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Schools miss No Child Left Behind goals

District 140 doesn't make Adequate Yearly Progress

By J.W. SHULTS
Woodford County Journal

EUREKA – District 140 is appealing a state finding that it did not meet its No Child Left Behind goals.

While each individual school met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards set by the No Child Left Behind Act, the district as a whole fell short of the goals in the area of children with disabilities, said Superintendent Randy Crump.

Specifically, only 39 percent of the 91 students with disabilities within the district met the reading goals. The standard for No Child Left Behind is a 48 percent pass rate for that subgroup.

"Each individual student is so unique in their learning style that to look at them as a subgroup is somewhat misleading," said Assistant Superintendent Mary Ann Manos. "They were making Adequate Yearly Progress on the building level. I think we're looking at a simple matter of statistics."

Manos filed the appeal with the Illinois State Board of Education on Tuesday. She asked for a re-evaluation of the testing data, as well as consideration for special circumstances.

"There might have been some other circumstances that caused that group to test poorly," said Manos, such as a high number of transfer students. "When you are dealing with that small of a group within the district it is worth the time to have the state look at the numbers again."

Manos pointed out the same group tested well in categories other than reading. For example, 62 percent of the same students met the progress goals for mathematics.

Meanwhile, the district's first step is to evaluate the 2006 testing data and establish a plan for improvement – something that would have been done anyway, said Manos.

"We're doing the same thing all the other districts in the state are doing. We're using the data to plan how to utilize our instructional time – always looking ahead," said Manos. "We want to serve all students within the district."

The Adequate Yearly Progress finding is based on 2006 test results which will be published in the school report cards. They are expected to be released at the beginning of November. District-wide math and reading scores also decreased slightly.

Manos is planning a public presentation on the district's AYP at the Oct. 8 school board meeting.

City OKs new ticket fees

Violations will now cost \$100 daily

By RHONDA WETZLER
For the Journal

EUREKA – Those in violation of some City of Eureka ordinances now face tickets and fines.

The city council voted Tuesday to create a general penalty of \$100 for those in violation of a city ordinance. In examining the Eureka

Municipal Code, the Administration Committee found that some of the old ordinances did not establish an exact penalty amount, but instead allowed for a dollar range for penalties.

"All through it were fines such as \$2-\$5 or \$20-\$50," said City Administrator Anne Sandvik. "Instead of redoing the entire code book, if we miss any they are covered."

Police were unable to write tickets for those in violation of the ordinances unless a set amount was given.

Each day the violation is committed is considered a separate offense, and the \$100 fine can be reapplied daily.

Glass recycling stopped

Eureka will no longer be accepting glass as part of its recycling program.

Roger Miller, with Eureka Disposal Company, had been taking the glass to a recycling center in Peoria, but that location has been closed. Recycling centers in Peoria, Pekin and Bloomington were con-

tacted, and none of the facilities are accepting glass for recycling.

"He has no place to dispose of it once he picks it up" said councilman Jim Meares.

According to Mayor Scott Punke, several other towns also use the city's recycling center, and a sign has already been posted to make people aware that glass will no longer be accepted.

As a result of this change, the yearly agreement with Eureka Disposal has been reduced, from \$8,000 to \$7,000.

Film crew visits Goodfield



MIC ON — Sound recordist John Iskander, right, equips Darin Martin of Vermeer Midwest with a microphone on Tuesday. A film crew gathered from Canada, Los Angeles and Baltimore travelled to Paul Wever Construction to document the company's biomass grill production for Discovery Science Channel. The grills operate on wood chips and pellets created mostly from leftover wood pallets. There is no date set for the footage to air.

Woodford County Journal / J.W. SHULTS

District plans \$13.8 million budget

Deficit of about \$100,000 expected

By J.W. SHULTS
Woodford County Journal

EUREKA – The District 140 school board will vote on a \$13.8 million budget at its meeting this Monday, up about \$1 million from last year.

The tentative budget presented by Superintendent Randy Crump included \$13.8 million in expenses and \$13.7 million in revenue for the 07-08 school year.

In addition to inflationary growth, a handful of additional expenditures caused the budget increase. The largest additions include:

- \$344,000 in salaries – included raises and new positions – in the education fund. The additions will be covered by added real estate tax revenue and an increase in general state aid.
- \$227,000 to purchase four buses instead of the customary two buses. The purchase will represent a \$163,000 deficit for the year in the transportation fund.
- \$116,000 for chiller replacement and new bleachers at Eureka

Middle School.

- \$105,000 for a district-wide computer equipment purchase.
- \$72,000 for a new parking lot at Eureka High School.

Crump projects the district will maintain \$6.9 million in reserves at year's end.

He told the school board the state is projecting a \$400 increase per student in the foundation level payments for general state aid.

"That's \$485,000 of new state money," said Crump.

Because of the Transportation Fund deficit, Crump said the district will have to consider raising the tax levy in that fund.

Fundfest benefits rescue squad

Congerville event planned Saturday

By J.W. SHULTS
Woodford County Journal

CONGERVILLE – For the 17th year, the Congerville Rescue Squad will rely on a community fundraiser for its operating expenses.

The 17th Congerville Fire and Rescue Fundfest will be held on Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Congerville Elementary School. It will include a pork barbecue dinner and an auction.

The proceeds of the event – usually about \$9,000 - \$10,000 – will be used by the rescue squad to cover its annual operating expenses.

According to Congerville Fire Chief Dave Zobrist, the money raised has provided for most of the rescue squad's equipment in the past.

"It is also used for operating expenses and expenses for continuing education," said Zobrist.

About 90 percent of the ambulance budget comes through the Fundfest. The Congerville Rescue Squad collects no tax money, instead using Fundfest to pay for fuel, maintenance, medical supplies and equipment upgrades.

The residents of the district are not charged for ambulance calls, and the squad is all volunteer. The rescue squad does bring in a small amount of money from out-of-district patients and sometimes receives money in the form of memorials.

Because it is the main source of funding, the Fundfest always draws a crowd, said Zobrist.

"The community has really supported us and it is very well attended," said Zobrist. "They have been very generous in the past."

The event begins this year with a pork barbecue meal offered from 4 – 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. No tickets will be sold in advance. An auction will begin at 7 p.m., including donations from the community. Anyone interested in donating auction items may do so at the school on Saturday.

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