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Wednesday, July 30, 1997

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## Hoopeston chief, police plan to gang up on gang activity

Gang signs - in the form of graffiti in Hoopeston - are not necessarily signs of gang activity, but will be closely monitored by local police.

Gangs - their signs, symbols, colors and activities, was the topic of Monday's Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Approximately 45 people attended the meeting, which included two videos on gangs, as well as questions and answers with police Chief Carl Valentine.

"We have some copycat gangs," Valentine said. "We really don't, per se, have a really bad gang problem here in Hoopeston."

Valentine said he and members of his department plan to keep Hoopeston gang-free. "My main objective is to try to keep gangs out of Hoopeston," he said.

Education is the key to reaching that goal, he said. That includes educating officers, as well as citizens and young people.

"One of my objectives is to make sure we educate our

police officers," Valentine said. "It doesn't matter if an officer's been on the force for 18 years or 20 years. A good police officer is an educated officer."

As for youngsters, "I love working with young people."  
**See GANGS on other side**

### Crime hits Hoopeston's top cop

Hoopeston's top cop, used to dealing with crime everyday, was recently on the receiving end.

At Monday's Neighborhood Watch meeting, Chief Carl Valentine said thieves recently took four lawn chairs from his yard.

During the same period, thieves also took a grill and patio table from other residents. Valentine said it looked like the thieves were planning a barbecue. "Obviously they needed a few chairs," he said.

No arrests have been made in connection with the theft.

### Briefly

#### Iguana go home

Hoopeston police report that a pet iguana was found in the city. The owner may identify and claim it at Hoopeston-Cissna Park Veterinary Service, 901 W. Main.

#### Whitening and brightening

Residents may have noticed the awning missing from Barron Chase Securities, 207 E. Main.

The awning is being renovated to help make the downtown area more attractive, said Sharon Dixon, account representative with the firm.

#### Petitions available

Petitions are still available for anyone wishing to run for the Hoopeston Area school board. Petitions

are available at the superintendent's office, 615 E. Orange.

Completed petitions and accompanying statements of economic interest must be returned between Aug. 18 and 5 p.m. Aug. 25 at the superintendent's office

#### Adult golf classes

The Hoopeston Multi Agency, in conjunction with Tee It Up Golf, is sponsoring adult golf classes Aug. 5, 7, 12 and 14.

Brian Hensgen, DACC head golf coach, will be the instructor. Cost is \$10 per session.

For more information, call the Multi Agency, (217) 283-5544.



The Surgeon General has determined that everyone should get 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five days of the week...

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## Court Dispositions



**July 17: Todd Crose**, Hoopeston, disobeying police; summons issued.

**Kenneth Dale**, Danville, battery, pleaded guilty; \$95 total.

**Richard Dancey**, Hoopeston, two counts leash law; summons issued.

**Anthony Gibbs**, Crescent City, deceptive practice, \$180 restitution; summons issued.

**Glenn Hackney**, Hoopeston, leash law, pleaded guilty; \$55 total.

**Kimsu Hathaway**, Rossville, deceptive practice, \$92.67 restitution; forfeited bond, failed to appear.

**David Lackey**, Hoopeston, nuisance junk, unlawful deposit of garbage; summons issued.

**Sonia Leavell**, Hoopeston, total due \$5, \$141.92 restitution.

**Kathy Mann**, Hoopeston, trespassing; summons issued.

### **Gangs** continued from other side

ple,” he said. “We’ve got to get to these young people (about the hazards of gangs.)”

Valentine stressed that just because a young person wears clothing associated with gang membership does not mean the youth is a gang member.

For example, gang members wear ball caps backwards or with the bill tipped to side. However, Valentine said, other youngsters wear their hats that was without a gang affiliation. “They don’t know what it means,” he said. “They just do it.”

Also, clothing manufacturers have copied the dress worn by gang members, such as baggy pants and shirts.

## Obituaries

**COOPER** - Raymond “Bill” Cooper, 88, of Hoopeston, died at 10:10 a.m. Monday, July 28, 1997 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be from 8 to 11 a.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor’s choice.

**Edythe Mildono**, Rankin, deceptive practice, \$150.53 restitution; summons issued.

**Ron Miller**, Hoopeston, leash law; summons issued.

**Richard Matthews**, Hoopeston, trespassing, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

**Tani O’Neal**, Rankin, balance due \$180 fine and costs; paid in full.

**Robin Robinson**, Hoopeston, to pay \$180 fine and costs, \$212.39 restitution.

## Police News



**David I. Keiss**, 44, of 615 W. Orange, Lot 5, was arrested at 9:12 p.m. Monday, charged with disorderly conduct.

Police said Keiss was arrested following an incident at Subway, 115 E. Main.

He was released on a notice to appear.

While Hoopeston does not have a serious gang problem, Valentine said citizens and the police must remain vigilant.

“Just because something hasn’t happened in 18 or 20 years doesn’t mean it won’t,” he said. “You may let your guard down one time, but it may be your last. I think we all have to be concerned that it doesn’t come here.”

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be at 7 p.

## In the Hospital



**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**  
**July 28, 1997**

**Admitted:** Lawrence Comstock, Hoopeston; Cecil Burge, Boswell, Ind..

**Discharged:** A Chi Yu, Hoopeston.

## Weather



Sunny today. High in the low to mid 80s. Tonight fair. Low in the mid 50s. Tomorrow, sunny. High near 84, low near 56.

# Classifieds

### GARAGE SALES

508 W. Lincoln, Hoopeston. Friday, Aug. 1, 8-12. Moving.

### HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Migrant Headstart is accepting applications for teacher, bus driver and teaching assistant. Send letter of application to Hoopeston Migrant Headstart, 530 E. North First St., Wellington, IL. 60973 or call (815) 984-3706 for more information. Applications close Aug. 8 EOE.  
209-219

Hoopeston Migrant Headstart needs sign language interpreter. Paid position, on call basis. Call (815) 984-3706. 211-212

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

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## Parents -



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