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Just the Facts[©]
Friday, April 3, 2015
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net

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Steak Fry
 Friday 5:30-8 p.m.
American Legion
 502 E. Penn, Hoopeston
 Also Chicken Breast and Cod for those observing Lent
Served with salad, baked potato, roll



Hoopeston Area High School students wear yellow in a “#WearYellowForSeth,” an online campaign for a boy whose autoimmune disease keeps him isolated.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
COULD YOU USE A BREAK FROM THE 1% DEBATE?
 Now until Election Day, April 7th
YADEN FLOORING
 will pay ALL TAXES on the purchase of new flooring.
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 Free Estimates

Church on Easter? Come join us

Easter Sunday
 2 services - 9 & 10:45
 Breakfast - 8:30 & 10

Relaxed Atmosphere	Yes
Casual Dress	Yes
Egg Hunt for Kids	Yes
Childcare	Yes
Great Preaching	Maybe 😊
Awesome Music	Yes
Wonderful Free Breakfast	Yes
A Great Experience	Yes

Hoopeston Church of God
 1004 East Orange 217-283-9330
www.hoopestonchurch.org

HA High School students plan support for ill youngster

You might think the last thing a child with a compromised immune system needs is anything viral, but that's not true for Seth Lane, a five-year-old from England.

Seth severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), commonly called “Bubble Boy Syndrome.” Because his immune system is compromised, Seth must often stay away from people.

Seth had a bone marrow transplant when he was two and was scheduled to have his second bone marrow transplant on March 27.

In a blog post, his mother asked people to wear yellow - Seth's favorite color - on that day and send photos for themselves to cheer up her son.

The blog post went viral, gathering international support across the internet.

Among those supporting “WearYellowForSeth” were Hoopeston Area High School students, happy to oblige and be photographed wearing yellow.

Principal Larry Maynard said students chose to support the campaign with teacher Ashley Gondzur

supervising the event.

According to published reports, Seth's bone marrow transplant went well. He also had his gallbladder removed to allow him to have chemotherapy.

Celebrities also showed their support for Seth by tweeting about the special day and wearing yellow. Celebrities joining campaign included Ashton Kutcher, Joe, Jonas and the cast of Sesame Street, including Big Bird.



Lordy, Lordy, Guess who's 40!!
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Letters to the Editor

City should put graduates to work

There are many high school seniors that would like to go to college next year, but do not have the finances to do so, nor the prospect of finding summer employment to obtain these finances. The sad part about this fact is, the city that these kids live, and go to school in is going to waste \$60,000 on a paint job that should cost much less.

How many of you seniors would be willing to work for the City of Hoopeston, and do that paint job, to earn money to further your education?

Why couldn't the City of Hoopeston hire these graduating seniors and give them a chance at furthering their education, thereby lowering the cost of the project, and keeping that money in this town, to be used by citizens of this town, instead of letting some people from other towns get that money.

The Council, Mayor, and Chamber of Commerce continue to tell this town's citizens to shop Hoopeston First, and keep our money local. Maybe, it is about time that our local government start walking the walk, if they are going

to talk the talk. What better way to encourage this graduating class, to make Hoopeston their home, than by showing them that they can contribute now to this city and be a part of it.

How many of you parents worry about what is going to happen to your kids after graduation? Wouldn't you support your city hiring your child to earn money (your tax money) to help them get started in school?

There may be some concern about the city having liability problems. If American Can and Silgan could hire kids still in high school, there should not be any problems for the city hiring graduates.

Tom Evans
Hoopeston

After studying issue, voting no on tax

After studying the proposed sales tax in Hoopeston, reading letters to the editor and engaging in friendly conversations with people who support and oppose the tax we will vote NO and here's why.

First, it appears to be a tax in search of a reason to exist. Initially it was a means to tear down run-down residential and commercial structures. When voters rejected that proposal, infrastructure was added. Most recently, the threat of potential cuts in state aid (not actual cuts, please note, just the possibility) has been tossed in as justification.

Second, the sales tax will fall disproportionately on Hoopeston residents. The notion that nonresidents will foot a significant portion of the tax does not apply to Hoopeston. We are not a "shopping destination" or a tourist community.

