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## Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

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**Friday, March 27, 1998**

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 <http://verm.rurilnet.org/~lflorek>**

## One arrested, warrants issued for two more in armed robbery

MOROCCO, Ind.—An 18-year-old was being held Thursday in the Newton County, Ind. jail on charges stemming from a Hoopeston armed robbery.

Rodney Dearduff, 18, was arrested on felony charges of armed robbery, obstructing justice and conspiracy in connection with the Feb. 15 armed robbery at the Hoopeston Clark station, said Hoopeston police chief Carl Valentine. Dearduff, awaiting extradition to Illinois, is being held on \$75,000 bond, he said.

Warrants were also issued for a 17-year-old youth and

a 16-year-old boy in connection with the robbery, Valentine said.

Valentine declined comment on which of the suspects actually held up the station, using what was described as a dark-colored gun with white handle grips.

Valentine praised officers, including investigators Doug Wagoner and Chuck Moyer, for their work. "I am very proud of our police department on the arrest and the teamwork that was involved by us and the Morocco, Ind. police department," he said.

## Trustees take another look at rural Grant fire protection

Grant Township officials are taking another look at fire protection for rural residents.

Trustees met Wednesday with Hoopeston city and fire officials to discuss options for providing fire protection at a reasonable cost to township residents.

In 1993, after state mandates for rural fire protection, township officials signed a three-year agreement with the city to provide coverage in rural Grant Township. Under that contract, the township paid the city \$7,514 annually for fire protection.

Last December, the township and city inked a one-year contract after city officials requested an increase in the contract rate.

Trustees increased the tax rate from .0584 to .1028, generating \$13,005 annually but did not approve a five-year plan requested by city officials.

With a December deadline for a new levy, trustees believe they have found a long-term solution. Trustees would like to see the city bill insurance companies for fire calls, since many rural residents already pay for fire coverage.

"I don't think the general public has been totally aware

of it at all," said trustee Bill Boose. "We feel a little uncomfortable taxing people for something that they're already paying insurance on."

However, the state may not consider that option as actively providing fire protection, said Hoopeston fire chief Brian Laird. "The biggest question is will the state allow it," he said, adding he will request an answer from the State Fire Marshall's office.

If the option is legal, Laird said other questions must also be answered. For example, Hoopeston mayor Bob Ault asked who would pay for calls the city was unable to collect on.

Also, Laird questioned whether the township would pay for fires along roadsides or such things as vehicle fires of passersby in the township.

While trustees consider options, city officials hope a five-year agreement can be signed, allowing the fire department to not only plan, but perhaps acquire equipment beneficial in rural areas, Laird said.

Both sides agree current problems stem from not setting a high enough rate in 1993. "We were too conservative," Boose said.

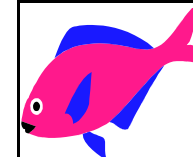
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## Fish Fry

Friday, March 27 5-8 p.m.

## American Legion

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**Fish - \$5.50, Shrimp - \$6.50, Chicken - \$7**

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### Lunch Menus



#### Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: Chicken patty/bun, tri tator, pudding, cheese, orange, milk.  
TUESDAY: Hot dog/bun, fries, slaw, pears, milk.  
WEDNESDAY: Ham & cheese/bun, corn, cookie, pineapple, milk.  
THURSDAY: Taco/shell, lettuce, tomato, cheese, graham cracker, apple slices, milk.

#### Hoopeston Area Middle/High School

MONDAY: Chicken patty/bun or hamburger/bun, tri tator, pudding, cheese, orange, milk.  
TUESDAY: Hot dog/bun or Z rib/bun, fries, baked beans, slaw, pears, milk.  
WEDNESDAY: Ham & cheese/bun or turkey/bun, corn, tri

FRIDAY: Corn dog, baked beans, macaroni salad, peaches, bread, oleo, milk.

tator, cookie, pineapple, milk.  
THURSDAY: Taco/shell or sub/bun, salad, granola bar, apple slices, milk.  
FRIDAY: Corn dog or baked chicken, fries, macaroni salad, peaches, bread, oleo, milk.

### Briefly

#### Tiny Tots

Tiny Tots story program will begin at 10:30 a.m. Friday in the children's room at the Hoopeston Public Library. This week's theme is "Caps for Sale," and children are encouraged to wear hats or caps.  
The program is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

#### Auction Saturday

A celebrity auction to raise money for the Hoopeston Multi Agency, will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday at the McFerren Park Civic Center.  
Items to be auctioned will be on display from 9-11 a.m. at the civic center.  
Money raised will go for repairs at the agency.

## John Greer students take county Scholastic Bowl title

After competing three times in a week, the John Greer Scholastic Bowl team made history Monday.  
Following an "almost sudden death" overtime, the team took top honors in county competition, said team coach Maggie Cope. "This is the first time we've ever won this," she said. "It was really great for the kids."  
The team won a preliminary round March 17, sending them to Jamaica on March 19 for the small schools championship. At the end of regulation play, Hoopeston Area, along with Catlin and Rossville-Alvin, had each won one round.  
Catlin won in overtime, followed by Hoopeston Area.

Since the top two teams go on to all-county competition, the local team made the cut, participating in the all-county contest at North Ridge in Danville.  
Scholastic bowl champions include Zach Spear, Tony Burch, Amie Maul, Curtis Warner, Elizabeth Coon, Erin Spaur, Amber Underwood, Cody Strawser, Michael Conolly, Richard Sollars, Miranda Zarate, Patience Rife, Erin Hoskins and Mitchell Lankford.

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## Global Fasions

208 E. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-7214


### In the Hospital



#### Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

March 25, 1998  
Admitted: Burnice Nell, Hoopeston.  
Discharged: Doug Summers.

### Weather



Windy, warm today. High 70-75. Tonight, chance of rain. Low 54. Tomorrow and Sunday, partly sunny. Highs near 74, lows near 52.  
For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

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Evening waitress/bartender. Experience not required. Apply in person at Crunch's, 225 E. Main, Hoopeston. 83-86

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