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**www.justthefacts.net**

## HA board starts education process on tax hike referendum

The Hoopeston Area school board kicked off an education campaign aimed at taxpaying adults.

At Thursday night's board meeting, information was presented on why the board has placed a referendum on the Nov. 2 ballot asking for a 90 cent increase in the education fund.

Russ Leigh was named chairman of a citizens committee to disseminate information to district voters about the requested hike, which, if passed, will raise the district tax rate from \$3.76 to \$4.66.

According to an information packet made available at the meeting, the board is asking for more money for the education fund because of increased expenses and shrinking income.

The district receives income from local, state and federal sources and has seen decreases in all three. For example, special education funding from the federal government is supposed to be at 40 percent. However, according to the packet, only 16 percent is now funded, leaving the district to pay 84 percent for the federally-mandated services.

On the state level, declining enrollment - a loss of 380 students since 1994 - has resulted in lost state aid of just under \$2 million each year. Additionally, the state also mandates programs but like the federal government, does not fully fund them, putting the burden on the district.

Locally, the district has lost money from the downsized economy and the closing of local industries and the equalized assessed valuation has stagnated for the last several years.

For the last several years, Hoopeston Area has used surplus funds to cover deficit budgets but those funds are expected to be depleted this year.

On the flip side, costs continue to rise, including salaries, books, insurance, utilities, health care and

others.

Over the last several years, the district has cut several positions and programs to make ends meet, including nearly 20 teaching positions, an administrator, assistant coaches and custodians. If the referendum fails, more cuts can be expected in sports offerings and other extra curricular programs, choral and band programs, electives, vocational courses and perhaps even closing an elementary building.

Hoopeston Area is not alone in its financial state. Approximately 70 percent of Illinois schools are in deficit spending. Hoopeston Area is on the state's Financial Review list and if finances decline further, it may go on the warning or watch list.

Hoopeston Area's last tax increase was in 1973. An intervening tax increase was not needed because the district consolidated with East Lynn, Wellington and Rankin. The industrial base also helped Hoopeston maintain its low tax rate.

The board estimates that the 90 cent increase could serve the district for as much as 10 years provided outside factors are favorable.

In other action, the board:

- approved the 2004-05 budget with an estimated \$537,000 deficit. The "worst case scenario" budget predicts revenue of \$8,956,000 and expenses of \$9,493,000.
- learned the six-day enrollment, used in determining state aid, showed a 10 student increase over last year. This is the first time since 1994-95 that the enrollment figure has not gone down but officials do not expect it to be a trend that continues.
- announced that the district will hold an open house for Rossville-Alvin High School students and parents at 7 p.m. Oct. 13. The event is being held to showcase Hoopeston Area to Rossville-Alvin students

## Jack-O-Lanterns

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Pumpkins;

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can be listed  
FREE on  
hoopeston.org**  
Email: additions@  
hoopeston.org.



## Police News



**Rafael Resendez**, 19, of 709 S. Third St., was arrested at 6:02 p.m. Wednesday in the 100 block of West Main.

Resendez was wanted on a Vermilion County warrant and was additionally charged with driving while license suspended. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of \$284 bond.

**An employee of Casey's General Store**, 1022 W. Penn, reported Wednesday that someone did not pay

for \$15 of gas.

**A 42-year-old** woman reported Thursday that someone had entered her home in the 600 block of West Penn. There was no damage and nothing was reported missing.

**A 30-year-old** woman reported Thursday that someone damaged a swing in her back yard and that toys were scattered throughout the yard. A screen was also damaged.

The incident occurred in the 800 block of East Thompson.

**Betty A. Leslie**, 51, of 527 W. Washington, was arrested at 6:45 p.m. Thursday in the 500 block of West Washington.

Leslie was charged with domestic battery and domestic violence on a complaint from an 82-year-old Hoopeston woman who alleged that Leslie repeatedly threatened her with violence and death by fire and of throwing things at the woman.

Leslie was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

**No tickets** or injuries were reported in an accident at 1 p.m. Saturday in the alley of the 300 block of East Honeywell.

Police said Melissa J. Carter of Hoopeston, in a 1993 Chrysler, was southbound in the alley and turned

## Obituaries

**COWAN** -Ruth D. Cowan, 80, of Boynton Beach, Fla., formerly of Hoopeston died at 11:50 a.m. Monday, Sept. 20, 2004 in Boynton Beach. Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday at Floral Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

**HASLER** - Melvin Hasler, 94, of Hoopeston died at 11:37 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, 2004 at Hoopeston Community Nursing Home. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at United Methodist Church, Rankin. Burial will be in Grandview Memorial Gardens, Champaign. Visitation was Sunday at Ford-Baier Funeral Home, Paxton and will be 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday at the church. Memorials are suggested to Rankin Lions Club or Vermilion County Hos-

## Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 77. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 53. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 72, low 46.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopes-

west on Honeywell when hit an eastbound Ford driven by Robert B. Welch, also of Hoopeston.

