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Monday, June 28, 2004

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

www.justthefacts.net

Good, bad highlights mark man's law enforcement career

Two things stand out in Roger Beaty's mind about his 21 years with the Hoopeston Police Department. One involves bringing someone into the world, the other took a man out of society.

The first incident occurred early in Beaty's career, about a year or year and a half after he started. It was about 3 a.m. one Monday morning when Beaty, who was working by himself, was dispatched to a house on Front St. There he found a woman lying on the floor,

Five generations turned out Friday for Roger Beaty's retirement open house at Hoopeston City Hall. Pictured are, from left, Beaty's grandfather, John Neal, mother Ruth

Beaty, Roger Beaty, daughter Holly (Beaty) Baker and granddaughter Kali Baker.

legs in the air, in hard labor. Beaty radioed thendispatcher Earlene Longfellow that he needed an ambulance but help didn't arrive quickly enough. "I got to deliver a baby boy," Beaty said.

The second incident occurred in the mid 1990s when, while on routine patrol, Beaty found a man sleeping in the bushes at Jerry's IGA. The man turned out to have killed his mother, father and grandmother in Gary, Ind., then burned the house. Thanks to Beaty, the man

was returned to Gary, convicted and sentenced to 150 years in prison.

Beaty began his duties on the force on May 23, 1983 after having worked at General Motors in Danville. He was laid off and had gone to the unemployment office where he heard about an opening on the department. "I tell everybody the unemployment office sent me here," he said, laughing. "It's the truth."

During his career, Beaty has enjoyed helping people who really need it. He also liked the changing nature of the job. "It was like going to the circus," he said. "You never knew what your were going to see."

Like other officers, his least favorite calls



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by the owner Thursday.

with him.

Police News

disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 35-year-old Hoopeston man who alleged Smith threatened him.

Smith was released on a notice to appear.

A 20-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Friday that someone broke into her front door and scattered numerous items on the floor. The burglary occurred in the 700 block of East Maple.

Marvin M. Hofer, 49, of 528 W. Elm, was arrested at 3:07 a.m. Saturday in the 500 block of West Elm. Hofer was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 43-year-old Hoopeston woman who alleged Hofer hit her in the head with his fist, and when

she fell to the floor, choked her.

Hofer was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

A 50-year-old man reported Saturday that someone took his check book and undisclosed amount of money from his van while it was parked in the 500 block of North Fourth St. The rear view mirror and wiper blade were also damaged.

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Obituaries

HUCKLEBY - William Marshall Huckleby, 65, of Milford died at 5:35 a.m. Thursday, June 24, 2004 at his daughter's home in Sidell. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was 5-8 p.m. Sunday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the William Marshall Huckleby Memorial Fund.

The camera found June 10 at McFerren Park was claimed

Jodie C. Foster, 33, of 400 Ave. A., Danville, was arrested

Brian L. Smith. 29, of 719 E. Seminary, was arrested at 8

at 1 p.m. Thursday at Parkview Court. Foster was charged with battery

and unlawful acts constituting disorderly conduct on a complaint from

a 39-year-old Hoopeston man who alleged Foster was in an altercation

p.m. Friday in the 500 block of North Fourth St. He was charged with

Foster was released on a notice to appear.

WESTON - Lena M. Eston, 89, of Hoopeston died at 8:20 p.m. Wednesday, June 23, 2004 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Funeral services were Saturday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial was in Rossville Cemetery, Rossville. Visitation was held prior to the funeral Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home.

were

See LAW on other side

Law continued from other side

domestic incidents and bar fights, but especially "anything involving kids was probably the worst," he said.

The 50-year-old Beaty had a reputation on the department for his laid back demeanor no matter what situation he had to handle. "There's no sense getting excited," he said. "Whatever had happened had happened. I tried to make whatever's bad better. Being hysterical about it was not going to help much."

While retired from the department, Beaty has not been idle. He works part time at Lowe's in Danville, mostly in the tools and hardware department.

For the last six years, he has served as a deputy coroner. His commission expires in February 2005 and Beaty said he will probably not renew it. "I've enjoyed helping the families," he said. "I tried to take care of bad situations. I've seen enough."

He and his bride, Vickie, plan a trip to Bristol, Tenn., this summer to take in a NASCAR race and possibly check out Civil War sites, another of Beaty's interests. This summer, he plans to welcome daughter, Shannon, home from Germany and send stepson Jimmy

New Books at the Library



Fiction:

The City and the Ship by Anne McCaffrey (science fiction)

As Long as We Both Shall Live by Lurlene McDaniel (young adult)

The New Rules of High School by Blake Nelson (young adult)

Land of My Heart by Tracie Peterson (inspirational) Vernon God Little by D.B.C. Pierre

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today. High 76. Tonight mostly clear. Low 54. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 80, low 59.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

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HOUSES FOR SALE

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