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‘Bavarian Hearts on 2nd Ave.’ to recall Hoopeston POW era

The story of German prisoners of war (POW) in Hoopeston will come to life for a modern audience in a production written by local resident Tom Sweeney.

Hoopeston Public Library will present “Bavarian Hearts on 2nd Avenue” at 6 and 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 25 at Hoopeston Public Library.

Sweeney directs the play, which is based on experiences of Hoopeston citizens and those in the war camp in 1944 who marched twice daily on Second Ave. Resources for the play include The Chronicle, “Time Out Magazine,” oral histories taped by former veterans, Heritage Magazine and references to a Walter Winchell

newscast, New York City, 1944.

Fifty representatives of Hoopeston organizations requisitioned the War Manpower Commission for help in local fields and factories. Mayor Trego had been notified that the U.S. government “needed twice as much from the pack.”

There had been a severe labor shortage in 1943 but in April 1944, 75 prisoners arrived in Hoopeston. By July 27, the number had risen to 1,250. At its height, more than 2,500 POWs - mostly from Nazi Gen. Rommel’s Panzer troop - helped in Hoopeston factories and farms

See HEARTS on other side

Garbage fee hike, cuts, help keep city budget in the black

Hoopeston customers will see a \$4 increase in garbage rates soon.

Republic Services, which provides local trash pickup, was set to raise its rate by \$1 under its current contract with the city.

The other \$3 is being added by city officials to balance the budget which goes into effect May 1.

“That’s a big jump,” admitted finance committee chairman Ald. Bill Goodwine, who acted as mayor pro tem at Tuesday’s Hoopeston City Council meeting. While less than Danville’s fee of \$23, the new amount is “somewhat above other (communities).”

The \$3 hike will generate \$96,000 to the general budget and will support police, fire, the pool and other areas “that don’t have property tax to make those things run.”

For example, he said, lighting city streets at night costs \$75,000 annually, which must come from the city’s general fund.

See BUDGET on other side

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PUBLIC AUCTION
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Saturday, April 22nd @10 am
Stanley and Marilyn Tourangeau moved and selling the contents of Tool Shed, plus Sterling, Coins/Bills, Pad Locks, Jewelry, Husky rear tine Tiller, Dayton 7.25 Briggs Generator, Bikes, Tools, Glassware, Amish made Oak Chest, Oak Mirror Coat Hanger, Oak Rug Hanger, Oak Lamp, White Wicker Shelving, Wood Box, Wicker Sm and Lg Baskets, Wicker Storage Basket, Copper Mailbox, Weber Grill, Radio Tubes, Bears Therm., Charcoal Bucket, Silverware, Ext. Ladder, Clocks and more!
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Budget continued from other side

The new budget is not just about having residents pay more. At the April 4 council meeting, Goodwine said the city's income was down about \$100,000 while projected expenses were up \$184,000.

At an April 5 budget meeting, aldermen - faced with a nearly \$300,000 deficit - made cuts in all areas of the general budget.

The budget unanimously approved Tuesday includes income of \$2,727,573; expenses of \$2,429,911; accruals (money saved for major purchases) of \$194,700; and one-time expenses of \$102,000, leaving a \$462 surplus.

One-time expenses include \$12,500 for the storm water retention pond south of Casey's and \$90,000 for a new city hall roof.

Obituaries

BIRD - Margaret Ann (King) Bird, 68, of Milford, formerly of Hoopeston and Wellington, died at 2:50 a.m. Friday, April 14, 2017 at Watseka Rehab and Health Care. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Floral Hill Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice Blurton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

DOWNING - Mary (Downing, 83, of Potomac, died at 7 p.m. Monday, April 17, 2017 at Country Health Care and Rehab, Gifford. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Thursday at Blurton Funeral Home, Potomac. Celebration of her life will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Middlefork United Meth-

odist Church, Potomac. Burial will follow in Potomac Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the church or Country Health Care and Rehab.

KINCADE - Robert Lee Kincade, 89, of Williamsport, Ind., died at 8:17 a.m. Sunday, April 16, 2017 at Parkview Healthcare, Attica, Ind. He will be cremated. Visitation will be 11 a.m. until the noon memorial service Friday at Chestnut Street Church of Christ, Hoopeston. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the church, 709 E. Chestnut St., Hoopeston IL 60942. Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is handling arrangements.

Hearts continued from other side

because of the labor shortage. Among the dramatizations is the story of three POW captives who brought national attention with their escape. "These German prisoners come off as neither good or bad," Sweeney said. "It is a human story with several surprises. This is certainly among the top five stories in Hoopeston's rich heritage."

Settings move from an apartment house on Second Ave., Illinois Canning Factory, fields north of Hoopeston, a wild Illinois tavern, camp barracks, the Craig Hotel, St. Anthony Church, an asparagus steam room and public stockade.

Sweeney infuses local stories and news, which tug at the heart and bring to life the camp and civilian personalities with humor, conflict and romance.

Vintage photos, nostalgic music, well-placed narratives and radio broadcasts unify the episodes. There is a most unusual epilogue where a patron audience decides a "possibility" and decides the outcome.

The cast includes Janell Sechrist, Margaret Cope, Denise Ried, Danny Lugo, Scott Hudson, Mike Pemberton,

Al Zawarus, Sarah Miller, Marilyn Tyler, Kristi Hudson, Mary Tyler, Yolanda Pemberton, Jeanette André and Nancy "Joey" Mason. Vintage photographs are designed by Rosalie Hickman.

Tickets to the presentations are free and became available April 19 on a first come, first serve basis at Hoopeston Public Library, 110 N. Fourth St.

Refreshments will follow the first show. The second performance will be video-taped.

The dramatization will also be performed at 2 p.m. April 30 at Autumn Fields, 325 E. Orange. Limited public seating will be available for this performance.

The performance is not recommended for young children.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today. High 73. Tonight, cloudy. Low 44. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 60, low 41.

"We sit in a room and cut the budget, which isn't always easy, but what we need to do is see that it comes true," Goodwine said, urging officials to keep track of their budgets.

From the Blotter

Michael E. Pruitt Jr., 41, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a 32-year-old Hoopeston woman alleged at 11:19 p.m. Sunday that Pruitt abused her 11-year-old child.

Pruitt was arrested on a preliminary charge of aggravated criminal sexual abuse and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Jamey Strawser, 41, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 6:40 p.m. Tuesday to the 800 block. He was charged with violation of order of protection on a complaint from a 29-year-old Hoopeston woman and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Our growing chiropractic office in Hoopeston is looking for an employee who enjoys talking with people and getting out in the public. Must be dependable, team oriented, and has a flexible schedule. Are you that person? This position consists of marketing and sales duties and is a full time position. Please send resume to: Box N, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942.

Looking for a great job in the medical field? Busy chiropractic office in Hoopeston is looking for a team oriented, multi tasking front desk person. Candidate will be trained to assist with patient care. Customer service and phone skills a must. This is a part time position. Please send resume to: Box O, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942.

Drivers Wanted. Local work with some over the road. MUST pass all drug screenings and must have CDL with experience. Competitive pay, paid vacation and sick time. Serious inquires only Contact Brent [815-405-4000](tel:815-405-4000)

Part time bartender. Apply at Hoopeston American Legion, 502 E. Penn, after 3 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday.

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