

The PIT STOP at EAST LANES

Monday: Taco Salad (beef or chicken), Spaghetti or grilled or breaded Tenderloins
Tuesday: Chicken or Beef & Noodles or Speedway Burger
Wednesday: Rib eye sandwich, Pork Chops or Prime Rib sandwich
Thursday: Swiss Steak or Popcorn Shrimp
Friday: Cod sandwiches or dinners or Rib eyes
Saturday: Prime Rib and Rib eyes

Chicken Salad is back!

Breakfast served 6-10 a.m. daily, 6-1:30 Sat. & Sun.

Breakfast Buffet 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

SCHOOL'S OUT SPECIAL

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday

BOWL FOR JUST \$2 PER GAME!

Email:

publish@justthefacts.net

Just the Facts

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P. O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

Phone/Fax: (217) 283-9348

Lourdine Florek, Owner

www.justthefacts.net

Superintendent gives update on changes due to mandated school closing due to coronavirus

By ROBERT RICHARDSON

Hoopeston Area Schools Superintendent

To all the people served by the Hoopeston Area schools, I want to give you some updates about the situation facing our area and our country concerning the COVID-19 virus and our response to the challenges surrounding it.

First and foremost, the Hoopeston Area School family takes the health and safety of our students very seriously. As of this writing there are 93 confirmed cases in our state, several of which are located in central Illinois. Cases have been confirmed in Champaign, Coles, Clinton, Whiteside, Sangamon, Woodford, and Winnebago coun-

ties, among others near the Chicago area. Along with all other public and private K-12 schools in the state, we are complying with the mandatory school closures for Tuesday March 17 to Monday March 30. As far as we know, school will be in session on Tuesday March 31.

If your student is in need of a school lunch, you may pick up a student lunch at no charge to your family, from 11 am to 1 p.m. at the following locations: 112 Coffee Shoppe, Rankin Lions Club, East Lynn Fire Station, or the Wellington post office. Lunches will be available on Tuesday March 17, Wednesday March 18, and Thursday March 19.

In addition, educational resources to allow your student

to be engaged in home-based learning will be available for pick up during the lunch distribution hours. Building administrators will be available in the school buildings Monday March 16, Tuesday March 17, and Wednesday March 18, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to allow students to pick up any needed learning materials.

Educational resources will be available for the specified days during week one of the closure, and the second week is our already-scheduled spring break. The possibility exists that the mandatory school closures will be extended, but at this time I cannot confirm anything beyond the two week closure. I will post any and all updates to

See VIRUS on other side

Freedom of Speech is important...

...So is the ability to recognize **misleading propaganda.**

Please consider the value of your voice for our community

and **Vote Yes** on the 1% Facilities Sales Tax.



- Revenue supports student resources, not employee pay or pensions.
- In the 21st Century, air-conditioning is not a luxury, but rather part of a healthy learning environment for children.
- Education is a great equalizer — especially for impoverished communities and families.
- The district's "adequacy target" — the minimum amount required to provide a high quality education — is \$15 Million. This means the district is only 63% adequately funded.

Paid Political Ad

<https://www.illinoisreportcard.com/district.aspx?source=environment&source2=evidencebasedfunding&DistrictId=54092011026>

Waste Less Tax Less

Keep YOUR money!



On March 17, **Vote NO**
on the 1% School Facilities Sales Tax

Paid political ad

It's the savin' o' some green!

20% off Full Service Oil Change

10W30, 5W30 or 5W20 w/coupon. Expires 3/30/20

Hoopeston Express Lube

Rtes. 1 & 9, Hoopeston
(217) 283-5373
www.quicklube4u.com




Cheeseburgers for Paradise

From 5 p.m. - close every Tuesday, we're donating \$5 of each dine-in cheeseburger to a local church.

Full Gospel Christian Fellowship, Paxton

If your church would like to participate, give us a call!

Rossville Family Restaurant

715 S. Chicago, Rossville (217) 748-6201

HOOPESTON AREA VOTERS:

Vote YES for kids on March 17th!

- No new taxes on necessities, like groceries and medicine!
- Can only be used for school buildings and student safety!
- A better education for Hoopeston Area students!



