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**Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>**

**Monday, July 19, 2004**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942**

Phone/Fax:  
 (217) 283-9348  
 Email:  
 publish@justthefacts.net

**www.justthefacts.net**

## Hoopeston Area board approves November tax referendum

Hoopeston Area voters will be asked in November to approve a 90 cent tax hike to the district's education fund.

At Thursday night's meeting, the board, in a 6-0 vote, approved putting a referendum on the Nov. 2 ballot.

The district is asking for additional taxes to offset the loss of 400 students in the last 10 years, said Superintendent Mark Conolly. That loss has cost the district just under \$2 million each year. "We're homing we can arrest that decline but there's no guarantee," he said.

The board chose a 90-cent increase to keep the district on par with other school districts. If the referendum is successful, Hoopeston Area's rate would go from \$3.76 currently to \$4.66.

Rates of other districts include: Armstrong (combined high/grade school) \$6.57; Jamaica \$5.45; Catlin \$5.05; Bismarck-Henning \$4.71; Westville \$4.65; Rossville-Alvin \$4.65; Oakwood \$4.63; Danville \$4.39; Georgetown/Ridge Farm \$4.32; and Potomac \$4.18.

Board president Larry Lobb said the request

was made reluctantly and he worried about residents who might have a hard time paying the extra money. "People on fixed incomes - I don't know whether they can come up with \$150," he said.

The \$150 figure is the estimated increase in taxes on a \$50,000 house.

During discussion, board member John Smiley asked treasurer Don Dean his opinion of the increase.

Dean replied that Hoopeston Area "got saved a couple times" by reorganization. The Wellington consolidation, Rankin High School deactivation and Rankin annexation all gave state incentive money to Hoopeston Area. Additionally, the district has had savings that were used to cover deficit budgets that have gone from \$200,000 to an estimated \$800,000 this year.

Dean added that the tax increase may provide less new money than hoped for because the homeowners and senior citizens property tax exemptions were both raised, from \$3,500 to \$5,000 for owner-occupied homes and from \$2,000 to \$3,000 for senior citizens. Those changes could drop the district's assessed valuation from \$65 million currently to about \$63 million

## Briefly

### Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: Monday, Hoopeston/Rossville shuttle; Tuesday, Tuscola. (leave at 8 a.m.); Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville. For more information or to arrange a ride, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283 -5544.

Community center activities include: Monday, ladies cards, noon; Tuesday, ladies euchre, noon; Thursday, men's coffee, 9:30 a.m., men's euchre, noon; Friday, ladies cards, noon.

### Music Booster winners

This week's winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: July 19, Connie Rickart; July 20, Dorothy Trent; July 21, Reid Walder; July 22, Darlene Musk (donated back); July 23, Bradley Lawson.

### Meetings

- Rossville Village Board, 7 p.m. Monday, village office
- Rossville-Alvin School Board, 7 p.m. Monday, high school library

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(217) 714-0090

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\*Clark \*Pizza King \*Price-Less Foods  
\*Pla-Mor Lanes \*Hoopeston Public Library  
\*Hoopeston Express Lube \*Downtown Motel  
\*Oat's Bait Shop/BJ's Pump \*Taco Shell


### Rossville

\*Minuteman \*Feedbag \*Bray's General Store

### Milford



## Police News



**Edward W. Green**, 40, of 715 S. First Ave., Apt. C, was arrested at 8:30 am. Thursday, charged with aggravated home repair on a complaint from a 71-year-old Hoopeston man. The man alleged Green was paid cash for work that was not done.

Green was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

A **26-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Friday that a tire was damaged on her 1991 Mitsubishi while it was parked in the 200 block of West Elm.

**Christopher S. Berglund**, 31, of 710 Wyman D2, was arrested at 3:10 p.m. Saturday in the 700 block of East Wyman.


He was charged with disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 24-year-old Hoopeston woman. The

woman alleged Berglund had contact with her after being told not to.

Berglund was released on a notice to appear.

**Shane E. McCarty**, 17, of 405 Front, was arrested at 11:10 p.m. Saturday in the 800 block of East

### Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 8:39 p.m. Saturday to a report of a house fire at 430 W. Chestnut. Police and ambulance personnel also responded.

next year.

See **REFERENDUM** on other side

### Referendum

continued from other side


If voters approve the referendum, increased taxes will be calculated in 2005 and will be payable in 2006. If the referendum fails, the board will seek another one in April, putting additional revenue "out another year," said board member Steve Unger. "We'll be hurting."

The referendum will be on the ballot in Vermilion, Iroquois and Ford counties.

In unrelated action, the board:

- approved hiring Sean Lyon, middle school math/science, middle school girls track, seventh grade girls basketball; Amber Dirkes, eighth grade girls volleyball; and Charles Crozer, Bob Luecke and Eugene Warner, assistant varsity football coaches.
- accepted resignations from Mandy Payne, high school PE teacher; Bryan Schroeder, middle school science; and Henry Patton, youth wrestling head coach.
- approved student hand books for all schools and reviewed a district policy on student emotional and social development.

### Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 84. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 64. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High 88, low 69.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopes-ton Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

### HMA taking applications for school supplies program

The Hoopeston Multi Agency is taking ap-plications for its school supplies program

To receive assistance for free school sup-plies, applicants must meet financial guidelines.

Family Size	Monthly Income
2	\$1,313
3	\$1,653
4	\$1,993
5	\$2,334
6	\$2,674
7	\$3,014
8	\$3,354
Each additional member	\$340

They are:

Applicants must bring Social Security cards and proof of income for the last 30 days for each member of the family. Those receiving assistance from the Department of Human Services must also bring a medical card for each family member.

For more information, call the Multi

## Classifieds

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Rossville: 1-2 bdrs. Riverview Apartments. Completely refur-bished, on-site washers & dryers. 1 bdr. \$310/mo., \$310 deposit; 2 bdr., \$360/mo., \$360 deposit. Call (217) 840-3672. 188-215

Duplexes for rent. 2 bdr., 2 bath, garage. Appliances furnished. Dishwasher included. No pets. \$550/mo. Deposit, references. Hoopeston area. (217) 283-7996

2 bdr, basement. New carpet, paint. Dishwasher, stove, built-in oven. No pets. \$450/mo., \$450 deposit. (217) 748-4287.

### FREE STUFF

Used red bricks. Good condition. Can be taken from driveway at 618 S. Fourth St., Hoopeston

### HOUSES FOR RENT

3 bdr home, new paint & carpet, no pets. 1 mo. security deposit & references required. \$425/mo. Call (217) 283-7263.

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