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Hoopeston Area board creates debt with \$900,000 bond issue

Residents of Hoopeston Area School District will see a hike in their tax bills for the next three years, following action taken by the school board Thursday evening.

In a 6-1 vote, the board approved levying \$900,000 in Working Cash funds bond with an interest rate of 1.75 percent, said William Glass, of First Midstate, Inc., a Bloomington-based investment banking firm. The district will buy its own bonds, thereby receiving the interest, he added.

Hoopeston Area will fund the bonds with a tax levy, which will add about \$140 to the property tax bill of an owner of a \$100,000 home, Glass said. The increase will be for the three-year life of the bond issue.

Board member Chris Small was the only vote against the issue, saying after the meeting that he did not SB 318 a good reason to raise taxes.

Illinois Senate Bill 318 is a proposal that would freeze property taxes at 2015 levels for the 2016 and 2017 years. Districts that already have debt would be able to borrow money but those that do not - like Hoopeston Area - would not be able to borrow money without a referendum requiring voter approval.

Supt. Hank Hornbeck explained that if SB 318 passes, and a major expense arose at Hoopeston Area - a new

boiler for Maple, costing about \$450,000, for example - the district would have to put a referendum on the next election and hope it passes to fund the work. By going into debt, the district is able to go into more debt, if needed.

Hornbeck had previously said that in the current economic climate, not many referendums are approved by voters.

Officials from other school districts in Vermilion County had discussed asking voters to approve a sales tax with money going to education, but that plan has not moved forward.

In other discussion, board member Mark Schaumburg, of the building & grounds committee, said a subcommittee has been looking at available space in district buildings, which could lead to a decision down the road to close Honeywell building.

Schaumburg said the subcommittee, which has met for the last several months, has determined "that we do have quite a bit of space," and that decisions will need to be made "looking at the future of the district and the welfare of the district" but that there are several things that will need to be considered before a final decision is

See BOND on other side

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Briefly

At the Library

Trivia Night

A free **Trivia Night for teens** and adults will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25. Bring your own team of 2-5 people, or come solo and we will put you on a team. Refreshments will also be served.

Elder abuse information to be presented

Learn how to recognize and report and neglect of senior citizens and disabled adults at a presentation at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24 at Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave. The program will be presented by CRIS Adult Protective Services.

For information, call (217) 283-5544.

School blood drive

HAHS Student Council will host a blood drive from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday Feb. 27 in the high school gym. To make an appointment, go to bloodcenterimpact.org and use sponsor code 70860 or call Ashley Gondzur at the high school at (217) 283-6661.

Each pint that is donated will help get scholarship funds for the high school and can save up to three lives!



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Heritage Health of Hoopeston is a leader in healthcare and we are looking for Illinois licensed nurses, dedicated to the physical and emotional restoration of our long term care residents. We currently have full time openings for the second shift. We can offer you a competitive wage, a great staff of caregivers to work with, plus much more! Please apply by contacting Chris Roach, RN, DON by phone, mail, or online.

Heritage Health

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Phone: (217) 283-8247

www.HeritageOfCare.com

From the Blotter

A **lanyard with** two keys was turned in to police Friday. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

A **child's light green** and black Next bicycle was found Saturday on Market St. It had been abandoned for about a week. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Anyone missing a bike is asked to check at the police station. Several have been turned it to them. The station is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Police investigated a hit-and-run accident reported at 2:32 p.m. Saturday at South Dixie Hwy. and West Elm. An unidentified semi hit a sign on Route 1. The driver allegedly stopped, then left the scene before police ar-

rived.

Using video footage from a local business, police were able to identify the alleged driver as Dwayne A. Huls, of Bismarck, who is facing preliminary charges of improper lane usage, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and failure to report an accident to police authority.

Bond continued from other side

made.

In other business, the board:

- Reviewed a document presented by Hornbeck that shows the state owes Hoopeston Area 272,754.51.
- Heard from Hornbeck that the district had a compliance visit from the Regional Office of Education and came through "with flying colors." The examination of records happens every three years, he said.
- Set the annual board retreat for 6-9 p.m. March 10.
- Heard from Athletic Director Brian Hodge that freshman Ezra Elliott had already defeated one opponent on his quest to win a medal at wrestling state competition.
- Heard from Hornbeck that the March meeting will be Tuesday, March 15 in the high school library.
- Hired Jacy Samet as Maple special education teacher starting August 18.

Obituaries

BROWN - Frances M. (Minard) Brown, 93, of Milford, died Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016, at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Visitation was 11 a.m. until the noon funeral Friday at Milford Christian Church. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, was in charge of arrangements.

COX - Evelyn L. (Grider) Miller Cox, 96, of Hoopeston, died at 10:56 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016, at home. Visitation was 10 a.m. until the noon celebration of her life Saturday at Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial was in Floral Hill Cemetery. Memorials are

suggested to St., Jude Children's Research Hospital.

SCHWARTZ - Dorothy J. (Powley) Boardman Schwartz, 86, of Urbana, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 2:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016, at Champaign County Nursing Home. Visitation will be noon until the 1 p.m. celebration of her life Monday at Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston United Methodist Church.

YOUNG - Darwin B. Young, 69, of Milford, died Friday, Feb. 19, 2016, at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Memorial visitation will be 11 a.m. until the noon memorial service Tuesday at Milford Christian Church. Memorials are suggested to family wishes. Knapp Funeral Home, Milford, is in charge of arrangements.

YOUNG - David L. Young, 64, of Rankin, died February 18, 2016 at his home near Rankin. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Monday at Apostolic Christian Church of Bloomington-Normal and 9 a.m. until the 10 a.m. funeral Tuesday at the church. Graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Cissna Park.

Lunch Menus

Hoopeston Area Grade Schools

MONDAY: Chicken strips, green beans, applesauce, Power Punch juice, milk

TUESDAY: Cheese pizza, salad, baby carrots, peaches milk

WEDNESDAY: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, celery sticks, pears, bread, butter, milk

THURSDAY: Ravioli, Max Stix, baby carrots, salad, pineapple, milk

FRIDAY: Hotdog/bun baked beans, cucumber slices, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area Middle/High Schools

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets or ham & cheese, salad bar, California blend/cheese, applesauce, milk, juice

TUESDAY: Chicken & noodles or Hot Pocket, mashed potatoes, corn, pineapple, milk, juice

WEDNESDAY: Pork BBQ or cheeseburger, mac & cheese, salad bar, pears, milk, juice

THURSDAY: Taco Max Snax or chicken patty/bun, refried beans, chips & salsa, salad bar, peaches, milk, juice

FRIDAY: Pizza or fish sandwich, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk, juice

Weather

Party sunny today. High 42. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 27. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, chance of rain/snow late. High 45, low 30.



Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Social Service agency in Hoopeston, IL has immediate opening for the position of Executive Director. Qualifications include experience in program management including youth and senior programs, supervision of staff, fundraising, grant writing, and an Associate's Degree or more is preferred. Salary is commensurate with experience. Send resume and cover letter to the Hoopeston Multi Agency, c/o Wade Meranda, 206 S. First, Hoopeston, IL 60942 by March 1, 2016.

We are looking for a part time person to add to our team- MUST be able to work weekends, be able to lift 40 lbs, be able to make deliveries, and like cats. Some duties would include; running the register, assisting customers, answering phones, watering plants, making deliveries, cleaning, and laughing at owners jokes. 20-25 hours a week. Please stop in for an application or send your resume to: Treasured Roots Flower Shop and Specialty Gifts 702 W Main St Hoopeston, IL 60942, 217-283-5578