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



Hoopeston resident Jeff Keith, standing, makes a point at a meeting of the Hoopeston Area School Board's building and grounds committee Tuesday at Honeywell School.

Building committee recommends shuttering Honeywell

The fate of Honeywell School has been a topic of discussion for Hoopeston Area School Board members over the past several years.

The current school board is expected to decide the issue at its June 16 meeting.

At a meeting Tuesday evening, the district building and grounds committee announced its recommendation that the school be closed after the 2016-17 school year.

If the board votes to close the school, next year's third and fourth graders - 202 students, based on this year's enrollment - would attend John Greer. Sixth graders will attend the middle school and be in self-contained classrooms, rather than going to different rooms for their classes as middle school students do.

A dean of students could be added at John Greer, mak-

ing it the same as the other buildings.

"We, as your elected school board members, are charged with being good stewards," committee chairman Mark Schaumburg told approximately 60 people who attended the meeting.

Schaumburg said the committee considered the cost of maintaining the building versus closing it, whether other district buildings could accommodate Honeywell students and, in a worst-case scenario, the cost of tearing it down.

Hoopeston Area has seen enrollment drop over the past several years, going from 1,305 in 2011-12 to 1,228 this school year. Kindergarten enrollment, with a previous five-year average of 105, is estimated at 80-85 for

See HONEYWELL on other side

Here's what's showing at the

Little Lorraine
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next year.
Resident Tracy Carter asked what the Plan B is should Hoopeston land a factory and jobs attracting more residents with youngsters.

Board president Russ Walder said the district could easily absorb more than the 80-85 new students expected.

Also, with one-on-one technology, computer labs are no longer needed, freeing up more space in buildings.

On the financial front, the estimated operating cost for Honeywell for 2016-17 is \$923,000, with future upkeep costs of \$668,000, including \$62,000 for a new roof, \$450,000 for a new boiler, \$120,000 for tuck pointing and lesser amounts to update the phone and intercom systems and restrooms, said Mark Eighner, district business manager.

Closing the school would save \$253,000 per year in salary for a principal, secretary, cafeteria workers and janitor, utility costs and upkeep.

In future years, that money
Resident Mark Wagoner, a former school board president, said he doesn't want to see the building left empty and doesn't want to see the board give the building to an

entity that will not be able to maintain it.

Officials are mindful that other communities, in which schools have closed, have had subsequent uses for those buildings fail, leaving vacant schools in their wake.

"We're going to be very careful about that," Walder said.

"The board does not want to leave an eyesore in the middle of our town," said Supt. Hank Hornbeck, adding that it would be hard for a business to take on the school with utility bills totaling \$25,000 annually "and it doesn't even have air conditioning except in the teachers'

Police investigate second report of counterfeit currency

Hoopeston police are investigating a second incident of counterfeit currency.

A representative of First Farmers Bank and Trust called police after a fake \$20 bill was deposited Tuesday.

The first report of funny money was made May 29, when three counterfeit bills were used to pay for food at McDonald's.

In other police news:

Taylor M. Crawford, 22, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 11:56 a.m. Tuesday

Briefly

Closed for renovations

Hoopeston VFW will be closed Tuesday, June 7, for renovations and will reopen for business on Wednesday, June 8.

Please return missing mower

A lawnmower near the curb of the 500 block of East Honeywell was mistakenly taken recently. Please return it with no questions. Retired couple really need the mower returned. Please put it up in the yard when you return it.

Hydrant flushing

- Rossville is flushing hydrants on Thursdays, weather permitting.
- Hoopeston Water Department will flush hydrants on Fridays, weather permitting.
- Hoopeston Fire Department is checking hydrants on Mondays, which may also cause rust in the system.

lounge."

That doesn't mean officials don't want suggestions on what should be done with the property, however; suggestions are welcome.

The committee has also researched demolition costs of the 32,210-square ft. school. First, asbestos would have to be removed, at an estimated cost of \$133,000. The district was lucky that no asbestos was found in other places, like the gym floor, which would have added \$65,000 to removal costs.

Taking down the building is estimated at \$170,000,

to the 800 block of East Chestnut for a report of a battery that had occurred.

She was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 24-year-old Hoopeston man and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Obituaries

BRAY - Paul R. Bray, 83, of Hoopeston, formerly of Rossville, died at 2:50 a.m. Sunday, May 29, 2016, at Autumn Fields, Hoopeston. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. funeral Saturday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Rossville Cemetery, with military rites by Hoopeston American Legion and VFW posts. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Animal Shelter, 901 W. Main St., Hoopeston IL 60942 or Rossville Fire Department, P.O. Box 262, Rossville IL 60963.

FEGGETT - Rosa Lee (Louis) Feggett, 71, of Hoopeston, died Sunday, May 29, 2016, at home. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Friday at Baier Funeral Home, Watseka. Burial will be in Flesher Cemetery, Crescent City. Memorials are suggested to the family.

Weather

Sunny today. High 80. Tonight, cloudy. Low 58. Tomorrow, mostly sunny, chance of storms late. High 81, low 61.

but with the estimated savings of \$253,000 per year, those costs could be recouped in two years, Hornbeck said.

Committee members said they will consider a suggestion from Alex Houmes that parts of the building be sold to raise money for the district.

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Successful completion of a pre-employment drug screen, medical/respirator questionnaires and background check is required. Interested candidates should apply online at www.adm.com/careers.

ADM is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer for minorities, females, protected veterans and individuals with a disability.

Rossville Family Restaurant (Merita's) is hiring experienced cooks and servers. Apply in person and ask for application at 715 S. Chicago St., Rossville.

The Village of Rossville seeks a full time police officer. Applications will be accepted Mon.-Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., until May 31, 2016 at Rossville Municipal Building, 120 E. Attica St. Applicants must submit a completed application, resume and sign waiver for background check. PTI training required. Benefits available. EOE

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