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Email: [publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net) Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348  
**Just the Facts<sup>®</sup>** Lourdine Florek, owner  
**Tuesday, April 14, 2015**  
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication  
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

**Briefly**

**Township meetings**  
 Grant Township board of trustees will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday for its regular monthly meeting, followed by the budget hearing, followed by the annual town Meeting at 6 p.m., all at the township office, 525 S. Market.

**Alley cleanup**  
 Hoopeston alley cleanup, for yard waste only, is underway. Piles with plastic, concrete, brick or lumber will not be picked up.

**Support group meeting**  
 Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support Group will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the Country Terrace dining room at Carle Hoopeston Hospital. All present and past survivors are welcome to join us.

**Surprise open house**  
 Please join the families of Ray and Dorothy Willard of Rossville, in honoring their 90th birthdays and 69 years of marriage. A surprise open house will be held at Rossville Fire Station community room from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, May 2. No gifts are requested.  
 For those unable to attend, cards may be sent to the Willards c/o Rossville Historical Society, 103 W Attica, Rossville IL 60963.

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\*Example: On a purchase where the Amount Financed is \$1,000 your down payment is \$0 with 36 monthly payments of \$58.00 each. Interest Rate is 1.9% (ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE IS 3.88%) For other Amounts Financed, the payment would be approximately \$58.00 per \$1,000 financed. Note: The above financing programs are offered by Bluefield Financial, a Division of Branch Banking and Trust Company, Member FDIC. Subject to credit approval. Approval and any fees and terms provided are based on creditworthiness. Other financing offers are available. See your local dealer for details. Rate advertised is based on Bureau credit score of 675 or higher with income rate of 49% or less. Minimum Amount Financed \$1,000; Maximum Amount Financed \$50,000. Other qualifications and conditions may apply. An origination fee of \$50 will be added to the amount financed by the above examples. Financing promotions void where prohibited. Offer subject to change without notice. (SxS) means side-by-side. KYMCOUSA 2015 KYMCO vehicles meet all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety and EPA standards. Take a riding skills course. For the course nearest you, call the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at 1-888-446-8227. For your safety, always wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing. Never operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Avoid excessive speed and start cutting.

## JOIN US

April 18 - 7 p.m.  
April 19 - 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

**Guest Speaker:**  
Evangelist  
**Larry Cooke**

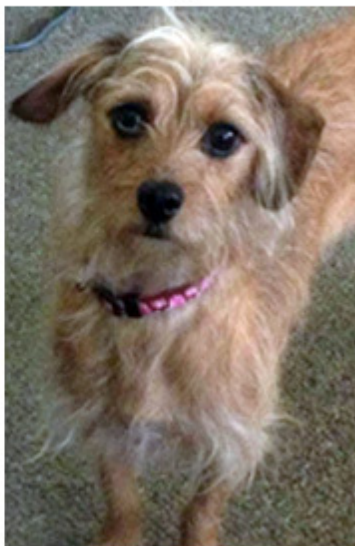


**In The Word Ministries** was founded in 1984, offering the Hope and Salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ in jails, prisons, missions and churches.

**New Beginnings**  
of Hoopeston  
204 E. Main St., Hoopeston



**Have you seen me?**  
My name is Zeus and I'm a tan-reddish, mixed smaller dog, under 20 lbs. I look like a scruffy terrier mix. I'm a girl with one bluish eye. If you see me, please call my owner at **217-597-2974**. I miss my family! **REWARD!**



## Town hall meeting attendees have negative reactions to Illinois' PARCC school testing

Last week, I had the pleasure of hosting a Town Hall meeting on Common Core standards and PARCC testing. Our panel included a variety of stakeholders, including school administrators and students. Our audience was filled with parents, students and teachers.

We heard a wide variety of opinions on Common Core, ranging from staunch opposition on one end to cautious optimism on the other. One area the entire crowd seemed to agree on was the negative impact that PARCC testing has had on our schools, students and teachers.

