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Just the Facts
Thursday, November 21, 2019
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Hoopeston City Council not high on local cannabis shops

Recreational cannabis businesses will not be welcomed in Hoopeston.

In a 5-2 vote, Hoopeston City Council approved not allowing cannabis-related businesses in the city. Voting to keep the businesses out were aldermen Alex Houmes, Robin Lawson, Bill Goodwine, Carl Ankenbrand and Lourdine Florek. Voting against barring the businesses were aldermen Jeff Wise and Bill McElhane. Ald. Chad Yaden was absent.

Lights sneak peek planned, fund raising opportunity offered

Ready for a sneak peek at the McFerren Park lights?

With Thanksgiving a little later than normal this year, The Light Up McFerren Park decided to jump on the Christmas season a little early and turn the lights on this weekend. Feel free to come early and often but don't forget about the Hoopeston Chamber's Magical Express, starting at 4:30 p.m. November 30. The Chamber has an amazing event planned so come out and enjoy all the offerings.

For local organizations wanting to raise money, Light Up the Park Committee has an ongoing fundraising opportunity. Every Friday-Sunday, groups will be stationed
See PEEK on other side

Hoopeston VFW
428 W. Orange
Turkey Walk
7-11 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23
Music by
Mason's Jar 

In a statement before making the motion to keep pot shops out of the city, Houmes said if the city were talking about medical cannabis, the conversation would be different but that "the buzz and hype" has been for recreational use. He said the state's legalization of recreational cannabis is foremost about balancing its budget "because they pass this law giving local municipalities and police departments little to no guidance on how to regulate its use."

Unknowns include what the social cost will be of recreational cannabis use, how law enforcement will be affected, how schools will handle the impact of students under the influence because cannabis is available at home and how quickly employers will be able to develop new policies and ways of monitoring use to prevent unsafe working conditions. "The Illinois General Assembly approved

See CANNABIS on other side

Sensory Santa to visit with local children on Saturday, Dec. 7

Sensory Santa will be coming to Hoopeston on December 7.

Sensory Santa is a way for children with special needs to spend time with Santa without the distractions of a visit to a mall or store. A professional photographer is on hand to capture the special moments.

Each session with Santa lasts 15 minutes. Then the child may enjoy a snack and craft with Santa's helpers.

Sensory Santa appointments are free. Each family will receive a link to download their child's session for free.

All sessions are by appointment only. To make an appointment, call (217) 918-2106 or email amcmil-lanphotography@gmail.com.

Sensory Santa is sponsored by Sew Shoot Me, Hoopeston First Church of God and First Presbyterian church of Hoopeston.

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BURNSIDE - Blake Burnside, 31, of Hoopeston, formerly of Watseka, died Friday, Nov. 15, 2019. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Thursday at Baier Funeral Home, Watseka. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Friday at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Oak Hill Cemetery, Watseka. Memorials are suggested to family wishes.

COFFMAN - Marjorie Anne Coffman, 81, of Hoopeston, died at 9:51 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, 2019 at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Friday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested

Peek continued from other side

at the Elm St. entrance to McFerren Park to collect donations from attendees. Half of what is donated will stay with the organization that is collecting.

The schedule is filling quickly, so get your group on the calendar before it's too late. Contact Elizabeth Silver to sign up by emailing liz@russleigh.com or private message the committee on Facebook.

Cannabis continued from other side

the use of cannabis statewide without caring to have these answers...but we should," he added.

Speaking strongly for the other side, Wise said, "The problem is it's going to be legal, they're going to buy it somewhere else, the tax money is going to go somewhere else and they're going to bring it here. In my opinion, it's ridiculous to try to prohibit it just in Hoopeston."

Also, currently Vermilion County is slated to have one recreational cannabis dispensary, expected to be in Danville. If the state allows a second one in the county, "Hoopeston will not be in the running and another town will."

Wise said he wishes the state had not legalized recreational marijuana and is against the use of it, but that if someone "wants to spend that kind of money to bring something like that to Hoopeston, let's get some money off of it."

Houmes said his research showed him recreational cannabis shouldn't be allowed in Hoopeston, while Wise said his research showed it should. "I would love to bring more people in and show what research they've done that show this is a positive thing."

Mayor Bill Crusinberry said he would like to watch what happens for six months to see how the distribution system works. "If the projections are right, with what the

Obituaries

to Hoopeston Animal Shelter, 901 W. Main St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

JOHNSON - Richard L. Johnson, 75, of Fruitland, Fla., died Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019, at The Villages Rehab and Nursing Center, Lady Lake, Fla. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

SMITH - Eugene "Smitty" Smith, 91, died Saturday, Nov. 16, 2019 at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Sunday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Funeral will be at 11 a.m.

From the Blotter

Timothy J. Schroeder, 38, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 5:07 p.m. Tuesday at North Market and East Young after witnessing the vehicle cross the center line more than once.

A passenger in the vehicle, Schroeder was wanted on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear. He was released on bond with a new date in Vermilion County Circuit Court.

state says, if it stays far below what the state projected, distribution centers will be less," he predicted. "If it's above, I think they'll be pushing to have more distribution centers in the state."

The law bans adult-use cannabis craft growers, cultivation centers, dispensing organizations, infuser organizations or infuser, procession organization or processor and transporting organization or transporter.

He also commented that should the council decision be reversed in the future, Illinois Municipal League recommends creating new zoning ordinances to govern recreational cannabis businesses, similar to ordinances governing alcohol sales.

While not allowing recreational cannabis businesses, the council voted 7-0 to put a tax on cannabis sales in the event that sales are allowed in the future.

The proposed ordinance set the tax at three percent, but Florek asked if it could include "the highest percent allowed by law" at the time a future council might allow sales. With a change made, the ordinance passed 7-0.

Weather

Breezy, rainy today. High 55. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 32. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 42, low 27.

Monday at First Baptist Church, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Camp Assurance Duplex Project, P.O. Box 18, Georgetown IL 61846.

Classifieds

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- Bus Driver
- Buildings and Grounds Supervisor
- Transportation and Grounds Supervisor

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

Paw Spa N'More Grooming and Supply needs an assistant. Must like animals and children. All encouraged to apply. 1208 S. Second Ave., Hoopeston. (217) 260-3313

Silgan Containers is currently hiring for Production Supervisor/ Manager Trainees. For more information and to apply, please use this link: <https://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/10343>

Silgan Containers is hiring press line mechanics. For more information or to apply, please go online to <https://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/10377/0>

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