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Just the Facts

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Lourdine Florek, Owner

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

www.justthefacts.net

Bennett among those disappointed in property tax outcome

By Rep. TOM BENNETT
R-106th District

Six months ago, I was appointed to a new Property Tax Relief Task Force to study the state's property tax system and look for ways to provide relief to Illinois taxpayers. Illinois property taxes are the second highest in the nation. The full task force met three times, and members brought forward proposals which were further studied by subcommittees. We were given a December 31 deadline to finish our work and report our recommendations.

Unfortunately, most of the dozens of suggested reforms from the Republican members of the task force were left out of the draft of the task force report, including proposals to reduce the property tax burden on senior citizen homeowners and the burden of state mandates. Meanwhile, recommendations and proposals which were never discussed by the full task force were included in the draft report. The task force failed to meet its October 31 deadline for an initial report, and a draft of the final report was only circulated to members late on December 23, with little opportunity for input or transparency.

The final product did not address the core issues impacting our broken property tax system and it was improperly presented by a few members of the task

force without the kind of process and public consideration which an issue of this magnitude deserves. Accordingly, the House Republican members of the task force refused to approve the report, telling the task force's leaders that, "meaningful, substantive property tax relief for beleaguered Illinois homeowners is critical, and the issue deserves serious and meaningful deliberation and reform ideas."

In the past we have seen issues which the General Assembly's leadership does not wish to address get shunted aside into task forces and "blue ribbon commissions," which then predictably fail to produce any kind of solution to the problem they were charged with studying. I am sorry to report that it appears this is what has happened with the property tax relief task force. No reform, no relief. We need to do better on this issue in the new year.

Pension consolidation signed into law

Just before Christmas, Governor Pritzker signed **Senate Bill 1300**, which consolidates more than 600 downstate police and fire pension funds. This action will reduce the cost of managing these funds and increase the investment returns they can expect. The bill was the product of long hours of negotiations and the compromise which emerged passed both houses by wide, bipartisan margins.

The legislation is expected to produce anywhere from \$820 million to \$2.5 billion in additional investment returns over the next five years. This means lower contributions from property tax payers. It also shows that we can find ways to come together on the important issue of pension reform, and that we can find a solution without raising taxes or cutting benefits. Pension reform will continue to be an important issue on our agenda in 2020.

How much do we owe?

As of the time of this writing, the State of Illinois owes \$6,741,126,803 in unpaid bills to state vendors. See OUTCOME on other side



2020 Hoopeston FFA Alumni
SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION
Saturday, January 25, 2020
Hoopeston American Legion
Silent Auction 4-6 p.m.
Meal serving begins at 4:30 p.m. (free will donation)
Live Auction 6 p.m.
Auctioneers: Craig Lee and Jon Mowrey



By
BERTHA PARSONS

What Matters

A bright, beautiful gleaming new year ahead! What really matters to you? Have you made room in the new year for what matters?

Going into the new year we always have great possibilities to change, become and grow! Now is the time to breathe deeply and decide what really matters in your life this year.

Is it a diet I stick to this time? Maybe take a class to learn something new. Pay off a debt so I worry less? Eat more fruit and vegetables? Laugh and joke more? Take real face time with family? Choose simplicity. Keep growing. Choose any or all of the above that matter to you.

Time with my family matters the greatest to me. They are all busy making a living or going to school and growing up! But when I have time to be with them, we talk, we laugh, we remember times past. It is pure golden joy!

This new year may bring some upsets, some things that turn out all wrong. When thinking of starting a new anything we back away with fear of failure. Unknown is scary. I admit it! Yet many days I take a step to help someone, try a new recipe or write my corner as I wonder if it will matter to anyone!

Things turn out best for folks who make the best of the way things turn out! (You may want to read that a couple of times.) My Mother could give you a lesson on making the best of things.

When she was 46 and a caregiver, I was in high school. Her sister died leaving five children. She took four of them from four to 10 years of age and raised them to adulthood. She had no job, no savings, no house, no car and no state checks. All she had was faith! Thanks to a friend, she got a house. She baked and sold pies and rolls so that the six of us could eat. She started babysitting. Soon she would have 20 to 30 a day by herself. Never did she complain!

What really matters to you? Take time to figure it out! Be your own best friend. Take yourself just the way you are. Accept the great person you are or can become! Love yourself by being thankful for today!

What we can't see through is right in front of us; The Future! What a wonderful life I've had! I only wish I had realized it sooner!

Hoopeston Car Wash
A New Year - A Clean Car
Five tokens only \$25-
You save \$5!
Pick up at Pink Poodle 1016 W. Orange

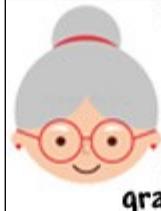
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Your place for tires!
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When Grandma was a girl, she didn't do things the girls do today. But then the grandmas didn't do the things grandmas do today... Anonymous

New Year's Special
20% off Full Service Oil Change
 10W30, 5W30 or 5W20 w/coupon. Expires 1/31/20

Hoopeston Express Lube
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 283-5373 www.quicklube4u.com



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McGEE MARTIAL ARTS

206 S. First Avenue
 Hoopeston
 East Side/second floor

217-497-3916

Cheeseburgers in Paradise

From 5 p.m. - close every Tuesday, we're donating \$5 of each dine-in cheeseburger meal to a local church. This week's church is **First Presbyterian Church, Hoopeston**. If your church would like to participate, give us a call!

