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Lourdine Osborne editor



Thursday, March 24, 1994

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

Former thrift manager sentenced to three years

The former manager of a now-defunct Hoopeston credit union was sentenced Monday to three years in prison.

Robert L. Longfellow, 68, of 710 Euclid, former manager of the Grant and Ross Credit Union, was sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay \$67,342 in restitution and was fined \$50,000 for defrauding the credit union.

He is expected to surrender himself April 21 to begin serving his sentence.

Longfellow, who managed the credit union from 1955 until 1986, was charged in 1992.

A March 1993 trial ended in a mistrial when the jury could not reach a verdict. He was convicted last November of defrauding the credit union, personally benefiting from loans made to seven credit union members and misapplication of funds.

Susan Comstock

ad manager

The loans were made between December 1980 and March 1986 while Longfellow served as manager and president of the credit union.

Most of the questioned loans were made to members who purchased lots with mobile homes or inexpensive houses owned by Longfellow.

Longfellow testified that credit union board members knew of the loans or had given him authority to make them. He said he did not transfer titles or file mortgages because he wanted to cover any losses himself if borrowers defaulted, instead of having the credit union cover them.

Longfellow's attorney, is appealing the conviction and the sentence.

Hoopeston Pony League plans '94 season, faces tight finances

The new president of the Hoopeston Pony League hopes planned changes will score a home run for the league's finances.

League president Mark Burdsall, of Wellington, said interest from boys wanting to play is high, but "financially, we're not as strong as we'd like to be."

Burdsall estimates a \$1,200 shortfall of projected revenues over the \$6,800 needed to pay umpires, insurance and purchase equipment and uniforms.

Organizers hope to increase revenue through several means. First, Burdsall said, all games will be home games with volunteers running the concessions stand. The stand, he said "will be the key" to a financially successful year.

Money will also come from sign-up fees of \$25 per player and \$400 entry fees for out-of-town teams.

The league would also like to sell advertising boards at its McFerren Park field, but will need permission from city officials to do so.

Burdsall said he plans to ask for permission and a donation.

Donations from businesses and the public are also being sought.

The new president said it is important to provide activies for boys in the Pony League age range, 13- to 16-year-olds, who are too old for babysitters, but old enough to make mischief. "The time they're going to be occupied is the the See "LEAGUE" on other side

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League continued from other side

time when most (destructive) things happen," Burdsall said.

This year's league may have as many as 12 teams, Burdsall said.

Hoopeston will have three, and possibly four, depending on the number of boys who sign up. Currently, Burdsall is planning on 16 boys per team. "If we get 17 or 18 boys on a team, we'd rather break it down and have four teams and have all the kids playing," he said.

Organizers are also looking at the possibility of having two leagues, one for 13- and 14-year-olds and another for 15- and 16-year-olds.

Other communities will field teams for the league as well, including Cissna Park, Bismarck, Potomac and Iroquois West. Milford and

Correction

The name of Hoopeston Area jazz bands director Mark Lindvahl was omitted from a story in the Tuesday edition of Just the Facts. We regret the error.

Obituaries

BARKER, Mildred O., "Millie", 77, of Rantoul, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 9:45 a.m. Wednesday, March 23, 1994, at her daughter's home in Rantoul. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Sunday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. A VFW Auxiliary service will precede services. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the First Christian Church, 502 E. Main St., Hoopeston.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital March 22, 1994

Admitted: Kip Menschel and Patricia Powley, both of Hoopeston.

Discharged: Abigail Wagoner, Hoopeston.

Rossville may field two teams, and Watseka has expressed an interest in joining the league, Burdsall said.

Two games - at 6 and 8 p.m. - will be played nightly Monday through Friday. The season will begin June 4 and go through Aug. 5. No games are scheduled for the four-day Fourth of July weekend. Burdsall said.

Burdsall credits Tom Benjamin, Jim Webber and Oscar Young with helping get the season off to a good start.

Also, he said, former president Gary Warf has provided invaluable assistance. Burdsall credited Warf with keeping the league in existance the past three years, often using personal funds to do so. "He's pretty much been a Lone Ranger trying to keep this afloat by himself," Burdsall said.

The new president is no stranger to sports. Burdsall tried out for the 1980 Olympics, and for the past several years has coached wrestling and track and been an offensive coordinator at Indiana schools. "I'm interested in coaching and I wanted to get involved in the community," he said.

A newcomer to the area - Burdsall and his family moved here six months ago - he is employed by Creative Products in Rossville.

Police News

Hoopeston police are investigating two hitand-run accidents reported Wednesday.

The first was reported by GTE, 310 E, Penn. An unknown vehicle struck a parked company van in the parking lot, damaging the right side.

The second was reported by Angela Warner, 715 E. Elm. Warner told police her car was damaged on the right rear while it was parked at 324 W. Main.

Weather

Mostly sunny and cooler today. High in the low to mid 50s. Tonight, fair, low in the mid 30s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 53, low near 34.

In the Just the Facts Thursday Trivia/Friday Feast contest Be the first one to call 283-9348

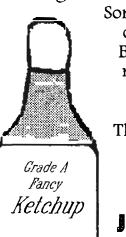
between 8 and 8:30 a.m. to win a **FREE Friday lunch** Today's question: How tall is the

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