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Just the facts

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Wednesday, April 27, 1994
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

GTE to close Hoopeston phone office on June 2

Those used to paying their telephone bills at the Hoopeston GTE office must find another way to pay after June 2.

That is the day the Hoopeston business office will close, according to Ellis Corso, GTE division public affairs manager for the Illinois region.

Two of the 13 local employees will be affected by the closing.

Shirley Cartwright, who has worked in Hoopeston's phone offices for approximately 40 years, is eligible to take early retirement, Corso said. Cartwright and Sarah Miller, GTE's other customer service representative may transfer to another GTE office, or will receive separation pay, he said.

The decision to close the business office was made for economic reasons. "After looking at the volume of payments, it's more economical for us to do it by direct mail, or by phone in the case of service (matters)," Corso said. "Like everyone else, we're trying to trim corners."

Customers who choose not to mail payments may continue to pay in person at Palmer American National Bank.

Closing the business office is not expected to affect customer service. By calling an 800 number, customers will receive what Corso called "one touch service." Customers will be able to ask questions and order equipment without information being passed from one GTE employee to another, he said.

That number, listed in the telephone directory, is 1-800-252-2444.

The GTE business office in Casey, IL. is also closing and changes are pending at the Rantoul

office. the main office for the northern district, which includes Hoopeston.

Conversion from the former ALLTEL system to the GTE system, expected to be completed in about two months, will mean reductions in force at that office, Corso said.

The Hoopeston office also serves customers in Wellington, Milford, Cissna Park, Cheneyville, Rankin, Stockland, East Lynn and Danforth.

Operations functions will still be performed from the local office.

Wanted man found dead

A man wanted by Vermilion County sheriff's police in connection with an alleged domestic battery was found dead early Tuesday morning, police said.

The man, identified as Randy W. Williams, 39, was found at a rural Hoopeston residence, said Jerry Davis, sheriff's department investigator.

"It was a domestic battery gone bad," Davis said, adding that Williams apparently hanged himself.

Davis said a woman at the residence, east of Hoopeston on Route 9, called 911 to report that she was being beaten. When police arrived, the man was thought to have gone. However, officers found the man's body in a building behind the house, Davis said.

The woman was treated at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, Davis said.

Davis said this was not the first time deputies had been called to the residence for domestic problems.

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Briefly...

No vote from planning commission

The Hoopeston planning commission met Monday but unable to vote on a request from Demeter, Inc.

Not enough members attended the hearing, according to Tracy Brown, commission chairperson. Five are needed to vote; only four attended.

Demeter requested approximately two acres of land adjacent to its North Market Street site be rezoned from residential to heavy industrial.

The hearing was rescheduled for 4:15 p.m. May 2, when the commission is also expected to hear a request from Ed and Barbara Lockhart.

The couple is requesting a conditional use permit for approximately six acres of land abutting Hoopeston Community Hospital and Nursing Home.

The change is being requested for a golf driving range.

Essay winners announced

Two Hoopeston Area High School students will be in Washington, D.C., this summer, winners of the Eastern Illini Cooperative's "Youth to Washington" contest.

Christina Vogel and Jill Feller won all-expense paid trips to the nation's capital for writing essays

Obituaries

ATWELL - Dorothy B. Atwell, 68, of Hoopeston, died at 3:09 a.m. Tuesday, April 26, 1994, at Hardin Memorial Hospital in Elizabethtown, Ky. Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Friday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

WILLIAMS - Randy W. Williams, 39, died early Tuesday morning in rural Hoopeston. Services will be conducted by the Williamson Funeral Home in Jacksonville. Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home was in charge of local arrangements.

on "Getting Things Done - The Co-Op Way."

A third winner, Heather Roberts of Tolono, will also go on the trip.

In addition to the trip, Vogel received a \$100 bond and Feller received a \$75 bond.

The girls were selected from among eight finalists at the cooperative's essay dinner earlier this month. Their trip will be June 17 to 24.

Red Cross to close disaster center

The Red Cross will close its disaster relieve service center in Danville at 5 p.m. today. Those affected by the flood who need assistance but have not yet been to the center are urged to go as soon as possible. The center is located at 320 N. Franklin.

Subway collects cans

More than 700 cans of food were collected during the Heroes for Hunger campaign at Subway last Sunday. This year's total tops the 478 cans collected last year.

The event offered a free six-inch sandwich to anyone who donated a can of food. Canned goods will be donated to the Grant Township Food Cupboard.

Second review set

The U of I architecture department will have a second review of the Hoopeston project, from 8-11 a.m. Thursday and Friday at the Architecture Building on Laredo Taft Drive on campus.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

April 25, 1994

Admitted: Eleanor Songer and Ralph Lewis, both of Hoopeston; Edna Lamar, Rossville.

Discharged: none.

Weather

Partly cloudy and cooler today. High in the upper 70s. Tonight, cloudy. Low in the lower 60s. Tomorrow, isolated thunderstorms. High near 63, low near 54.

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