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JUST the facts®

Thursday, May 23, 1996

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

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State's attorney clears revolving loan group of alleged

Charges will not be filed against, nor changes made by, Hoopeston's revolving loan committee.

The committee was under investigation for allegedly violating the Illinois Open Meetings Act during a portion of an April 1 meeting closed to the public and press.

The Hoopeston *Chronicle* contacted Vermilion County State's Attorney Michael Clary after the meeting, alleging the committee violated the Illinois Open Meetings Act when it went into executive session to discuss the finances of a revolving loan applicant.

But in a May 20 letter to Mayor Bob Ault, Clary said he will not take action against the committee,

saying the group "was doing its best to satisfy the conflicting requirements of the Open Meetings Act and the Small Business Development Act," which requires financial information of applicants for Department of Commerce and Community Affairs grants be kept confidential.

"It's a triumph of common sense over frivolity," said alderman Bill Goodwine, revolving loan committee chairman. "I feel it's a total vindication."

Revolving loan funds originated when Schumacher Electric repaid a DCCA loan. The money has since

See LOAN on other side

Loan continued from other side

Danville man leads local police agencies on 12-hour chase

A Danville man was being held in the Iroquois County jail Wednesday after being hunted by local police agencies for almost 12 hours.

Aaron Dobyne, 26, of 934 Belton, Danville, was arrested in a cornfield near Milford shortly after 10 a. m. Wednesday.

The hunt for Dobyne began when he was stopped by Rossville police at 11:26 p.m. Tuesday, approximately one mile north of Rossville on Route 1. After the officer took his license to run a wanted check, Dobyne allegedly fled in his car, heading north on Route 1.

Hoopeston police tried to intercept Dobyne, but he turned from Route 1 onto Lovers Lane Rod, then north on Sixth Ave.

Police said Dobyne drove his vehicle around a squad car set up as a road block, then re-entered Sixth Ave. He then allegedly hit an eastbound vehicle on Route 9.

The driver of that vehicle, Amy Tyler, of Hoopeston, was taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital for treatment.

Dobyne then allegedly left the scene on foot. Hoopeston and Rossville officers, as well as a Vermilion County K-9 unit, searched the south side of Hoopeston, but Dobyne was not seen until Wednesday morning, when Iroquois County police were notified of a suspicious person in the ditch near the rest area south of Milford on Route 1.

When Illinois State Police at Ashkum and Iroquois County sheriff's deputies went to the area, Dobyne allegedly ran into the cornfield where he was arrested.

Dobyne was wanted on a Vermilion County warrant for failure to appear. He is also facing preliminary charges of aggravated reckless driving, aggravated fleeing and eluding, leaving the scene of a personal injury accident, speeding and improper

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been reloaned to local businesses who were turned down by financial institutions.

Clary conceded that there are no provisions in the Open Meetings Act for "allowing a governmental body to go into executive session when considering matters which are required by another state or federal statute to be kept confidential." He has requested an opinion from the Illinois Attorney General, but said he is

unsure when the opinion will be given.

Until the Illinois Attorney General's office

responds, Clary suggested that loan applications be reviewed administratively, using city employees, rather than elected officials, to review applications.

That strategy would pose problems because the city does not have enough employees who could review applications, Goodwine said. "I don't really understand (the administrative solution), but it doesn't appear to work for us."

Also, Goodwine said, having one or two

employees review applications might give the appearance that only applicants in the good graces of reviewers would be approved. "That would be a terrible disservice to those two people," he said.

For those reasons, Goodwine said, the committee will make no changes unless the Attorney General issues a conflicting opinion or the Open Meetings Act is changed. "I suspect the law will be changed," he added.

Police News

Police warn skaters, bicyclists

Police are warning that people who use roller skates, roller blades or bicycles on sidewalks in the downtown area will be ticketed.

Rollerblading and roller skating are prohibited in the business district, said police officer James Goodrum. Bicycles may be ridden on downtown streets, but are banned on sidewalks.

In other police news:

Jason P. Fairchild, 18, of route 1, Wellington, was arrested at 7:52 p.m. Tuesday, on a Vermilion County traffic warrant. He was released on \$95 cash bond.

Bruce A. Inman, 34, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 10:59 p.m. Tuesday on two warrants. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of bond.

Briefly

Memorial Day service set

Memorial Day services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, May 27 at the Floral Hill chapel.

Delay in garbage pick up

Garbage pick up will be one day behind schedule next week because of Memorial Day.

State's attorney to speak

State's Attorney Michael Clary will speak at the May 28 Neighborhood Watch meeting at 7 p.m. at city hall.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

May 21, 1996

Admitted: Eileene Ervin, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Brock Zimmerman and Pauline Koehn, Hoopeston.

Thursday Trivia

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between 8 and 8:30 a.m. today to win!
The winner will receive a FREE Whopper™
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Today's question: **Who are this year's
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Last week's winner: **Kelly Irwin**
Last week's answer: **Van Gogh cut off his
right ear.**



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**Just the Facts will be closed Monday,
May 27, in observance of Memorial
Day. Publication will resume Tuesday.**

Classifieds

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HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Migrant Headstart is now accepting applications for: secretary, health/special service coordinator assistant, home visitor, teacher, teacher assistants, bus driver, bus assistant, cook, cook assistant, custodian. Please call (815) 984-3706 for more information or pick up an application and job description at 530 E. First North St., Wellington, IL. **Deadline is May 31. EOE.** 136-151

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Correction

It was incorrectly reported in the May 16 edition that Paul Oeding of Rossville pleaded not guilty to disorderly conduct. Oeding was found not guilty on

Weather

Partly sunny today with a 40 percent chance of showers. High in the mid 80s. Tonight, cloudy. Low in the low 60s. Tomorrow, isolated thunderstorms. High near 84, low near 64.