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Just the Facts
Monday, November 20, 2017
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

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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.

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Rossville Family Restaurant
715 S. Chicago
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10:30-2:30

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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
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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. 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 corndogs, 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
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Weather

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