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Wednesday, December 8, 1999

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

www.justthefacts.tm

Hoopeston city council approves equal benefits for dispatchers

Equal benefits for equal work was approved by the Hoopeston city council Tuesday night.

In a 5-2 vote, aldermen approved a request from police dispatchers ending a disparity between two salaried employees and three hourly workers.

The issue was brought before the city's police committee by communications supervisor Russell Rudd, said Alderman John Haughee, committee chairman.

In a letter to the committee, Rudd requested the discrepancy be eliminated. Haughee said the committee considered recommending all dispatchers be made hourly employees but unanimously agreed to move hourly workers to salaried status.

Wage schedules will not be altered for the change. However, it will allow all dispatchers to receive sick pay from the first day of missed work. Currently, hourly dispatchers receive sick pay after the third day.

Personal days will also be added to the list of benefits, Haughee said, urging the council to approve the measure. "These people render a very good service to the community," he said.

Aldermen Bill Goodwine and Rod Kaag voted against the change, with Don York abstaining.

Hoopeston family loses home, pet in Tuesday fire

A Hoopeston family lost its home in a fire Tuesday afternoon.

The fire, at 728 E. Main, destroyed the home of Tammy Longest.

Mrs. Longest and her children were not injured in the fire, said Hoopeston Fire Chief Brian Laird. However, the family dog died from smoke inhalation, he said.

Laird is still investigating the fire, which he said was not of a suspicious nature.

The department was called to the fire at 4:15 p.m. and

While not against the change, Goodwine said he needed to know more about the budgetary effects of the change before voting in favor of it.

York agreed with Goodwine's reasons but said he did not want to vote against the modification.

The new policy will be implemented Jan. 1.

In unrelated action, the council is considering a plan that would dispose of concrete at the city slab and save money, too.

Kaag, street and alley committee chairman, said Mid America Recycling will use equipment to grind concrete into gravel for \$6 per ton. The city now pays \$8 per ton for gravel, he said.

Gravel, which would be used for various road projects would range in size from one to two inches. All rebar, nails and screws would be removed from the concrete and hauled away.

The city has an estimated 10,000 tons of concrete at the slab, Kaag said, adding last year, the city spent \$12,000 for gravel.

In other business, Kaag said city workers are making the alleys of East Main and Seminary level in an effort to curb garbage dumping in the alleys.

remained on the scene until approximately 6:30, Laird said.

Most of the family's possessions were lost in the fire, Laird said.

Grant Township Supervisor Carol Flint, who often coordinates assistance to fire victims, said she has been contacted about the loss but is not sure what items the family needs. She expected to meet with Longest Wednesday to determine what types of assistance can be provided.

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Hoopeston police arrest two, confiscate goods taken in recent weekend burglaries

Two people have been arrested in connection with burglaries occurring during recent weekends.

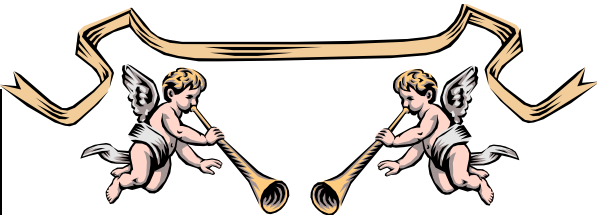
Billy J. Robinson, 20, of Hoopeston, was arrested at the police station Monday, charged with several counts of burglary and criminal damage to property, said Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger.

A 16-year-old boy was also arrested in connection with the burglaries, which occurred Nov. 22 and Dec. 4. Robinson was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville while the boy was released to a family member pending a court hearing, Drollinger said.

The two were charged for burglaries to four Ravens Trucking semi tractors parked on North Sixth Ave.; Read Chevrolet on Route 1, as well as a vehicle at the dealership; two burglaries at Crown Ford and one vehicular burglary there; an ATM machine and storage shed at Clark Gas Station on Penn St. and four coin machines at Hoopeston Super Wash on Route 9, Drollinger

said.

Several stolen items were also recovered, Drollinger said, including several citizen band radios, electronic devices and a digital camera.



**Hoopeston Jaycees
Christmas
Yard Decorating Contest**

Co-sponsored by Just the Facts
**Call 283-9348 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 17
to vote for your favorite holiday yard.
First place \$25
Second place \$15
Third place \$10**

 **New Books at the Library** 

Fiction:
Saving Faith by David Baldacci
Big Trouble by Dave Barry
Angel Fire East by Terry Brooks (science fiction)
Battle Born by Dale Brown

Non-fiction:
Cucina & Famiglia by Joan Tropiano Tucci
Good Housekeeping Baking
Every Day's a Paraty by Emeril Lagasse
Antique Trader's Antiques & Collectibles Price Guide 2000
Country Living Handmade Halloween by Zazel

Loven
The Blair Witch Project
My Cat Spit McGee by Willie Morris
The Census Book by William Dollarhio
First Son by Bill Minutaglio
The Art of Gothic
Taylor's Guide to Growing North America's Favorite Plants
When Christ Comes by Max Lucado
Revelation Unveiled by Tim F. LaHaye
Amazing Grace by Kathleen Norris
Dancing in the Margins by Kathy Coffey
Give Your Heart a Good Spring Cleaning by Kendra Smiley
Furthermore! by Andrew Greeley
Crossing by Deidre N. McCloskey
Outsmarting Managed Care by Bruce A. Barron

Police News 

Jose J. Mendez, 28, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 3:45 p.m. Monday in the 300 block of South Second Ave. Mendez was arrested on a warrant and was also charged with operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

He was released on \$100 cash bond on the warrant violation and was issued a notice to appear on the other charge.

Obituaries

DECK—Mildred E. Deck, 84, of Cissna Park, died at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 5, 1999 at Heartland Healthcare Center, Paxton. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Union Church, Cissna Park. Burial will be in Cissna Park Cemetery. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Tuesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park. Memorials are suggested to Union Church, Cissna Park or Heartland Healthcare Center, Paxton.

In the Hospital 

**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Dec. 6**

Admitted: Goldie Lawson, Joan Baker, Herbert Buchanan, Hoopeston

Discharged: Bonnie Dubea, Marcella Wheeler.

Weather 

Partly sunny today. High 50. Tonight, chance of rain late. Low 38. Tomorrow, rain with chance of nighttime flurries. High 49, low 30.

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

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