Lourdine Florek, Owner
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Hoopleston’s only locally-owned daily news publication!
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County schools look at second go at 1% facilities sales tax

Hoopleston Area and other county schools are considering a second try to get a one percent school facilities sales tax.

The issue was briefly discussed at Wednesday’s HA Engagement Forum at the Lorraine Engagement Forum and again Thursday at the district board meeting.

At the forum, Supt. Robert Richardson said he has been at two districts where the tax was passed. “It’s a tremendous revenue source,” he said.

Richardson said county superintendents are in “preliminary discussion” on the issue, which, if passed, would place a one percent tax on many items, such as prepared foods and many goods and services but not unprocessed food, vehicles, boats, RV’s, farm equipment and parts, and prescription medication.

Taxes raised from the tax may not be used for direct education costs but may be used for new buildings, additions and renovations, he said.

Districts often tout the sales tax as away to hold the line on property tax increases, but a study of regional districts that have enacted the tax show that property taxes were increased in two to four years after the sales tax was implemented.

In order for the tax to be on the ballot, school boards representing more than 50 percent of the student enrollment in the county must approve resolutions seeking the tax. The regional superintendent of schools for the county must then certify the question to the election authority, which places the question on the ballot. If a majority of voters approve, the tax is enacted.

If criteria are met, the measure could be placed on the April 2020 ballot. If passed, it would become effective July 1. Taxes collected would be sent to the regional superintendent of schools in October and would be dispersed to districts based on each district’s resident pupils living in the county collecting the tax, divided by the total number of resident students in the county.

In March 2018, a similar request was defeated by 639 votes. Locally, the measure was approved in Grant 4 and Ross 2, but lost in Grant 1,2,3,2 and 6, Ross 1, South Ross and Butler.

Unruly fans may face discipline under spectator code of conduct

Hoopleston Area will be cracking down on foul language, graphic hand gestures and other offensive behavior at sporting events.

At its meeting Thursday, the board unanimously approved a Spectator Code of Conduct, compiled from pieces of codes from other districts, said Supt. Robert Richardson.

Disciplinary measures range from a verbal warning to suspensions from games from time periods starting at 10 days up to one year after an administrative hearing for a

See FANS on other side

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Just the Facts

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Monday: Spaghetti, grilled or breaded Tenderloin, or beef or chicken Taco Salad
Tuesday: Chicken or Beef & Noodles or SPEEDWAY BURGER
Wednesday: Rib eye sandwich, Pork Chop or PRIME RIB SANDWICH
Thursday: Swiss Steak or Popcorn Shrimp
Friday: Cod sandwiches or dinners or Rib eyes
Saturday: Lunch: grilled or breaded Tenderloin Dinner: Prime Rib and Rib eyes
Sunday: Lunch: Grilled chicken dinner, potato, vegetable and roll
Breakfast 6-10 a.m. daily, Sat. & Sun. 6-1:30
Youth Bowlers needed
Wednesday evenings at 6:30.
Open to anyone ages 6-18
Fans continued from other side

third offense. “Our thought process is if someone gets to the second or third offense, they’re probably going to keep rolling,” Richardson said.

Infractions will be tallied by a form listing the names of the event supervisor and person committing the infraction; the date, time and location of the event and the disciplinary action taken.

Board President Dave McFadden said the code is meant to provide “a good atmosphere at sporting events,” both home and away.

The policy will be enacted in time for winter sports and will be printed on a large banner to be placed at sporting events in the gym, will be read before each game and printed in programs.

From the Blotter

A set of Ford keys and several other keys was left on the water office counter at city hall on Wednesday. The owner may claim them at the police department.

Sarah Hoover, 37, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 3:36 p.m. Thursday at West Penn and Eighth Ave. Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, she was released on a recognizance bond with a new court date.

Kayla Wilson, 32, of Danville, was arrested after a traffic stop at 4:29 p.m. Friday at North Market and Honeywell. She was charged with driving while license suspended and released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County traffic court.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 7:03 p.m. Friday for a brush fire on the east side of the road at Rt. 1 and 4000 North Rd. No injuries were reported.

