For the second time in two years, taxpayers in Vermilion County said no to a one percent school facilities sales tax.

The measure passed by a slim margin - 4,212 to 4,133 - in the county, but was defeated by Danville voters, 2,259 to 1,343.

The total vote was 6,392 against the tax to 5,555 in favor, according to unofficial numbers. The 837-vote difference is a wider spread than in 2018, when the measure failed by 667 votes.

As in the 2018 referendum, Grant 4 was the only Hoopeston precinct to vote in favor of the tax, 73-70. The split was smaller than the 2018 total, when 13 votes separated the two.

The School Facilities Sales Tax would have put a one percent tax on many items and would have boosted Danville’s sales tax to 10.25 percent.

Since the first time the tax was on the ballot, the law allowing the tax was modified, expanding how money could be used. Along with school improvements, funds also could have been used for mental health services and school security, such as resource officers.

In the race for 15th District congressional seat - to replace retiring John Shimkus - Mary Miller of Oakland

See COUNTY on other side

Pastor to take gift cards to victims of hometown tragedy

Adam Taubert, pastor at First Baptist Church in Hoopeston, has had his mind on his hometown lately.

His birthplace, Cookeville, Tenn., was in the news earlier this month after an EF-4 tornado ravaged the town in the early morning hours of March 3. Twenty-Tennesseeans died in tornadoes that day, 19 from Cookeville.

Taubert will be going back to Cookeville Sunday and hopes local residents will open their hearts to provide gift cards for families whose lives and homes were damaged on that morning. His dad was good friends with a man who died and Taubert knew of two of the families, as part of larger families.

He plans to leave after his live stream sermon - the church will not have Sunday services for two weeks because of coronavirus restrictions and will go to Calvary Baptist Church of Cookeville. “I have preached revival services there," he said. The congregation at Calvary Baptist will also provide assistance. “God has burdened their hearts to try to match my donations.”

A combination of six people and families directly affected by the tornado have been identified to receive the cards. “They are either uninsured, injured, and/or suffered tremendous loss or family death,” Taubert said.

He and others will meet with and provide Post Traumatic Stress Disorder counseling and the Taubert family will sing to the victims, as well.

The pastor described Cookeville as a thriving college town, home to Tennessee Tech. “It is more known for academics than athletics," Taubert said. “It is a very beautiful town with multiple waterfalls.”

The area is not a concentrated coronavirus area and the family will practice social distancing with extremely limited interaction with the public.

If anyone would like to donate, prepaid VISA and Walmart cards are best. McDonald’s gift cards are also welcome.

Anyone interested in helping people suffering from the devastation may drop off cards with Taubert or his wife, Jessica. Please call (217) 283-4248 or (217) 772-1390 before 10 a.m. Sunday.
Mayor discusses details of three-phase response plan for nearby coronavirus outbreak

Hoopeston is about at Stage 1.5 of a three-stage coronavirus COVID-19 response plan. Mayor Bill Crusinberry outlined the plan at Tuesday’s Hoopeston City Council meeting, where aldermen practiced social distancing by some sitting in their normal seats and others sitting at two long tables.

The plan, developed by Crusinberry, police Chief Jim McWitt, fire Chief Joel Bird and EMA Director Brad Hardcastle. Phase 1 was implemented last week. Points under Phase 1 include educating the public and employees on proper handwashing, hygiene and sanitation, making sure necessary sanitation supplies are available for city buildings, possibly reducing hours of public access at city buildings and others.

Phase 2 includes closing city buildings to public access, cleaning and sanitizing buildings, fire and police chiefs making reduction of response plans for nonemergency calls and plans to secure areas around healthcare facilities and food stores. The city attorney would be advised to draft an emergency declaration in case Phase 3 becomes necessary.

Phase 3 would be implemented if a case of COVID-19 is declared within 40 miles of Hoopeston. An emergency council meeting would be called to declare an emergency in the city, at which time officials could: ban public gatherings larger than 10 people, implement a curfew during the emergency, if warranted; and declare, issue, enforce, modify and terminate orders for quarantine or isolation of people or animals posing a threat to the public.

Distribution changes made for Just the Facts during shutdowns

Due to changes caused by the COVID-19, the Chinese coronavirus, Just the Facts is modifying its delivery locations.

For the time being, printed copies of Just the Facts will be available at:

Hoopeston: Hoopeston IGA Olympic Hardware Casey’s on Penn Casey’s on Orange Hoopeston Marathon Centennial Manor Ted’s Beverage Shop Express Lube McDonald’s drive-through Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center Rossville:

Casey’s:

The number of copies will be increased to accommodate demand at these locations.

For those who are avoiding public spaces as much as possible, Just the Facts is available online at www.justthefacts.net. Readers may also be put on our email list by sending their email addresses to publish@justthefacts.net.

Weather


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

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 BR ground level, $400/mo. Call (217) 504-1103.

HELP WANTED

Help wanted: tire and mechanic experience helpful. Apply in person to Smiley’s Distik Wheel, Inc. 8 miles west of Rossville. Or call to apply.

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for seasonal workers. Applications may be picked up at City Hall, 301 W Main St.

City of Hoopeston Swimming Pool is accepting applications for lifeguards and assistant manager for the 2020 season. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Robinson Chiropractic, a thriving and expanding chiropractic clinic, is looking for team oriented, multi-tasking, detail-oriented people. Candidates will be trained to assist with patient care. Customer service and phone skills a must. Candidates must be enthusiastic, outgoing, positive, great with people and have an interest in natural health and wellness and be flexible as we continue to thrive and grow in offices. Send resumes to tri-na.keller@robinchino.com.

We are currently hiring for our Vernon 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@alstire.com.

For good health, sing the Happy Birthday song to yourself twice while you wash your hands!