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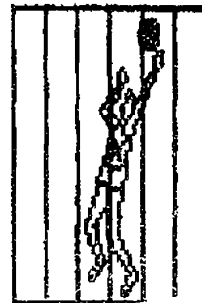
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Lourdine Osborne
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Just the facts

Tuesday, March 1, 1994

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Susan Comstock
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Milford boards OK superintendent's resignation

The Milford high school and grade school districts will be without a superintendent, at least for a while.

The boards, meeting in joint session last night, accepted the resignation of Dr. William J. Pearch.

Pearch's resignation follows his arrest Feb. 18. He was charged with theft, official misconduct and disorderly conduct (filing a false police report).

The charges stem from a Feb. 8 incident when Pearch allegedly reported one of the high school's computers as stolen.

Iroquois County Sheriff's Department officials allege Pearch sold the computer to a friend in Dana, IL., where he served as principal prior to becoming superintendent in Milford.

According to a statement from the sheriff's department, Pearch is linked to the missing computer by a \$350 cancelled check.

The computer was valued at \$1,500.

At Monday's meeting, the boards accepted Pearch's resignation "without any conditions or precedents, which means we didn't promise him anything," said G. Robb Cooper.

Cooper, a Chicago attorney, handles labor rela-

tions issues for the boards.

Cooper said the boards consider the resignation effective Monday, although under the federal Older Workers Benefit Protection Act, Pearch has 21 days to exercise certain legal rights.

The law prevents discrimination based on age, Cooper said. "The law wants to make certain that somehow (workers over 40) aren't coerced.

Pearch is 49 and was in the first year of a three-year contract with the school.

Pearch, and his attorney, Carey Luckman of Pontiac, were at Milford High School last night but did not attend the meeting.

Pearch would not comment on the situation. "It would be inappropriate for Dr. Pearch to comment at this time with the criminal charges pending," Luckman said.

Those charges will stand, said Gordon Lustfeldt, Iroquois County state's attorney. "What the board does is their business," he said. "My case goes on."

Both Milford districts will "work through the regional office at this time," until a new superintendent is hired, said Mike Gibson, high school principal.

Church women to participate in World Day of Prayer

Area women are invited to attend the 1994 World Day of Prayer, to be held March 4 at the United Methodist Church in Hoopston.

"Go, See and Act" is the theme for this year's program, which will focus on experiences of women living on the West Bank and Gaza.


This year's services are based on Christ's pas-

sion and resurrection as told in the Gospels of Luke and Mark.

Activities begin at 9:30 with refreshments, followed by the program. Reservations are due today and may be made by calling 283-6738.

World Day of Prayer is sponsored by Church Women United.

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IDOT taking bids for eastern Illinois bridge projects

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois transportation officials are receiving bids for two bridge projects in eastern Illinois, said state Rep. Bill Black.

Black said the Illinois Department of Transportation has 45 days to approve one of the bids it received last week or resubmit proposals for another bid at a later date.

One project is for construction of a single-span bridge to carry Township Road 344 over Painter Creek about a mile northwest of Bismark. The project is estimated at \$80,000.

Also a three-span bridge over the Middle Branch North Fork on Township Road 47, approximately four miles east of Rossville, will be constructed under a \$90,000 project.

"It's good to see the IDOT is focusing its attention on the township roads that are as important to small communities as highways and interstates are," said Black (R-Danville).

Black said he has worked with transportation officials to ensure the state's road improvement plan includes rural area roads.

Police News

Hoopeston police reported that two people were arrested on warrants Monday.

Christopher C. Staats, 26, 719 Scott Drive, was arrested at 10:50 a.m. at his home.

Staats was wanted on a Morgan County traffic warrant and for violation of parole from the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

John E. Fink, 26, Box 122, Hoopeston, was arrested at 12:19 p.m. at the Downtown Motel.

Fink was wanted on a Warren County, Ind., warrant for revocation of probation.

Both men were taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville, to await extradition.

Obituaries

MCCALLA, Faye L., 73, Rossville, died at 7:14 a.m. Monday, Feb. 28, 1994 at United Samaritans Medical Center, Logan campus, in Danville. Funeral Services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Wolfe Funeral Home, Rossville. Burial will be in the Rossville Cemetery. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the dialysis unit at USMC, Logan campus or the Rossville Ambulance Service.

VILES, Madge, 80, of Hoopeston, died at 5:55 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 26, 1994, at the Hoopeston Nursing Home. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Visitation will be one hour before services. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Hoopeston Nursing Home or a charity of the donor's choice.

Weather

Mostly cloudy today with a 40 percent chance of morning snow flurries. High around 40. Tonight, cloudy. Low in the mid to upper 20s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 40, low near 26.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Feb. 24, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Edith Johnson, Rankin; Jeff Schellhardt, Hoopeston.

Feb. 25, 1994

Admitted: Ricky Cantu, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Ricky Cantu, Hoopeston; Mary Kuntz, Rankin.

Feb. 26, 1994

Admitted: Marie Wells, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Charlene Warner, Hoopeston.

Feb. 27, 1994

Admitted: Mary Elliott, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

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