Third, and most important, it is not needed. Hoopeston has a balanced budget and growing cash reserves.

As a result, the city has upgraded McFerren Park pool with a \$200,000 splash pad, spent \$100,000 on an aerial fire truck, upgraded the cemetery roads for nearly \$50,000, donated \$25,000 towards Christmas lights, and budgeted \$20,000 for a housing study along with \$25,000 to tear down dilapidated buildings.

These things were paid in cash, without the need of a sales tax.

We appreciate the vigorous debate this proposal has generated. People of good will stand on both sides. Although we may not always agree on ways to improve

Hoopeston, this discussion proves that many citizens are committed to continue to make Hoopeston a great place to live.

We chose to make Hoopeston our home 19 years ago and are proud to live here. We understand that Hoopeston, like many small towns, faces challenges. Certainly, we recognize the role a well-run, taxpayer funded local government plays.

But we are also grateful for the role played by the many citizens of Hoopeston engaged in making this the best town it can be. We believe that people who spend time with their families, who help their neighbors, who take pride in the appearance of their home and business, who volunteer their time and donate money to local civic and social activities of their choosing, have a greater impact on the type of community we live in than local government or an unneeded tax hike.

For all these reasons, we will vote NO.

Mike and Yolanda Pemberton
Hoopeston

Pennies, not dollars

Our new governor wants to make budget cuts of 50% of income tax which are now paid to municipalities. That is a cut of approximately \$244,000. A year. So, if your income is \$30,000 a year, could you reduce your household budget to \$15,000? Mr. Goodwine says he doubts that this will happen. Is he 100% sure that it won't? We cannot continue to provide the present services that we do with these cuts. Do we want to pay for alley cleanup? How about leaf pickup? Street maintenance, crumbling curbs, 125 plus year old water mains? These things are realities not idle threats. I for one want

to see this town prosper, not fall further into disrepair.

I would like to present a "what if." What is you were walking to your car and you dropped a penny and it rolled under your car, or the car next to you. Would you back up, and get out to retrieve that penny, or wait for the car next to you to leave so you could pick it up? I think not. Your thought would be its just a penny. Those pennies add up to dollars. My point is we aren't concerned about those pennies that we leave in the parking lot, or put into the cup at stores for others to use, so what is the problem with the 1% sales tax? This is one cent for each dollar you spend. And, what better way to spend it. If the budget cut doesn't come to be, we stand to gain approximately \$22,000 per month. We could resurface the tennis courts, fix the park roads, finish the cemetery roads, fix the flooding on the NE side of town and the list goes on and on

Mr. Goodwine also states Hoopeston is not a "shopping destination." Where does he think people from Wellington, East Lynn, Rankin, Rossville, Ambia, even Boswell come when they need to shop for everyday items? And while here, they fill up with gas, stop for lunch. Buy flowers for their loved ones graves, and Health and Beauty items. Do we have a Wal-Mart or Meijer grocery? No, but the owners of the IGA certainly have faith in Hoopeston which shows by the amount of money they have put into remodeling the store.

When you go out of town to dinner, you pay 8.75 % sales tax in Danville, and 9.% in Champaign, plus the cost of gas to get there, which we hope you would purchase in town before you go.

In closing, please consider voting yes on April 7. Don't
See LETTERES on page 3

April 7th, Vote for:
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HOUMES
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Creative - Determined - Involved
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Elect **JERAMY DOBKINS**
Ward IV Alderman
Let's give Hoopeston the bright future it deserves!
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Briefly

HPL spring break activity

At 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 3, children from preschool through sixth grade can enjoy "Spring Fling" at the library. Easter activities planned include a story time,

games, and several crafts to make and take home.

Once again, children ages 8 and under should be accompanied by an adult.

For more information call the library at 217-283-6711.

Good Friday service

Hoopeston Ministerial Association will hold its community Good Friday Service of Worship at noon Friday at United Methodist Church of Hoopeston. All congregations and residents are invited.

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Rossville UMC sets services

Rossville United Methodist Church will hold Good Friday service at 7 p.m. Sunrise service by youth will be at 7 a.m. Sunday at Mann's Chapel, with breakfast following at the church. Worship service will be at 9 a.m.

