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A lone fireman in a Savoy Fire Department truck hoses down refuse after Wednesday's fire at J&R Tire Recycling on Route 9. Heavy equipment was brought in Thursday to start removing debris.

Hoopeston opens hearts, wallets to help; cleanup begins

Paige Brown leaned against cases of cereal Thursday morning, surrounded by tables full of milk - both white and chocolate - doughnuts, biscuits & gravy and kiddie pools filled with ice water to chill colorful beverages.

Volunteers spent much of Wednesday lining up meals, snacks and other necessities for firemen from 19 depart-

ments who battled a fire at J&R Tire Recycling in the former FMC Building. She was back at it Thursday, set up in the Grant Township parking lot.

Brown praised Hoopeston businesses and residents who saw a need and moved to fill it. Businesses donated their wares, residents purchased needed supplies and donated them, churches and the Multi Agency opened their doors to people who were evacuated from their homes. Needs were made known on Facebook and others sprang into action to meet them.

Available in the parking lot were not only food and drink but an air conditioned tent set up by the Red Cross, which offered respite from the heat of the fire, as well as cots for a bit of rest.

Hoopeston firemen were joined by their brethren from
See CLEANUP on other side

'Our Town entertainment set
DJ Roy Kohl, Taylor Wolfe and contemporary Christian group "Blood on a Twenty" will perform during Friday's "Our Town" event from 4-6:30 p.m. at McFerren Park. Other activities will include an antique/classic car & tractor show and a patriotic-themed golf cart parade. Free hamburgers and hotdogs will also be served.

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Cleanup continued from other side

Danville, Milford, Wellington, Normal, Bismarck, Watseka, Onarga, Bluegrass, Stockland, Paxton, Loda, Ross-ville, Urbana, East Lynn and Ridge Farm departments in Illinois and Purdue, Ambia and Boswell departments from Indiana, in fighting the fire that was reported at 5:20 a.m. Wednesday.

Several residents reported waking up Wednesday and noting the dark sky, thinking Hoopeston was in for a storm. The sound of sirens and a couple whiffs of the out-side quickly told a different story.

**HUBBARD TRAIL
COUNTRY CLUB**

FRIDAYS 5-9PM - Fish, Shrimp, Grilled Tilapia, Grilled Chicken, Chuck Burgers

TUESDAYS 5-8PM - Homemade Chips & Salsa, Tacos, Enchiladas, Quesadillas, Nachos

LUNCH Wednesdays-Thursdays 11-1 - Burgers, Grilled Chicken, Grilled Tenderloins

Many residents were evacuated from their homes, both as a precaution to the danger of the fire and from deteriorated air quality.

Residents evacuated from the north and east of the fire were able to return home Wednesday night and those west of the scene were allowed to return Thursday morning.

Employees reported that the blaze started with a spark in near loading docks and spread quickly through the three-block long building.

Aerial trucks from several departments fought the blaze from above, while others fired copious amounts of water from ground level in an effort to keep it from spreading to nearby homes.

Fire officials expressed early concern about a 2,000 lb. propane tank which had recently been filled, but were able to keep the fire away from the tank.

Train traffic was halted shortly after the fire was reported, resuming at about 6 a.m. Thursday, with early trains going through the city at a snail's pace.

Lance Smith, R&J general manager, said Wednesday that the company planned to resume business as quickly

as possible but may not be possible, based on action taken by the Illinois EPA.

Illinois EPA is seeking an immediate injunctive court order halting operations at J&R.

In a press release Wednesday, the EPA said J&R accumulated approximately 200,000 Passenger Tire Equivalents, used/waste tires on-site (an estimated 2,500 tons) in either whole or shredded tires.

In addition to smoke, IEPA is concerned with run-off issues from the water used to fight the fire that may allow contaminants from the fire to neighboring properties or into sewage/storm water systems.

The injunction seeks to force the owners to:

- Stop all activities on-site, including but not limited to continued storage of used or waste tires on-site.
- Assess damage done by the fire.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 89. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 70. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 90, low 71. Sunday, mostly sunny. High 90, low 72.

- Hire an environmental consultant to investigate and remedy on-site as well as off-site issues created by the incident

Classifieds

RUMMAGE SALES

HOOPESTON: 705 S. Fifth St. Fri. noon-5, Sat. 7-noon.

HOOPESTON: 750 E. Main. Fri., 8-?, Sat. 8-noon. Men's clothes 3X shirts, pants like new; women's Small/Med.; old miniature glass shoes/miniature tea sets; fishing rods; lots of misc.

HOOPESTON: 724 E. Main. Fri. 4-7 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-? Multi family sale. Nice, name brand clothes for kids, tween, Jr girls through adult, toys, treadmill, leaf blower, dog crates.

HOOPESTON: 616 E. Lincoln. Fri. & Sat. 9-4. 3 family sale. Lots of stuff for everyone!

HOOPESTON: 716 E. Wilson. Sat 8-noon. Clothing, misc.

EAST LYNN: 7644 Moores. Fri 8-5, Sat. 8-11 Everything must go!! Toddler boy clothing, Barbies, Precious Moments, Cherished Teddies, purses, curtains, home décor, kitchen items, women's clothing, swing set & much more!

Anderson
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