

The PIT STOP at FAST LANES

Monday: Spaghettim Taco Salad and grilled or breaded Tenderloins
Tuesday: Speedway Burger and Chicken or Beef & Noodles
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Thursday: Swiss steak and Popcorn shrimp
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Just the Facts

Monday, April 3, 2023

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P. O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

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 Lourdine Florek, Owner

www.justthefacts.net

Three vie for two seats in HA 'in' district, Clayton runs alone in 'out'

Two incumbents and a newcomer are running for two seats in the "in-town" portion of the Hoopeston Area school district in the April 4 election.

Board president Dave McFadden and fellow incumbent Lee Cox, and newcomer April Jones are vying for the two open seats.

The three were asked the same questions on issues facing the district, including the one percent sales tax, on countywide ballots for the third time.

Cox, running for a second term, is running "to be an opposition to the district wanting to raise your taxes," he answered to why he is running. Asked what assets he brings to the seat, "I am (an) ally to the taxpayer when the district wants to raise your taxes," he said.

Asked for his stand on the one percent sales tax, and why, Cox said he is against it "on the sheer fact that the taxpayer should not be a scapegoat anytime a school district wants to send money for unnecessary projects."

While the board approved putting the measure on the ballot, Cox voted against it and a \$1.8 million bond issue.

Asked about major issues and his positions, Cox responded, "Issues come and go and they constantly change month to month. My position is to work the current tax base, teachers, administration and students to resolve the issues we are faced with."

Cox, 40, has a Bachelor of Science degree from Purdue University in aviation management and is self-employed as owner of Cox Memorials in Hoopeston.

Jones, 42, is a Hoopeston Area graduate, has an early childhood degree and is owner, director and head teacher of Learn and Lead Academy, in Hoopeston, said she is running because she is an educator and has three children in the district, one a 2022 graduate. If elected, Jones said she will bring dedication to students, staff, administration and families on building a stronger and effective response to district priorities that need to be addressed; will work to connect and build relationships with the community, use resources strategically, and focus on teacher retention, student achievement, bullying/discipline.

As major issues, and possible solutions, Jones listed: Parent involvement: Parents can be actively involved at home and school by presenting in-person workshops, creating social media videos on parenting information, create leadership activities for parents, involve/invite families to board meetings, reaching out to families for good news from school to home for all students, she said.

Bullying: The district should offer a social emotional curriculum that addresses the problem, Jones said. The board needs to review and update to a no-bullying policy for students and staff, and bystander training for students and staff should be implemented. Also, all people must be held to a no-bullying standard and not allow some people, like athletes, be allowed to bully because of their

See SEATS on other side

Hoopeston Area voters asked to OK sales tax, at-large elections

Hoopeston Area School District residents are asked to vote on two referenda on Tuesday's election.

For the third time, residents in all Vermilion County school districts are being asked to approve a one percent sales tax. The text of the referendum reads:

"Shall a retailer's occupation tax and a service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a sales tax) be imposed in the County of Vermilion, Illinois, at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes, school resource officers and mental health professionals?"

The tax would not be levied on groceries, medicine,
 See TAX on other side



Tone-deaf adjective
having or showing an obtuse insensitivity or lack of perception particularly in matters of public sentiment, opinion, or taste.

After receiving **MULTIPLE MILLIONS** of dollars in COVID-related funds **AND** approving a backdoor tax increase on a **\$1.8 MILLION** bond issue, Hoopeston Area - and other county school districts - want voters to pay more by approving a **1% tax**.

DON'T LISTEN TO THEM! VOTE NO APRIL 4!

Paid political ad

Cheeseburgers for Paradise
 From 5 p.m. - close every Tuesday, we're donating \$5 of each dine-in cheeseburger to a local church.
 This week's church is
Morningstar Ministries of Rossville
Kids Meals not included, Limited to 1 cheeseburger/person
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 715 S. Chicago, Rossville (217) 748-6201

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Seats continued from other side

achievements. Also, there needs to be serious consequences for those who bully or those who stand by and allow it to happen. "I believe we can work together to create a bully-free zone in our district," she said.

Mental health: By using social emotional learning and enforcing bullying policies, students' mental health could be improved. Staff should know each student and should be supported by school officials with assessing their mental health regularly, she said.

Teacher retention: Saying teachers "will not leave a classroom or environment that they are supported, valued and appreciated in," Jones said the district can build strong employee and team engagement opportunities, recognize all staff with incentives and rewards and provide resources in professional development.

As for the one percent sales tax, Jones said that while she is "an educator and supporter of making our schools the very best," she is currently opposed to the tax. "I believe that our district can accomplish what we need to do without putting an additional burden on everyone right now, especially during this time of inflation that is already an extreme disadvantage," she said.

McFadden said he is running because, "I have a desire to continue to give back to the wonderful communities

Tax continued from other side

vehicles, mobile homes, ATVs/RVs, seed, fertilizer, or farm equipment.

