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 **Boy Scout Fundraiser**
Friday, Oct. 31 5-8 p.m.
Hoopeston American Legion
502 W. Penn
Serving Fish Dinners
(perch, fries, slaw, beans & roll)
and **fish sandwiches**

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Just the Facts®
Friday, October 31, 2014
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Briefly

Maple Madness winners
The October 25 winner of \$25 in the Maple Madness 2014 raffle is Elena Eiquihua, of Hoopeston. Congratulations and thank you for supporting Maple Grade

Obituaries

POWLEY - Burial for David Thomas Powley, 75, of Butler, formerly of Hoopeston, will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Floral Hill Cemetery. From there, friends will gather at St. Anthony Parish Hall. Please bring photographs and lots of stories to celebrate his life.


Hoopeston American Legion
502 E. Penn

Texas Hold 'Em
Sunday, Nov. 2 \$50 buy-in
Registration at noon, play starts at 1
Free food provided!
Check out our gaming machines.

Teasdale Foods, Inc.
DENT SALE
Friday, Oct. 31 8 a.m.-Noon
-NEW LOCATION-
Teasdale Warehouse
northwest corner of Penn and First Ave.

Chili, pinto, black, blackeyes, kidney, pork 'n bean, baked, lima, butter, garbanzo, reds, great northern, fava, refried, organics & more

3 cases \$12 - excludes gallons or 50 oz.



School!

Fall back
Don't forget to turn clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

Queen candidates sought
Hoopeston Jaycees are looking for female Hoopeston Area graduates, ages 18-20, as candidates for Miss Hoopeston 2015. Applications must be filled out electronically at www.hoopestonjaycees.org and submitted by 5 p.m. November 30. Rules and expectations are also posted there. For more information, email misshoopeston@hoopestonjaycees.org.

Open House
Sunday, November 2 1-3 p.m.



14028 E 3785 N Rd, Hoopeston - \$220,000
Lovely 4 bedroom 3.5 bath home in secluded Hickory Hills subdivision.

RE/MAX
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The PIT STOP at EAST LANES

Monday: Taco Salad (beef or chicken) or grilled or breaded Tenderloin
Tuesday: Beef or chicken & noodles or Speedway Burger
Wednesday: Ribeye Sandwich or Spaghetti
Thursday: Swiss Steak
Friday: Cod or Rib eye Steaks
Saturday: Prime Rib or Rib eyes
Now available daily:
RIBEYE STEAK SANDWICH!
(not available Friday night or Saturday)

HALLOWEEN DANCE
8:30-11:30 p.m. Friday featuring
Yesterday's Country
with Terry Polson, Charlie Crozer and Dave Borders
COSMIC BOWLING
Saturday night - 6-11 p.m.
Open Bowling Saturday 12-close
Coming November 8 - 7-8-9 Pin Tournament
First place - \$215


Farmers: Call in your order at 10 a.m. and we will have it ready or deliver it to you!

 **Masonic Lodge 709 AF & AM**
FALL BREAKFAST
Saturday, November 1 5:30-11 a.m.
Star Lodge
 206 W. Orange, Hoopeston
Serving Eggs (cooked to order), Sausage Patty,
Biscuits & Gravy, Toast, Coffee, Milk & Orange Juice
\$5 per person

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 **Council action means 'no' on tax hike**
 Mayor Crusinberry wants to increase taxes, yet the entire board refused to let business thrive by not allowing Marathon to sell liquor (due to license denial).
 If anyone has seen Marathon lately, they know that Sunny is grasping whatever customer he can to earn more business. More business means more tax dollars. The board refused that extra money more than once.
 Just my opinion, I say NO WAY to a sales tax increase. The town had easy money and chose to support monopolistic ideals of only a very select couple of businesses to practice full entrepreneurship, something that used to fit as an example of the loose definition of "America the Free." NO WAY for an increase today!
 I mean, think about it... We, as a town, blow all this money to clean up the town just to have for example, a John Deere dealer get denied a "farm implement seller" license or something silly. It's very clear and apparent that there are locally leaning interests.
 Until the town plays fair with its current businesses and at least allows them to play a fair game of capitalism, don't use the taxpayer as a cash-flow avenue excuse to clean up the town for more business that is obviously not welcome here.
 Mike Schwartz
 Hoopeston
Tax hike needed to improve city
 We all have seen the dilapidated houses and commercial buildings in town. Some are in poor repair and some are beyond repair. Over the years, we also have seen the bursting water mains, broken sidewalks, neighborhood flooding, poor streets, etc. For the most part, we expect

LARKIN'S
BARBER SHOP
 117 E. Attica St. (on alley)
 Rossville IL 60963
 (217) 772-1440
NEW HOURS
Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-Noon


Letters to the Editor
 the city to take care of these problems. The present city council has been active in trying to resolve these issues, but after so many years of neglect, the task of remediation grows larger every day. Some strides have been made with the water tower and filtration system and we have seen gradual improvement in the city streets. Due to the work of the housing committee from the Hoopeston Community Alliance, you will soon see some action on dilapidated properties.
 I believe this city council has the will to move forward, but it has to have the funds to be able to do so. There are limited funds available each year from the budget to make small improvements. The problem is that the needs far outpace the available funds. We are simply getting farther and farther behind each year.
 New sources of funding need to be found. Property owners are already overburdened with property taxes. A source could be funding through sales tax. This would be a more equitable source as it spreads the burden over all citizens instead of just property owners. The impact per purchase is very minimal. A one percent increase on a \$50 purchase would be just 50 cents. The increase would not be applied to grocery food products and prescription drugs. Even with the increase, Hoopeston's rate would still be well under the Danville and Champaign area rates.
 If we as citizens want to see our city stabilized and improved, then we need to consider supporting a sales tax increase of one percent. I do not like taxes period, but I also do not like seeing our city continue to crumble around us. Something has to give.
 Thank you for reading.

