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New technology keeps firemen safe at recent house blaze

On Sept. 26, the Hoopeston Fire Department responded to a fire on Conservation Club Road. When firemen entered the house, thick smoke clouded the air. Unlike at previous blazes, firemen were able to see exactly what they were doing, thanks to a new piece of equipment.

A T3 Max thermal imagine camera by Ballard helped firemen see through the dense smoke as they made their way through the house.

The camera and other equipment were on display Saturday at an open house and chili supper sponsored by the fire department.

Firemen used the camera to locate potential problems, said fireman Harold "H" Michael. "We found a hot spot in the ceiling that we wouldn't have found without it," he said. "Without the technology, we would have thought the fire was out."

By looking at a small screen on the camera, firemen can determine the heat level in a structure, including behind walls. "It's just like watching a black and white TV," Michael said. A 1,200 degree thermometer on the screen shows them how hot the fire is.

The department first considered a thermal imaging



Hoopeston firemen Jon Rayls, left, and Joel Bird serve Amy Larkin and Charlene Wallace at a chili supper during the department's open house Saturday.

camera after a May 21 warehouse fire at the former Stokely property on First Ave. Although smoke poured from the structure, firemen were unsure where in the building the fire was located. "We could've used it at Stokely's," Michael said. "That would have been nice."

The department addressed their concerns to Alderman Brandon Hamilton, chairman of the city's fire committee. Hamilton took the request to the council and about four weeks ago, the department received its camera.

See **TECHNOLOGY** on other side

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Police News



Stanley P. Pickett, 26, of 302 W. Penn. Apt. 1, was arrested at 3:40 p.m. Thursday in the 200 block of South Second Ave.

Pickett, wanted on a Vermilion County traffic warrant, was released on \$298 cash bond.

A **25-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Friday that her grey 1991 Dodge Caravan had been stolen from her home in the 600 block of East McNeil. The vehicle was later found to have been repossessed.

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A **56-year-old** woman reported Friday that her windshield was damaged while it was in the Hoopeston Area High School parking lot, 615 E. Orange.

Someone reported Friday that 22 pink flamingos were taken from a yard in the 400 block of East Main.

A **48-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Friday that his Samsung cell phone was lost or had been stolen.

Timothy E. Coon, 25, of 631 E. McCracken, was arrested at 4:48 p.m. Friday in the 1000 block of West Orange.

Coon, wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Amanda L. Garman, 29, of 615 E. McNeil, was charged with battery after a 20-year-old Covington, Ind., woman alleged the two had an altercation at 5:32 p.m.

Obituaries

SCHUFF - Evelyn Schuff, 82, of Hoopeston died at 6:27 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, 2003 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Graveside services will be at 2:30 p.m. Monday at Floral Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston United Methodist Church, 403 E. Main St., Hoopeston, IL 60942. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Technology continued from other side

"We're proud of the city for recognizing (the need) and proud of Brandon for working for us," said fire chief Greg Shipman.

The technology is not cheap. The battery-operated camera cost \$14,400 but the safety it will provide is worth the expense, Shipman said.

Not only can firemen see the situation they are entering, but Shipman or an other officer in charge can watch firemen's activities on a monitor, part of the camera system. The officer may see things the firemen don't and keep them from harm. Additionally, the camera is expected to more quickly allow firemen to find people in fires and will help save water as the men will know exactly where to focus water usage during fires.

Having seen what the camera can do, Michael and Shipman wonder why state officials have not mandated

Friday on Bank St.

Garman was released on a notice to appear.

A **25-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Saturday that someone had strewn things around her home in the 300 block of South Third Ave.

Daniel W. Bridgman, 37, of 311 E. Lincoln, was arrested at 12:01 a.m. Saturday in the 300 block of East Seminary. He was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia after police were called to the area on a prowler complaint. Police said Bridgman fled on foot and was apprehended nearby.

He was released on a notice to appear.

Armando A. Paredes, 44, of 307 Front, Apt. B, was

Hoopeston man identified as accident victim

A Hoopeston man has been identified as the person killed in an accident Thursday morning on Rt. 9 near Paxton.

Michael D. Moore, 40, was killed when a Jeep he was driving left the roadway and rolled over. Mr. Moore was ejected from the vehicle and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Illinois State Police at Ashkum.

The Jeep was reported stolen from Hoopeston.

The incident is still under investigation.

Funeral services for Mr. Moore will be at noon Mon-

day at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon Monday at the funeral home.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

A **boy's chrome** Vertical bike and a Roadmaster bicycle were found Saturday in the 600 block of East McCracken.. The owners may identify and claim them at the police station.

A **1989 Lincoln** coupe was found abandoned in the Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital parking lot. The vehicle was towed from the scene. The owner may contact the police station.

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Weather



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