Money raised through the tax may be used for paying off facility debt, reducing property taxes, acquiring land, building new school facilities, including athletics, additions/renovations, security and safety improvements, architectural planning, energy efficiency, demotion, roof repairs, school resource officers and mental health providers.

Money from the tax may not be used to pay for things like teacher salaries, buses, supplies, books or operating costs.

If approved, funds would be distributed to districts on a per capita basis, with an estimated county total of \$7,506,486. Danville schools would get the lion's share at \$3,281,505; Hoopeston Area \$596,387; Bismarck-Henning \$395,984; and Rossville-Alvin \$179,742.

The second request would make voting for board members at large, instead of by congressional townships, commonly referred to as in the old Hoopeston School District and outside of it. The change is sought because of the difficulty finding people willing to run for school board in the outlying areas.

that make up the Hoopeston Area School District." He said district students and staff deserve stable, level-headed, proven leaders and that his experiences in the Air Force, as a business owner and father to four HA graduates have provided valuable skills in his role as board president the last four years.

An understanding of business finances and empowering leaders are two skills McFadden said he brings to the board. "Helping to empower our leaders is not only an asset I bring, but one of the most rewarding things I've ever been a part of," he said.

Major issues and solutions include:

Student discipline: "We must continue to provide resources to our staff and support their discipline and reward measures.

Aging facilities: "Our buildings must continue to be updated and maintained. Having adequate funding for this is of great importance."

The effects of poverty on low income students: which, he said, are 4.5 times more likely to drop out. "We must continue to allow our leaders to create a culture in their buildings that attract the type of passionate teachers we have today that are equipped to care for these children."

McFadden is in favor of the sales tax, which, he said. Would not be assessed on groceries, medicine, vehicles, ATVs/RVs, seed, fertilizer, or farm equipment. He said the tax could provide property tax relief while providing substantial financial resources to address the aging building issue and allow the district to address crowded play and practice areas.

McFadden, 60, is owner of Anthem Chevrolet in Hoopeston. He was graduated from Georgetown High School and attended the Community College of the Air Force. He has served on the board for six years. He was appointed in 2015 and lost an election bid in 2017. He ran again and won in 2019.

In the part of the district outside the original Hoopeston School District, incumbent Rich Eisenmann did not run for reelection.

The "out" district will be represented by Will Clayton, who is running unopposed.

Weather

Chance of showers today, showers tonight. High 63, low 53. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms, breezy. High 74, low 59.

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

Obituaries

MILLER - Tony Gene Miller, 79, of Hoopeston, died March 28, 2023. He will be cremated and a celebration of his life held from 4-7 p.m. May 28 at The Pump, 1023 W. Main St., Hoopeston. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements. Condolences may be shared at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

From the Blotter

David C. Malone, 58, of Hoopeston, was charged with noisy animal prohibited after police were called at 11:17 a.m. Thursday to Honeywell Apartments, 421 E. Honeywell. A 65-year-old Hoopeston person complained that a dog was barking nonstop.

Malone was mailed a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Lunch Menus

Maple/John Greer

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets, broccoli, cucumber slices, applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: Taco, refried beans, chips & salsa, salad, peaches, milk

WEDNESDAY: Pork chop, mashed potatoes, celery sticks, pears, milk

THURSDAY: Pancake & sausage nuggets, hash brown, baby carrots, mandarin orange, milk

FRIDAY: No school

Hoopeston Area Middle School

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets, corn, veggies applesauce, milk

TUESDAY: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, veggies, pineapple, milk

WEDNESDAY: Spaghetti, Maxstix, salad, pears, milk

THURSDAY: Hotdog/bun, baked beans, veggies, peaches, milk

FRIDAY: No school

Hoopeston Area High School

MONDAY: Chicken nuggets or hot ham & cheese, corn, salad bar, applesauce, milk, juice

TUESDAY: Salisbury steak or Hot Pocket, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad bar, pineapple, milk, juice

WEDNESDAY: Spaghetti or pork BBQ/bun, Maxstix, salad bar, pears, milk, juice

THURSDAY: Hotdog or cheeseburger, baked beans, salad bar, peaches, milk, juice

FRIDAY: No school

SORENSEN - Mary Anne Sorenson, 78, of Hoopeston, died at 2:25 p.m. Thursday, March 30, 2023, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home in Hoopeston.

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Classifieds

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Full-Fill Industries in Henning is hiring Machine Operators, \$18/hr. Apply at www.full-fill.com. Applications available onsite. EOE

The Vermilion Housing Authority in Hoopeston is hiring a Maintenance Mechanic, starting pay \$20/hr. Applications available online at www.vermilionhousing.com.

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13293

Silgan Containers is hiring an Electrician - Industrial/Maintenance Technician. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/13392

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Lift recliner: dark gray leather, heat and massage. \$500. Like new, six months old. Leave message 217-283-7568.

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