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Just the Facts
Thursday, October 31, 2019
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net



David Bowen, pastor of Hoopeston Church of God, addresses Hoopeston City Council at a special meeting Tuesday. The meeting was held to get residents' opinions on whether recreational marijuana should be sold in the city.

Small sampling of residents against legal cannabis sales in city

Marijuana. Weed. Pot. No matter what you call it, Hoopeston residents aren't high on recreational cannabis being sold in the city.

Roughly 40 people attended a special Hoopeston City Council meeting Tuesday evening to weigh in on whether officials should allow recreational cannabis to be sold here.

At the door, residents who wished to address the issue were asked to sign in. Other sheets were available where people who did not want to speak could sign in for allowing or disallowing sales in Hoopeston.

Of those who did not want to speak, 16 signed in against allowing sales and four in favor. Thirteen people spoke to the council, each given three minutes to give their opinions. Eight spoke against and five in favor.

Pastors of two Hoopeston churches - David Bowen of First Church of God and Adam Taubert of First Baptist - both spoke against allowing sales.

"We are not controlling whether or not we're legalizing it but we are controlling how close it is to us," Bowen said, calling marijuana a gateway to drugs such as heroin. He cited statistics for the first four states to legalize mari-

juana - Colorado, Washington Alaska and Oregon - showing murders and aggravated assaults grew by 38 and 25 percent after legalizing the drug, "a large step above the national average, even taking into consideration population growth.

Taubert said statistics provided by those who wish to sell the drug conflict with those of scientists and doctors. Marijuana, he said, leads to schizophrenia, paranoia and other mental issues and alters brain chemistry, especially in young people. "Their blood is going to be on your hands if you allow this," he said. Taubert explained that the word for "sorcery" in the bible is the same used for "pharmacy." Historically, drugs were used in rituals to create emotional experiences that were "demonic," he said. "If you guys pass this, I fear for the judgment of God upon you," he added.

Speaking in favor of allowing sales, Kellie Ferrell said since marijuana is used as a pain reducer, a means of controlling morning sickness for pregnant women and as a means of easing symptoms of cancer treatment, "I don't see how it can be so bad." She suggested using tax money
See CANNABIS on other side

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Cannabis continued from other side

generated from marijuana sales for infrastructure improvements. Also she said, allowing sales isn't going to change how many people use the drug. "People you see on the street probably are not on marijuana. It's probably heroin or meth," she concluded.

David Webber echoed Ferrell, addressing people's concerns, such as teen usage. "It's illegal for teens to use it," he said. In states where pot is legal, usage among youth is down eight percent. It also helps eliminate the black market. "I believe if the city welcomed it, they could keep an eye on it," he said. Although marijuana is still illegal at the federal level, Bernie Sanders plans to use an executive order to make it legal, if he is elected president, Webber said.

The council will make a decision at a future meeting. Recreational cannabis will become legal in Illinois on January 1, 2020. The state will limit the number of licensed facilities that sell legal cannabis. Hoopeston is not expected to receive a license in the initial offering.

Weather

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From the Blotter

Curtis Miller, 47, of Rossville, was arrested after police were called at 1:56 p.m. Monday for an illegally-parked vehicle in the 600 block of East Maple. Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, Miller was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of bond.

Kenneth Dale, 39, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 6:42 p.m. Monday to a verbal altercation in the 400 block of West Maple. He was charged with breach of the peace constituting disorderly conduct and was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

A **traffic stop** at 7:48 p.m. Monday resulted in two Hoopeston people arrested on drug charges.

A vehicle was stopped in the 100 block of East Main for a traffic violation.

After an investigation, Danyel Fink, 23, was charged with possession of cannabis and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Joshua Sadler, 24, was charged with possession of methamphetamines and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Police are investigating two instances of burglary to auto reported Tuesday, both on East Washington. The first report was made at 3:34 p.m., where the crime was committed in the 800 block. The second was made at 6:27 p.m. for an incident in the 700 block.

Andrew Cordova, 25, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 10:25 p.m. Tuesday in the 100 block of West Main.

Flagged for not stopping for a stop sign and improper lighting while riding his bicycle, Cordova was charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine with intent to deliver, violation of traffic laws on a bicycle and improper equipment. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

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