

# Bertha's

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## Life is wacky wonderful

Thanksgiving is over but I am so thankful for my wacky life. With Christmas coming, I remember my Mother saying, "You can never thank someone too much, you can never be too thankful." Our life is filled to the top with goodness as we go into Christmas (my favorite time of year). What kind of goodness gifts can we share?

My wacky wonderful life really started years ago when I met and didn't like my now husband. We were as different as salt and pepper. My life changed dramatically and here we are with some 54 years of wacky experiences.

Each of you has a life all your own. How awesome that is! You are in control of your wacky wonderful life. Not me, not your neighbors, not your friends. You. It seems simple enough, just make your life wonderful.

By  
**BERTHA PARSONS**

When you start the world each day, remember that the most beautiful face in the world is wearing a smile and thinking wonderful things. Share your joy with others - even if you never see them again at least you may have left a memory someone can cherish.

Of course our life may not always be wonderful: there is fear, sickness, loneliness and death. Yet I believe while we are still living, we make our life as wonderful as possible. Use the lessons you've learned from hurt, pain and joy to make a better life for yourself and those great people around you.

Helping others will certainly help you have a wacky wonderful life. It seems when I help a friend, neighbor or stranger I am filled with joy. When you encourage and help others you find the encouragement you may need in your own life. Why not try it?

Each day offers a new opportunity and with that comes hope and happiness for a wacky wonderful life. If you close that door, it may be lost to you forever. Be open to all of life's possibilities, especially a chance to create a wacky wonderful life.

The number of years of your wacky wonderful life is not most important. What you do with them is. Attempt to do your best every day and achieve great things with your wacky wonderful life.

**SHOP - EAT - SPEND - ENJOY - THINK LOCAL FIRST**

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## Council approves tax levy, continues office air quality work

A handful of residents attending a public hearing on Hoopeton's 2017 tax levy had no questions or complaints about the 5.9 percent hike in the levy.

While most categories remained the same, the levy for police pensions will increase from the current \$142,000 to \$192,000 to make up for a years-long shortfall due to reporting mistakes.

Until 2015, it was erroneously reported that the city had no non-active members (retired officers or widows) drawing pensions. Because of that, the Illinois Department of Insurance reported the pension fund was overfunded.

With reporting corrected in 2015, the Department of

Insurance then said the pension fund was underfunded by more than \$1 million.

Ald. Brandon Hamilton, in discussing the levy at the November 11 meeting, called the issue "historic errors in reporting of non-active members."

At Tuesday's council meeting following the public hearing, Ald. Bill Goodwine, finance committee chairman, said the levy is made up funds that are based on a percentage of equalized assessed valuation (EAV) while some, like the pension, are budgeted.

If not for the pension increase, the city's total levy for this year - payable in 2018 - would have been \$6,643 less than last year due to a drop in EAV he said.

The council approved the \$777,705 total levy in a 5-0 vote with aldermen Chad Yaden, Ryan Anderson and Carl Ankenbrand absent.

In other business, officials continue to investigate air quality conditions in the city building that some employees report causing health issues.

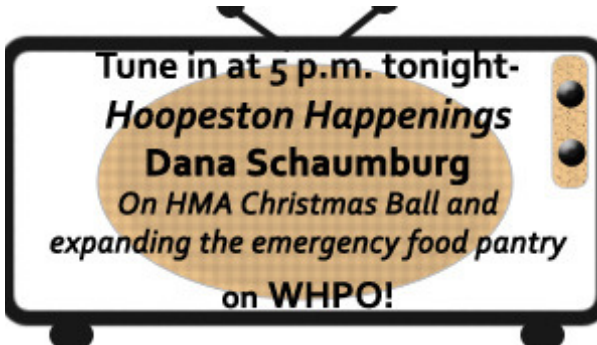
Goodwine said he first thought it may have been related to the roof leaking into ceiling tiles. The roof was recently redone and damaged ceiling tiles replaced. "I do think the problem is better," he said.

Other action included having the fire department test for carbon monoxide, which was not detected. Due to a

See LEVY on other side

**First Baptist Church**  
323 E. Seminary, Hoopeton  
invites you to enjoy church kids & teens in  
**A Peanut Butter Christmas**  
Christmas program 10:30 am. Sunday, Dec. 10  
**Christmas Concert Fri., Dec. 15, 7 p.m.**  
**Maranatha Baptist University**  
**Percussion Ensemble**

Tune in at 5 p.m. tonight-  
**Hoopeton Happenings**  
**Dana Schaumburg**  
On HMA Christmas Ball and  
expanding the emergency food pantry  
on WHPO!



