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Just the Facts

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

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 Lourdine Florek, Owner

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Left, Fire Chief Joel Bird and Troy Stevens, front right, discuss fire safety to newer firefighters during training Saturday. Right, flames engulf an empty house on North Market.

House burn provides training for Hoopeston, Wellington-Greer, Bismarck departments

It's not every day a person sees firemen milling about, joking and taking sips of bottled water while thick smoke rolls from a house.

But that was the scene shortly after 8 a.m. Saturday as Hoopeston firemen, along with those from Wellington-Greer and Bismarck, converged on the 800 block of North Market for a training exercise.

As firemen enjoyed the cool, sunny morning, a filled and lit pot stove in the house began churning out smoke, which eventually oozed its way under doors and through gaps between the sidewalls and roof. Once the house - at 812 N. Market - was barely visible, it was game on for the firefighters.

The men - and Hoopeston's sole women firefighter - got real life training in entering a building, air pack use, searching for people and other fire skills. "This provides

invaluable training," said Joel Bird, Hoopeston fire chief. Because it was not an actual emergency, Bird and his seasoned firemen could spend time explaining to newer members of the department in what to expect and what to do.

Under watchful eyes, newer volunteers lined up along a hose and, one by one, began entering the smoky chamber. Some remembered to crouch down as they entered to get under the smoke for better visibility. Entering through the front door, the line made its way through the house to the back door and then outside and fresh air.

Throughout the exercise a high-pitched squealing noise was often heard. While the sound was annoying, its purpose was for fireman safety. A device on each air pack would sound if the wearer did not make enough movement to keep it from going off, Bird said. Once beeping

started, wiggling a bit was enough to silence it. If a fireman was injured, the air pack monitor would go from beeping to a steady whine, indicating help was needed.

The packs also indicate when the oxygen bottle is running low. Full bottles last for 30 minutes, but in actual fires, stress, exertion and individual firemen's breathing patterns can shorten it to 15 minutes or so, said Bird, who recently marked 20 years on the department and has served as chief since September 2014.

Firefighters have another safety measure as part of their gear. Each fireman has a radio with which to communicate with each other. Each radio has a red button which, if pushed, opens all lines, including one to Hoopeston dispatch to let all know that a firefighter needs help.

During Saturday's exercise, as firemen were training on

See TRAINING on other side

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Training continued from other side

what to look for in a building. Jared Rayls, who was manning the truck controls, kept his eyes on the condition of the fire from the outside. When the gray smoke turned to an angry black and flaming increased, Rayls, using the truck's siren and horn, alerted firemen that conditions had worsened and they needed to exit the structure.

Obituaries

YERGLER - Elizabeth J. (Leman) Yergler, 93, of Cissna Park, died June 18, 2022, at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park, and 9 a.m. until the 10 a.m. funeral Thursday at Christian bible Church, Cissna Park. Burial will be in Cissna Park Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the church. Condolences may be shared at www.knappfuneralhomes.com.

Fire Calls

While on patrol, Hoopeston police officers saw a fire at 9:09 p.m. Monday in the 600 block of West Elm and called for Hoopeston Fire Department to respond. Thad A. Finnell, 29, of Hoopeston, was issued a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court for illegal burning.

Briefly

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library include: Thursday's Oceans of Possibilities summer reading club will feature "Ten Splishy, Splashy Fish" for kids ages 4-8 at 1 p.m., with a coloring mat craft; "Totally Wacky Facts about Sea Animals from 2-3 p.m. for youngsters ages 9-12, with a ceramic sea animal craft; and "Water, Water Everywhere" activity and craft, for grades 6-12, 1 p.m.

Membership picnic

Area women are invited to Hoopeston Area Women Making A Difference membership drive picnic at 6 p.m. Tuesday June 28. For meeting place and information email us at hoopestonwmd@yahoo.com.

Weather

Slight chance of isolated thunderstorms today, then mostly sunny. High 89. tonight, mostly clear. Low 63. Tomorrow, sunny. High 88, low 64.

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

Rayls is responsible for creating a new piece of equipment used at Saturday's fire. The water wall is a piece of pipe with holes in it that connects to a fire house. In use, it looks like an oscillated sprinkler that isn't oscillating and it's purpose is to move heat and smoke upwards to help keep nearby structures safe.

Rayls, who works in Indiana, and has seen a water wall in action, made one for Hoopeston's squad. Asked after the exercise what he thought, he thought it worked well enough but "I should have made the holes smaller to increase the pressure," he said.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Rossville Family Restaurant is accepting applications for servers. Primarily evening shifts on the weekends. Apply in person.

The City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for a full-time water department employee.

Requirements:

Valid Driver's License

Class B CDL with airbrake endorsement or ability to obtain one

High School diploma or equivalent

A positive attitude and willingness to learn

Strong work ethic

Punctuality and attendance is important for this position. There is opportunity for advancement with the proper training and certification. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. or www.cityofhoopeston.com/employment

The Frederick Community Bank in Cissna Park is in need of a Customer Account Representative. Applicant must have skills interacting with customers, ability to handle various transactions accurately, and be part of a team environment. The position available may be part-time or full-time. If you are interested, please mail your resume to The Frederick Community Bank, PO Box 36, Cissna Park, IL 60924, or pick up an application from the receptionist in Cissna Park.

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 St. in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

Seeking a bartender for weekdays and nights. Possibly a weekend day. Our hours are from 7a-7p. Must have a Bassett and Food handlers Cert within 30 days. Stop by Hubbard Trail Country Club or call 217-748-6521.

Silgan Containers is hiring for Press Line Mechanics. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12464/0

Silgan Containers is hiring for an Electrician-Industrial/

According to tax records, the house was purchased in 2021 by Ross Swartz, of Wellington, who gave it to his wife, Diane. The house had been her childhood home but had deteriorated in recent years. The Swartzes approved the use of the structure for training purposes.

Earlier this year, the Swartzes purchased the lot north of 812 N. Market, which also had a dilapidated house on it. They since razed that building.

Once the Market St. house was razed, firemen moved to the 200 block of East Wyman for more training on another building.

Maintenance position. Please apply online at: silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/12406/0

City of Hoopeston Police Department is taking applications for certified police officers/part time certification is recognized. Applications will be ongoing; no deadline applies for certified officers.

Full-Fill Industries in Henning is HIRING! Apply at www.full-fill.com/employmentopportunities Applications available onsite. EOE

East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking a full time applicator. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

NOTICES

The City of Hoopeston is accepting bids for the 50/50 sidewalk program. Bid specs may be picked up at City Hall, 301 W Main St., or the Street and Alley Department, 434 W Penn St. Bids must be dropped off at City Hall and are due by 9 am Thursday, June 30, 2022. Bid opening will be held at City Hall on Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 10 am. For questions, please contact City Hall 217-283-5833.

Publication Dates:

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

RUMMAGE SALES

RANKIN: 40715 N 770 East Rd. (across from East Lynn Cemetery) Sat. June 25-July 2. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Estate/Moving/Downsizing Sale. AC WD 45 tractor, (good condition), 2000 Chrysler Sebring convertible, family size propane grill, table & 5 chairs, 1960 bedroom set, 110 A/C unit, roll top desk, end tables, coffee tables, nice men's suits, flat screen TVs (1 lg., 1 med.) much more!

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