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Just the Facts

Friday, February 19, 2021

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Rossville warns residents of spike in natural gas prices, higher costs to affect Ameren, too

ROSSVILLE—Village officials are asking residents to conserve natural gas in light of spikes in prices due to freezing throughout the U.S.

Rossville has its own gas plant and purchases it from Panhandle Oil and Gas. It then resells it to residents.

the increased rates at a time coupled with problems caused by Covid-19, such as businesses being closed, people being unemployed. The

On its website, village officials posted information shared by Interstate Municipal Gas Agency (IMGA), including a press release from Riverton, IL about the price increases due to the cold.

Pritzker declares Illinois a disaster after storm wallops state

SPRINGFIELD—Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Tuesday issued a disaster proclamation for all 102 Illinois counties in response to the winter storm that featured dangerous wind chills, power outages and accumulating snow.

“egregious increase is a prime example of price gouging from the natural gas suppliers,” the release stated.

Extreme weather has resulted in frozen wells in key natural gas producing states, including Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. The sub-zero temperatures are resulting in increased demand and decreased supply, causing natural gas prices to spike. Utility companies across the nation are reporting soaring wholesale costs, and without federal intervention, those increased prices could result in higher utility bills for Illinois residents in the coming weeks.

Those communities, and many others that provide natural gas to residents, are asking residents to contact state and local officials, requesting help in resolving the price increase.

According to the Riverton release, dated February 13, the price for natural gas in the village prior to February 12 was about \$3 per dekatherm. On Friday, the price spiked to a high of \$600 per dekatherm before closing at \$224.56 per dekatherm. The press release said the increase between Friday and Saturday was a 7,500 percent bump but did not list the Saturday rate. “We will spend more for natural gas over those four days that we will spend the other 361 days this year combined,” the release said.

“Proper home heating is a critical issue during the winter months, and over time has proven deadly for many families,” said IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. “If using an alternative heating source during this extreme weather, take a moment to ensure that your carbon monoxide detector is working properly. The proper safety precautions can save lives during extreme weather.”

IEMA is offering the following tips to help households conserve energy while keeping winter safety a priority:
Winterize your home to extend your fuel supply:

- Insulate walls and attics
- Caulk and weatherize doors and windows
- Hang blankets over windows at night but let the sunshine in during the day
- Cover cracks around doors with rugs, newspapers, towels or other such material

Customers may contact officials about the price increase at:

When at home, safely conserve energy:

- Stay indoors in a heated room as much as possible
- If you have no heat, close doors and vents in unused rooms and shut the doors
- Turn down your home's thermostat just a few degrees and bundle up with layers or a thick blanket
- Lower the temperature on your home water heater a few degrees

Sen. Dick Durbin
(217) 492-4062
www.durbin.senate.gov/contact/email

Sen. Tammy Duckworth
(217) 528-6124
www.duckworth.senate.gov/connect/email-tammy

Congresswoman Mary Miller
(217) 703-6100

See DISASTER on other side

See GAS on other side

Riverton officials, in the release, said the arctic cold front causing the extreme frigid temperatures across the entire Midwest and eastern portion of the country was also affecting Texas and Oklahoma with ice storms and potential wellhead freeze offs. This is causing unprecedented natural gas usage. As a result, pipeline companies declared an emergency and placed a restriction on the pipeline. This extremely high natural gas usage, along with pipeline restrictions, is having a direct impact on natural gas prices, which “have surged to record highs.”

Ameren is also recommending its customers conserve resources to save on their bills, as well.

What Rossville customers will have to pay for February natural gas will not be known until the end of the month, but, fearing sticker shock, leaders are asking residents to reduce gas usage during the next week to help offset the cost.

IMGA is holding frequent remote meetings with Rossville and other members of the nonprofit joint action agency providing natural gas services throughout the Midwest.

The Riverton press release outlines hardships caused by



Elect **Mike Bane** Mayor

Paid for by the committee to elect Mike Bane Mayor

Briefly

Bulk garbage day

Bulk garbage day will be held from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday at Hoopston City Hall parking lot. Beginning this Saturday, everyone who wishes to dispose of items must present photo identification with a current street address. Residents are limited to one load per bulk day and must unload their own load or bring someone to help.

Dumping of electronics, appliances, paint, liquids, tires, batteries, yard waste, construction/demolition material or

Disaster continued from other side

- Avoid using large appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines, or dryers
- Reverse your ceiling fan to turn clockwise, producing an updraft that will move the warm air that collects near your ceiling down to the rest of the room
- If using alternative heat from a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc., use safeguards and ensure proper ventilation to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning

Over the next few days, Pritzker encourages all Illinoisans to check on their neighbors, especially elderly neighbors who may need assistance.

Statistics show 46 percent of individuals expect to rely on the people in their neighborhood for assistance within the first 72 hours after an emergency or disaster. If you are unable to get in touch with your neighbor, or if you are worried, please contact your local law enforcement for a welfare check.

More tips are available in a [Winter Weather Preparedness Guide](#) developed by IEMA and the National Weather Service, available at [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](#).