I stood with 30 other members of the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives last year to vote "no" on the implementation of the PARCC tests, which was simply not ready. I thought then that it would create



too, too much of a burden on our schools. These tests require the use of computers, which represent expensive upgrades during a time when state education funding has fallen. The other night, many of the administrators noted that it also meant classes losing access to technology

because existing computer labs were being used for testing.

For all of our students, taking the tests means fewer days in the classroom learning. For teachers, this means more of a switch to "teaching to the test" methods, and less of an ability to utilize organic and innovative learning techniques. Everyone involved in education at the local level is left with less input and control, from teachers and administrators to parents.

This is yet another example of how leaders in Chi-

## U of I Extension starts series with sustainable landscaping

The spring series of University of Illinois Extension's Four Seasons Gardening program, which focuses on environmental stewardship and backyard food production, gets underway this month.

The first session of the series is titled, Introduction to Sustainable Landscaping. The program is offered on April 28 at 1:30 p.m. This session will be presented via computer at the Vermilion County Extension Office in Danville. This session is also available for home participation by pre-registering at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/hmrs/4seasons/>.

Taking a sustainable approach to your yard benefits you, the environment and our future. Sustainable landscapes save money by using fewer pesticides and fertilizers and lowers power, water and waste disposal bills. Sustainable landscapes safeguard our water quality, soils and wildlife and provide us with countless ecosystem services.

University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator, Chris Enroth will discuss sustainable lawns, how to handle storm water, building healthy soils and more fundamental methods to reduce your eco-footprint.

Other topics in the spring series include Busting Garden Myths set for May 12 and Strawbale Gardening set for May 26. There is no cost per session but advance registration is needed. Phone or email the local U of I Extension office for details, 217-442-

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

**This week's Specials**

Tuesday: **Meatball Hoagie**  
Wednesday: **Spaghetti Bake**  
Thursday: **Pork Manhattan**  
Friday: **Ribeye Sandwiches & Broccoli/Cauli Salad**

Come in and try your luck with our **LIVE VIDEO GAMING!**  
Saturday, April 18 **DJ Scott James 8:30-12:30**

## Weather

Sunny today. High 69. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 41. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, chance of showers late. High 67, low 50.

cago and Springfield have dumped major obstacles and unfunded mandates on our already-strained education system. Our students don't need more testing and our schools don't need more bills. We have to stand up for our children's education.

It may be too late to stop PARCC implementation, but we still have time to reform how we fund our schools, and how we create new mandates. Our state's one-size-fits-all approach has clearly failed. We must direct our dollars where they can do the most good, and give our local school districts the flexibility to do what they do best – educating our kids.

## From the Blotter

Jennifer L. Downing, 54, of Hoopeston, was arrested on a complaint from a 49-year-old Hoopeston woman.

The woman called police at 12:36 a.m. Sunday to allege Downing entered her home armed with a blunt object.

Downing turned herself in to police and was charged with aggravated battery. She was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

## Classifieds

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Honeywell Apartments: 2 BR, includes water, heat, pest control, off street parking (815) 984-4513

Hoopeston Apt. - Handicap Accessible. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, freshly painted. All appliances, W/D hookup. Yard and full basement. Walk to shopping. No Smoking, No Pets. Available April 1. 626 S-8th Avenue. 217-260-8762. \$475 + deposit.

### HELP WANTED

Administrative Secretary needed, Rossville United Methodist Church. 10-15 hours per week. Excellent people skills needed, knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets important. Available immediately. To apply, call and leave a message @ 217-748-6760, or email the Pastor @ [carlmesiti@gmail.com](mailto:carlmesiti@gmail.com)

### RUMMAGE SALES

Hoopeston Nazarene Church, 402 E. Honeywell. Saturday 8-1. Proceeds to summer mission trip to East St. Louis.

Email [publish@justthefacts.net](mailto:publish@justthefacts.net)  
or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad.