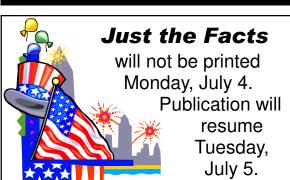


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Wheels moving on R.J. Corman rail yard in Hoopeston

Wheels are in motion for a new business in Hoopeston.

R.J. Corman, LLC, of Nicholasville, Ky., plans to open a material sales yard in Hoopeston. Construction on the project is expected to begin on about July 15, said Rod Bishop, project superintendent.

The company purchased 12 acres from the Hoopeston Industrial Corporation near the railroad track and behind Casey's General Store.

Plans to build the yard were announced last winter but problems delayed construction until now.

The yard will stockpile material needed by railroads, such as rails, ties, bolts, spikes and other equipment, Bishop said. The material will be taken to rail sites within an approximate 200 mile radius of Hoopeston as needed, he said.

R.J. Corman currently has a contract with the CSX Railroad but is seeking contracts with other railroad companies, he said.

Building the yard will take about a month and the two employees expected to be hired initially will train for about the same length of time. "They'd like to be up and running by the first of September," Bishop said.

While the company will start small, plans are to increase the number of employees as business improves. "We're looking for big things," he said.

According to the company's web site, Hoopeston will be the company's twelfth material sales yard. Others are located

in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky.

See RAIL on other side

BISHOP

Briefly

Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: Tuesday, Bloomington (leave at 9 a.m.); Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville. For more information or to arrange a ride, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283 -5544.

Community center activities include: Tuesday, ladies euchre, noon; Thursday, men's coffee, 9:30 a.m., men's euchre, noon; Friday, ladies cards, noon.

Music Booster winners

This week's winners in the Hoopeston Area

Music Booster calendar drawing are: June 28, Deborah and Kevin Tyler; June 29, Linda and John Carlson; June 30, Charlotte Cornell; July 1, Jerry' IGA; July 2, Virginia Hatfield.

Pageant candidates sought

The Georgetown Fair Board and pageant directors are looking for contestants for the 2004 Miss Georgetown Fair Oueen Pageant to be held Aug. 2.

The contest is open to young women ages 16-21 who are residents of or whose parents reside in Vermilion County. For information, contact Karen Thornsbrough, (217) 377-3946 or (217) 288-9181,

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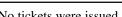


Riding the grind

An unidentified skater rides a grind rail Saturday at Hoopeston's first skate jam. Approximately 50 skating enthusiasts from Hoopeston, Danville, Georgetown and other communities took part, said Alderman Carl Ankenbrand, event coordinator. A second jam is being planned for August on a weekend when the Dixie Business Plaza holds its flea market to give parents an activity while their children are skating, he said.



Police News



A 59-year-old Hoopeston man reported Sunday that someone broke a window in the 500 block of West Penn.

Daniel J. Hamilton of Hoopeston was treated at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital for injuries he received in an accident at 3:48 a.m.

Sunday.

Police said Hamilton, in a 1998 Cadillac, was eastbound in the alley south of the 1000 block of East Young. He tried to turn left onto North Ninth St., failed to negotiate the turn and struck several bushes and small trees in a yard.

Earthquake shakes Illinois early Monday, no damage told

A light earthquake occurred at 1:10 a.m. Monday in northwestern Illinois, about 10 miles northwest of Ottawa.

The quake measured 4.5 on the Richter Scale, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The earthquake was felt in parts of Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin but no damage was reported.

In Illinois, people reported feeling the tremors in Peoria, East Peoria, Springfield, Jackson-

Hoopeston police have free gunlocks for local residents

The Hoopeston Police Department has received several gunlocks to distribute free to local residents.

The department received the locks June 24 through a grant through the U.S. Department of Justice. The department received a portion of funding from Project Childsafe. This is the third year the police department has received a grant.

Locks are limited to one per person until July 1; after that, additional kits may be requested if they are available. Locks may be picked up at the police station, 301 W. Main, at any time.

The program aims to promote safe firearms handling and secure storage practices among all fire-

New Books at the Library



A Risk Worth Taking by Robin Pilcher All's Fair in Love, War and High School by Janette Rallison (young adult)

Tunnels of Blood by Darren Shan (young adult)

A Death in Vienna by Daniel Silva Ransom by Danielle Steele Forget Prince Charming by Natalie Stenzel The Song Reader by Lisa Tucker (young adult) The Last Crossing by Guy Vanderhaeghe

Rail continued from other side

Hoopeston was chosen as a site for yard because of its proximity to the railroad. A siding on the property will be used by the yard and an easement is expected to be granted by the city between the rail and the materials yard, Bishop said.

Hoopeston officials have been helpful in getting the project moving. "The city has been very cooperative," he said. "Not just cooperative - encouraging."

Bishop and his wife will move to Hoopeston. The couple currently lives in Pueblo, Colo., where Bishop has worked for about the last year. "We're looking forward to coming up," he said.

The company is also looking forward to a relationship with Hoopeston. "R.J. Corman want to get involved in the community, to be a good neighbor, essentially," Bishop said.

R.J. Corman, LLC was founded in 1973 as a railroad construction and rehabilitation company. It currently has 11 divisions and also offers derailment services, short line railroads, distribution centers, equipment rental and a dinner train, "My Old Kentucky Diner," in Bardstown, Kv.

No tickets were issued.

John J. O'Brien, 74, of 3726 148th St., Midlothian, was arrested at 10:43 p.m. Sunday in the 1000 block of West Orange.

He was charged with driving on suspension after a traffic stop.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 80. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 60. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 83, low 63.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

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2 bdr. apt. 2nd floor. \$275/mo. + deposit. No pets. (217) 283-6025.

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