Gas continued from other side

Email: mary.miller@mail.house.gov

President Joe Biden

(202) 456-1111

[www.whitehouse.gov/contact/](#)

IL Attorney General Kwame Raoul

(217) 782-1090

[illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/about/email_ag.jsp](#)

Governor J B Pritzker

(217) 782-6830

[www2.illinois.gov/.../Pages/VoiceAnOpinion.aspx](#)

IL Rep Tom Bennett

(815) 432-0106

Email: bennett@ilhousegop.org

IL Sen. Jason Barickman

(217) 782-6597

Email: jason@jasonbarickman.org

anything that fits in the provided blue totes will not be allowed. Items from apartments with a dumpster will not be allowed and items from businesses and contractors will not be permitted.

From the Blotter

Chase R. Hensley, 25, of Hoopston, was arrested at 10:16 a.m. Wednesday at North Ninth Ave. and West Young. Charged with violation of an order of protection, he was also wanted on a Vermilion County warrant. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await a hearing.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 4:13 p.m. Wednesday at West Washington and Third Ave. Police said Fernando Rivera-Rojas, 20, of Hoopston, in a 2005 Honda, tried to yield at the intersection, slid on the ice and struck a 2008 Ford driven by Heather Benschneider, 31, of Hoopston.

Obituaries

HICKMAN - Amber Michelle Hickman, 34, of Covington, Ind., died at 9:30 a.m. (EST) Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021, at home. Visitation will be 2 p.m. until the 3 p.m. celebration of her life Sunday at Morningstar Church, Rossville. She will be cremated. Memorials are suggested to the family to help with funeral expenses. Blurton Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Condolences may be left at [www.blurtonfuneralhomes.com](#).

MUSK - Alice Musk, 97, of Hoopston, died at 12:40 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, 2021, at Heritage Health, Hoopston. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopston.

NIELSEN - Adeline M. Nielsen, 92, formerly of Milford, died Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at Gilman Health Care. Visitation will be noon until the 1 p.m. funeral Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka. Private graveside service will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, Woodworth. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Condolences may be left at [www.knappfuneralhomes.com](#).

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 17. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low -1. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 24, low 17. Sunday, mostly cloudy, chance of snow. High 34, low 24.

For real time Hoopston weather, visit [justthefacts.net/weather/](#).

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 bedroom first floor apartment, washer & dryer hook up, fresh paint, garbage paid, \$500 month 217-495-2274

HELP WANTED

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is looking to hire 2-3 part time assistant teachers. Requirements include: 18 years of age or older, High School Diploma or GED, College credits are preferred but not mandatory for the right candidate, willing to undergo a background check and fingerprinting, flexible and able to work as early as 6:30 a.m. and as late as 5:30 p.m., and have reliable transportation. Please email Nicole Gregory at mustardseed.christiandaycare@gmail.com for application information.

Part time (30 hrs./wk) property manager for 55 single-family home rental community. \$11-\$14/hr. Looking for a self-starter with good communication skills, committed, reliable, punctual, able to work independently. Tax Credit and Yardi experience preferred but can train. Send resume to acox@thinkcrestline.com.

Fast Lanes is looking for experienced kitchen help. Time is from 4-usually about 9. If interested and willing to learn our system please contact Doug or Rachel at 283-6505.

Wagner's, LLC, Milford, is hiring production workers, forklift drivers. Apply at 2812 E. 1100 N Rd., or call (815)-889-4101.

The City of Hoopston is accepting applications for a Code Enforcement Officer. This is a part-time position with flexible hours working approximately 40 hours per month. Applications are available on our website [www.cityofhoopston.com](#) under the Services link then Employment. Contact City Hall, 217-283-5833, for more information.

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. Interested candidates can apply online at [silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/11205/0](#)

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL, is offering many job opportunities for full-time, with a full benefit package, and part-time positions. 1st and 2nd shifts available. Choose the schedule that fits your lifestyle - 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 offer 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.

Please apply on-line at [www.full-fill.com](#) go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

Driver w/CDL needed. Home every night. Trips within 100 miles of Hoopston. (217) 304-1943.

Autumn Fields of Hoopston is looking for CNAs part time hours, every other weekend and shared holidays. Please call Autumn Fields @ 217-283-2222

KSii in Cissna Park is seeking a qualified Controls Technician for project site startups and in-field customer training for controls systems. The ideal candidate will possess excellent communication, electrical, technical, and troubleshooting skills. An understanding of PLCs and HMI applications is preferred. Travel is required. Apply online at [www.ksiedge.com](#) or send resume to hr@ksiedge.com.

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

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., Hoopston IL 60942.

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, Hoopston, 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 Hoopston or call us at 855-692-7824.

HOUSES FOR RENT

Rossville: 3 bdrm, 1 bth, C/A, full bsmt, 1 car det garage. Newer repl. windows. energy efficient. \$800/mo. plus sec depos. Close to grade school & day care. Will consider section 8. 217-304-2247

HOUSES FOR SALE

1 BR, 1 bath, large garage, new roof. Corner lot. Asking \$35,000 firm. Call (217) 260-6131 for details.

SERVICES WANTED

Part time caregiver for elderly man with early dementia. Send resume to P.O. Box 85, East Lynn IL 60932 or email to publish@justthefacts.net.

**Email publish@justthefacts.net
or call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad!**