Easter egg hunt

The Hoopeston Jaycees will host a free Easter egg hunt for area children at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 4, at the Jaycee Shelter in McFerren Park. Age categories will be 0-4 years, 5-8 years, and 9-10 years. Candy and a few special surprises will be hiding in the eggs, and the Easter bunny will make an appearance. See you then!

Senior dance at HMA

Hoopeston Multi Agency will host a senior dance from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, with music by Yesterday's Country. The Multi Agency is at 206 S. First Ave.

No paper Monday

Just the Facts will not be printed Monday because of the Easter holiday.

Letters continued from page 2

let our town die over pennies.

Loni Gress
Hoopeston

Socialistic Communism

My fellow Hoopestonians,

It is my intent to show how the decision of the Hoopeston City Council to attempt to overturn the results of the one percent tax levy in a major United States Election is just plain Un-American.

It is power for the people and by the people. The people have already spoken. All it takes is one vote to win an election. For the Hoopeston City Council to lecture the voting majority that they must have been misinformed on the issue is condescending and of an asinine nature.

To blame the results of the election on a unexpected

media campaign shows me that the Hoopeston City Council does not believe in the first Amendment to The United States Constitution. Duh! City Council, we fellow Americans around you do have freedom of speech.

I urge my fellow Hoopestonians to vote against this tax levy once again. A long, long time ago, there were men and women who where fed up with being taxed without representation from a monster across the sea. They stood up and they took the monster's tea and poured into the sea. This city council knows that more than likely, the voter turn out will not be as high in this election and chances are they may get the levy passed. They are like a bunch of whiny butt babies jumping up and down throwing a fit until they get their way. If you take horse to a river and that horse does not want to

cross that river, one can take a whip and hit that horse until he submits. This is what this city council knows. What if this tax levy does not pass? Will it be laid to rest or will the whip come back out?

This tax levy will repel people from doing business here and many existing business will fail. These politicians all they know is how to tax and spend. They waste money for stupid studies on what to do. Study this. Quit spending all our money on stupid studies from over-educated idiots. If you do not know what you are doing, resign and get the heck out of there.

To close, I would like to give credit to councilman Goodwine for standing up for what is right. I would like inform councilman Hamilton that through absentee balloting, I have already voted against him which is all my pleasure. And finally, I do not believe that I, or anybody else, should be taxed to tear down some deadbeat owner's property. Invoke eminent domain and seize that property to be put up for auction. Auction winner takes care of the problem.

That is what real Americans call Capitalism. I do not want to live in some commune. I believe in individualism and the right to be free.

Paid for by the sweat and blood of the American people who believe in the United States Constitution,

John S. Palmer
Hoopeston

Global Fashions

Prom is coming soon, guys.
If you're going, come see us for
all the name brands,
all the colors, all the styles
and unbeatable customer service.
All right here!

305 E. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-7214

Pool Tournament
Saturday, April 4
Hoopeston American Legion
 502 E. Penn
Starts at noon \$20 entry fee

Elect
Dustin Tarter
Ward I Alderman
Let's move Hoopeston forward!
 I believe that we must have a transparent government that empowers citizens to improve our community.
Have questions?
Please contact me at
dustinforward1@gmail.com
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**Conservative Values
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**ELECT
YADEN**

- Opposes the tax increase because 1% sounds better than the **7½%** you will actually pay
- Believes in limited government: Police, fire, water, sewer and roads
- Financially responsible

Goals

- Update 100-year-old water pipes
- Work on flooding issues
- Deal with dilapidated buildings
- Code enforcement, not tax increases

**Reason #23
why you should**



**Vote
NO
City Sales Tax**

In pitching the sales tax last year, officials said they wanted a sales tax instead of increasing property tax so that more people - including those from out of town - would be in the pool of those paying the tax.

The truth is, city property tax rates are already at the maximum allowed by law.

The request for a sales tax was voted down once. Let's do it again!
Vote NO on April 7!

