

# COMMERCIAL-NEWS

Danville, Ill.

60 cents

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011

## County board begins budget work

BY BRIAN L. HUCHEL  
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DANVILLE — Vermilion County officials will set the stage Tuesday to begin the budget approval process for the 2011-12 fiscal year.

Among the items of business will be a vote to establish a special meeting

for the full county board on Sept. 27. The meeting is intended to approve putting the budget up for public display for one month, which is mandatory under state statute.

Board chairman Jim McMahon said numbers were not being immediately released. Not surprisingly, state funding has been among the biggest hurdles

in preparing for the upcoming budget year.

"The only thing is the state of Illinois being a very inconsistent partner," he said.

McMahon said the last check from the state came in May. It was intended to cover funding in November 2010.

The Sept. 27 special meeting represents a

slightly later time frame than in previous years. In the past, the county has voted to put the budget out for public display at the board's monthly September meeting.

The county has a deadline at the end of November to approve a budget. The fiscal year begins Dec. 1.

Last year, the county ap-

proved a budget with revenue estimates of \$42.07 million, short of the fiscal year's estimated expenditures of \$44.25 million. The projected overall deficit is expected to be covered by unspent fund returns from the county's various offices and departments. Around \$1.3 million in unspent money was returned in 2010.

The 2010-2011 levy total was decreased last year for the fourth time in as many years. In 2007, the county asked for \$11.683 million compared to \$11.646 million last year and \$11.642 million this year.

If no tax increase is necessary, it will be the fifth

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### 10 YEARS LATER



Top left: South View Middle School sixth-grade AVID student Elizabeth Haun makes a "thank-you" card for the police department Friday as the school remembers 9/11 and raises money to help send WWII veterans to Washington, D.C. Top right: Mayor Scott Eisenhauer speaks to Liberty Elementary School students with local heroes behind him during the "Honoring our Heroes" program. Left: Liberty students sing "America the Beautiful." More photos on Page 2A.

## Remembering 9/11

PHOTOS BY MATT HUBER

**TOMORROW**  
Local emergency agencies change the way they communicate after 9/11

## Board to discuss North Ridge renovation

### Building to cost more due to size

BY CAROL ROEHM  
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DANVILLE — Representatives from the architectural firm Schmidt As-

**COMING UP**  
The District 118 School Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, at the Jackson Building, 516 N. Jackson St.

sociates will discuss the North Ridge Middle School renovation project with the District 118 school board during a mini-

study session Wednesday night.

"Schmidt Associates have done walk-throughs and will have some preliminary estimates for the project," Superintendent Mark Denman said.

Denman said the school district already realizes the North Ridge renovations will be more expensive than the South View project, primarily because the North Ridge facility is

10 percent larger than South View.

"There also will need to be more plumbing replacement than at South View," he added. "It has more complex needs than South View."

Denman expects Schmidt Associates to be prepared to discuss design, scheduling and cost of the project with the board.

He said Ron Henton, the district's buildings and

grounds director, was being proactive when he asked for the school board's permission last month to hire Schmidt Associates to begin preliminary work on North Ridge.

"We felt it would be to everyone's benefit not to be so rushed with this project," Denman said, referring to the delayed start of the South View project.

"There needs to be more time for drawings to be

done and for the vendors and contractors to look at the drawings and get the work done," he said.

Also on Wednesday, the board will:

■ Hear the final enrollment figures, which have increased by 76 students district wide from last year. As of Sept. 1, 6,100 students are enrolled in the district compared with

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## U of I professor to receive honor

BY CAROL ROEHM  
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DANVILLE — Jeanette McCollum, professor emerita of special education at the University of Illinois, will be recognized by the District 118 school board Wednesday for her contribution to the district's countywide preschool program.

Superintendent Mark Denman said McCollum is an "acknowledged expert in

preschool education" and wrote a grant for District 118 allowing it to establish Developing Early Language and Literacy in Danville (DELL-D), an early reading first program.

The three-year program, which was stretched over four years, entailed "a thorough and very complex professional development" component for the

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## D118 changes its meeting formats

### District adds study session

BY CAROL ROEHM  
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DANVILLE — Starting this month, the District 118 school board will change the format of its public meetings.

At the first meeting, which is generally conducted the second Wednesday of the month, school board members will take action on items of business, as it current-

**COMING UP**  
The District 118 school board's first study session will begin at 6 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Jackson Building, 516 N. Jackson St.

ly does. The second meeting, which is usually conducted the fourth Wednesday of the month, will become a study session.

Superintendent Mark Denman said the study sessions "will give the board the opportunity to discuss some important

issues." He added the study sessions will be open to the public.

The board's first study session will begin at 6 p.m. Sept. 28 at the Jackson Building, 516 N. Jackson St.

At that meeting, board members will consider approving the district's proposed 2011-12 spending plan.

The budget shows \$65.1 million in revenue, but projects \$80.4 million in expenditures for the year. The district shows a beginning fund balance

of \$40.6 million.

When the \$10 million in bond money earmarked for this year's South View and North Ridge Middle School renovation work is added to the budget projections, the school district predicts ending the 2011-12 fiscal year \$25.3 million in the black.

After taking action on the budget, the board is expected to discuss a district-wide strategic plan.

The board will be presented with a draft of the

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