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Lourdine Florek
 editor

Just the facts

Tuesday, February 28, 1995
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
 (217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Susan Comstock
 ad manager

City officials go after revolving loan recipient

A Rossville man who benefited from Hoopeston's revolving loan fund will have to repay the loan if city officials have their way.

Rossville resident Bill Fitzwater borrowed \$10,000 from the fund in December 1993, to open a Hoopeston office of his business, Fitzwater Pest Control.

After opening the office, Fitzwater sold the business to Terminex Pest Control without repaying the loan.

At a creditors' hearing Thursday, Fitzwater, who has filed bankruptcy, testified he sold his business in January 1994, but denied he was negotiating to sell prior to getting the city loan.

City attorney Calvin Hultquist said the city plans to request Fitzwater's bankruptcy be disallowed on the basis of fraud.

"We feel the city was defrauded," Hultquist said after the hearing. "We just feel the debt should be repaid."

HA Sports Boosters schedule annual Lift-A-Thon fundraiser

For the fourth year, local school students will be hefting weights, hoping residents will heft some cash from their wallets.

The annual Hoopeston Area All Sports Boosters Lift-A-Thon will be March 23, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the HA High School.

Students will be seeking pledges, either a specified amount per pound or a blanket donation, said Boosters president Dana Kuntz.

The Lift-A-Thon is the only time the group asks for donations from the community, she said,

"We feel that Mr. Fitzwater knew very well that he intended to sell that business and had no intention to proceed with the business plan he presented to the city."

Fitzwater testified that money from the loan was used to purchase office equipment. He also testified that he received "right at \$25,000" when he sold his business to Terminex.

For that amount, Terminex received all of Fitzwater's Illinois accounts. Fitzwater also agreed not to start a new pest control company for one year.

Fitzwater stated he has none of the money left from the sale, telling bankruptcy trustee Steve Miller the funds were used to run his Crawfordsville, Ind., operation. "Most of it went to debt and taxes," he said. "The biggest part of it went to taxes."

Hultquist questioned Fitzwater about an alleged
 See LOAN on other side

adding other funds come from clothing sales and the annual hog roast.

The group has not set a goal for the event, which will be open to both boys and girls. "We'll take whatever we can get," Kuntz said.

Wrestling coach Cliff McClure said the event has drawn between 75 and 90 wrestlers in the previous three years.

Donations may be made the the Hoopeston All Sports Booster Club, c/o Dana Kuntz, 623 E. Penn, Hoopeston, IL. 60942.

~Candle of the Week~
 Yankee's Home Sweet Home
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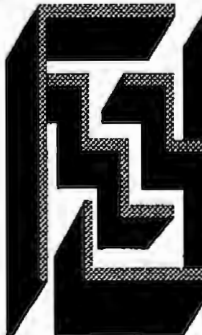


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Plan to attend Candidates Night

7 p.m.

March 9

Hoopeston Municipal Building

Just the Facts is sponsoring a Candidate Night and we'd like readers to submit questions to be asked of the 13 candidates for the Hoopeston city council during a panel discussion. Send questions to Candidates, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942



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Obituaries

COWAN - Ruth A. Cowan, 97, of Hoopeston, died at 5:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, 1995, at the Hoopeston Nursing Home. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery.

Police News



Benjamin Adam Hardwick, 24, of route 3, Hoopeston, turned himself in to police at 9:45 a.m. Monday. Hardwick, wanted on a warrant, was released on \$75 cash bond.

Loan continued from other side

trip to Las Vegas reportedly taken after Fitzwater received city funds.

Fitzwater denied the allegation, but Hultquist said after the hearing that he will continue to investigate the charge. "We're not going to take his word for it," Hultquist said.

The city's revolving loan program is designed for high risk creditors, Hultquist explained after the hearing.

The money for the loan program comes from state community development funds funneled to the city, which disburses them.

"By it's very nature, those are high-risk loans," Hultquist said. "That means a good portion of the businesses will, in fact, fail. The city knows that."

Fitzwater is the second recipient to default on a revolving loan. The city has made five such loans, including Fitzwater's. The first loan applicant also defaulted on the loan.

Three recipients - Global Fashions, M&N Pallet and S.A.R.A.H.'S., are making payments.

Even though Fitzwater is not the first to default, "there's a difference between making a good faith effort and failing, and someone taking the money and immediately selling their business."

tery. Visitation will be held one hour before services at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the Prairie Green Church of Christ.

HAWTHORNE - Patricia M. Hawthorne, 54, of Wellington, died at 4:04 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, 1995, at United Samaritans Medical Center, Logan campus, Danville. Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Amity Cemetery in Goodwine. There will be no visitation. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

OWEN - Alice Owen, 97, of Hoopeston, died at 2:05 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, 1995, at Vermilion Manor Nursing Home. Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 1-1:45 p.m. Tuesday at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

In the hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Feb 23, 1995

Admitted: Guadalupe Trevino, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Feb. 24, 1995

Admitted: One person, name withheld.

Discharged: James Terrell and Eileene Ervin, Hoopeston; Gerald McCardy, Kentland, Ind.

Feb. 25, 1995

Admitted: Myra Rabe, Rossville.

Discharged: Wilba Morris, Hoopeston.

Feb. 26, 1995

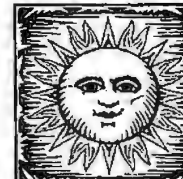
Admitted: none.

Discharged: Guadalupe Trevino and Martha Morlan, both of Hoopeston.

Weather



Cloudy and colder today, with a chance of showers. High near 40. Tonight, chance of rain. Low near 26. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 35, low near 25.



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