Paid political ad

Voters to decide school sales tax, GOP auditor candidate

Will the coronavirus keep Vermilion County residents from voting? That question will be answered after the polls close on Tuesday's primary election.

The only issue locally is a referendum whether voters will approve a countywide one percent School Facilities Sales Tax. This is the second time in two years that county school districts have asked to implement the tax. It was

defeated in 2018.

In county government, two women are vying to be the Republican nominee after incumbent Bill Wright did not seek re-election. Erika Briggs, formerly Vermilion County financial resources director, and Mary Techtow, a 30-year employee of the Vermilion County Highway Department, are seeking the nod to be the Republican candidate. Whomever wins the primary will not face a Democrat in November.

Voters will be able to choose a Democrat or Republic ballot or a non-partisan one to vote only on the school sales tax.

Area Polling Places

Polls open 6 a.m.-7 p.m.

BUTLER 1	Rankin Fire Station	511 S. Main	Rankin
GRANT 1-6	St. Anthony Parish Hall	423 S. Third St.	Hoopeston
ROSS 1-2	Rossville Church of Christ	514 E. Attica	Rossville

COVID-19 Closings

Several area groups have made changes in their schedules to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Those changes include:

Hoopeston Area schools: will be closed through March 30.

Hoopeston American Legion: no bingo for two weeks. The April pancake breakfast has also been canceled.

Hoopeston Public Library: is closed until further notice. The situation will be monitored daily. Overdue fines incurred during the shutdown will be waived. Visit

hooplib.org for online resources.

Lorraine Theatre: March movies have been canceled at the Little Lorraine. The April 4 performance of 7 Bridges has been postponed.

City of Hoopeston: As part of its Phase 1 response to COVID-19, the McFerren Park Civic Center is closed. The situation will be monitored and changes made as warranted.

Skaters Paradise: Due to this virus, we will do our part in helping slow the spread. We will be closed until it is safe to reopen.

Virus continued from other side

the school website. I will also utilize other resources such as Facebook, Twitter, Live Feed, and the newspapers to get information out.

Plans are underway to determine the best ways to proceed with student learning. If we return to school on March 31, we will continue with the school year as scheduled. If not, we will have a plan in place to help us move forward toward the completion of the 2019/2020 school year. We are taking extra steps to sanitize the schools and facilities. We encourage you to follow the recommendations of the CDC: wash your hands often,

disinfect frequently-used objects, practice social distancing when you need to be with other people, and self-isolate when you are sick.

This is an unprecedented situation in Illinois education, and we ask for your patience as we navigate through uncharted territory.

Having said that, I know that we, the people of Hoopeston Area, are ready to pull together and meet the challenge. My wife likes to say, small towns make big hearts, and we have already seen evidence of that. As I have made my way through our area this weekend, I have heard many people ask how they can help, and I am grateful to be living in a place where people take care of each other. When we are safely on the other side of this extraordinary circumstance we want to look back and say we did everything in our power to assist our towns, our state, and our nation. Stay tuned to the school website, and rest assured, we will get through this together.

Weather

Decreasing cloudy today. High 52. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 39. Tomorrow, shower. High 55, low 50.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

If school officials don't want students in class when it's hot, why don't they change the school year to mid-September to June?

You don't need a tax increase to do that.

Paid Political Ad

Disney Trivia Night

proceeds benefit Post Prom

6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 21

Hoopeston American Legion

\$10/person - includes meal

Max. 6/table, Interactive ???, Mulligans for purchase rounds, prizes best costume. Reserve your spot at www.hoopestonjaycees.org/trivia

LITHGOW AUTOMOTIVE

1121 S. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston
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We turn brake rotors & drums, offer cylinder head & engine machine work, resurface heads & manifolds plus more!

www.LithgowMotorSports.com

St. Pat's Day Special

Corned Beef & Cabbage

Braised Corn Beef Brisket, sliced per order served w/Red Potatoes, Cabbage & Carrots

Comes with choice of Soup or Salad

TAKEOUT AVAILABLE!

Rossville Family Restaurant

715 S. Chicago, Rossville