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Vermilion County school districts seek to add 1% sales tax

A one percent sales tax being discussed by county schools could provide as much as \$400,000 a year to the Hoopeston Area district.

At Thursday's school board meeting, Supt. Hank Hornbeck discussed the idea of the tax, which, if approved by half of county schools, would be placed on the November ballot.

Hornbeck said the sales tax was a better revenue source than property taxes, adding that some schools receiving sales tax income stopped levying property taxes.

The idea of a sales tax comes from the state legislature's 2007 offer of new way for schools to raise money

for maintaining and improving facilities. Money can also be used for increased security systems, improved technology, updating buildings or even constructing a new school.

While Hoopeston Area has no debt, other county districts are experiencing financial problems. The board is expected to vote on supporting the tax proposal at its April meeting.

In other business, the board unanimously approved a policy for dual credits. The policy, which excludes College Express, was presented last month and, beginning next year, allows students to take classes at the DACC Higher Learning Center in Hoopeston. Seniors with a grade point average of 3.0 would be allowed to take a maximum of two credit courses per semester, outside of regular school hours. Juniors with a GPA of 3.4 would be allowed to take one credit course per semester.

Beginning with the class of 2017, seniors with at least a 3.4 GPA may take dual credit courses at the DACC campus during the school day.

Under the proposal, such students must have taken advanced placement English III and be enrolled in another advanced course.

See TAX on other side

Save the Lorraine Foundation presents
COMEDY NIGHT 
Starring Tyler Snodgrass and Randy Shields
 Saturday, March 28 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 Hoopeston American Legion
 Food served 5-7 p.m.
 Tickets available at the American Legion, City Chef, Little Lorraine and Hoopeston Water Department.

 **Make it a Good Morning!**
 Masonic Lodge 709 AF & AM
Spring Breakfast
5:30-11 a.m. Saturday, March 28
 Eggs cooked to order, toast, biscuits & gravy, sausage patties, coffee, milk, orange juice
\$5 per person - Carry outs available
 206 W. Orange, Hoopeston

Public and Media invited to
COMMUNITY FORUM FOR 1% SALES TAX
 March 31 7 P.M. City Hall Chambers
Before you vote, be informed
 Email questions to mayorhoopeston@yahoo.com
 or be recognized from the floor

Reason #10 why you should  **Vote NO City Sales Tax**

The sales tax was originally said to be used to tear down dilapidated residential and commercial buildings. "Infrastructure" was added to make it more appealing to voters.

Infrastructure, such as replacing old water mains, costs MILLIONS. Do you think officials will let tax money sit idly while it accumulates to that level?

Vote NO on April 7!

Paid political ad

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

This week's Specials

Monday: Beef Manhattan & Mashed Potatoes
Tuesday: Lasagna & Garlic Bread
Wednesday: Polish sausage & Cheese Curds
Thursday: Cheesy Ham & Hashbrown Casserole
Friday: Ribeye Steak Sandwiches & Macaroni Salad

Don't forget Barstool Golf on Saturday, March 28
 Come in and try your luck with our **LIVE VIDEO GAMING!**

Have you seen what's 
NEW
 at
GLOBAL FASHIONS
 305 E. Main, Hoopeston

Letters to the Editor

Support tax, hold officials accountable

The 1% tax is a plan to help revitalize our community and make it a better place to live. The money will be used for the demolition of building that are no longer safe and are an eye sore to our community. The money is marked for the improvement of our town and must be used for that purpose. The residents must make sure that accountability for the use of the money goes for that intended purpose. The fund must be used for the clean up and improvement for our town. It is a time to move forward and make Hoopeston a more desirable place to live. Your vote for the increase is a vote to improve our community.

James Richards
Hoopeston

Do we pay now or later?

"Pay me now or pay me later". If you are like me, the times you paid later usually cost much more than if you would have taken care of business in the first place. Sometimes we don't have a choice, but other

times I think it's just human nature to get by as cheaply as we can. But sooner or later, the price has to be paid. Budget-wise, the city remains in the black. It doesn't spend more than it has. On one hand that is commendable, but on the other:

- Are we maintaining our City as we should?
- Are we throwing nickels and dimes towards projects that we should be spending dollars on?
- Are we re-active instead of pro-active?
- Instead of seeking more funds for projects, are we stuck in the mode of simply getting by?
- Have we become so used to seeing our City as it is that we no longer see the need for improvement?

