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**www.justthefacts.tm**

## Funny money not so funny to law enforcement officials

Law enforcement officials are warning residents and business owners that counterfeit money is circulating in Hoopeston.

Fake bills are part of an investigation that "encompasses the Hoopeston and Danville area," said Jack Fox, Secret Service resident agent in charge, Springfield.

An on-going investigation is focusing on phony \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills, Fox said.

Locally, the most common counterfeit bill is the \$20, said Investigator Chuck Moyer of the Hoopeston Police Department. Some fake \$50 bills have also been found, he said.

The color of the phony money is dingier than real bills, Moyer said. Residents and business owners should also look for smudges and incomplete printing on the bills, Moyer said. The texture of the paper is also different from the real thing. "If you handle enough money, you should know what it feels like," Moyer said.

Additionally, both the \$20 and \$50 bills do not have security strips and the fake \$50s, copies of the newer ones, do not have a watermark, he said.

Although officials have not released a dollar amount of counterfeit money being passed, "a substantial amount is still out," Moyer said.

Counterfeit bills began showing up locally about one month ago, Moyer said. Several businesses, including banks and grocery stores, have been victims of the fake.

Two people, including a Hoopeston man, have been arrested on state charges for passing the bills, said Gary Miller, Vermilion County Sheriff's Department chief investigator.

Robert S. Akers, 20, of Hoopeston, and Michael L. Lammey, 20, of Danville, were arrested July 10, Miller said.

Further arrests may be pending "We feel that we've identified the source of the bills," Fox said. "We anticipate some federal indictments."

Those who suspect they may have received counterfeit money should do three things. First, Fox said, "don't get hung up on any particular denomination," he said, add-

**See MONEY on other side**

**Money continued from other side**

## — Briefly —

### Card shower

Elva Peterson will celebrate her 90th birthday this weekend. Friends are asked to send cards to her at 503 W. Elm, Hoopeston, IL 60942.

### DACC registration

Registration is underway at Danville Area Community College. Fall classes begin Aug. 24; registration deadline is Friday, Aug. 21.

To register as a full-time student, call (217) 443-8750 to make an appointment with an academic

counselor. Call (217) 443-8800 to register if less than full-time.

One-day orientation and registrations are offered to anyone interested in enrolling in fall classes. The session will include orientation, application, placement testing, touring, advisement and registration. The sessions are July 22 and 30 and Aug. 6, 11, 18, 29 and 21.

The program is free but participants must pre-register by calling (217) 443-8750.

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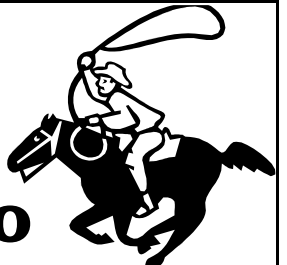
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ing counterfeits include everything from \$1 to \$100 bills.

Second, merchants should be aware of suspicious transactions, such as a customer paying for a candy bar with a \$20 when he has other money, or a customer who makes a purchase then immediately returns it.

Third, suspicious bills should be compared with bills believed to be legitimate, Fox said.

A fourth suggestion is to buy a special pen that differentiates between real and counterfeit bills. The pens, available for about \$5 at O'Herrons and Arnold's Office Supply in Danville, contain ink that changes color when marked on a counterfeit bill, Moyer said.

Businesses that receive counterfeit money should accept it and notify officials "We've had a lot of stores give it right back to them," Fox said. "That does us no

good at all."

Possessing counterfeit money does not mean a person will be arrested, Moyer said. Those possessing the funny money will be interviewed by police to determine where

## Court Dispositions



**July 2: Michael Shipman**, Hoopeston, illegal transportation, pleaded guilty; \$95 total, court supervision.

**Lisa Smith**, Potomac, failure to secure child, pleaded guilty; \$95 total.

**Heidi Snyder**, Rankin, speeding, pleaded guilty, \$95, 90 days court supervision; driver's license not on person, uninsured, dismissed.

**Shawn Tuggle**, Rossville, speeding, pleaded guilty;



## Police News



**No tickets or injuries** were reported in an accident at 2:04 p.m. Wednesday at Routes 1 and 9.

Police said Armando Montez, 417 N. Seventh St., in a 1994 Ford, and Michael J. Shipman, 823 E. Penn, in a

1992 Saturn, were stopped at the intersection. Montez backed up to allow a semi to turn and hit Shipman's vehicle.

**Sherry R. Roe**, 29, of 902 E. Young, was arrested at 8:15 a.m. Thursday at city hall. Roe, wanted on a traffic warrant, was released on \$95 bond.

**Sonia Leavell**, 20, 313 S. Third Ave., was arrested at 10 a.m. Thursday at city hall. Leavell, wanted on a warrant, was released \$146.92 on bond.

**Cherish D. Hawk**, 26, of 2285E 3900N Rd., Rankin, was arrested at 11 a.m. Thursday at city hall. Hawk, wanted on two warrants, was released on \$445 cash bond.

## In the Hospital



**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**  
**July 22**

**Admitted:** none

**Discharged:** Amanda King.

## Weather



Mostly sunny today and tomorrow. Highs 80, lows 58. Chance of showers Sunday. High 85, low 63.

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

the money may have originated.

Counterfeiting methods range from pasting the corners of \$20s on dollar bills to quality off-set printing and computer-generated forgeries, Fox said.

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## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Area High School is seeking applications for a High School Computer Lab Aide. Computer skills are a must. Position will not be filled until August. Beginning date is August 17, 1998. Please send letters of application to Hoopeston Area High School, ATTN: Principal, 615 E. Orange, Hoopeston, IL 60942. 175-196

### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Tappan electric stove, almond color. 10 years old, good condition. Asking \$150 OBO. (217) 283-9335. 204-210

### RUMMAGE SALES

2-family sale, 865 E. Honeywell, Hoopeston. Friday, July 24, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, July 25, 8 a.m.-noon. Cedar chest, tv/vcr cart, chest of drawers, miscellaneous. 204,205

Rossville. Annual 2-family sale. Saturday, July 25, 8-2. Corner of S. Chicago and Greenwood Dr. Juniors' clothes, couch, tables, books, linens, appliances and more. 204,205

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

1975 Honda 500T. New plugs, air filters, points. Runs and looks good. \$750 OBO. (815) 984-4014.

1980 Chevy El Camino. V-6, automatic transmission, vinyl top. Call (217) 283-7868 or 283-6053. 204,205

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## Open House

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