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Lourdine Osborne  
editor

**just the facts**

Susan Comstock  
ad manager

Thursday, June 30, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

## Fire siren blares again after two-month absence

It rang for years.  
Then it didn't.  
Now, it's back.

The Hoopeston Fire Department has ended its two-month trial of not ringing the fire siren, according to chief Chuck Fenwick.

Sounding the alarm began again for two reasons, Fenwick said.

First, although all firemen have pagers, some work in noisy areas and were not always able to hear the devices.

The siren is more easily heard by firefighters employed at American National Can. FMC and Pillsbury.

And, Fenwick said, if workers fail to hear the siren, oftentimes family members will hear it and call firemen at work.

The second reason the siren is sounding again

is because "blowing it or not blowing it didn't make a difference" in the number of spectators driving by fire scenes, Fenwick said.

The siren was silenced in April as a trial method of reducing the number of spectators at fires.

The department has had no major fires since then. "We hope that trend continues," Fenwick said, adding since there were no big fires, it's not possible to tell if silencing the alarm was successful.

The department, with the city council's blessing, has said those who interfere with firemen doing their job will be ticketed by police.

That policy, instituted about two months ago, will continue. "That hasn't changed," Fenwick said. "We're going to pursue it. If someone creates a problem, they'll be issued a citation."

So far, no one has been cited.

## Man hopes to stage comeback of local theater group

It's been said that all the world's a stage, and a Hoopeston man wants to make sure that's true locally.

Tony Hasbargen hopes to resurrect a local theater group.

He's got a possible site - the high school auditorium.

He's got plays in mind, like "Our Town" or "A Merchant in Yonkers" by Thornton Wilder or "A Comedy in Three Acts" by Neil Simon.

He's even got tentative play dates - Oct. 7-9.

Now, Hasbargen is looking for at least 20 people who are willing to "say 'Yeah, I'd be willing to act or be a stagehand or whatever.'"

If enough people are interested, Hasbargen would like to produce three plays yearly, two for adults and one for children.

While he is the driving force behind getting a group together, that doesn't mean he wants to be in charge. "Pretty much everybody would contribute," he said. "I don't want to dictate everything. If somebody can direct, I don't have to direct. I can be a stagehand."

Hasbargen's interest in theater stems from his school days. "When I was in high school, I enjoyed the theater," he said. The theater environment is an uplifting experience.

See STAGE on other side

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## Classifieds

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget the Wilken Family Reunion July 10 in the Milford Park shelter

### GARAGE SALES

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Each additional 5 words, \$1 extra.

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## Stage continued from other side

If Hasbargen is successful in forming a theater group, it won't be the first time Hoopeston has had one.

The Hoopeston Amateur Theater group, known informally as The Play Crafters, quit producing plays in 1983, said Steve Eyrich, former group treasurer.

The group, which had been active for at least 15 years, produced such plays as "Blythe Spirit", "The Importance of Being Ernest" and "Brigadoon."

In 1983, the group planned a production of "Finian's Rainbow," but could not find enough actors. The group "jusk kind of went to sleep for lack of interest," Eyrich said.

Hasbargen would like to awaken local talent, for personal and other reasons.

First, the 26-year-old drives 68 miles to work in Monticello, Ind. "I don't want to drive for something I enjoy doing," he said. "I wouldn't mind driving 10 minutes.

Also, a theater group would provide an additional activity in Hoopeston. "It's something that can benefit the whole town," he said, adding young people could benefit most of all.

Finally, Hasbargen said it's hard to tell what might happen in the future.

"Who knows," he said. "We might have the next Jack Nicholson. Anything's possible."

If forming a group is successful, Hasbargen would someday like to build a playhouse, similar to Sullivan's Little Theater on the Square, and perhaps draw big-name stars.

Two stars, Gavin McCloud, of "The Love Boat," and Tom Wopat of "Dukes of Hazzard" fame, have appeared in Sullivan, he said.

Hasbargen is dedicated to realizing his dream. "I'm going to do whatever I have to do to make it fly," he said. "It's been dead too long. I just want it back."

Those interested in forming a group may call Hasbargen at (217) 283-5223 after 4 p.m.

## Rossville Park District to hold b-ball shootout

The Rossville Park District is sponsoring the HOOP'94 - There It Is - Basketball Shootout on July 30-31 at Christman Park in Rossville.

Registration forms may be picked up at Heilig Meyers Furniture in Danville or Harris Insurance in Rossville.

The limited registration deadline is July 22.

Besides team competition, there will be an individual three-point shooting contest, individual freethrow contest and a special freethrow contest.

For more information, call Marilyn Danner at (217) 442-4447 or Kevin Thomas at (217) 748-4118.

## Commodities giveaway set

Grant Township will have a commodities giveaway from 1 to 3 p.m. July 8 at the township garage.

Those participating must have an updated blue commodities card.

## Police News



Police are investigating the theft of a bicycle reported Tuesday.

A Hoopeston youth reported his black and red Western Auto Dirt Duster was taken from a bicycle rack at the Hoopeston Public Library, 110 N. Fourth St.

## In the hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

June 28, 1994

Admitted: Doris Whipple, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Randy Pratt, Alvin.

## Weather



Mostly sunny today. High in the mid 80s. Tonight, fair. Low in the low to mid 60s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 85, low near 64.

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## Thursday Trivia/Friday Feast

Be first to call 283-9348 between

8 and 8:30 a.m. to win a

FREE Friday lunch.

Today's question: How many stars were on the American flag in 1952?

Tomorrow's lunch provided by: Burger King

Last week's winner: no one

Last week's answer: David Pearson won the NASCAR Grand Point Title in 1966, 68 & 69



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