How often have I heard "That's good enough for Hoopeston."

In my mind, nothing is too good for Hoopeston. It's time to take action. We can pay now or simply leave it to those who follow us in the not too distant future...our children perhaps. Funds are usually sourced through grants, service fees or taxes. With the condition of State and Federal budgets, the chances of obtaining any type of funding from them are extremely slim. With the Governor's new plan,

From the Blotter

A 63-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 5:30 p.m. Sunday that someone walked on his car, damaging it. The incident occurred in the 600 block of East Seminary.

Obituaries

BLAIR - LaMoyné C. (Cowan) Blair, 89, of Oak Park, formerly of Prairie Green Township, died March 20, 2015, at Loyola Medical Center, after a short illness. Visitation will be 3 p.m. until the 7 p.m. service Tuesday at Dreschler, Brown & Williams Funeral Home, Oak Park. Burial, with graveside rites, will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Neot Kedumim Park, at neot-kedumim.org.il.

INMAN - Ronald Inman, 51, of Shelburn, Ind., died at 9:01 a.m. Sunday, March 22, 2015. Arrangements are pending at Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

there is a great possibility that even current funding will be cut. No one likes increased fees or taxes, but the most equitable source would be the 1% sales tax increase:

- Such a tax would not affect vehicle, prescription drugs or grocery purchases.
- It would be spread over a broad base with minimal impact.
- The increase for a \$100 purchase would amount to one dollar.
- The funds collected will be earmarked for streets, water and sewer lines, flooding issues, parks, enforcement of dilapidated building ordinances and some remediation of such properties.

We can pay now or face the possibility of mandated increases in service fees in the future that will

Tax continued from other side

Seniors must be enrolled at Hoopeston Area for at least four periods each semester, enrolled in government, English IV, PE and another elective, with at least one being an advanced placement course.

Additional requirements include students involved in extracurricular activity providing a weekly grade report to the office from the DACC instructor, for purposes of eligibility. Students will not be able to substitute a required HAHS course with one from DACC and, beginning in 2016-17, will no longer be able to take rhetoric 101 and 102 as a substitute for English IV.

In unrelated business, the board:

- Approved hiring the non-tenured teachers for 2015-16, beginning August 20.
- Approved Tim Walsh as part time computer technician assistant, starting March 23; Amanda Elliott as part time high school personal aide, effective March 2; and Jenni Cole as head girls volleyball coach, effective August 3.
- Hired Rachel Gillins as third grade teacher, starting August 20.

Weather

Chance of freezing rain today. High 47. Tonight, showers. Low 46. Tomorrow, breeze. High 63, low 38.

have a greater personal impact than a 1% sales tax. It's up to you to decide what is good enough for Hoopeston.

Bill Nicholls
Hoopeston

Letters to the Editor policy

Just the Facts welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed by the writer and must include a daytime phone number for verification. Letters must be in good taste and of general interest to readers. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters may be mailed to P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942, or emailed to publish@justthefacts.net.

- Approved employment of district administrators and administrator salaries for the 2015-16 year.
- Approved retirements of Debi Lankford, Barbara Park, Carolyn Eyrich-Mastin, Linda Sheppard, Patricia Martin and Gwen Bandy at the end of this school year.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Hoopeston Apt. - Handicap Accessible. 2 Bedroom, 1 bath, freshly painted. All appliances, W/D hookup. Yard and full basement. Walk to shopping. No Smoking, No Pets. Available April 1. 626 S-8th Avenue. 217-260-8762. \$475 + deposit.

HELP WANTED

Seasonal driver needed at Crop Production Services Fountain Creek. Must have CDL class A or B and pass drug screen. For information call 217-375-4275 or come to 289 N 1700 East Rd Cissna Park IL 60924

CVS Pharmacy is looking for full time shift supervisor. Shift is to carry out all opening and closing procedures in the absence of management. Also hiring part time pharmacy technician. Both positions have in-store training program. Please apply at CVS.com/careers.

Email publish@justthefacts.net
or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad.

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and other fine Hoopeston businesses
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