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Lourdine Florek owner/publisher Just the Facts[©] Wednesday, June 10, 1998 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 Wednesday and the subscripts of the subsc

Ruling on high speed chases to have little local effect: chief

Police officers have one less thing to worry about when involved in high speed chases.

A unanimous ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court makes it more difficult to sue for damages stemming from high speed chases resulting in death.

The decision, made May 26, "is going to help us," said Hoopeston police chief Carl Valentine. "Officers won't be so reluctant in doing their job."

While the court's ruling "doesn't exclude us from being sued," it may make people think twice before filing a suit. "Everybody's looking for deep pockets," he said.

Although more latitude has been given to officers, Valentine said the court's decision would not affect Hoopeston police policy.

That policy, which Valentine said coincides with state police policy, mandates an officer initiate pursuit only when three criteria are met: the suspect must exhibit the intention to avoid arrest by fleeing for an alleged crime that would normally require a full custody arrest; the suspect operating a vehicle refuses stop when told to by police; and the suspect would, if allowed to flee, present a danger to human life or cause serious injury.

Before engaging in a high speed chase, officers must also consider the performance capabilities of the pursuit vehicle, road conditions, vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area and weather conditions.

Pursuits are to end when weather or traffic conditions increase the danger level, the distance between the officer and suspect makes further pursuit futile or the danger to the public, officers or suspects is greater than the value of arresting the suspect.

Valentine does not believe the court's decision will increase the number of chases locally. "They can't outrun our radio waves," he said. "We'd just as soon call ahead."

The ruling stemmed from a California case in which a passenger on a motorcycle was killed after a high speed See CHASE on other side

Chase continued from other side

County war on cancer has successful outcome: chairman

Vermilion County waged a successful war against cancer by raising \$46,351 at its third annual "Relay for Life" last month.

The official total was announced Tuesday by event chairman Bill Goodwine of Hoopeston. "This is a 58 percent increase over last year," he said. "We could not be more pleased."

The relay, held at Ellsworth Park in Danville, included 32 teams, up from 22 last year. Members of each team took turns walking a track for 24 hours while other team members participated in contests throughout the day and night. Competitions included a "best dinner cooked on site," karaoke, line dancing Trivial Pursuit, and euchre, basketball and volleyball tournaments. "Many of us never slept," Goodwine said.

A team from FMC in Hoopeston was the top moneyraiser. The team hosted CPR classes and a rummage sale to raise funds.

"The Hopeful Hoboes from Hoopeston," a teen group from Hoopeston Area High School, came in third, with Heatcraft coming in second. Each of the top groups raised more than \$3,000, Goodwine said.

The Hoboes also took third place in a new event, a campsite theme competition.





Illiana Real Estate Open House Thursday, June 11, 5-7 p.m. Sunday, June 14, 1-3 p.m. 822 S. Fourth St., Hoopeston Looking for an affordable 3 bedroom/2

bath home? Look no more - it's here. Also featuring family room with patio doors, great location. 50s. Stop by Thursday or Sunday for your own tour. *Your hostess*: **Susan Comstock REALTOR**[®] - **IL (217) 283-9321**



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No Saturdays



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Police News

on a notice to appear.

appear.

portation, pleaded not guilty; bench trial.

pleaded not guilty; jury trial Oct. 26.

Letter to the Editor

could have lived as long as he had. I knew I was smarter than him and my old man always said if I wanted to be man of the house, I had to be smarter and be able to whip him. I tried. Big mistake! After he carried me back into the house. I knew he was still man of the house, but I still knew I was smarter.

Then at 18 years old, I got married and moved into my own house. I started to see that my dad was getting a little smarter. By the time I reached 30, it was amazing that my dad was once again one of the smartest men I knew. At 34 years old, he once again had to put me in my place (again, my mistake).

Now, at 45, I see my dad is more than just smart, he is a genius. Everything he has said would happen has. I wish I could have known this all along and listened to what he said. This is to my father, my dad, my best friend. I love you Dad, and thanks for everything.

> Your loving son, James O. Goodrum Jr.

June 4: Jeremy Olson, Rantoul, DUI, illegal trans-

Severo Torres, Hoopeston, driving after suspension,

Betty Benson, Hoopeston, completed 32 hours public

Charles Blakeney, Ambia, Ind., to pay \$95; failed to

Angela Brewer, Hoopeston, uninsured, pleaded

Wanda S. Storm, 34, of 706 S. Fourth St., was

arrested at 6 p.m. Monday at 301 W. Main, charged

with fraud of a government entity. She was released

A boy's blue 24-inch Huffy bicycle was found

Tuesday at Third Ave. and West Penn. The owner

PRICE BREAK

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Clayton Hinkle & Toby Brown

may identify and claim it at the police station.

When I was a little boy, about four or five years old, I

thought my dad was the smartest and strongest man

alive. My dad was my hero. My dad could do anything

Then, when I got to be about 11 or 12 years old, my

dad was still (I thought) smart but I could do a lot of the

things he could do. Then, when I was 15 years old, I

could not figure out how a man as stupid as my old man

Court Dispositions

guilty; \$500, costs, one year court supervision.

Ryan Cade, Potomac, to pay \$95; failed to appear. Jose Cantu III, Gilman, illegal transportation; failed to appear.

Jena Carter, Hoopeston, hearing, found in contempt; to pay \$75 or complete 17 hours public service work.

Esmeralda Cordova, Hoopeston, uninsured, dismissed.

pursuit.

Writing the court's opinion, Justice David Souter said

only if an officer acts to cause harm, unrelated to the legitimate purpose of arresting a suspect, would the element of arbitrary conduct that "shocks the conscience" give way to a due process violation.

A federal judge had sided with officer involved in the chase, but a U.S. appeals court overturned the ruling. The high court overturned the appellate verdict because the lower court used the worng legal standard that made it too easy to sue the police.

Weather

Partly sunny today. High 83. Tonight, partly cloudy, chance of rain. Low 65. Tomorrow, partly cloudy, chance of showers, thunderstorms. High 83, low 65.

R

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

Austin Dale, Wellington, paid \$75 in full. Robert Glenn. Hoopeston, paid \$95 in full. Benjamin Hardwick, Hoopeston, paid \$115 in full.

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