**Police are investigating** a hit-and-run accident reported at 10:48 p.m. Saturday at BJ's Pump, 1023 W. Main.

Police said a 2004 Toyota hit a parked 1997 Ford F-150 truck owned by Brandon Tyler of Hoopeston.

*For all your beverage needs*  
**Ted's Home Beverage**  
101 W. Main  
Hoopeston  
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## Classifieds

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reward for information leading to the return of our hay rack stolen from east of Goodwine on the Cissna Park Rd., approximately Friday, Sept. 17. Please call (217) 339-2351.

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Rossville: 1-2 bdrs. Riverview Apartments. Completely refurbished, on-site washers & dryers. 1 bdr. \$310/mo., \$310 deposit; 2 bdr., \$360/mo., \$360 deposit. Call (217) 840-3672. 253-294

### AUCTIONS

Absolute Real Estate Auction. Aunt Jody's Christmas Bank, building & contents. Building goes to highest bidder. Oct. 2, 2004, 10 a.m., 101 N. Chicago St. Rossville.  
[www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com](http://www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com)

### HOUSES FOR RENT

Cozy 2 bedroom house in Hoopeston. Garage, basement. \$400/mo. + deposit. No pets. (217) 304-3477.

Hoopeston: 3 bedroom house w/garage. \$400/mo, \$400 deposit. (217) 283-5093.

2 bedroom home with garage in Hoopeston, \$400/mo. Security deposit required call 217-304-0972

3 bedroom home in Hoopeston, \$425/mo. Security deposit required call 217-304-0972

3 bedroom home in Hoopeston. Section 8 approved. (618) 445-7573.

### SERVICES

Pampered Pet Grooming. Lots of TLC. Call anytime for appointment. (217) 339-2340

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

1993 Ford Aerostar Van, low mileage, new tires. Asking \$1800.00. Call (217) 283-6111.

**Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!**

**Hoopeston Regional Health Center, a growing & progressive healthcare provider, has several great employment opportunities available for professionals who are looking for that right work environment. Current availabilities include:**

### Clinic Nurse Supervisor - Full Time

We're looking for an RN with leadership & teambuilding skills who's ready to direct and mentor the nursing staff within our physician clinic. Our clinic has two physicians and two physician assistants as well as ongoing visiting specialists. The position is responsible for clinic nursing responsibilities as well as supervising, educating and directing the nursing staff of the clinic. Previous clinic experience preferred. Hours are typically Monday-Friday, however some availability for evenings and Saturday AM hours required.

### Paramedic Supervisor - Full Time

Are you a Paramedic wanting to gain additional leadership skills? Are you a Paramedic capable of leading by example? Are you a Paramedic who has teambuilding skills?

If you answered a resounding yes to these questions, then the opportunity we have with our ALS Service4 may be right up your alley. This is a working supervisor position that needs someone who's willing to lead and direct a dynamic staff. Previous supervisory experience a plus, current Illinois EMT-P license required.

### Licensed Practical Nurse - 2nd and or 3rd Shift

Our long-term care facility is looking for a full or part time LPN for the second or third shift.

Our facility offers pleasant working environment and a great, supportive staff. The ability to work every other weekend is required. If you're interested in providing quality care in a satisfying atmosphere, our long-term care facility is the place for you. A testament to our great working environment is the fact that our current LTC nursing staff averages over 7+ years with our facility.

### Emergency Room Registered Nurse-Monday-Friday - 3rd shift

Are you an RN with ER related experience who is looking for a position with limited weekend work? If so, we have just the position for you. We're recruiting for a thrid shift RN for an 11 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. position. We're a progressive ER with Board Certified Physicians on staff 24 hours a day. This position is responsible for providing great ER service & care to our valued patients. Current Illinois license required, as well as current ACLS & PALS current certificates - or willingness to obtain those certificates shortly upon hire.

**If you have an interest in any of these great opportunities, please stop by our facility to fill out an application or mail, e-mail or fax your resume to: Hoopeston Regional Health Center, 701 E. Orange, Hoopeston, IL 60942, Fax (217) 283-4803 or email:**

**betsy.morgenroth@hoopestoncmh.org**  
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