



TACO NIGHT

5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday

Hoopeston American Legion

502 E. Penn

Wolfe Funeral Home

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Hoopeston, IL.

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Tuesday, June 3, 1997

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Luck changing to good for Hoopeston's new police chief

It's a good thing Carl Valentine doesn't believe in omens.

The new Hoopeston police chief had a string of bad luck after starting his new job.

First, his father died. Then, while moving from Brookland, Ark., to Hoopeston, his truck broke down. Also during his first days in Hoopeston, he locked himself out of his new house and had an accident in a squad car.

Now seven weeks into the job, Valentine has moved past the bad things and is looking forward to the good.

"I'm glad I came," Valentine said. "This is a good department. I'm happy to be here."

For Valentine, who started his new job April 7, law enforcement is about more than arresting the bad guys. It's also about education.

Valentine believes part of his job is to teach. That teaching will be directed not only towards his officers, but city officials and the community, as well.

The officers are learning Valentine's methods. Since taking the reins, he has eliminated paperwork duplication, stressed a more structured chain of command and devised a zone system of patrol for officers.

The change which may have the most far-reaching effect is Valentine's decision to implement activity sheets which each officer fills out during a shift. The sheet records the time, activity in which the officer was engaged and the outcome.

The form has multiple purposes. "If someone wants to know why the police car was at the station for two hours, we can look on the sheet and see that the officer

was doing reports," Valentine said. "That's a valid reason for being in the station." Also, the sheets can be used to determine at what time crimes occurred. "If the officer was patrolling downtown at 2 a.m., and again at 4, and later we find a broken window, we can use his sheet to determine approximately what time it happened," he said.

A second reason for documenting each officer's activities is to show city officials that more men - at least two - are needed on the department, yet another part of educating officials. "I have to convince the mayor, the council and the community

that we need more people," he said.

Valentine has nine officers under his command. Of those, most have been with the department for 15 years or longer, resulting in several weeks' worth of vacations. Vacation time cuts into the time when the department is fully staffed. "God forbid somebody get sick or hurt," he said.

Another reason to expand the force is to have a full-time plainclothes investigator. "It's hard to be an investigator in uniform," he said. "You have to work your shift and investigate when you have time. It makes it really bad."

A full-time investigator could help solve crimes that are currently not being worked, he said. "I'd say one guy could spend at least 60 percent of his time just working cases," he said. "What I would do is pay closer attention to burglaries and drug cases, making sure we follow up with all the residents."

As for the other 40 or so percent of the investigator's

See CHIEF on other side

Chief continued from other side

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time, Valentine would like to work in conjunction with him to find grants to help fund the department.

While in Arkansas, Valentine applied for and received a \$146,000 grant for two new officers. The three-year grant paid for approximately 75 percent of the officers' salaries the first two years and about 25 percent the third year.

Grants for equipment, such as squad cars, and special areas, such as overtime pay for officers to work cases involving driving under the influence of alcohol, are also available. "It's out there," Valentine said. "You just have to apply for it."

Getting outside funding and convincing city officials that more manpower is needed will not be accomplished quickly, Valentine said. "I have to prove to them that we need it," he said. "It takes time."

May 15: Pam Chandler, Hoopeston, deceptive practice and \$126.44 restitution; \$65 total.

Jeffrey Clingenpeel, Hinsdale, no parking; continued.

Connie Donnelly, Terre Haute, Ind., three counts deceptive practice, \$147.45 restitution, failed to appear; summons issued.

Pamela Castonguay, Watseka, deceptive practice,

In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

May 29, 1997

Admitted: none.

Discharged: none.

May 30, 1997

Admitted: Robert Welty and Myrtle Clark, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

May 31, 1997

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Nichole Rapuano, Hoopeston; Zolene Dixon, Wellington.

June 1, 1997

Admitted: none.

Discharged: none.

While working on public perception, Valentine also wants to improve department morale. "To me, being a police officer, you should be proud," he said.

To accomplish that, Valentine tells officers when they do good work - and confines disciplinary procedures to behind the closed doors of his office.

Valentine believes part of improving morale is improving the level of professionalism of the department. He has designed new patches for the officers, which will be ready in about three weeks. Currently, officers' patches are the outline of Illinois decorated with a green, yellow and white ear of corn for Hoopeston's designation as the Sweetcorn Capital of the World.

The new 10-color, shield-shaped patches will include the Illinois state seal and the words "to

Court Dispositions

\$113.79 restitution, pleaded guilty; \$75 and restitution.

Jeri Galyen, Rossville, deceptive practice, \$253.85 restitution; continued to June 19.

Kelly Galloway, Hoopeston, battery, failed to appear;

Police News

Lora M. Nelson, 507 W. Orange, reported Sunday that while she was shopping at Price Less Foods, 317 S. Market, someone took her coin purse from her purse. The coin purse contained cash and personal papers.

Mazie F. Hurt, 37, of 924 W. Penn, was arrested at 5:20 p.m. Sunday, charged with battery on a complaint from Jena M. Carter, 543 Root, Chicago.

Police said Carter went to Hurt's house to see her daughter and was battered by Hurt.

Hurt turned herself in to police, was charged and was released on a notice to appear.

Weather

Partly sunny today. High in the mid 70s. Tonight, fair. Low in the mid 50s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 75, low near 55.

protect and serve" on them.

Additionally, officers involved in extra activities will have smaller patches denoting those activities.

Officer James Goodrum is the range officer, as well as an emergency medical technician and will have insignia denoting those areas. Officer Doug Wagoner, on the county search and rescue team, will have a patch showing his involvement.

"It just adds a little something, lets residents know these men do more for the community," Valentine said.

Valentine feels he has accomplished much in seven weeks, but said much remains to be done.

"As far as I'm concerned, there's some very good officers here," he said. "We just all have to pull together."

rule to show cause issued.

Gary J. Goin, Hoopeston, theft, pleaded not guilty; July 3 trial.

Ginger Grant, Hoopeston, nuisance, pleaded not guilty; July 3 trial.

Joseph Heffelfinger Jr., Hoopeston, illegal consumption, pleaded guilty; \$95 total.

Robin Herrin, Hoopeston, disorderly conduct, nolle pros.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Program support coordinator (sec.) health/special services coordinator, assistant teacher, teacher aides, cook, bus driver, bus aides. Send resume or pick up application at Hoopeston Migrant Headstart, P.O. Box 136, Wellington, IL. 60973 by June 6. EOE. 139-143

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