Rossville Family Restaurant
 715 S. Chicago, Rossville (217) 748-6201

3 ROOMS CARPET CLEANING

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LIMBACHS' 217-495-1134
 EXP. 1/31/20



*Rooms over 250 sq. ft., Great Rooms, LR/DR Combo considered 2 rooms

Light Up committee thanks community

The Committee to Light up McFerren Park would once again like to extend a huge thank you to everyone that gives their time, energy and resources to ensure that our town's Christmas light display comes together each year. 2019 was a record year with thousands of cars driving through our park, and visitors from all over this state and the next stopping to say hi.

First and foremost, we have to recognize Roger, Butch and Chaz from the Parks Department for coming in on their days off to make sure this display got put together and maintained throughout the entire month.

There were several local contractors who were instrumental through the use of their lifts, and employees, to help with the setup and teardown. Built to Last, Eisenmann Construction and Zarate Construction have always been there for us, and we encourage folks to use these great contractors.

Loni and Toni Gress for getting our donation shed set up and warm for our volunteers, we appreciate your help so much.

And of course every single person and organization that helped in some way during our multiple setup and teardown days.

- Ed Layden for his help and use of his trailer
- Brian Lawson and T&L for their trailer and manpower
- Alfie, Ken, Shaun, Cody, Jim B. and Jim M., Michael, Mark, Jason, Randy, and Matt for being consistent volunteers throughout the years.
- Hoopeston Rotary Club and Hoopeston Lions Club
- Hoopeston Area FFA and Hoopeston Youth Football

We would also like to give a huge shout out to the

Outcome continued from other side

One year ago, the backlog stood at **\$7.4 billion**. This figure represents the amount of bills submitted to the office of the Comptroller and still awaiting payment. It does not include debts that can only be estimated, such as our unfunded pension liability which is subject to a wide range of factors and has been estimated to be more than \$137 billion.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 41. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 21. Tomorrow sunny. High 33, low 28.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

Letters to the Editor

organizations and groups who came to collect donations. Your time and effort made it possible for us to put over \$5000 of donations back into the organizations of this community. We were astonished at how generous drivers were, and how much success our volunteers had, and we hope to help even more local organizations in 2020.

We also would like to once again recognize the amazing businesses and organizations who have given monetary donations to secure this display – those who have fulfilled commitments, those that are still supporting, and of course our new supporters.

Thank you, the visitors, for supporting this big idea for our little town. Our light display continues to get recognition across the state and brings so many visitors to our town. We hope to continue this tradition for many years to come.

If we have left anyone out, it is unintentional. We have had so many wonderful donors, volunteers and supporters over the years and are constantly amazed by our community.

Thank you all,

Russ Leigh
 Co-Chair of Light up McFerren Park

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 bedroom apartment at Princess Theater. Rent is \$450 per month and Includes utilities and appliances. Application and deposit required. Applications can be found online: b2lpropertymanagement.com/

HELP WANTED

The City of Hoopeston is seeking applications for a fulltime Street and Alley position. Applicant must have a CDL or the ability to obtain one within 60 days of hire. The ability to operate and maintain equipment a plus. Flexible schedule required. Please inquire at City Hall for more information about the position, 217-283-5833. Applications may be picked up and returned to City Hall, 301 W. Main St.

Hubbard Trail Country Club is currently taking applications for a Clubhouse manager. Duties included are: Supervise, Train and Schedule bar and kitchen employees. Place food and beer orders. Schedule and coordinate wedding and party events, golf outings and clubhouse activities. Promote activities through email, social media and print ads. 20 hours per week, salary is based on experience. If you have experience in the service industry, enjoy working with the public, email your resume to hccgolf@yahoo.com or mail to PO Box 305, Hoopeston, IL 60942.

We are currently hiring for our Verizon location next to McDonald's in Hoopeston! Are you interested in pursuing a career in sales where you can earn a base plus commission? Then this position might just be for you! If you like sales, love technology and have a competitive spirit you may have what it takes to join our amazing team! You'll use your knowledge and passion for technology to deliver an effortless customer experience while pursuing challenging and rewarding goals! This role comes with an hourly base and commission package as well as awesome benefits. Please email your resume to seth.wilson@alstiremart.com or stop by our store for more details.

Aquality Solutions is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1st Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

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

Sygma is hiring Class A CDL drivers. Experienced drivers with clean records could qualify for a \$12,500 sign on bonus. Sygma is also looking for students for their CDL school. You must be 21 and have your Class A permit to be eligible. We have part time and seasonal work available as well. Go to www.sygmanetwork.com or call 855-770-3210

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL offers job opportunities for full time/ part time employment. Choose the schedule that fits your life style: 1, 2, 3 or 4 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and can pick their shift. Machine operators are needed for 1st & 2nd shift. We also offer fulltime positions with a full benefit package. If you are interested in working for a growing company, apply on-line at www.full-fill.com go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom house for rent in Hoopeston near the high school. Basement, garage, large yard. \$500 + deposit. Utilities not included. 217 377 1201

NOTICES

Contents of shed #71 Michael Layhew at Budget Mini Storage Rt. 9 and 6th Ave. Hoopeston, IL will be disposed of on January 14th 2020 per section 95-4 of Illinois Self Storage Facility Act.

Email publish@justthefacts.net
 or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!