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Just the facts

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 1996

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Hoopeston tax levy to increase, early revolving loan paid

Hoopeston will receive a 3.2 percent increase in revenue from local taxes next year.

The city council on Tuesday approved the 1996-97 tax levy of \$416,434, up from \$403,904 last year.

While the levy increased, Alderman Bill Goodwine, city finance committee chairman, said the increase has been slow.

Goodwine explained that in 1988, when the Hoopeston Public Library was under city control, the levy was \$478,000. Of that, \$30,000 was targeted for library services. "If you take out the \$30,000, it's still higher than what it is now," Goodwine said. "I don't think anyone can say that taxes have skyrocketed in Hoopeston."

Alderman Mark Drollinger commented that liability insurance and unemployment compensation costs are both down from last year.

Goodwine explained that the decreases are based on the city's history both for work-related injuries

and unemployment claims.

In related financial business, Goodwine said one of the first revolving loans has been paid off.

Brian Lawson, owner of Global Fashions, paid his loan off on Nov. 14, after approximately four years.

Lawson's was the second loan made under the program, which provides capital for new businesses or expansions in Hoopeston.

The program is open to businesses which have difficulty obtaining traditional financing. Each \$10,000 borrowed must create at least one full-time job in the city.

"If we could have all borrowers like Brian, it would be nice," Goodwine said.

In further financial action, Goodwine said he has requested interest rate and cost information from local banks for the city's savings. Total savings range from \$800,000 to \$1 million, he said.

The information is requested every three years.

Rossville-Alvin board establishes non-profit foundation

ROSSVILLE—Those who wish to make monetary donations to the Rossville-Alvin school district will now be able to deduct those gifts from their taxes.

At Monday's meeting, the board approved establishing a non-profit district foundation, said Superintendent Phil Smith.

The foundation will be separate from the school board although the board set up a five-member interim board of directors to oversee the foundation's creation. Members are Smith, school board president Don Frazier, board member Gene Hughes, Mark Norton and Gary Milton.

The men will elect a 16-member board that will assume the duties of running the group, Smith said.

In unrelated action, the board approved a proposed tax levy which could generate \$83,000 more for the school district.

However, Smith said the equalized assessed valuation "didn't go up that much," so the district will probably receive less than the projected amount.

The proposal is a 7.9 percent increase over last year, Smith said, and will raise the tax rate by approximately 1.9 percent, from \$4.51 per \$100 assessed valuation to an estimated \$4.59. "We're hedging our bets on the EAV," he said.

A public hearing on the levy will be held at 6:45 p.m. Dec. 16 in the high school library.

See R-A on other side

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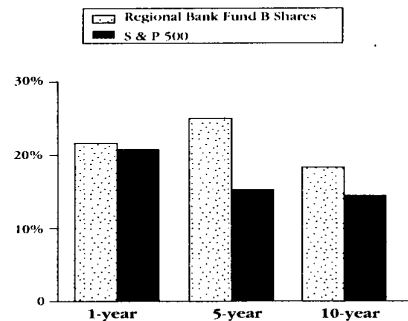
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Police News

A boy's 10-speed bicycle was found Monday afternoon at west Maple and South Second Ave. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Russell R. Foster, 407 N. Third St., reported Monday that someone kicked in the back door of his home while he was at work. Police said Foster was unsure if anything was taken from his home.

Frank Stevens, 317 W. Elm, reported Monday that someone has been throwing eggs at his home since

Friday. He also reported that someone painted his door with nail polish.

Local men face drug charges

Two Hoopeston men were in court Monday, charged with possessing cocaine.

Severo Torres, 36, and James T. Petty, 20, were charged with possession of between 15 and 100 grams of cocaine and possession with intent to deliver.

Both were arrested over the weekend. Petty was released Sunday on \$3,000 of a \$30,000 bond.

Torres was being held in the Vermilion County jail in lieu of posting 10 percent of \$500,000 bond.

Both men are scheduled to appear in court Dec. 11.

R-A continued from other side

In other action, the board:

hired Lanaee Neese as a new Children At Risk Educationally teacher.

The CARE program targets preschool children ages three to five.

Neese, of Springfield, will be paid about \$18,800 annually.

hired Robert Bruens of Hoopeston as a new custodian.

did not vote to hold winter meetings at 6 p.m. as they have done in the past.

In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Nov. 18, 1996

Admitted: Mary Louise Wagoner, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather

Partly sunny with scattered showers today. High in the mid 40s. Tonight, continued showers. Low in the mid 30s. Tomorrow, scattered showers. High near 46, low near 35.

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