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Just the facts

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

Treasurer maintains innocence in missing funds

DANVILLE—Questions by the chairman of the Vermilion County Democratic party chairman prompted a Friday afternoon press conference and claims of no involvement by Vermilion County treasurer Herb Hales.

The party's executive committee last week sent Hales a letter asking that he explain his involvement regarding \$200,000 missing from the Danville police and fire pension funds.

Friday, Hales denied acting improperly, saying the money was loaned to Murdock Mining Co., in which Hales is a principal investor.

Hales said Friday that he has been cleared of any wrongdoing by the FBI, adding he was told by the FBI that Ronald J. Viemont, manager of the pension funds, took \$200,000 from those funds to make a loan to Hale's mining venture.

Murdock Mining is using the money to try to purchase the closed Zeigler Coal Co. in Newman Hales' attorney, Mike McFatridge, said the

money cannot be returned until the Zeigler mine opens.

No date has been set for the mine opening.

Viemont, a former financial consultant, met Hales in 1988. Hales reportedly recommended Viemont as manager of the police and fire pension funds later that year. In 1993, Viemont was hired as financial consultant to the United Auto Workers Local credit union.

Since then, the Illinois secretary of state's office has revoked Viemont's financial consulting licence.

Hales, who has maintained that the missing money would be repaid with interest, is running for reelection in November.

Hales, Viemont, Murdock Mining president Alan Weed and Murdock Mining are the targets of a lawsuit filed by the pension boards. The suit seeks the lost \$200,000 and an additional \$400,000 in punitive damages.

Briefly...

Rail work to begin today

Repair work scheduled last week on the CSX rail line is expected to begin today.

Work was postponed last week because of unexpected delays.

During the week, all crossings in Hoopeston except those on Main St. and Route 9 will be repaired.

These two crossings are scheduled for repairs next week.

Crossings may be closed for one or two nights during the repair process, railroad officials said.

Hold those cards

A report in Friday's Just the Facts asked local people to contribute business cards to an ill child. But according to the Hoopeston Migrant Head Start, which made the request on behalf of the Make A Wish Foundation, the request was a hoax.

The request came to the Migrant Head Start office from the Dept. of Children and Family Services, said Sharie Carter-Bane, special services/mental health coordinator.

Carter-Bane said the agency is investigating.

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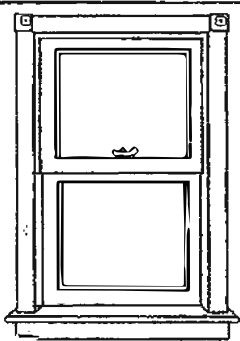
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Anniversary Celebration

Wilbur & Ardieth (Long) Watson of Henning, Ill., will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary at 1 p.m., July 23, at the Vermilion Fishing Club, north of Oakwood. A hog roast is being hosted by their grandchildren. All family, friends and acquaintances are welcome. Please bring a covered dish and lawn chair.

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Police News



No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 7 p.m. Wednesday. A car driven by Leon D. Deck, 525 S. Fifth Ave., backed into a pole in the 300 block of East Maple.

Five people were treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital following an accident at 6:38 p.m. Thursday.

Rachael N. Wallace, 16, of 514 W. Dice, a passenger in her vehicle, and Phil A. Neal, 625 S. Second Ave., and two passenger in his vehicle, received minor injuries in the accident.

According to police reports, Wallace was leaving a private drive to cross Route 1 when she struck Neal, who was northbound on Route 1 near the Elm St. intersection.

Wallace was ticketed for failure to yield at a private drive.

Megan E. Cornelius, 620 E. Maple, reported Friday that someone struck her vehicle while it was parked in the 900 block of East Wilson.

Brian S. Catron, no age given, was arrested at 11:02 p.m. Friday charged with having an open container of alcohol in a public place. He was released on a notice to appear.

Stanley Pickett, 17, of Wellington, was arrested at 11:46 p.m. Friday on a warrant. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 11:30 p.m. Friday. Vehicles driven by Andrew J. Smith, 41383 Main St., and Ryan A. Smith, of the same address, collided in the 100 block of West Main.

Dorothy Pyle, 740 E. Main, reported Saturday that someone damaged the rear window, rear defroster, driver's side rear window, trunk and driver's door of a vehicle parked at her residence.

Janet L. Bivans, 911 W. Main, reported Saturday that someone put red nail polish on her car while it was parked at her home.

Trudy Tubbs, 648 E. McCracken, reported Saturday that someone took tools from her garage.

Mary M. Jones, 521 E. Penn, reported that someone drove through her property, damage a hedge.

Harold E. Biggs, 24, Danville, was arrested at 5:22 p.m. Saturday, charged with illegal transportation of alcohol. His vehicle was towed.

Steve Wayne Cross, no age given, of 824 E. Wyman, was arrested at 8:40 p.m. Saturday, charged with criminal damage to property after he allegedly damaged the bicycle rack at his address.

An 11-year-old boy and a 14-year-old boy were arrested at 12:12 a.m. Sunday, charged with curfew violation. They were released on notices to appear.


The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 3:21 a.m. Sunday to a fire at 330 E. McNeil. Firemen were on the scene for over an hour.

Obituaries

BUTZOW - Howard D. Butzow, 75, of Urbana, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 4:10 p.m. Friday, July 15, 1994, at his home. Funeral services will be 1 p.m. today at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was Sunday at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cheneyville Church of Christ or charity of the donor's choice.

GOODWINE - Harold Dice Goodwine, 69, of Las Vegas, formerly of Hoopeston, was found dead at his home. Graveside services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at Floral Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Weather



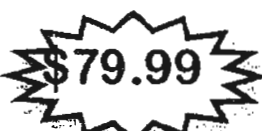
Partly sunny, warmer today. High in the mid to upper 80s. Tonight, fair. Low in the mid 60s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 85, low near 67.

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