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GROWMARK FOUNDATION, WARRENSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

GIFT TO HELP SAVE LIVES



DONNETTE BECKETT PHOTOS, HERALD & REVIEW

Representing a victim, Chris Faith was placed in the bin of corn while Warrensburg volunteer firefighters, Gage Jones, right, and Brycen Stock, left, learn how to rescue him.

Department gets grain rescue tube, auger from Growmark Foundation

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WARRENSBURG — The Warrensburg Fire Department received an early Christmas present of a grain rescue tube.

As corn surrounded him up to his waist, volunteer firefighter Chris Faith was one of the first to test out the new equipment Saturday at the Warrensburg Fire Department. “All you do is sink down,” he said. “It gets tight around your legs. You can’t move your legs at all.”

Faith worked at a grain elevator and understands the importance of farm safety. “I’ve been in that type of situation, up to my knees though,” he said. “That was my first time all the way up to my waist.”

Firefighters from local departments, including Harristown, Latham, Kenney, Hickory Point, and South Wheatland, received hands-on experience through the simulators as well as classroom instructions.

Through the rural fire department grapevine, the gift-giver, Growmark Foundation, found Warrensburg as the ideal recipient in a centrally located fire department. “But it’s the same setup as Decatur,” Warrensburg Fire Chief Keith Hackl said about a similar grain rescue tube. “So we can add to that and build one bigger, and make more work space inside the tube.”

The rescue tube is only part of the gift. An auger was added to the list of the equipment as well as instructions on how to use the accessories and how to cut holes in the grain bin to aid in the rescue of a victim.

“We want to have a positive ending to it,” Hackl said about the rescues. “But it doesn’t always



Latham volunteer firefighter Gaven Baker, right, and Warrensburg Assistant Chief Lloyd Buckley, left, learn how to assemble the grain rescue tube around victim and Latham firefighter Hayden Morris, center.

happen that way.”

A grain bin can hold approximately 20,000 bushels of corn. Warrensburg’s last grain bin fatality was nearly 20 years ago, Hackl said. The district covers 86-square-miles. “We have a lot of farm ground,” Hackl said.

An average rescue time, from the initial call to the rescue, can take approximately three hours, according to the instructors.

Instructions for the class were given by Dan Neenan, the director of the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety. He is also a paramedic.

“The importance of providing rescue tubes to volunteer fire departments lies in equipping them with the tools necessary to rescue individuals trapped

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US | DATA CENTERS

‘Cautionary tale’ plays out in DC suburbs

Virginia county’s data center boom brings wealth; regrets follow

CHRISTOPHER CANN
USA Today

No place embraced the digital economy more than Loudoun County.

Long known as the wealthiest county in the United States, thanks to its proximity to Washington, D.C., and major government contractors, the county became a leader in the global data center boom. Companies flocked to the area for its extensive fiber network and fast-track approval process.

The region is home to more than 230 data center buildings, what the county describes as the largest concentration of computing hubs on the planet. The facilities consume enough electricity to power more than 2.2 million homes. Transmission lines tower over homes, and several hyperscale data centers are under construction.

“The growth there has been staggering,” said Terry Clower, a professor of public policy at George Mason University.

Many residents are troubled by the construction rate and worry the county is too reliant on the money the industry brings in. Some also raise concerns about noise, pollution and their property values.

“Our residents have had enough,” said Juli Briskman, a member of the county board of supervisors who called for a moratorium. “It’s gone too far.”

Data center capital

In the 1990s, America Online and UUNet, one of the world’s largest internet providers, established their global headquarters in Loudoun, spurring a wave of development. Within a few years, half the world’s web traffic moved through the county, estimates suggest.

After the dot-com bubble burst,

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ELECTION 2026

High court again sides with Trump on campaign ads

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, for the second time, sided with the Trump administration in a dispute over radio and television advertising rates that could help the GOP maintain control of Congress in the November elections.

The justices on Thursday blocked for now an effort by a lower court to stop what that appeals court called “gamesmanship” by the federal agency that regulates the airways.

The Richmond-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the Federal Communications Commission was intentionally delaying acting on Democratic candidates’ objections to a new policy in order to prevent the courts from weighing in before the midterm elections.

The appeals court on Wednesday gave the FCC two days to issue its decision.

The Supreme Court paused that order at the request of the Trump administration, issuing a temporary decision that stops the immediate deadline. The justices asked Democrats to respond to the administration’s

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