

Message from Gene Miles, President and CEO of First Farmers Bank & Trust

Our organization is very excited to be a part of Hoopeston.

Bank conversions can be challenging because they always involve change. Change for your bank isn't easy because you want confidence and knowledge about your banking relationship. Change for your bank can also be rewarding as some new products and services can help you and your business. All of us at First Farmers Bank & Trust respect you as an individual customer. We know that every customer deserves to be heard and deserves to feel comfortable with their organization. We are committed to being a part of Hoopeston and we are committed to making sure that you are proud of your bank.



Gene Miles

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President & CEO
First Farmers Bank & Trust



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FDIC 

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**Just
the Facts**®

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Lourdine Florek, owner

www.justthefacts.net



Photo courtesy of Carl Ankenbrand

Prom royalty

Holly Morgeson and Bryce Leigh, center, stand amid their court after being named Hoopeston Area High School's queen and king of the 2015 prom Saturday night. Pictured are, from left, queen candidates Sadie Hofer, Rylee Martin and Aly Zarate, Morgeson, Leigh, and king candidates Coty Coon, Tanner Burton and Wes Featherstone. The evening included the annual dance at Honeywell School, followed by post prom, sponsored by Hoopeston Jaycees, in the middle school gym. "Casino Night" was the theme for the event.

Unger's Jewelry Retirement Sale

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Central Illinois high school students visit Capitol for lesson in drafting, passing legislation

Last week I welcomed more than 40 high school students from central Illinois to the Capitol as part of a program I refer to as my "Youth Advisory Council." The whole idea of the program is to engage students in state government at a young age. The hope is that these students will remain connected to what is happening around them, and realize that they have a say in the laws we pass. This is how we help prepare the next generation to lead our communities, our state, and our nation.

Back in the fall, we hosted the students in Bloomington, where they heard from elected officials from several levels of government. We then challenged them to come up with their own proposal for new legislation. The students broke up into groups, with each proposing one new bill, then debated to pick the winning legislation.

Last week, the students came to Springfield for a tour of the Capitol, and heard from speakers including law-



makers, staff members, lobbyists, and even Governor Bruce Rauner. Then they were tasked with acting out a full legislative committee to debate the legislation they picked in the fall. Some students serve as members of an education committee, others represented lobbyists, concerned citizens, the governor, and members of the media.

The student-proposed legislation would have required all schools to allow home-schooled children from their district to participate in any extracurricular activity. On the one hand, this idea would create new opportunities for home-schooled students. On the other, it would create a new unfunded mandate on schools.

These aren't necessarily simple concepts to grasp, but these students vigorously took on their parts, leading to some very impressive debate. They had no problem elaborating on the issues at hand, and continued to delve deeper into the topic. In the end, I believe that these students showed that they are ready to serve as our next generation of leaders, and I have more faith in our state's future.

From the Blotter

A **40-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 12:56 p.m. Sunday that someone took items from her home in the 800 block of East Seminary sometime between Friday and Sunday. Police are investigating.

Gilbert W. Warner, 53, of Hoopeston, was ticketed after an accident at 2:08 p.m. Sunday at Washington and Fifth Ave.

Police said Warner, in a 2014 Honda, was northbound, slowed for the intersection, then entered the intersection, hitting a 2003 Pontiac Grand Am driven by Haley Papanek, also of Hoopeston.

Warner was ticketed for failure to yield. No injuries were reported.

Weather

Breezy today. High 61. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 39. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 57, low 35.

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And in case you're wondering, the students are apparently aware of how hard unfunded mandates can be on our schools, because their committee voted "no" against the measure.

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 Memory Lane Preschool seeks a teacher/director qualified candidate for the fall 2015-16 school year. Must have associate's degree and experience in childcare. Please call (217) 504-1335.

Hoopeston Area CUSD #11 has the following openings for the 2015-16 school year:

- Secretary
- Personal Aide
- Classroom Aide (4 positions available)

Applications are available online only at Hoopeston Area CUSD's website, www.hoopeston.k12.il.us

LOST & FOUND

On Tuesday, April 14, I attended the Fine Arts program at Honeywell Grade School at noon. I wore a turquoise/silver necklace and sometimke during the program, unnoticed by me, it came off. I have retraced my steps several times with no success. The necklace has a sentimental value to me and I miss it terribly. If anyone should find it anywhere, I would surely appreciate it if you would contact me or turn it in to the school office.

Thank you in advance.

Eileen Leemon
(217) 495-2263

RUMMAGE SALES

Estate Sale: 802 S. Fourth St., Hoopeston. April 25, 8 a.m.-? Indoor Sale. Four piece complete bedroom outfit; nice, like new sofa; several end tables, lamps; leather recliners; kitchen table & chairs; nice pictures; misc. tools; clothing and lots of misc. household items too numerous to list. Doors open at 8 a.m.! No early sales!



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