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Just the Facts

Friday, February 23, 2018

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Council given option to repair or raze downtown building

Hoopeston aldermen may have to decide whether to repair or raze another downtown building.

At Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting, Ald. Bill McElhaney, civic improvement committee chairman, said the council may have to make a decision about the building 205 E. Main.

While bricks in the building's façade are fine, the mortar that holds them in place has eroded over the years, McElhaney said. Loose bricks have fallen, causing the city to put up a temporary fence around the structure. The sidewalk has been blocked for about a year.

Tuck pointing the façade will cost \$7,000 to \$9,000, McElhaney told the council, adding total demolition cost would be \$25,000 to \$30,000, including disposal.

Building owner Ray Williams has been found guilty of ordinance violations in Hoopeston City Court and has been fined \$100 per day that the building is not remediated, said attorney Charles Mockbee.

Compliance officer Mike Bane said he was told there is also a lien against the property, which must be satisfied

See BUILDING on other side

The sidewalk in front of 205 E. Main remains closed to pedestrian traffic due to falling bricks from the façade. Neighboring business owners hope the problem is solved soon. See related picture on other side.

VC EMA seeks reports of significant flood damage in area

Vermilion County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) is doing a preliminary damage assessment from this week's flooding. If you live in Vermilion County and if you, family members, neighbors or anyone you know suffered significant damage to their home or business due to the recent flooding, please contact Vermilion County EMA so we can gather damage information to forward to the state for evaluation and assessment.

The only information we need includes your name, address, contact phone number and a brief description of sustained damage, such as how much water was in your



house, did your home or business suffer any structural damage, were any mechanical items such as a furnace damaged or destroyed, and most importantly, can you still stay in your home or did you have to evacuate. At this time, we are only concerned with damage to your primary home of residence, not garages, sheds, barns or other outbuildings or cars.

Contact Vermilion County EMA at (217) 443-6010, email ema2@dvccema.org or text (217) 274-2174 with information. If the phone is busy or no one answers, please leave a voice mail.

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HARBOR

Community Youth Center

907 W. Main, Hoopeston

Supported by community non-profit organizations



From the Blotter

Gage Fouse, 23, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 1:36 a.m. Wednesday to Parkview Court. A 20-year-old Hoopeston woman reported someone wearing a mask was knocking on her door, displaying a gun.

Police found Fouse, who, they allege, admitted to being at the apartment but did not have a gun.

Fouse was charged with unlawful acts constituting disorderly conduct and possession of drug paraphernalia and was released on notices to appear in Hoopeston City

Briefly

Baseball signup location change

Hoopeston youth baseball signups for boys ages 5-15 will be held from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday at Treasured Roots Flower Shop, 702 W. Main. This includes leagues from t-ball to Pony League.

Free addictions/depression class

Free addiction/depression classes are held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings with Pastor Adam at First Baptist gym. Classes will run through the end of March. A supplemental textbook, “Mood Tides” by Ron Horton, can be ordered on Amazon. For questions, call (217) 772-1390.

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include:

Tiny Tots story program, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday. For youngsters ages 0-4 who are accompanied by an

Court Dispositions

February 1

William Thomas, initial hearing, continued to March 1.

Jackie Carswell, Hoopeston, found guilty of owner’s duties, fined \$200; status check March 1.

Ron Elliott, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to general nuisance, fined \$200; status check March 1.

Vincent Dever, Hoopeston, found guilty to general nuisance, fined \$200; status check March 1.

Sherard Jones, Hoopeston, pleaded not guilty to acts constituting disorderly conduct; trial March 1.

Sherard Jones, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to restraint of dogs by owner, fined \$180; status check March 1.

Eric Gaffney, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to battery, fined \$200; status check March 1.

Michael Winland, Hoopeston, pleaded not guilty to assault; trial March 1.

Court.

Andrew W. Williamson, 28, of Danville, was arrested after police were called at 4:51 p.m. Wednesday to the 900 block of East Main for an occupied vehicle in a field.

Williamson was charged with possession of 30-500 grams of cannabis, possession with intent to deliver, driving while license suspended and failure to register sex offender.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

adult.

NYT Night (New York Times Best Sellers Book Club), 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday. For men and women. This month’s books: “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng and “Before We Were Yours” by Lisa Wingate.

For information on programs, call (217) 283-6711 or visit www.hooplib.org.

HAHS musical

Hoopeston Area High School will present the musical “Nunsense” at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday ant 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10.

Obituaries

BLACKFORD - Dale Eugene Blackford, 94, of Potomac, died at 6:53 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018, at Amber Glen Alzheimer’s Special Care Center, Urbana. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at Potomac Church of the Nazarene, 206 E. State St. Burial will follow in Partlow Cemetery, Armstrong, with military rites by Potomac American Legion Post 428 and Illinois Patriot Guard. Memorials are suggested to donor’s choice.

Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday to the 300 block of Dice for the strong smell of gas coming from inside and outside a house. Ameren was also called. Gas to the home was turned off.

Weather

Chance of rain/fog, then mostly cloudy today. High 51. Tonight, chance of showers. Low 36. Tomorrow, showers. High 51, low 37. Sunday, sunny, breezy. High 48, low 31.

Building continued from other side

before the building can be sold.

Harry Brockus, of Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation, has expressed interest in purchasing the building if the lien issue can be resolved, Mockbee said.

Ald. Alex Houmes said he doesn’t think the city should jump into the cost of tearing the building down and suggested the city hire a structural engineer to determine if the structure is sound.

Houmes, a Save the Lorraine Foundation board member, said the foundation paid \$12,000 for a structural engineer to inspect the Lorraine Theatre.

The building is a public safety issue, McElhaney said, and is also hampering other businesses in the area.

Houmes said he was approached by the owners of Bricks and Ivy Sports about whether a semi-permanent canopy can be placed on the building to catch debris instead of having the sidewalk blocked.

Also, Brian and Robin Lawson hope to open a steak house in the former Academy for the Performing Arts building at 203 E. Main, but have stopped renovations pending a solution for Williams’ building.

Saying the city should help out those businesses,



The view of the back of 205 E. Main

Houmes said the city should “either force him to take action or the city take some kind of action.”

Williams is scheduled for another appearance in Hoopeston City Court on March 1, Mockbee said.

In other business, the council:

- heard from Ald. Ryan Anderson about a resolution suggested by Fuhrman Engineering. The matter was tabled for further information.
- Also tabled was an ordinance for cable/video service provider ordinance, also for more information.

Classifieds

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

WILLDON BUILDING - Office space available. Will-donBuilding.com. Multiple size options. All utilities included in rent. Internet. Conference room. Central reception area. Dedicated restrooms. Break room.

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Experienced CDL driver with clean driving record wanted. Local haul occasional over the road work. Contact Brent @ 815 -405-4000

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is growing and needs to hire subs and aides and teachers. Requirements: if you are 18 years old, and love children, you qualify for an aide position. Teachers need to meet DCFS teacher qualifications. We want our children to learn Spanish, art, and music. Preference will be given to applicants with these skills. Call Nicole at 217-748-6370 to apply.

Greene Galvanized Stairs is accepting applications for full-time Production and Packaging positions. Fabrication and/or order fulfillment experience is a plus. Send resume to PO Box 191, East Lynn IL 60932 or jobs@greenebinstairs.com.

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