



## February 2016 News For You



### So many things to celebrate in February!

African American History Month -The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society. The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first African American History Month. By this time, the entire nation had come to recognize the importance of Black history in the drama of the American story. Since then each American president has issued African American History Month proclamations. And the association—now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)—continues to promote the study of Black history all year. ([More details](#))

Career and Technical Ed Month - CTE Month® is a public awareness campaign held each February to celebrate Career and Technical Education and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country. CTE Month 2016, with its theme of "Opportunities for Career Success", offers the opportunity to tell stories of leadership and excellence from your local CTE programs and raise awareness of the crucial role that CTE plays in preparing students for careers. Check below for more information on how you can get involved. ([More details](#))

And of course, there's also Ash Wednesday, St. Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, National School Counseling Week, American Heart Month and more!

### Here are the Facts: Macoupin County School Facilities Sales Tax Information

The County School Facility Sales Tax represents the first shift away from relying on property taxes for local school district funding in Illinois. The law went into effect in 2007 (based on a similar law in Iowa) allowing voters to approve a sales tax to fund school facility needs. The sales tax is for one cent on every dollar spent on qualifying retail purchases. School Boards representing almost 100% of the resident student enrollment in Macoupin County have passed resolutions approving the sales tax resolution, and the question will be placed on the ballot March 15, 2016.

The design of this sales tax is more equitable to those living on fixed incomes or in professions that could be severely impacted by a new sales tax.

#### It is important to know what is **NOT Subject to this tax**

Unprepared Food (groceries)      Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications  
Cars, Trucks, ATVs, Boats, RVs and Mobile Homes      Farm Equipment, Parts, and Farm Inputs  
Services are also not taxed. If it is not currently taxed, it will not be taxed

#### Examples of retail items **Subject to this tax**

TV's and Electronics  
Restaurant Purchases

Clothing and Shoes  
Gasoline

**Property Tax Relief** - All across Illinois there has been a call for property tax relief. This proposal, in part, is an answer to that call. Traditionally, all school building improvements have been funded through property taxes. By passing this proposal, much of the burden for funding public education facility improvements will be shifted to a sales tax – and a sales tax that is very equitable and fair in its design.

**Revenue Can Only Be Used to Support Facility Improvements** - Revenue from this one-cent sales tax can only be used for improving school facilities or for retiring new or current building bonds. **It CANNOT be used for salaries, instructional materials, or other operating costs.**

**Specifically, it CAN be used for:**

New School Facilities

Land Acquisition

Energy Efficiency

Architectural Planning/Engineering

Additions and Renovations

Safety and Security Improvements

Paying Off Building Bond/Retiring Debt Early

Durable Equipment

***Get out and vote on March 15th, a one-cent sales tax proposal will be on the ballot in Macoupin County. An example of the ballot question is below:***

Shall a retailer's occupation tax and a service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a "Sales Tax") be imposed in Macoupin at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes?



- 2/9 - Principals Meet, 9:00 a.m., Carlinville ROE
- 2/11 - Legal Rights Of Students and Parents, Admin Academy, Jerseyville
- 2/12 - Lincoln's Birthday- ROE 40 OFFICES CLOSED
- 2/29 - 2016 C-G-J Counties Spelling Bee, Grafton
- 3/2 - Family Engagement Training, Staunton
- 3/2 - 2016 Macoupin County Spelling Bee, Carlinville
- 3/7 - Family Engagement Training, Brussels
- 3/9 - A Collaborative Approach to Family Engagement, Staunton
- 3/10 - Superintendents Meet, 9:00 a.m., Carlinville
- 3/14 - A Collaborative Approach to Family Engagement, Brussels
- 3/16 - Building Cultural Competency, Staunton
- 3/19 - Science-Day1: Overview of NGSS, Carlinville
- 4/2 - Science-Day1: Overview of NGSS, Carlinville
- 4/9 - Science-Day2: Tools to bring NGSS to Classroom, Carlinville

*Click the button below for more info about these and other PD Opportunities.*

[Professional Development Link](#)

[Printable version of this News For You](#)



### **Civics Teacher Mentors Needed**

Shawn Healy of the McCormick Foundation is leading efforts in support of statewide implementation of the new high school civics course requirement. This coming summer, they will launch multi-day professional development opportunities in each region of the state, conducted in part by teacher mentors from each respective region. He is requesting assistance in recruiting these Illinois Civics Teacher Mentors.

