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**Just the Facts**

Friday, March 16, 2018

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## New school could be economic drawing card for Hoopeston

A new school could attract residents to Hoopeston and be part of an economic improvement plan for the city, according to Hoopeston Area's auditor.

An informational meeting about the proposed one percent County Schools Facility Tax drew about 30 people to the Hoopeston American Legion Wednesday evening.

If approved, money from the tax could be used only for capital expenses, said accountant Russ Leigh, auditor of Hoopeston Area's finances. Uses include improving technology, upgrading building safety, repairs and renovations, and construction of a new school.

Speaking for himself, and not as a district spokesman, Leigh said he's in favor of building a new school on the

6.55 acres the district purchased last year for \$112,000.

Leigh said Milford's new school has been an incentive for 25 new residents to move to the community and expects the same could happen in Hoopeston. "Why fix the old buildings, let's just go for a new one," he said. Sales tax money could pay for the new building, which would be a benefit to everybody. "That's something somebody needs to think about down the road."

Supt. Suzette Hesser said officials will look at the cost of a new school compared to renovating existing buildings and will seek community input.

Business manager Mark Eighner said the district has a  
**See SCHOOL on other side**

**FISH FRY**

5-8 p.m. Friday

**American Legion**

502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

Serving Cod, Tenderloins, Shrimp,  
Chicken & Chicken Tenders  
with salad plus choice of  
fries, onion rings or kettle fries

**HARBOR**

Community Youth Center

907 W. Main, Hoopeston

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Regular hours will resume next week!  
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**School** continued from other side

big-ticket wish list, including new boilers for Maple and removing asbestos ceiling tiles.

Residents Terry Buhrmester and Stan Steiner - who attended a meeting Tuesday between some Hoopeston aldermen and Harry Brockus, representing Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation - questioned going into debt when Brockus said the city will never have a major factory or other large employer.

Eighner chided that thinking. “As long as that school of thought goes, (the community) won’t grow,” he said.

Using officials’ selling point that one percent is not

much, Steiner asked why administrators don’t take a one percent pay cut. “That’s not very much, is it,” he asked.

Sales tax money may also be used to lower property taxes but Leigh advises against that because it is likely that at least some part of pensions will be shifted to local districts. If a property tax freeze is also implemented, districts will have to find ways to pay the increased pension load.

**Briefly**

**At the library**

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include: **Tiny Tots** story program, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, for youngsters ages 0-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

**Sensory Story Time**, 10-11 a.m. Saturday. Designed especially for children with special needs, activity includes a story and craft.

**Tree Climbers** genealogy workshop, 10-11 a.m. Saturday. For beginners or those who want to take their search to the next level. Learn how to use the HPL's online resources, including Ancestry.com.

**3-D Printing for Adults**, 10-11 a.m. Monday. Thanks

If approved, the tax would add one percent to the cost of things like restaurant meals, gasoline and household purchases, Leigh said. Groceries, medicine, cars, trucks, and farm equipment and supplies are excluded.

If enacted, tax money would be divided among Vermilion County schools on a per-pupil basis. Officials estimate Hoopeston Area could receive \$436,000 annually from the tax, if enacted.

to the University of Illinois Extension, 3-D printing is now available at HPL. Here’s your chance to learn more about this technology, try it out and make something to take home.

**Bennett to host utility bill clinic**

State Rep. Tom Bennett R-106) will host a Citizens Utility Board (CUB) utility bill clinic from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday, March 19 at Hoopeston Public Library, 110 N. Fourth St. Attendees may bring gas, landline phone and electric bills for one-on-one consultation with CUB representatives.

Reserve a space at [www.repbennett.com](http://www.repbennett.com) or call (815) 432-0106.

**Obituaries**

**LUCHT** - Eunice Darlene (Holland) Voigt Seaman Lucht, 86, of Gilman and Milford, died Monday, March 12, 2018. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Monday at Redenius Funeral Home, Gilman and 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. memorial service Tuesday at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Congregational Church at Schwer, 1812 E 1130 North Rd., Milford. Inurnment will be in Danforth Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to American Cancer Society or donor’s choice.

**Weather**

Mostly sunny today. High 42. Tonight, rain, then freezing rain. Low 31. Tomorrow, chance of freezing rain/rain, then mostly clear. High 44, low 28. Sunday, sunny. High 52, low 37.

**Classifieds**

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Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is growing and needs to hire subs and aides and teachers. Requirements: if you are 18 years old, and love children, you qualify for an aide position. Teachers need to meet DCFS teacher qualifications. We want our children to learn Spanish, art, and music. Preference will be given to applicants with these skills. Call Nicole at 217-748-6370 to apply.

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**“A penny saved is a penny earned”**  
Benjamin Franklin

**Save Your Pennies**

For years, school districts have spiked teachers’ salaries by 6 percent each of the last 3 years before retirement to boost the teachers’ pensions. Illinois is looking to push paying pensions onto local school districts. Since districts run on taxpayer dollars, they will have to take more money from you to pay the pensions.

**Vote NO on the School Facilities Sales Tax on March 20.**

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