Hoopeston Fire Department postpones ball/bash to May 30

Hoopeston Fire Department’s annual Firemen’s Ball - originally scheduled for May 2 - is being postponed in hopes that it will be able to be held at all this year.

The rescheduled date is May 30, one month past the current shelter-in-place order decreed by Gov. JB Pritzker, as a means to slow the spread of the Chinese coronavirus.

If Pritzker’s order is not extended, times and places for the department’s raffle and ball will be the same.

The band, 90’s Daughter, scheduled to perform on the canceled date, will play on May 30.

If the shelter-in-place order is extended, Hoopeston Fire Department will do a live drawing for the prize money and there will be no bash or ball. Since the event is a fundraiser, there will be no refunds of ticket prices.

The Firemen’s Ball dates back to 1926, a devastating date in Hoopeston’s history. It was on Thursday, February 25, 1926 that the original city hall and fire department, located at Seminary and North Market, in the footprint of the current fire station and former White Elephant. The Hoopeston Firemen’s Ball was started after both city buildings were destroyed by fire in 1926.

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See FIRE on other side.
**Vermilion County logs eighth confirmed case of COVID-19**

A person in his 30s has the eighth confirmed case of COVID-19 in Vermilion County. The case was announced Friday by Doug Toole, County Health Administrator, who said the person was not hospitalized.

The person was visited by a relative from Indiana, who has also tested positive for COVID-19, Toole said.

**From the Blotter**

Michel Abbott, 51, of Hoopeston, was arrested after officers tried to make contact with him about an outstanding Vermillion County warrant.

Police made contact with Abbott at 3:34 p.m. Sunday at Sixth St. and Main. After a short foot pursuit, he was caught. A search turned up methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia, police said.

Abbott was charged on the warrant, along with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting a peace officer. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

**Fire continued from other side**

Hoopeston Evening Times reported a fire earlier that day had destroyed Hoopeston’s city building, which housed both city hall and the fire station. Believed to have started shortly after 4 a.m. by a battery charger, the fire was connected to a fire truck, the fire completely destroyed the building, located at the corner of North Market and Semi-Tree.

An unidentified prisoner held in the jail was released several seconds before the cells were engulfed in flames. Firemen were unable to fight the fire, as most of the firemen were already dispatched to the 700 block of East Main, where, they allege, Edwards was making a scene.

He was charged with breach of peace on a complaint from a 27-year-old Hoopeston man and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

**Tickets still available**

A limited number of tickets for this year’s Firemen’s Ball/Cash Bash are still available and can be obtained from Olympic Hardware, by contacting any fireman, or calling DJ Joe at 217-304-2461.

Each ticket is $100 and includes entry into the ball and drawings for cash prizes of $100 to $4,500, based on 3000 tickets sold.

Money raised was to be used to purchase additional equipment for the trucks, but in light of the fire, money from the 300 tickets sold, for $1 each, was instead earmarked for immediately purchasing new equipment.

The initial Firemen’s Ball featured music by Satan’s Red Devils, a local orchestra. A Charleston contest, open to all dancers, was also scheduled.

Danville Fire Department loaned a truck to Hoopeston and repairs completed, Hoopeston’s only remaining fire truck was returned. On February 27, 1926, new equipment for that truck began arriving.

Mayor Donald J. McFerren and Robert D. Kimberlin were instrumental in funding the city and fire department through the aftermath of the fire.

**Weather**

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

**Obituaries**

**EVITTS**  - Jerry W. Evitts, 72, of Hoopeston, died at 5:17 p.m. Friday, April 10, 2020, at home. Private grave-sid service will be held at Hall Funeral Home, Hoopeston. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Burial will be at a later date. Arrangements are by Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

**REDINBO**  - Sandra Kay “Sandy” (Thomas) Redinbo, 80, of West Lafayette, Ind., formerly of Hoopeston, died at 7:40 a.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at University Place, West Lafayette. Due to current health concerns, private family graveside service will be held. A visitation of fam-ily and friends will be held at the funeral home, in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.BlurtonFuneralHomes.com.

**YBARRA**  - Ambrosio Ybara Sr., 69, of Rossville, died Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He will be cremated and a memorial service held at a later date. Blurton Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is in charge of arrangements.

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