HUBBARD TRAIL COUNTRY CLUB
Open to the Public 217-748-6521
Friday, October 31: 5pm-9pm
Tonight's Specials: Grilled Salmon, Grilled Cod,
Shrimp: Grilled, Cajun or Scampi, over pasta with
2 sides; Shrimp basket with fries & slaw
plus our regular menu
 This is our last Friday serving food this year. We will reopen March 16, 2015. Thank you to everyone who supported our food this year. We appreciate each and every one of you!

 **Mayor writes in favor of tax hike**
 Bill Nicholls
 Hoopeston
 On the November ballot, there will be a question as to whether the Hoopeston should assess an additional one percent on the sales tax added to the cost of purchased items. I am sure many of you wonder why the city needs this additional revenue and what will it be used for. Hopefully, this will clarify some of the questions you might have.
 First, Hoopeston is financially sound, which has been achieved by annually maintaining a balanced budget. One of the largest challenges we faced was when the 2010 census showed the city losing approximately 600 residents.
 A direct result of this is that all municipalities share a percentage of state income tax, based on their populations. This loss reduced the city's share by approximately \$60,000 a year. Of course, city expenses continued at the same rate.
 The loss of revenue had to be made up somewhere. Unfortunately this was accomplished by making many hard choices. One of the hardest was implemented nearly three years ago, when the council initiated a reduction of workforce by eliminating a position in nearly all of the city's departments. We also cut back on funds allocated to our accrual accounts, used purchase equipment such as backhoes, dump trucks, and police squad cars.
 These practices, along with not doing some projects we would like to have done, has kept the city in sound financial shape, but we cannot keep putting off forever, things that need to be done.
 Of the things that need to be addressed, first is the number of vacant houses in Hoopeston that are not habitable in their present condition. We are currently looking at a remediation program and have identified 10 of the worst, but that list could easily be expanded to 25 or more.
 Next we have abandoned commercial properties in various stages of decay. The list would include Vermilion Iron, Essex Wire, Hoopeston Fertilizer, the Moose Club, and several smaller commercial buildings in the downtown area. If we as a city do not address these deteriorating properties, we will be witness as their condition con-

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Letters continued from page 2

tinues to worsen.

There are other areas that we would like to see improvements, if the revenue could be obtained.

Our water system was originally constructed during the late 1800s and we have two primary water mains still in use from that time. The main from the water treatment plant to the CSX tracks on Main St and the one on Market St. from the post office north to the fire station were both constructed in 1888. Numerous shutoff valves in our system do not close

2 day Auction 11/1, 9 a.m., 11/2 10 a.m.
323 E Liberty Lane, Danville, IL
Sat- Vintage/Antiques (Furniture, Glassware, Magazines, Gaming machines, pottery.
Sun -Stain glass windows (home/cathedral), Persian rugs, vintage light fixtures
Selling Sat Nov 8, 10am
520 Honeywell, Hoopeston, IL
 Real Estate 15 room mansion, woodwork, pool, three stories, also selling wrought iron fence, cement yard ornaments, tools..
 Go to www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com **217-304-0442**

completely due to age.

The roads in McFerren Park and Floral Hill both need attention. Sidewalks and tennis courts in our parks have not seen the necessary repairs made for many years. Without additional revenue, these items will easily be put aside during the budget process.

I have laid out a very aggressive agenda as to some of the things we would like to do, but this agenda does not come without a price tag. We know that we can not tackle all or even some of these items without raising the revenue needed.

A first suggestion was to look at an increase on property taxes, but we felt this would put an additional burden on homeowners and subsequently renters, so we looked for another source. We decided to approach this with an increase in sales tax, since

Weather

Slight chance of showers today. High 42. Tonight, frost. Low 31. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 44, low 27. Sunday, mostly sunny. High 47, low 37.

many of the people purchasing in Hoopeston reside outside the city limits and it will spread the tax raised over a much larger group of people.

It should be noted that two items will be exempt from this increase: food you buy and take home to prepare yourself and all prescription medicine.

This tax, if passed, the effect would be if you went to a restaurant and spent \$25 it would cost an additional 25cents, (one quarter) or on a larger purchase of \$50 an additional 50c cents, (two quarters).

In closing I would urge you, if you would like to see Hoopeston progressively move forward and become an even better place to live and raise a family, on November 4 vote yes on the sales tax question, and ask your family, friends, and neighbors to do the same.

The future of Hoopeston will be impacted by your vote.

The views presented here are mine supported by the majority of the City Council, but does not represent the entire Council.

Mayor Bill Crusinberry

Anderson Funeral Home's
Not-So-Scary Halloween Party
5-8 PM
Halloween night



Trick or Treat




Monster Bash
DJ 9-1 Friday
Costume Contest - Judging 10 p.m.
Drink Specials



The Pump
 Bar & Package Liquor Store
 1023 W. Main, Hoopeston