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Heavy rain floods Hoopeston but doesn't drown festival

Saturday morning started out like any other Saturday of the National Sweetcorn Festival. People woke up, had coffee, and planned their day. For some, that included



running in or watching the Bill Orr Memorial Sweetcorn 5K Classic and planning to get a good viewing spot along the route of the Grand Parade.

For a few hours previously, thunder rumbled and lightening streaked intermittently and skies to the north looked ominous, but radar showed little to indicate what was coming.

All that changed as the front shifted and heavy rains and strong winds moved over - and seemed to take up residence above - Hoopeston, dumping up to 5" of rain in some parts of the city.

The 5K race was the first victim of the weather, canceled because of the lightening. Organizers are working to reschedule the run in the near future.

Residents on the city's northeast side dealt with yet another round of flooding. "This is bull #%*&," said

See FLOOD on other side



Left, Kevin Martin, of Hoopeston, wades through his yard at Third St. and McCracken after heavy rains hit Hoopeston Saturday. Right, a sinkhole opened up at Eighth Ave. and Washington because of the rain.

Autumn Fields
 325 E Orange St - Hoopeston | (217) 283-2222

Assisted Living Week
Sept 14-18

Please stop in all week to help us raise funds for the Hoopeston Multi-Agency Rising Leaders Program (formerly Teen Reach)
Autumn Fields will match each donation up to \$500.

Monday Sept 14
 Resident Events

Tuesday Sept 15
 10:30am: Pat Bailey from U of I Home Extension will be speaking on Mindfulness and Soul Care, plus "Working on Your Bucket List"
 1 pm: Donna Shaw Music
 2:30pm: Fiesta Social with Non-Alcoholic Margaritas sponsored by Gilman Healthcare and Walking Tacos by Autumn Fields

Wednesday Sept 16
 1:30-3pm: Wellness Clinic with booths by Gibson City Healthcare, Robinson Chiropractic, White Star Therapy and Chittick Eye Care

Thursday Sept 17
 3pm: The Blue Flames

Friday Sept 18
 8am - Noon: Red Cross Blood Drive (please RSVP 283-2222)
 6 pm: Hooterville Iron Car Show - Rockin' 50's theme (you are welcome to bring out your own classic car with an RSVP to 283-2222)

Sign UP to win a 32" HDTV
All Week



Taylor Wolfe Baker sings as opening act Flatville Road performs before John Michael Montgomery takes the stage at a concert Saturday night. The event had been set for the McFerren Park Annex but was moved to the Hoopeston Plaza parking lot because of standing water in the annex after heavy rain earlier in the day.

Flood continued from other side

Kevin Martin, wading in his yard at Third St. and McCracken.

Water ran from the east side to the west, affecting parts of Seminary Ave. and streets north, covering everything in its path, including streets and yards, and going into residents' garages and basements.

The Grand Parade was delayed for 30 minutes, to make sure the rain had moved out of the area and to give Steve Eyrich time to get parade-leading steam engine from his home at Seventh St. and Seminary, where flood waters were also swirling.

While north side residents bore the brunt of the heavy rain, all areas of Hoopeston felt some effect of the storm. On Penn, an old tree split during the deluge, while on West Washington at Eighth Ave., a sinkhole opened up. As city water workers cleared storm drains of debris, residents of the area pulled out lawn chairs to watch the work and visit with each other.

The 72nd National Sweetcorn Festival was able to continue with some modifications.

McFerren Park was a sodden mess, so straw was brought in to try to provide a dryer walking surface for festival-goers. After a few hours of foot traffic, the straw became mired in the water and dirt. On the midway, however, youngsters showed little concern for anything but the rides and games which were able to resume later in the afternoon.

Standing water in the McFerren Park Annex caused a change of venue for Saturday evening's John Michael Montgomery concert. Moving quickly, workers were able to erect the stage, lighting and portable toilets at the Hoopeston Plaza parking lot before opening act Flatville Road hit the stage.

On Sunday, workers dredged, ditched and pumped water from the annex to allow Sunday night's demo derby lineup to go on as scheduled.

Around the city, much of the floodwater had receded by late Saturday, although low-lying yards, gardens and nearby fields still had standing water Monday morning.

Thunderstorms are predicted through Wednesday.

Lunch Menus

Hoopeston Area Grade Schools

TUESDAY: Sausage pizza, salad, baby carrots, peaches
 WEDNESDAY: Chicken patty/bun, corn, applesauce, Power Punch juice, milk
 THURSDAY: Beefy fiestada, refried beans, chips & salsa, salad, pineapple, milk
 FRIDAY: Hamburger/bun, fries, cucumber slices, mixed fruit milk

Hoopeston Area Middle/High Schools

TUESDAY: Chicken wrap or ham & cheese, salad bar, corn, applesauce, milk, juice,
 WEDNESDAY: Ravioli or BBQ rib, Max Stick, salad bar, pears, milk, juice
 THURSDAY: Grilled cheese or cheeseburger, soup, salad bar, peaches, milk juice
 FRIDAY: Pizza or fish sandwich, salad bar, mixed fruit, milk, juice

Obituaries

ALDERSON - Olive M. (Hicks) Alderson, 76, of Danville, formerly of Rankin, died at 10:22 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4, 2015, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 9 a.m. until the 11 a.m. celebration of her life Wednesday at Rankin United Methodist Church. Burial will be in Rankin Union Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the church or donor's choice. Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is in charge of arrangements.

KNAPP - Lynn W. Knapp, 88, of Cissna Park, died Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2015, at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center. Visitation was 9 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Saturday at Apostolic Christian Church, Cissna Park. Burial was in Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Cissna Park. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Public Library, Heritage Health, Hoopeston or Apostolic Christian Church, Cissna Park. Among his survivors is a daughter, Darlene Medler, of Hoopeston. Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park, is in charge of arrangements.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today, tonight, tomorrow. High today 88, low 68. Tomorrow, high 79, low 59.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

9/1/2015

All items of personal property stored in unit # 87 Jerica Carrington also # 125 Sarah Zamora Tanner and #10 Adelina Vela at budget Mini Storage RT 9 and 6th Ave. Hoopeston Illinois will be disposed of 9/26/15 (per) section 95/4 of the self storage facility act 06-61

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