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**Just the Facts** Lourdine Florek, Owner  
**Monday, July 16, 2018**  
*Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!*  
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942 [www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## Fire chief: over-zealous hydrant testing triggered boil order

Oops.  
 Last Monday's testing of fire hydrants caused low pressure in the water system, resulting in a boil order that lasted into Wednesday.  
 Firefighters were on the northeast side of Hoopeston. One group had difficulties shutting down a hydrant while those ahead continued opening them. "We opened too many at one time," said Fire Chief Joel Bird. The process drained a great deal of water from the aerial tower, result-

ing in the pressure drop.  
 The procedure used Monday was new, an effort to keep from breaking mains, which has happened during previous years' tests. By opening and closing hydrants, the plan was to keep pressure off of the mains. "We got a little over-zealous," Bird said. "We take full responsibility."  
 Another issue is the age difference between fire trucks  
**See TESTING on other side**



**Up on the roof**  
 Hoopeston firefighters prepare to leave the roof of a house at 827 E. Seminary. The fire department was called to the house fire at 3:35 p.m. Thursday and again at 6:35 a.m. Friday after it rekindled. No injuries were reported. Rossville Area Fire Department was also called to the fire.

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**Eric Maples**, 36, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 2:25 p.m. Thursday at 1022 W. Penn. Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

A **33-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 7:25 p.m. Thursday that the back window of his vehicle was broken out. The damage occurred in the 500 block of North Third St.

**Nathaniel Laird**, 41, of Watseka, will be mailed traffic tickets after a hit-and-run accident at 4:44 p.m. Thursday at Market and Orange.

Police said Laird, in a 2004 Chevrolet van, hit a stop sign, and then left the scene. He was cited for improper lane usage, leaving the scene of an accident with property damage and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

### Fire Calls

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 11:32 p.m. Friday to the 500 block of South Dixie Hwy. for a report of smoke behind a building. A small fire in a burn barrel was found and extinguished by firefighters.

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## From the Blotter

A **black LG** cell phone was found Friday on East Lincoln. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

**Isidro Morales-Gonzales**, 31, of Indianapolis, Ind., was arrested after a traffic stop at 11:27 p.m. Friday in the 100 block of North Market. Found not to have a valid driver's license, he was also charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Morales-Gonzales was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment and issued

### Testing continued from other side

and the city's water system. The department's oldest truck is a 1991 model, while some of the city's water mains are vintage 1890, he said.

Firemen test hydrants because city water employees are busy with other water-related tasks and don't have time to test each one. As they find hydrants that don't open or won't work, firemen notify the water/sewer department, which then replaces hydrants.

The benefit of doing the testing themselves is that in the event of a fire, firefighters know which hydrants work and which don't. For example, when the Dyer mansion caught fire in August 2015, firemen knew the hydrant at Fifth St. and Honeywell was not working and immediately hooked hoses to the hydrant at Fourth St., saving valuable time.

Another benefit of firemen doing the testing is they can use the information in reports to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The ISO sets specifications for various organizations, such as fire departments, which are ranked by their scores on ISO benchmarks. Those rankings affect homeowner insurance rates; by keeping records on testing, Hoopeston Fire Department helps keep insurance rates lower than they otherwise would be.

Testing also provides a chance to educate newer firefighters and serve as a refresher to more seasoned members.

The department will do more testing beginning at 6 p.m. July 16 and 23 and, if needed, on July 30. Bird said groups of two to four firemen will be more spread out than they were last week. "They won't be on consecutive streets," he said.

### Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today. High 85. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 64. Tomorrow, sunny. High 83, low 58.

a notice to appear in Vermilion County traffic court.

**Two juveniles**, ages 14 and 17, were arrested after officers on patrol found several youngsters in the area of Honeywell School at 12:26 a.m. Saturday.

The juveniles were charged with possession of cannabis, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of alcohol and were released to guardians on notices to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

## Briefly

### Public hearing set on street closure

Hoopeston Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Monday, July 16 to hear comments about a request to close Lincoln St. from First Ave. to the railroad tracks. Teasdale Foods officials requested the closure for employee safety and increased parking.

The meeting will be held at 4 p.m. at City Hall, 301 W. Main St.

### JGHS Class of '53 reunion

Reminder for the JGHS Class of 1953: the 65th class reunion will be on Saturday, July 21 at 1 p.m. at the American Legion. Friends of the class may visit at 3 p.m.

## Classifieds

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