The McCormick Foundation is recruiting teacher mentors representing every region of Illinois (40 in total: one per Regional Office of Education or Service Center). Mentors will receive training from local and national professional development providers with proven expertise in civic learning. Mentors, in turn, will co-facilitate two-day summer institutes for subscribing civics teachers in their respective regions. Mentors will also be responsible for ongoing

## **IMPORTANT Info from Nancy Werden, Director of Professional Development**

### **Attention P.E. Teachers:**

There are several mandates that have been put in place for Health and P.E. At the p.e. workshop the ROE held in October we went through the standards and student growth. The rules set forth by ISBE require student measure in physical fitness in four areas. Measurements in physical fitness cannot be used in student growth for teacher evaluation. The rules haven't all been set yet. I am creating a website that links to the ROE site that will keep you updated on changes and allow you to download the standards or any of the SLO's we worked on during our workshop. If you didn't attend the workshop-Not to Worry!-all the forms and state goals are on the ROE site and will be on my linked site for you to access all the time. I will keep you updated as the state releases more information!

### **Attention Science Teachers:**

Science teachers grade 5, 8, and High School Biology!!! The state will be rolling out a test for these grades/this course late April/early May. It is supposed to be a computer test and created based on the D.C. test. I have a copy of the D.C. test on the ROE website. There are sample test questions that are aligned to the Next Gen Science Standards. The standards being tested are found with the tests. A list of the science standard being tested in each of these areas are found with the tests. They will tell you what subject areas in science the standards are linked to. I am rolling out science workshops to unpack the NextGenScienceStandards if you have not yet taken the time to do so at your schools. If you would be interested, let me know and I will plan presentation days. I plan on doing elementary workshops (so elementary teachers can get usable lessons that they will be able to implement) and middle school/high school (so we can work toward aligning to your current courses and figure out where the gaps are) workshops. The ROE is also providing Foundational Services in Science. These are science workshops that show you how to align lessons and examples of best practices. The Foundational Dates are currently on the ROE website just go to the calendar to register. They will be held March and April. If you have questions or are interested in attending an unpacking workshop, let me know [nwerden@roe40.com](mailto:nwerden@roe40.com).

engagement with teachers, schools, and districts in their assigned region throughout the school year that follows.

Further information on mentor responsibilities, qualifications, and compensation is available on their [web page](#). (Informational [handout](#)) Recruitment concludes on March 1st.

## **2016 ROE #40**

### **Spelling Bees**

The school year is buzzing by and it is nearly time for the annual spelling bees.

Public and Parochial schools are invited to send two (2) contestants from each of the grades 4 through 8. Criteria for selecting these participants is up to the individual school. First and second place awards will be presented at the Bee and all students will receive a certificate of participation. **PDF Registration forms** (choose one to download/print):

**[- Calhoun-Greene-Jersey Counties Spelling Bee – February 29 at Grafton Elementary](#)**

**[- Macoupin County Spelling Bee – March 2 at Carlinville Intermediate](#)**

Please complete the registration form identifying by grade level each student who will be participating. PRINT the names so that errors in spelling can be avoided. Also provide the names of the individuals who will be accompanying the students so that assignments for those pronouncing and judging can be made in advance and these individuals notified. In addition, if you have any students who will need special accommodations please include these requests with your registration form. *Return the completed registration forms to Penny Brannan at our Jerseyville office via fax or e-mail [pbrannan@roe40.com](mailto:pbrannan@roe40.com) by February 22.* All participants are asked to arrive at the event by 12:30 for orientation; the Bee will start promptly at 1:00. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

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**[Click here to check out the huge list of ROE 40's](#)**

**[Illinois State Scholars!](#)**

**[We are so proud of them!](#)**

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**SCIENCE TEACHERS:** ISBE has created a webpage to help prepare and guide educators through the administration of the new Illinois Science Assessment (ISA). The site at [www.isbe.net/assessment/isa.htm](http://www.isbe.net/assessment/isa.htm) will serve as a one-stop shop for the latest information about the ISA and will be updated in the weeks ahead as more details become available.

