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CNA Class in Hoopeston begins January 2018.

**The deadline to apply is December 8, 2017!!!** (testing and a livescan fingerprint check will be required for eligibility). An application must first be completed and returned to the Hoopeston Center or to the DACC Campus, Prairie Hall.

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**Just the Facts**

**Monday, November 20, 2017**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

**Audit report a 'black cloud' for Hoopeston Area school board**

Accountant Russ Leigh, of Russell Leigh and Associates, was "a little bit of a black cloud" at Thursday's Hoopeston Area School Board meeting.

Leigh presented the board with the annual audit which shows Hoopeston Area's education and transportation funds were in the red for the 2016-17 year.

Several factors led to the loss in the education fund, including less-than-anticipated state funding, decreased enrollment, increased insurance costs and capital expenditures, Leigh said.

The transportation deficit is caused by a lack of state payments, he added.

Last year's shortfalls are part of a continuing trend. In the last five year, Hoopeston Area's reserves have dropped by \$1.5 million. If the trend continues, reserves will be depleted in eight years, Leigh said.

With fewer students, the district's operating cost per pupil has risen from \$8,244 in 2013 to \$11,128 most recently. "That's one of the higher ones I've seen," Leigh told the board. "Your trend is in the wrong direction."

The district's finances may worsen if Leigh's prediction that the state will shift pension costs to districts is true and will be worsened by the fact that the state is not current on pension payments for Hoopeston Area. Of the \$3.9 million that was to be contributed, the state was \$1,480,000 short, he said.

The overall picture is that of the districts Leigh audits,

"you're worse than most districts your size. You used to be one of the top ones, now you're seventh or eighth or ninth."

**Board approves putting 1 percent county sales tax to March vote**

By a 6-1 vote, Hoopeston Area School Board on Thursday approved directing the Regional Superintendent's office to put a 1 percent school facilities sales tax on the March 20 ballot.

For it to be on the ballot, districts equaling 51 percent of all public school students in Vermilion County have to approve a similar resolution, said Supt. Suzette Hesser.

Danville District 118 will not be part of the referendum. To be implemented, the measure must pass by 50 percent plus one vote cumulatively in all districts voting.

Money raised by the tax will be earmarked for facility improvements and new construction.

Board member Chris Small voted against the measure, saying after the meeting, "I don't think the 1 percent tax is the way to go." Personally against raising taxes, he said other government bodies, such as the state, have raised taxes. "People are taxed too much," he said.

But accountant Russ Leigh praised the board's action saying the sales tax is "one of the best things you can do. (The sales tax) will be the savior of a lot of districts."

million, the levy would generate \$4,067,169, said business manager Mark Eighner. The 2016 levy, based on an EAV of \$73 million, netted \$3,783,164, he said.

The levy increase does not mean residents' property tax bills will increase, as the tax rate is expected to remain close to existing 6.13 rate.

- In unrelated action, the board
- Hired Theresa Saldana as John Greer personal aide; Rich Eisenmann, sixth grade boys basketball coach; and Lindsey Childress, high school cheerleading coach.
  - Approved Rick Brackmann as district special education consultant.

Come join us Thursday, Nov. 23 at **Rossville Family Restaurant**  
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Serving Thanksgiving Dinner  
10:30-2:30

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Dessert included.  
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Hoopeston Area Women's Club  
**TACO NIGHT**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 22**  
**4:30-8 p.m.**  
**Hoopeston American Legion**  
 Carryouts available•Raffle•Bake Sale  
**Tacos \$2 ea. Corn or flour shells.**  
 Nachos, Nachos Supreme, Refried Beans, Black Beans  
**Proceeds benefit Scholarship/Carnival programs**



**DEPRESSION**  
**SUPPORT GROUP**  
**6 p.m. Mondays**  
**First Church of God**  
 Support for depression, anxiety  
 and other mental illness.  
**Call (217) 283-9330 for information**

**Briefly**

**High school blood drive**  
 Hoopeston Area High School Student Council will hold a community blood drive from 2:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21 in the high school library. To make an appointment, call (217) 283-6661 and ask for Ashley Gondzur or email [gondzuan@hoopeston.k12.il.us](mailto:gondzuan@hoopeston.k12.il.us). Walk-ins are also welcome.  
 A pint of blood can save the lives of three people and your donation will stay local. Help us meet our goal of 40 pints!