Obituaries

CRAWFORD - Joan L. (Putman) Crawford, 91, of Potomac, died at 10:50 p.m. September 17, 2019 at Hawthorne Inn, Danville. Visitation was 2-4 p.m. Sunday at Blanton-Burke-Balls Home, Potomac. Celebration of her life will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Middlefork United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Mann’s Chapel Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the church or Potomac Public Library.

LONGFELLOW - Mary(Ann) (Rogan) Longfellow 67, of Leesburg, Fla., formerly of Hoopeston, died Septem- ber 19, 2019 after a courageous battle with cancer. There will be no local services.

In unrelated action, the board unanimously approved spending $30,000 on athletic travel services from Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center starting July 1.

This is a change from the past 10-12 years, when CHRHC has provided an athletic trainer at no cost to the district.

This year, HA asked the healthcare facility to also pro- vide a licensed clinical social worker. Carle agreed to provide the social worker at no cost but imposed the fee for the trainer, Richardson said.

The board approved a memorandum of understanding for CHRHC to provide LCSW services to the district. Richardson said Carle Hoopeston is looking for someone to fill the position but has had difficulty finding qualified applicants, he added.

In unrelated business, the board:

Briefly

Food cupboard needs

Grant Township Food Cupboard is need of the follow- ing items: cereal (any kind), Jiffy Cornbread mix, canned peas, peanut butter, spaghetti and sauce, bath soap, toilet tissue. Items may be taken to the township office at the corner of East Maple and Main from 9-3.

PEP Potluck

Everyone is invited to the free People Enjoying People potluck party at 5 p.m. Monday at Hoopeston United Methodist Church, 403 E. Main. Main dish, drinks and table service provided - please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Koffee & Konversation

Come join us at Hoopeston Methodist for Koffee & Konversation! We start at 8:30 a.m. every Tuesday with coffee and sign in rolls. There is always laughter and sometimes some very interesting conversation. All are welcome.

Lunch Menus

Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: Mini corndog, baked beans, Sunset Sip juice, milk
Tuesday: Chicken, milk
TUESDAY: Cheese pizza, salad, baby carrots, peaches, milk
WEDNESDAY: Chicken pot pie, biscuit, celery sticks, peas, pineapple, milk
FRIDAY: Fish sandwich, fries, cucumber slices, mixed fruit, milk

Hoopeston Area Middle School

MONDAY: Chicken strips, broccoli/cheese, salad bar, applesauce, milk
TUESDAY: Biscuit & gravy, scrambled eggs, tri- tater, salad bar, mandarin orange, milk
WEDNESDAY: Cheese quesadilla, refried beans, chips & salsa, salad bar, peas, milk
THURSDAY: Fettuccini Alfredo, Max Stick, salad bar, peaches, milk, juice
FRIDAY: Pizza, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk

High School

MONDAY: Chicken strips or ham & cheese, brocco- li/cheese, salad bar, applesauce, milk, juice
TUESDAY: Biscuit & gravy or Hot Pocket, scram- bled eggs, tri-tater, salad bar, mandarin orange, milk, juice
WEDNESDAY: Cheese quesadilla or pork BBQ, refried beans, chips & salsa, salad bar, peas, milk, juice
THURSDAY: Fettuccini Alfredo or cheeseburger, Max Stick, salad bar, peaches, milk, juice
FRIDAY: Pizza or fish sandwich, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk, juice

Weather


Approved the 2019-20 budget with $400,000 more in expenditures than last year, McFadden said. The increase includes $78,000 more in building expenses and increased personnel costs, including the four per- cent increases for administrative staff and salaries under the recently-negotiated contract with non- certified employees.

“(Mark) Eighner and...Richardson have given us a balanced budget,” McFadden said, but Eighner, dis- trict business director, said some changes may be needed depending on health insurance costs, which, he said, could increase 15-20 percent or more.

Approved disbanding four middle school activity accounts which have not been used for several years. Money in the funds will be transferred to other school activities and the accounts closed.

Methodist Church, 403 E. Main, Main dish, drinks and table service provided - please bring a side dish or dessert to share!