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Monday, June 3, 1996

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

State officials investigate leaking gasoline tank, gas odors

Officials from the Illinois State Fire Marshall's Office are investigating the leak of approximately 500 gallons of gasoline from a former service station, which may have spread to soil surrounding Hoopeston's municipal building.

Three underground gasoline storage tanks were removed Friday from Ron's Service Center, 109 W. Main, formerly the site of Hall's Shell gas station. Station owner Burl Hall leases the property to Ron Schroeder, service center owner.

Officials are unsure when the leak started. Schroeder put 500 gallons of gasoline into the tanks "and a day or two later, it was gone," said Jim McCaslin, director of the Fire Marshall's underground tank program.

Some property approximately two blocks from the former gas station have reported strong gasoline

odors. Mike Kirsch, a homeowner at 319 W. Main, reported an intermittent, strong gasoline odor since he purchased the house approximately 18 months ago. Also, tests at the city's water treatment plant, located near Kirsch's home, had a lower explosive level of 85 percent, McCaslin said. Levels on the test, which measures combustibility, should be five or less. "It was a critical problem," he said.

Fans have been installed in the sanitary sewer line which runs from the former gas station to the Kirsch home and water plant to reduce the level of fumes, McCaslin said.

The Fire Marshall's office was first notified of fumes at the Kirsch home last September, McCaslin said. Investigators at the time were unable to detect gasoline odors. However, the Kirsch family again reported

Briefly

Music Booster winners

Winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: June 3, Stephanie Hamilton, Hoopeston; June 4, Megan Swartz, Wellington; June 5, Steve Howell, Hoopeston; June 6, Ilse Fliesser, Hoopeston; June 7, Connie and George Kult, Hoopeston.

VBS at Baptist church

The First Baptist Church at Third and Seminary will have vacation Bible school from 9-11:30 a.m. June 3-7. Children ages four through sixth grade are invited. The school's theme is "Let It Roll."

Basketball camp to begin

A boys' basketball camp will be held June 3-7 for

area youngsters. Sessions for third, fourth and fifth graders will be from 8-10 a.m.; sixth, seventh and eighth graders from 10 a.m. to noon and high school students, noon to 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Pete Sollars at (217) 283-9527.

Vacation Bible School set

"Camp Courageous - Where God's Love is Contagious" is the theme of vacation Bible School at the First Christian Church of Hoopeston. Classes will be held from 9-11 a.m. June 10-14.

Classes are open to children ages four through the completion of sixth grade.

For more information, call Linda Bird at 283-5309 or Annette Harden, 283-6812.

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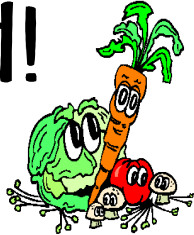
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Police News



Steve Hargrove, 219 W. Elm, reported Friday that someone shot the passenger side window of his 1978 Chevrolet Cheyenne. A pellet or bb gun was used.

Tammy L. Uppinghouse, 31, of 309 S. Market, was arrested at 1:41 a.m. Saturday, charged with disorderly conduct. She was released on a notice to appear.

Henry J. Rodgers, 37, of 516 E. Young, turned himself in to police at 10:18 am. Saturday. Rodgers, wanted on a traffic warrant, was released on \$391 cash bond.

Vicki L. Howie, #48, Parkview Court, reported Saturday that someone broke the tail light of her 1993

Obituaries

BOOSE - Frances Boose, 80, of Hoopeston, died at 1:50 p.m. Saturday, June 1, 1996, at Hoopeston Community Nursing Home. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Chestnut Street Church of Christ. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Monday at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Chestnut Street Church of Christ.

MARTIN - Walter H. Martin, 71, of Hoopeston, died at 12:08 p.m. Thursday, May 30, 1996, at home. There

will be no services. Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

STRINK - David Edward Strink, 41, of Decatur, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 10 p.m. Wednesday, May 29, 1996, at St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m. Monday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was 6-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Antioch Christian Church, Decatur.

See **GASOLINE** on other side

Gasoline continued from other side

the smell this spring when, McCaslin said, heavy rains forced the gasoline to float on water.

While officials know a tank at the service center leaked, they have not connected the leak with the odors. "We're trying to tie the two together," said Bill Alderson, Fire Marshall field operations manager. A second gas station, the former Dale's Phillips 66 at First Ave. and West Main St., will also be checked.

Hall will be responsible for cleaning up the "grossly contaminated" soil, Alderson said. But Hall's daughter is afraid that process could bankrupt her parents.

Hall has already spent nearly \$8,000 to remove the tanks, said Ginger Grant, Hall's daughter. Clean up costs have not been determined but those costs will "put a financial burden on my parents," she said.

Grant said her father paid into the Illinois Superfund, a state fund to help defray clean up costs from a spill "but to the best of my knowledge, they're broke."

However, an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency geologist said some money will be available.

The geologist, who asked to remain anonymous, said \$7 million was in the Leaking Underground Storage Tank clean up fund at the beginning of the year. However, the state legislature has not appropriated the money yet, and \$50 million in claims are backlogged. "Sooner or later, they will get paid," the geologist said.

Hall will still be responsible for a \$10,000 deductible, the geologist said, but since the tanks were removed after the spill was discovered, the tank removal fee will apply toward the deductible.

Hall operated the station for more than 30 years, purchasing it in 1980 or 1981, Grant said.

Weather



Partly sunny and cooler today with a 30 percent chance of showers. High in the low 70s. Tonight, clearing. Low in the low 50s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 75, low near 55.

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