Paid political ad

Obituaries

BURGE - Hale Burge, 92, of Hoopeston, died at 10:01 a.m. Wednesday, April 2, 2015, at Villa Health Care East, Sherman. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

RUNGE - Misti Renae Runge, 51, of Hoopeston, died at 4 a.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2015, at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the 1 p.m. funeral Saturday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support Group, c/o Anderson Funeral Home, 427 E. Main St., Hoopeston IL 60942 or Carle Center for Philanthropy, 611 W. Park St., Urbana IL 61801, for a memorial donation to be given to Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center. Please put Misti's name and HRHC in the check memo.

STEBBINS - Donald Glen "Don" Stebbins, 79, of Fairmount, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 2:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2015, at home. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. celebration of his life Monday at Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Masonic service will be at 1 p.m. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice.

Weather

Showers likely today. High 52. Tonight, decreasing clouds. Low 28. Tomorrow, sunny. High 54, low 37. Sunday, mostly sunny. High 62, low 43. Monday, chance of thunderstorms. High 61, low 54.

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Re-Elect

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VFW Menu

Orange & 4th Ave., Hoopeston

Wednesday: **Wings 5-8 p.m.**
Thursdays: **Tacos by Norma 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.**
Fridays: **NFCC Fish Fry 11-7**
Check out our video gaming machines!

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

Hoopeston Multi Agency has opening for Teen Reach director. Part time (25hrs./wk.) position. Bachelor's degree or equivalent in social work, recreation or working with children. Please mail resume and cover letter to 206 S. First Ave., Hoopeston IL 60942, by April 8.

Administrative Secretary needed, Rossville United Methodist Church. 10 - 15 hours per week; Excellent people skills needed, knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets important. Position available immediately. If interested in applying, call the Church office and leave a message @ 217-748-6760, or email the Pastor @ carlmesiti@gmail.com

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom duplex for rent. Ground floor, water and trash included. \$425/month. Call 217-304-2145

CITIZENS I URGE YOU TO VOTE YES



Why I Disagree with Alderman Goodwine's three reasons we do not need a sales tax increase

First, yes we do have reserve funds, and that is what they are, funds set aside in case a major unexpected financial need or emergency arises. Suggested business practices, for anyone who has ever owned or managed a business, are that they have reserve funds set aside that would cover routine operating expenses for a minimum of six months.

These funds should not be available to pay for routine property maintenance or City improvements.

Second, yes we did authorize the removal of potential hazardous paint and the repainting of the entire interior of the water treatment plant. We had just finished the refurbishing of the three water treatment filters and brought them to state of the art condition. Although the cost was high, we now have an entire water treatment plant that will have a functional and cosmetic life expectancy of over twenty five years. Yes, we could have used a band aid approach, but anyone who has worked in a high humidity industrial environment knows that painting over rust is a very short term solution and will have to be repainted frequently. And no, our workers could not have removed the rust, as it was coated with potentially hazardous lead base paint, which could lead to health issues for future workers.

Third the thinking that if government does not do it, that citizen initiative will, just isn't happening. Yes, things listed in Alderman Goodwine's letter; CVS, McDonalds, Autumn Fields, Family Healthcare, LA Casa Del Sol, IGA, and Heritage Healthcare are all the result of private development (some with government assistance) and that's how it should be. But no one would expect citizens to fund; 1. A solution to flooding in town, 2. Replacement of approximately 100 obsolete fire hydrants, 3. Repaving of park and cemetery roads, 4. Replacement of water mains (some over 125 years old), 5. Making the Civic Center a facility that would be more functional to the needs of Hoopeston residents, 6. Renovating or replacing a very outdated bathhouse at the swimming pool, and 7. Making our tennis courts usable again. The list could go on and on.

The ultimate goal would be; that for residents of Hoopeston, we provide them with a community that they are proud to call their home and for someone looking to relocate, they would say: Hoopeston is the kind of City I would like to live in and raise my family.

