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Louridine Florek, Owner

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Social Security Administration announces the start of online video hearings this fall

The Social Security Administration announced a new service for people awaiting a hearing decision. In addition to telephone hearings, Social Security will offer the opportunity for an online video hearing using the Microsoft Teams platform beginning this fall. This new free service will allow applicants and their representatives to participate in the hearing from anywhere they have access to a camera-enabled smartphone, tablet, or computer. This stable and secure online platform allows the Social Security judge to see and interact with applicants and their representatives just like an in-person hearing, while maintaining privacy of the claimant's information. Other hearing experts, such as medical or vocational experts, may participate as well.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of finding new ways to serve the public," said Commissioner of Social Security Andrew Saul. "For over a decade, the agency has used video hearings to get applicants their hearing decisions sooner. This advancement builds on that effort, making it easier and more convenient to attend a hearing remotely, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. To continue to ensure all participants' safety, we expect online video hearings and telephone hearings will be the only two hearing options for the foreseeable future."

Social Security has been conducting appeal hearings with Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) via telephone

only since March, while offices remain closed to the public to protect the health and safety of the public and employees. The agency's ALJs have held more than 180,000 telephone hearings since March, allowing the agency to continue to deliver critical customer service.

For the new online video hearings, whether the device is a laptop, smartphone, or tablet on either iPhone or Android, people will experience a clear picture and audio of the ALJ and their representative during their hearing.

For updates on the implementation and expansion of this new hearing service, and other Social Security information, please visit the agency's COVID-19 web page at www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/.

Evans to present HHS program

Karen Evans will present the program at Hoopeston Historical Society's September 21 meeting.

Evans will speak on the Wheeler Home/Farm/School for Exceptional Children, formerly located near Reilly.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in First Christian Church fellowship hall, 502 E. Main. Enter via the Fourth St. north steps/door, next to the elevator access.

Everyone is welcome.

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Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: the following letter details an experience a reader had with online fraud. He wrote the letter hoping others might read it and not make the same mistakes he did. It is the policy of Just the Facts to print only letters to the editor that include the writer's name. The author asked that his name be withheld and in the spirit of public education, that request is being honored.

Warning - Warning - Warning

I would like to share an experience that happened recently. I received a voice mail about a charge I had with Amazon. The message said they were technical support with Amazon and that I had a charge with Amazon of \$998 for an iPhone. They were wondering if I ordered the iPhone before they charged it to me and sent it out. It so happens I just placed an order with Amazon that morning. The message gave me a number to call to verify with a four number code to give them about the order.

Of course, I called to check the situation out to see how this happened. When they answered, they said they were Amazon technical support and asked me for the code. They told me I charged \$998 for an iPhone. They asked me if I had made the charge. I told them no. Then they told me I needed to put a security code on my Amazon account and I told them I would do that later.

They then asked me which credit card I would have used to charge it. I have three credit cards for Amazon because of a business. I still didn't suspect anything about it. Then they asked what the last four digits were on the credit card I would have used. Of course, I told them. They said they didn't see the charge to that card. They asked what that card number was. I never gave it thought at that time, and gave them the number. They said that wasn't the number used for the purchase and then asked if

I could have charged it to my bank card. I told them that I don't have a bank card on file with Amazon.

It was then that I got suspicious. I told them they were not Amazon. They argued and said they were and they wanted to take the charge off for the phone. I hung up and checked my Discover card on the computer and found out I already had charges for two \$100 gift cards from Best Buy. Then the "Amazon technical support" called me back and said they did not remove the charges from my account yet. I told them they were not Amazon and not to call any more.

I called Discover immediately to cancel my card. I told a Discover representative what happened. The representative said they would turn it in to the fraud department. The Discover employee also said they had a charge for \$500 for a Wal-Mart gift card and were calling me about this charge. I said it was not my charge. They canceled that charge.

Also, a Discover representative said I already had a \$100 charge from Amazon. I told that employee that it was not mine. They said they would turn this into the fraud department also.

I contacted Amazon to let them know what happened. Amazon said they had a request for a \$100 gift card. I told Amazon what had happened and they told me they did not send out the gift card yet and they canceled the order. I called Discover back and told them Amazon took the charge off. Discover card said it would be taken off.

I thought this would be the end of this since I called Discover and reported it to the fraud department. That was not true. I just got a call from the Discover card fraud department and they told me they were not taking the \$200 off from Best Buy. I asked them why. They said since I

gave out my credit card number, it was not fraud. I did not agree and I lost. They said it was fraud to me, not to them because I gave out my card number. This just cost me \$200. Discover said to call law enforcement and report it.