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### Art Teachers

Artwork is needed by March 15 for this years National Junior Duck Stamp art contest for grades K - 12 is coming up. Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, in Marion Illinois, is the receiving facility for all entries in the state so please direct all questions, concerns, and artwork our way.

Attached here are several items to provide you with details: [2016 JDSP Brochure](#), [Art Teacher Flyer](#), [DSO fact sheet 2016](#), [Entry Form](#), [Reference Form](#).

If you have any questions please contact Mackenzie Roeder, Americorps Intern, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, [Mackenzie\\_Roeder@fws.gov](mailto:Mackenzie_Roeder@fws.gov) any time via email or from 8:00 - 4:30 at 618-998-5933.

### 2016 ROE #40 Olympiad Schedule

Feb.8, 3rd & 4th grades

Feb. 9, 5th & 6th grades

Feb. 25, 7th & 8th grades

Feb 26, Senior High

This year's Olympiad will be held at Cross Church (across from Carlinville High School). For more information or questions contact Penny at the Jerseyville ROE, 618-498-5541.

*Best wishes to all participants!*

### TRS Benefits

If you have not provided your email address to TRS be sure to **visit their site** and get your account set up under *Member Account Access* - on the far left side of the home page. You will need your **member**



### Welcome New Member of ROE 40 Staff

Penny Brannan,  
Administrative Assistant  
in our Jerseyville office



### School Health Issues

#### Opioid Antidote Guidance for Schools

[Public Act 99-0480](#) (also known as House Bill 1 and Lali's Law) created a pilot program and process by which schools may stock an antidote to overdoses of opioid drugs in the schools.

The requirements in the legislation are many, with a number of state agencies carrying out various parts of the law. School officials and parents have taken note of recent news reports about the use of this drug (commonly referred to by the brand name Narcan® or the generic name naloxone hydrochloride) in schools. Adapt Pharma announced recently that it would provide a carton of Narcan free to all U.S. high schools. The company is also partnering with the National Association of School Nurses to provide educational materials. See [www.adaptpharma.com/press-releases/](http://www.adaptpharma.com/press-releases/).

School nurses and administrators who are interested in considering a policy on the use of this drug may want to review the [Illinois law](#). Prescriptions for the drug are required in Illinois, whether purchased or provided free to the school. Training is very specific and must meet the requirements of the act. In addition, a [report to ISBE](#) is required within three days of use of the drug.

ISBE, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) are

**ID** which was mailed to you in a letter in 2014. You will also find it on the first page on the right side of a past printed TRS Benefits Report. (You may also call 800-877-7896 to get your ID) Once signed in, you will be able to view your TRS Benefits Report. Also, be sure to enter your e-mail address under the contact information in the secure area so that you receive future e-mail alerts.

*Printable PDF of this issue  
is available [HERE](#)*

working collaboratively to carry out the law.

ISBE's rules regarding this law are forthcoming, and ISBE School Health Staff will provide as much information as is available during the IDPH [School Health Days](#) presentations Feb. 23 - March 3. For more information on school health issues, please visit [www.isbe.net/school\\_health.htm](http://www.isbe.net/school_health.htm).

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### *From your editor...*

*We are trying out a new e-mail system for the newsletter. Please [e-mail me](#) if you have problems receiving, opening, viewing, or if it is distorted in any way. Thank you!*



June 14 - 15, 2016 - [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

**The DIRECTIONS  
Midwest Education Conference is being held in Collinsville!  
Register today!**