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City to question recent fire survey rating

Hoopeston fire officials have questions about the result of a recent fire rating survey, and they plan to meet with a representative of the surveying agency to get some answers.

The Insurance Services Office, part of Commercial Risk Services, surveyed the Hoopeston fire department last June. That survey resulted in the city's insurance rating improving from a seven to a six.

However, the itemized survey report shows the survey group may have misinterpreted some information.

Alderman Drew Allen, head of the city's fire committee, said at Tuesday night's city council meeting that city and fire officials will meet with Paul Boccker of the ISO to discuss the survey results. That meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday. "We don't feel we got all the credit we deserve," he said.

Questions concerning firefighting equipment and departmental preparedness will be discussed, said fire chief Chuck Fenwick.

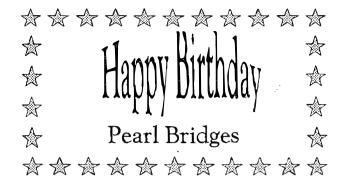
Boecker will also be asked to give recommendations for the department to get a better rating. "I'd like to see us get to a five," Fenwick said, adding Boecker's suggestions during the June survey have already been carried out.

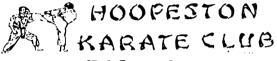
The improvement from seven to six meant some home and business owners saw reductions in premiums for fire insurance. Attaining a five rating could lower premiums even more, Fenwick said.

Surveys are routinely done every 15 years, or when requested by fire departments

In other action, the council:

- approved spending \$56,461 for a 1993 ambulance from Wheeled Coach, based in Orlando, Fla.
- spent \$2,468.43 for a new furnace at the Mc-Ferren Park shed.
- learned a new dog catcher will be hired in April, replacing Don Rhodes, who is retiring.
 The new employee will also have janitorial duties, said alderman Odell Crabtree, police committee chairman.





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Monday morning car fire still under investigation

A car fire Monday morning is being declared arson.

The fire, at 5:36 a.m. Monday, was in the back seat of a car owned by Rhonda Longfellow.

According to fire chief Chuck Fenwick, the fire did not start by mechanical or natural causes. "Technically, it is an arson," he said. "Some way, shape or form, the back seat was ignited."

The car was in a garage at 709 S. Market. The garage and attached house were not damaged.

The investigation may take some time, Fenwick said. "It could be a day or two, or a week." One person still must be questioned.

Arrests may be pending in the case, Fenwick said.

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Hales lists investments, interest for December

Herb Hales, Vermilion County treasurer, released deposit and interest figures for December.

The county has \$16,456,148.28 invested in time deposits and U.S. Treasury bonds, carning between three and 9.1%. County funds in interestbearing checking accounts total \$6,868,263.83, earning 2.5%-4%. Total money handled by Hales was \$23,324,412.11.

Deposits in banks of local interest include: \$1 million, Palmer Bank, Hoopeston; \$120,000, Palmer Bank, Rankin; Community Bank, \$2,542,941.37; Household FSB, \$100,000; First National, Rossville, \$1,891,23.

Deposits in other banks inlude: First Midwest Bank, \$5,810,426,56; Palmer American National Bank, total, \$5,310,049.61; Main Bank, \$4,190,049.61; First National Bank of Danville, \$1,142,086.44; Allerton State Bank,

\$101,613.06; First National of Catlin, \$101,830.30; First National Bank of Fairmount, \$101,946.78; First National Bank of Georgetown, \$9,744.49; Kansas State Bank, 4100,000; Oakwood State Bank, \$2,319,966.16; First National of Ogden, \$1,857,673.66; First Ridgefarm State Bank, \$202,790.54; Sidell State Bank, \$2,683.88; First National Bank of Westville, \$101,635.22; and U.S. Treasury bonds, \$3,517,132.72.

Total interest for December totalled \$56.081.39. The annual interest accumulated was \$3,939,536,97.

Specific information regarding individual fund balances, total investment by funds and any other financial data available is public record and can be obtained from the treasurer's office upon request. The office is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Policemens

Halit "Joe" Jusufi, of 325 W. Penn, reported to Hoopeston police Monday night that someone took the hood ornament from his 1978 Mercedes Benz.

Police are investigating the incident, which occurred between 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Monday while the car was parked at the Hoopeston Family Restaurant.

No tickets or injuries were reported in a twovehicle accident at 7:35 a.m. Wednesday.

Oblinaries

SMITH, Russell B., 82, of Ambia, Ind., died at 10:40 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, 1994, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Thursday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. today at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

According to police reports, a vehicle driven by Henry G. Anderson, 801 Judson, slid through the intersection of South Fourth Avenue and West Lincoln, striking a vehicle driven by Joel L. Bird, 38851 North 1650 East Road, Hoopeston.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital Jan. 31, 1994

Admitted: Anna Clark, Hoopeston. Discharged: none.

Weather

Partly cloudy today with a chance of morning flurries. High in the upper 20s or lower 30s. Tonight, clouds diminishing. Low in the teens or low 20s. Tomorrow, sunny. High 24, low 4. Thirty-day outlook for February, normal temperatures and precipitation.

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