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Lourdine Florek
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Just the Facts[©]

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P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.advancenet.net/~lflorek

Local chief, officers cleared in audit of drug seizure funds

A state police audit has cleared the Hoopeston Police Department of any wrongdoing in handling a drug seizure account.

"They verbally told me I didn't have anything to worry about," said Chief Carl Valentine Tuesday, shortly after an exit interview with state police investigators. "All the money has been accounted for."

Valentine, and the department, came under scrutiny after the state police received calls regarding reports that Valentine had misspent drug seizure money.

Valentine has said he believes the reports came from officers disgruntled about changes made since he became chief, such as abolishing seniority-based scheduling.

"I guess you could say I was wrongly accused," he said.

The account contains money seized in drug-related arrests. Once money is taken, it must be turned over to the state which keeps 35 percent of it, returning

the remaining 65 percent to the originating department.

Investigators stressed that the department must submit the money to the state, Valentine said. "They want to make sure the money's not spent until it gets back to us," he said.

Valentine said when he took over as chief last year, the account had approximately \$4,000. Since then, he has spent part of the money for new cages in squad cars, shoulder patches for officers and new fingerprinting equipment. Prior to Valentine coming, some funds were also used for a computer, he said.

Investigators will file a written report that will be sent to Valentine. The report will indicate ways the local department can "fine-tune the paperwork" involved for the account, Valentine said.

Investigators also examined procedures for tracking and disposing of evidence, Valentine said.

Some evidence, such as old knives, will be disposed of. Guns and drugs must cannot be gotten

Briefly

Pre-school screening

Free preschool screening for all three-, four-, and five-year-olds will be held Thursday, Feb. 26, at the First Presbyterian Church, 915 E. Orange.

Parents must call (217) 283-6668 for an appointment before Feb. 26.

Please bring your child's shot records and Social Security number.

Tiny Tots

Valentine's Day is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots program at the Hoopeston Public Library.

The program will meet at 10:30 a.m. Friday in the

children's room, and is open to children ages one to four who are accompanied by an adult.

Items sought for auction

The Hoopeston Multi Agency is seeking items for its March 28 community auction.

To donate an item, or for more information, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

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Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, Feb. 14
4:30-8 p.m.

Hoopeston American Legion
includes spaghetti, salad, breadstick
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1998 Designer Calendars - **75% off**

Music boxes - were \$62.95 - **\$49.95**

See our other Valentine Items!



For Keeps

301 E. Main, Hoopeston



Police News



A Hoopeston man was arrested after he led police on a foot chase in the downtown area.

Joshua J. Edwards, 20, of 816 E. Main, was arrested at 9:40 p.m. Monday.

Police said Edwards, wanted on a traffic warrant for failure to appear for pretrial, was seen by an officer in the 100 block of East Main. He ran from the scene and was surrounded in the 200 block of First Ave. by several officers when he tried to elude officers by jumping a fence, according to police.

Edwards was apprehended on the warrant and was charged with resisting arrest, police said. He was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville.

In other police news:

Jamie D. Warner, 18, of 460 E. Main, Wellington,

was ticketed for improper lane usage following an accident at 10:59 p.m. Monday at 215 N. Market.

Police said Warner, in a 1984 Chevrolet Blazer, was southbound on North Market when she struck a parked 1989 Mercury Topaz owned by Michael E. Conner of 215 N. Market.

James E. Goin, 35, of Rossville, turned himself in to police at 2 p.m. Tuesday. Goin, wanted on a warrant, was released on \$20 cash bond.

Fire Calls



The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 8:24 p.m. Monday to a car fire at 406 Front St. Police also responded to the call.



Court Dispositons



Feb. 5: Salina Brewington, Hoopeston, to pay \$75; rule to show cause issued.

Erica Buchmeier, Cissna Park, to pay \$45 fine and costs, converted to nine hours public service work; \$132.50 restitution to be paid Mar. 5.

Jorge Casillas, Hoopeston, paid \$40 in full.

Jeffrey Clingenpeel, Sr., Lawrenceville, no parking, pleaded guilty; \$75.

March Dalton, Danville, deceptive practice and \$78.47 restitution; rule to show cause issued.

Derek David, Hoopeston, to pay \$90 fine and costs, \$144.89 restitution; rule to show cause issued.

Regina Ervin, Hoopeston, hearing on writ; bond applied.

Bo Edwards, Hoopeston, to pay \$75; paid \$20.

Jeremy Furrow, Hoopeston, paid \$125 in full.

Jocelyn Hohman, Hoopeston, leash law, pleaded guilty; \$65 total.

Nathan Longfellow, Rantoul, status check on payments; paid \$450, \$1,260 balance due.

Barb Lockhart, Hoopeston, leash law, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

Kathy Mann, Hoopeston, 17 hours public service work, completed three hours; continued to April 2 for completion.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Feb. 9, 1998

Admitted: Paul Lohnes, Bertha Reed and Gertrude Yarno, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Monika Holt, Mildred Weger and Louise Dusendschon.

Weather



Rain likely today. High 38. Tonight, cloudy. Low 33. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High 44, low 36.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

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