ONCE AGAIN, FOR THE FUTURE OF HOOPESTON, I URGE YOU TO VOTE YES

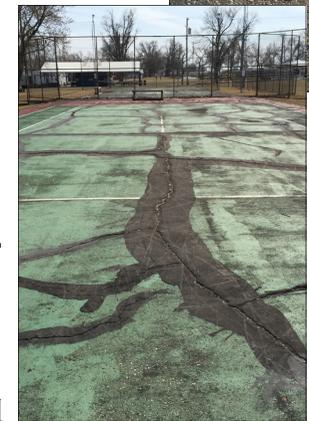
PAID FOR BY BILL CRUSINBERRY



North Side Park Sidewalk



Floral Hill Cemetery Road



McFerren Park Tennis Courts





For the Future of Hoopeston...

The foundation of American democracy is the informed voter. We expect that voters have taken the time and initiative to educate themselves regarding the candidates and issues that will face them in the voting booth on Election Day. The issues to be decided on April 7th have gathered much media attention and have been a topic of discussion in many groups. If you have made your decisions based on the dominant headlines we encourage you to reconsider. We believe that many of the 'facts' presented have been distorted and we hope to offer some clarity.

The original intent of the 1% sales tax increase was to address not only deteriorating structures in Hoopeston, but also to assist in the replacement of aged and defective water delivery infrastructure. When the tax was first presented on the ballot the distribution of funds had not been developed. This was not out of arrogance, but rather an assumption of public understanding that all funds would be spent to make Hoopeston a better place to live in variety of ways. Never was this tax increase intended solely to remediate nuisance properties as has been portrayed in the media.

It is anticipated that fiscal year 2015 sales tax revenue will be \$575,000. The passage of the 1% sales tax increase will generate an additional \$275,000. The Sales Tax Initiative Committee proposes that these additional funds be treated as restricted funds that cannot be used for purposes other than community improvements. The Committee suggests that the funds be distributed in the following manner:

- 20% for improvements at Floral Hill Cemetery to include the renovation of crumbling roads and the replacement of ash trees
- 20% for replacement of curbs, sidewalks and the remediation of dangerous properties
- 20% for renovation of parks to include facilities such as the civic center, swimming pool, bath houses, tennis courts and roads at McFerren Park and improvements to Union and Northside Parks.
- 40% for replacing defective and outdated water lines on Route 1, Market, Main and Penn Streets; and to address flooding and sanitary sewer issues caused by storm water drainage.

Now that we have addressed how the Committee proposes the funds to be distributed we would like to address a few statements and rumors that have been circulated regarding the proposed sales tax increase. While several new businesses and services have come to Hoopeston in recent years, it is not true that these entities came here without financial incentives or commitments provided by the City Hoopeston. Here are a few examples of the more significant expenditures:

- CVS located here after the City absorbed costs of approximately \$190,000 to demolish the existing structures and granted a 60% rebate of assessed real estate taxes
- Autumn Fields receives a 100% rebate of assessed real estate taxes
- J & R Tire Recycling received \$44,600 to locate in Hoopeston
- Heritage Health received a new water main that cost the city \$335,000
- The DACC Hoopeston facility received over \$60,000 for renovation of their facility
- The Hoopeston IGA received \$5000 to improve the façade of their store
- New Beginnings Church received \$5000 to improve the façade of their structure after their significant investment in the downtown district

Fiscal year 2014 saw expenditures of \$171,000 for the splash pad at McFerren Park and approximately \$100,000 for an aerial fire truck. Both of these purchases were funded using accruals from restricted funds. These assets to the community were purchased by sound fiscal management and planning. These expenses not only demonstrate a commitment to quality of life for Hoopeston residents, but the prudent management of incremental income to fund large ticket purchases. Pennies do become dollars and dollars become physical improvements to our community that increase quality of life and attract investment.

Take a moment; we want you to think about what Hoopeston could have looked like if we had passed a 1% sales tax increase 10 years ago. This hypothetical tax would have generated two million dollars. The water lines would be fixed. Flooding issues would be non-existent. Our park and cemetery roads would be smooth and display our pride in these facilities. Our children and grandchildren would play on attractive and updated playgrounds. The list of projects that could have been accomplished is long.

Do not let the future be full of 'could have been' statements. Please be an educated voter on April 7th. We encourage you to seek out the facts and make an informed decision regarding the 1% sales tax increase. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.