**BINGO**  
**7 p.m. every Thursday**  
**Hoopeton**  
**American Legion**  
502 E. Penn



**Sharon Dixon**  
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### Boys Basketball

#### Fifth grade boys get first win

The Cornjerker fifth grade boys' basketball team won their first game of the season Monday night, defeating Westville in overtime, 21-18.

Gavin Walder led Cornjerker scoring with 8, followed by Angel Zamora with 7, including the game-winning 3-pointer. Trenton Montez scored 4 points and Kayden Simmons added 2 to the total.

Coach Brian Brown praised the team saying they created multiple steals as a team and played tough defense, making it hard for Westville to score.

The sixth grade game did not have the same ending, as the boys lost their tough-fought game, 34-18. Ryker Small led scoring with 5 points, followed by Owen Root and Wyatt Eisenmann with 4 each. Rounding out the total were Mason Rush and Miles Robinson, 2 each, and Gaven Montez with 1.

### Girls Bowling

#### Lady Cornjerkers sweep Herscher

Freshman Emma Glotzbach threw five strikes in a row, setting the pace in the first game of Hoopeston Area's

match against Herscher Tuesday night.

The strikes gave Glotzbach a 223 first game, followed by Kayla Goble's 192. The team won, 872-629.

Goble led game 2 with 231 to pace the Jerkers to a 784-663 victory. She also led the third game with a 187, for a 610 series and 786-610 victory. The ladies won the series, 2442-1902.

The ladies will play in the Bloomington High Invitation-

### Levy continued from other side

concern about mold, air tests were done in the water department office, council chambers/courtroom, police department and conference room, which was deemed to be the worst, and sent to a Florida laboratory. The resultant report showed the mold count was "quite low," Goodwine said. Normally, mold ranges in the thousands but Hoopeston's level was 200, he added. Furnace filters have been changed and next is a check on the furnace's A coil.

Ald. Bill McElhaneey suggested air purifiers but Mayor Bill Crusinberry said Servpro was called in and brought filtering equipment but "(employees) say it doesn't make much of a difference."

In other business, the council:

- Approved a resolution to spend \$153,223 of accrual funds for a new ambulance from North Central Emergency Vehicles.
- Approved Gallagher Risk Management's \$128,000 proposal for liability and risk management insurance.
- Heard from Crusinberry about meeting with representatives of Republic Services to update city garbage ordinances.
- Heard Allison Smith of Republic Services recently met with some officials about electronics recycling programs and fees.
- Fielded questions from resident Don Kaeb about what action might be taken on the building at 205 E. Main. Officials did not have a final plan, saying the issue is still being discussed with the owner and others.
- Tabled action on a sexual harassment ordinance after Ald. Bill Goodwine said the issue is covered in the employee handbook.

### Weather

Partly sunny today. High 26. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 16. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, chance of snow late. High 32, low 22.

## Sports Roundup

al on Saturday. Action begins at 9 a.m. at Twin City Lanes.

### From the Blotter

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 1:10 p.m. Tuesday at Fourth Ave. and East Elm. Police said Joshua Jerome, 35, of Hoopeston, in a 2003 Toyota Tundra, backed from a driveway into a 2010 Grumman postal truck parked on the south side of Elm.

## Cookie Walk

Sunday, Dec. 10 2-4 p.m.

Hoopeston First United Methodist Church

403 E. Main

Suggested donation \$5/lb.

Proceeds to benefit

Feed My Lambs Backpack Program

providing weekend food for 70 John Greer students

Here's what's showing this weekend at the

**LITTLE LORRAINE**

**DESPICABLE ME 3**

Fri. 7 p.m., Sat. 4:30 p.m., Sun. 2 & 4:30 p.m.

**Santa will be here 3:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday!**

Minimum donation \$5/adults, \$2/children under 16

214 E. Main, Hoopeston

## Classifieds

**FOR SALE**

Yaden Christmas Tree Farm now taking orders for Cemetery Grave Blankets. Call Dave at 217-799-0460.

**HOUSES FOR RENT**

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