer questions about the biggest tax hike in state history.

The tax increase is supposed to be a temporary one, ending in four years.

Lawmakers did not approve a proposed \$1 per pack hike in cigarette taxes, which was earmarked to provide money for schools. Also blocked was a proposed plan to borrow \$8.7 billion to pay overdue bills.

Weather 

Partly sunny today. High 26. Tonight, chance of snow. Low 12. Tomorrow, chance of flurries. High 23, low 12.

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

What types of illnesses to people and animals have occurred? Several documented.

Have crop yields been affected? Yes.

What is it like to live next to these monsters? Like living in the middle of a noisy, unsightly industrial park. Many people living near turbines keep blinds and windows shut year 'round.

What are the effects on wildlife? Detrimental.

Turbine companies create slanted studies and closed mouths and contracts forbid negative comments by recipients. Turbine installations have been halted in many countries, states and counties because detrimental effects far outweigh any positives. Is it not the county's responsibility to protect the interests of all county residents?

Be informed. For more detailed information, go to lifewithdekalbturbines.blogspot.com.

Ann Ihrke
 Buckley

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