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Tuesday, November 25, 2014
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Hoopeston Area board approves levy, 'clean' 2014 audit

Finances were a major topic of discussion at Thursday evening's Hoopeston Area School Board meeting.

The board unanimously approved a \$3.1 million tax levy, up from \$2.8 million last year, after a short public hearing on the issue.

Whether HA will actually receive that much will depend on the equalized assessed value (EAV) of the district, which, after dropping from \$66 million to \$61 million a couple years ago, has held steady, said Supt. Hank Hornbeck.

Next year's EAV may give the levy a boost, Horn-

beck said, since area wind farms will be included for the first time. "Maybe we'll have a different story then," Hornbeck said.

In other financial business, Russ Leigh, of Russ Leigh and Associates, presented the district's annual audit, which showed no problems.

Leigh told the board that district funds - including education and building funds - are doing well, while the transportation fund is down due to cuts in state funding.

The education fund suffered a \$94,000 loss but still ended the year with \$5,362,000. The building fund ended the year with \$850,000 and transportation, \$138,000.

While no problems were found in the district's finances, Leigh told the board that the state likes districts to have enough money on hand for six months of expenses, which HA does not have. "You're just a little shy of that," he said, adding many districts find that "hard to do with funding cuts and lowered enrollment. The key is cutting expenses."


In expense cutting, Hoopeston Area shines. The district had expenses of \$10,906,000 in the fiscal year which ended June 30, down from \$10,952,000 last year.

The audit shows HA's spending per pupil is \$10,302, "right in the area the state says," Leigh said.

Suggested changes for next year's finances include increasing the treasurer's bond. Also, Leigh said, the state is pushing for student activity funds that are not actually controlled by students to be put on district books, so officials were encouraged to look at those.


In unrelated business, the board:

- Approved the three-year common calendar with other Vermilion County schools.
- Named Crissy Coffman as the district agent for Illi-
See BOARD on other side

 **Happy Thanksgiving** from 
VFW Post 4826
 428 W. Orange, Hoopeston
This week:
 Wednesday, Nov. 26 5-8 p.m. Ranch Burgers
 Thursday, Nov. 27 NO TACOS
 Friday, Nov. 28 NO FISH FRY

 **Don't forget to pick up your Thanksgiving Pies and Dinner Rolls**
Open Wednesday 5:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Closed Thursday & Friday
 417 S. Market
 Hoopeston
 (217) 283-5566

Hoopeston Junior Women's Club
TacoNight
Wednesday, Nov. 26 4-8 p.m.
Hoopeston American Legion
 50/50 drawing • Bake Sale • Grocery/Gas Card Raffle
 Tacos \$2 ea. or 3 for \$5
 Nacos & Nachos Supreme available
 Proceeds benefit area youth and our HAHS Scholarship


Making Hoopeston a great place to live is easy if we all work together!

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU BEING A PART OF OUR FIRST YEAR!
 Come out and bring Thanksgiving in! Wednesday Night - DJ/Karaoke and Drink Specials! 8 p.m to midnight.
 Friday Night Celebrate our ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY! Dance and Party with OUTBOUND DRIVE! 9 p.m to 1 a.m.
**kitchen closed this week*

The Pump
 Bar & Package Liquore Store
 1023 W. Main, Hoopeston
 

Board continued from other side

nois Municipal Retirement Fund matters.

- Heard from Hornbeck about the Buy a Brick fundraiser now underway. Information on the program is available on the district website.
- Heard from Dan Walder, John Greer principal, that the school is taking part in Read to Feed program, which turns donations into livestock in impoverished countries. This is the second year that readers are participating in Read to Feed, sponsored by Heifer International, which provides heifers, goats and water buffalo to people in



KIDS
Sign up for our drawing from
Nov. 28-Dec. 15
1 boy & 1 girl will win.
Drawing held December 16

valspar
MEDALLION

Olympic Hardware
BLACK FRIDAY BUCKET SALE
30% off
anything that fits in your
5 gal. bucket.
Items can be maximum of 3"
over top of bucket.
Items more than 3" over
will not be at sale price
Black Friday Hours:
7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
516 N. Dixie Hwy. Hoopeston

places such as Rwanda.

As of Thursday, students had raised \$1,020.

- Heard from Honeywell principal Linda Sheppard that more than \$8,000 was raised in a late October walk-athon.
- Heard from high school principal Larry Maynard that homecoming queen Doris Varela has been invited to participate in the Liberty Bowl in Memphis.
- Approved volunteers Sally Swartz at John Greer and April Simpson at Honeywell, effective November 20.
- Heard from principals that they will return to having individual Christmas programs in the their buildings.

Police News

A **54-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 10:40 a.m. Sunday that someone stole a motorized medical scooter from the 400 block of West Lincoln.

A **62-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 11:04 a.m. Sunday that someone shattered a window and damaged a door in the 300 block of South Second Ave.



Happy Thanksgiving
Count your blessings
one by one and give thanks!
Just the Facts will not be printed Thursday for Thanksgiving.
Publication will resume Friday.

Kearney resigns after five seasons as Cornjerker head coach

Wanted: a new Cornjerker football coach.

At Thursday's meeting, the Hoopeston Area school board accepted the resignation of head football coach Michl Kearney, effective November 7.

Neither Kearney nor administrators would comment on the resignation.

Kearney has been with the district for six years and this season finished his fifth year as head coach.

The football program underwent many changes during Kearney's tenure, including the cancellation of varsity football in 2012 due to low members.

Kearney, along with former AD Kevin Root, worked to get more students interested in football and get them conditioned for the sport. Kearney tirelessly touted weight training for his team, as well as encouraging athletes to take advantage of programs

Weather

Mostly cloudy today. High 32. Tonight, decreasing clouds. Low 24. Tomorrow, chance of rain/snow. High 36, low 24.

implemented to help students keep their grades up.

In 2013, the team was 0-7 overall and 0-6 in conference.

This year saw a cooperative team between Hoopeston Area and Schlarman Academy in Danville, which finished the season at 0-6 in conference and 1-7 overall.

Kearney also serves as Hoopeston Area High School dean of students.

The board also accepted resignations from Jana Fesser, sixth grade girls basketball coach, effective October 10, and Toni Duval, head high school volleyball coach, effective November 11.

Devin McFadden was hired as eighth grade volleyball coach and Marissa Obenland was named seventh grade volleyball volunteer, both effective November 20.



KEARNEY

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Layden Manor Apartments Hoopeston accepting applications for 2 bedroom first floor apartment. \$450/mo rent with \$450 deposit. Water and electric separate. No Pets. Call 217-304-1761 to leave a message for appointment.

Creekside Terrace, Cissna Park, IL.1 BR handicapped accessible apartments for low income (62+). Appliances provided, many amenities. For information call **815-457-3535**. Equal Opportunity Housing

HELP WANTED

Russell Leigh and Associates has an opening for a full time bookkeeper. Duties include payroll, bookkeeping, sales tax and payables. Experience preferred. Please send resume to 228 E. Main St. Hoopeston, IL 60942.

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom house for rent. Available immediately, \$425 a month and \$425 deposit. Call 217-304-2145.

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