**Black Friday Sale**  
**Simply Treasures**  
 216 S. Market St., Hoopeston  
 \* **20% off Christmas & Fall Decor**  
 \* **10% off Furniture & reg. Decor**  
 \* **Vendor Specials**  
**Friday & Saturday 11 am- 5 pm**



**Magical Express**

Raffle Basket Register to Win!

Presented by  
**Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce**  
**Saturday, Nov. 25th 5 pm to 8 pm at McFerren Park Civic Center**  
**Board the "Magical Express" at 4:30 at Hoopeston Multi Agency**  
**FREE TRAIN RIDES**  
**CIVIC CENTER ENTRY \$2 - UNDER 5 FREE**  
**Meet Santa & Mrs. Clause • Crafts & Face Painting • Food**  
**Specials Guests: Georgetown Queen Heather Simpson & Miss Hoopeston Autumn Layden**  
 Be sure to visit the following vendors for all of your Christmas shopping needs: LulaRoe, Thirty-One, LipSense, Little Debbie Christmas Snack Cakes, Scentsy, Pink Zebra, Woodworking, Papparazi, Dot Dot Smile, Little Darling Hair Bows and More, Mindy's Trendies, and QT Bath Bombs

**Obituaries**

**CHRISTIANSEN** - Gale Alan Christiansen, 79, of Rankin, died Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He was cremated. Memorial visitation will be 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday at Knapp Funeral Home, Rankin. Burial will be at a later date in Rankin Union Cemetery.  
**NEUKOMM** - Martha Margaret (Brutlag) Neukomm, 93, of Watseka, formerly of Ash Grove Township, died Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017. Visitation was 2-5 p.m. Sunday at Baier Funeral Home, Watseka and 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Monday at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Woodworth. Burial will follow in St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, Woodworth. Memorials are suggested to the church or donor's choice.  
**WOOD** - Lisa Lynn (Kissack) Wood, 56, of Hoopeston, died at 6:13 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017 at her mother's home in Milford. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Monday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to her son, Matthew's college fund at MainSource Bank, Hoopeston.

**Lunch Menus**

**Hoopeston Area grade schools**  
**MONDAY:** Mini corn dogs, baked beans, cucumber slices, mixed fruit, milk  
**TUESDAY:** Pepperoni pizza, baby carrots, salad, peaches, milk  
**WEDNESDAY:** Hamburger/bun, fries, celery sticks, mixed fruit, milk  
**THURSDAY:** No school  
**FRIDAY:** No school

**Hoopeston Area Middle School**  
**MONDAY:** Chicken nuggets, corn, salad, applesauce, milk, juice  
**TUESDAY:** Pancake & sausage, scrambled eggs, Tri-Tater, salad, mandarin orange, milk, juice  
**WEDNESDAY:** Cook's choice  
**THURSDAY:** No school  
**FRIDAY:** No school

**Hoopeston Area High School**  
**MONDAY:** Chicken nuggets or ham & cheese, corn, salad bar, applesauce, milk, juice  
**TUESDAY:** Pancake & sausage nuggets or Hot Pocket, scrambled eggs, Tri-Tater, salad bar, mandarin orange, milk, juice  
**WEDNESDAY:** Cook's choice  
**THURSDAY:** No school  
**FRIDAY:** No school

**The PIT STOP at FAST LANES**

**Monday:** Taco Salad (chicken or beef) or Tenderloin (grilled or breaded)  
**Tuesday:** Chicken or Beef & Noodles  
**Wednesday:** Ribeye Sandwich, Prime Rib Sandwich or Pork Chops  
**Thursday:** Closed  
**Friday:** Closed for lunch  
**Saturday:** Prime Rib, Rib eyes 4:30-8:30 p.m.

**Open Bowling**  
 12-close Saturday, 12-4 Sunday  
**Doubles 9 Pin Turkey Tournament**  
**Wednesday starting at 7 p.m.**  
 \$25 per person, first come sign up. Limited to 50  
 Come play our Live Video Gaming Machines!  
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**Weather**

Cloudy today. High 49. Tonight, clear. Low 36. Tomorrow, sunny. High 46, low 24.

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