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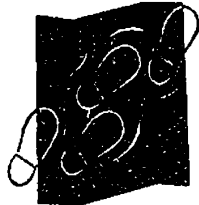
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Lourdine Osborne
editor

just the facts

Friday, Feb. 4, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Drug arrests fund local police computer system

Hoopeston drug users and dealers who have been arrested are making it easier for police to nab other criminals.

The Illinois Forfeiture Law, which allows local law enforcement agencies to confiscate money or possessions of convicted drug dealers and users, has enabled the Hoopeston police department to begin computerizing its operations.

Officer Chuck Moyer is coordinating the computerization process, which is still in the early stages.

The department purchased computer, printer and programs with \$1,000 confiscated in drug arrests, said officer Chuck Moyer, who is coordinating the computerization. Equipment was purchased locally at the Computer Works.

"The idea of the computer is we're going to be able to store all the records," Moyer said. "It will

be faster. It saves us time and that's the name of the game."

The police department's entry into the computer age is starting small, with only one station, but Moyer hopes future drug arrests will allow two to three additional stations for investigations and juvenile cases.

Eventually, the system will be able to track criminals from the initial arrest throughout the judicial process.

Moyer is currently creating computerized versions of forms the police department already uses, from arrest records to crime history reports.

In the future, Moyer hopes to develop a program that will electronically provide information on individual addresses in town, such as the number of calls police have answered at a particular place.

See "COMPUTER" on other side

Calendar sales pick up from slow start; drawings begin

Drawings for winners in the 1994 Hoopeston Music Booster calendar sales began last Friday as total sales near the 1,000 mark.

Winners will be announced weekly in *Just the Facts* and on cable channel 4 in Hoopeston.

Reaching the 1,000 target had been more difficult this year, said Nancy Luke of the Music Boosters, although sales picked up significantly in the last three weeks through contact with previous winners.

This year's calendar is larger and includes more student pictures. Also added this year are coupons from local merchants, worth more than the \$25

price tag on the calendars. Birthdays of music teachers in the Hoopeston Area district are also noted.

Fifty dollar winners are drawn daily except weekends. A winner on the last Saturday of each month receives \$250. Proceeds pay winners and purchase materials for students in all HA music programs, including the elementary, junior high and high school levels.

To purchase a calendar or make a donation to the Music Boosters, call Cliff or Nancy Luke at 283-5516 or Jerry and Linda Bird at 283-5309.

More *Just the Facts* on the other side

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Limit one entry per person

Computer continued from other side

An additional program allows Moyer to reconstruct building floor plans of crime scenes on the computer, then show them in three-dimensional fashion. Streets can also be recreated with the program for accident reports, "which makes it a little bit easier," Moyer said.

The computer system will also be able to check spelling and grammar on reports and will generate identification numbers for cases, eliminating duplication.

All officers will eventually use the computer system. Some are now using training aids to familiarize themselves with the system.

Changing from a typewriter to a computer will not be easy, Moyer admitted. "Most of the guys are going to be nervous about it," he said. "I'm nervous about. To be honest, I don't know how everybody feels about it. They seem interested." Moyer believes by the time the police station

moves to its new headquarters in the former IGA building, using the computer "will pretty much be second nature to them."

Moyer stressed that no tax money was used for the system. "It was bought by people we arrested who've broken the law," he said.

The forfeiture law, in effect approximately two years, allows law enforcement agencies to seize money or property following conviction on drug offenses. "When we have a case, we send it to the state's attorney, who forwards it to the appellate court," Moyer said. A hearing is then held to determine if the law enforcement agency will receive the money or property.

City officials have been helpful in implementing the computer program, especially Chief Orval Kaag and Mayor Bob Ault. "They supported this," Moyer said. "They offered their guidance and assistance, which is really appreciated."

Obituaries

HALL, Virginia G., 87, of Hoopeston, died at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, 1994, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Sunday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Saturday at the

funeral home. Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

WOOD, Leatha Wagner, 45, of Williamsport, Ind., and formerly of the Hoopeston area, died at 7 p.m. (EST), Wednesday, Feb. 2, 1994 at Williamsport. Funeral services will be 6 p.m. (CST) Friday at the Williamsport Christian Church. The body will be cremated. Memorials may be made to the Williamsport Christian Church.

Police news

Teana L. Sage, 32, whose address was listed as the YWCA, Danville, turned herself in to Hoopeston police at 6:21 p.m. Wednesday.

Sage was wanted on a warrant for failure to appear. She was released on \$60 cash bond.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Feb. 2, 1994

Admitted: None.

Discharged: none.

Weather

Partly cloudy today. High 30-35. Tonight, cloudy, cold. Low in the teens to low 20s. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy. High 35, low 21. Sunday, partly cloudy. High 37, low 16.

Thought for the Day

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