Discover also told me this was not the only call they

have received about Amazon calls. I called the number back from the Amazon voice mail call number I got earlier and it was an invalid number.

Lesson learned: you never can be too careful. I was fortunate I only lost \$200.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Located on McNeil Street in Hoopeston, this two bedroom apartment has plenty to offer. With recent updates, parking and friendly neighbors you will feel right at home in this complex. You can find our application online at www.bkmgmt.com and call our office at 765-637-0208 for a showing!

HELP WANTED

Vermilion County Animal Shelter is hiring kennel workers, full and part time available! Email knyder@vercounty.org or visit www.vercounty.org/jobs_general.htm for an application.

Dogtown Heating, Air, & Plumbing is in search of an experienced HVAC technician to help serve our customers in the area. Pay based on experience. Health insurance, Life insurance, and 2 weeks paid vacation. We have a family atmosphere that serves our customers with honesty and integrity. Email brad.dogtown@gmail.com

United Prairie-Hoopeston has openings for Fall help for the following: CDL Drivers and Non-CDL. Please pick up applications at 18978 E 3850 North Rd, Hoopeston, IL 60942. For more information, please call the office, 217-888-0164 or Jordan Reese, manager, 217-918-2876.

Mechanic wanted. Experience with heavy truck, construction, and agricultural machinery preferred. Call 217-474-8349.

Cade's Heating and Air HVAC installer/ service tech. must have valid IL drivers license and EPA freon license. Please send resume to ramcade@frontier.com or 101 E Penn St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

Private in home caregiver 5 days/week from 7 to 11 for female with dementia. Hoopeston area. Must be able to use lift equipment for transfers. Call Tracey at 765 490 9642. May text for contact.

East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking full time and seasonal help. Requirements include at least a Class B CDL and ability to pass a drug test. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

Teasdale Latin Foods has immediate openings on 2nd shift in both Distribution and Manufacturing. Pay to be determined based on experience level. Stop by the Human Resources office at 215 W. Washington Street, Hoopeston, for more detail. Please no phone calls.

Aquality Solutions is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1st Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL, is offering many job opportunities for full-time and part-time positions. We offer full-time positions with a full benefit package. 1st and 2nd shifts are available. We also offer a unique opportunity to choose the schedule that fits your lifestyle - choose to work 1, 2, or 3 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and you can pick your shift. Machine Operators are needed for 1st & 2nd shift.

We are now offering a part-time flexible work schedule for Moms & Dads who want to earn extra cash during school hours, with an. 8 am - 4:30 pm schedule to fit the needs of your family.

Also:

Chemical Lab Supervisor-prior experience working in a chemical laboratory.

IT Assistant- Troubleshooting and maintaining computers and programs in the facility. Both positions are Full-time Day shift M-F with a full benefit package.

If you are interested in applying for a growing company, please apply on-line at www.full-fill.com go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

HOUSES FOR RENT

3 bedroom one level home, 1 1/2 bath, one car garage, large backyard, \$695 month call 217-304-1103

SERVICES WANTED

Looking for someone to do a deep cleaning of home, top to bottom a few times a year. And then a bi-weekly housekeeper to keep up with maintenance of floors, ceiling fans, bathrooms and kitchen. Must have references. If interested please call or text 217-474-1325

Looking for an interior house painter. Ceilings, walls and baseboards in bathrooms, kitchen, dining room, living room, hallway and stairwell. Must be licensed and insured and have references. If interested please call 217-474-1325

VEHICLE WANTED

Looking for used station wagon in good condition. Call (217) 283-9585

Obituaries

SWARTZ—Guinivere Rose “Gwen” (Shineman) Swartz, 87, of Wellington, died at 10:29 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, at Watseka Rehab. Private graveside service will be held in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to Wellington-

Greer Fire Department 2532 E 300 N Road, Wellington, IL 60973 or Prairie Green Church of Christ 278 N 2800 E Road, Hoopeston, IL 60942. Anderson Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.anderson-funeral-home.com.

From the Blotter

Police are investigating a report made at 5:56 a.m. Sunday by an 80-year-old Hoopeston woman. She reported a sign had been stolen from her yard in the 800 block of East McNeil.

Weather

Sunny today. High 76. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 52. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 80, low 58.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.