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Thursday, January 6, 2000

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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

www.justthefacts.tm

Hoopeston police respond to increased crime in 1999

Violent crimes and property crimes were up sharply in most categories last year.

The numbers of sexual assaults, domestic battery, aggravated battery, burglary, theft and auto theft all showed increases over 1998, according to statistics provided by the Hoopeston Police Department.

Police Chief Mark Drollinger cited several reasons for the increases, including more reporting of crimes by residents, a high unemployment rate and better education on the part of citizens.

"I think a lot of people reported crimes that they wouldn't normally report," Drollinger said, adding residents may be more likely to report crimes when they see a pattern in specific areas.

Although some crimes, such as burglary and theft, are crimes of opportunity, Drollinger said the unemployment rate contributes to the numbers.

As for crimes such as domestic battery, public awareness is a contributing factor. "I'm going to credit education with that one," he said. "People tend to report it as a last ditch effort. Victims realize there is help out there for them."

The department also had a five-year high for drug arrests, with 21.

And although statistics show one arson report, Drollinger said that fires in which officers assist the State Fire Marshall's Office are included in the total. Hoopeston had no verified acts of arson last year.

Of the total number of crimes, 439 were assigned to investigators and of those, 50 percent were cleared. "That's a very high number when you consider most cases don't have suspects or witnesses when they're first reported," he said.

Drollinger credited Investigator Doug Wagoner and
See CRIME on other side

Crime/Year	1999	1998	1997	1996
Murder	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault	5	1	3	8
Robbery	0	2	1	5
Domestic Battery	36	17	20	16
Agg. Battery	21	13	26	13
TOTAL	62	33	50	42
Burglary	68	48	54	57
Theft	163	117	123	136
Auto Theft	13	0	1	1
Arson	1	0	1	1
Vandalism	167	200	170	386
TOTAL	412	373	354	386
Drug Arrests	21	12	11	7
Traffic Accidents	165	180	192	210

Bargains of the Month

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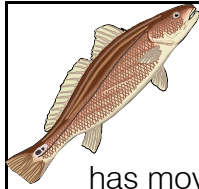
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Briefly

Course registration

Danville Area Community College will hold class

People charged with mob action

Eight adults were charged with mob action after a disturbance in rural Hoopeston Tuesday night.

Those arrested by Vermilion County Sheriff's deputies were: Laure Frederick, Aaron Linares and Juan Acosta, all 18; Dalia Granados, Leethe Sage, Edwina Torres, Adam Burch, all 17; and Matthew Cannon, 19, all of Hoopeston, said Capt. John Howard of the sheriff's department.

The eight were arraigned Wednesday. Three juveniles were also arrested and were released to their parents.

Howard said incident at 9:25 p.m. Tuesday at 14790E 4000N Rd. Those arrested threatened someone at the address, threw things at the home and beat on the doors and windows, he said.

Mob action involves two or more people using force or violence to disturb the public peace or to commit an unlawful act, Howard said.

registration at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Registration and other information will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7. Spring 2000 schedules will be available, as will information on obtaining a degree or certificate.

Disclosure workshop

A campaign disclosure workshop will be held via satellite at 10 a.m. Jan. 8 in the Bremer Conference Center

Crime continued from other side

interim Investigator Darren Tate with boosting the number of cleared cases. "Both of them are doing a good job," he said.

The department tracks all crime reports on a pin map, which allows officers to plan their strategies and patrolling patterns, he added. The maps also help officers develop possible suspects for crimes. "There's a saying that 70 percent of crimes occur within one mile of a suspect's home," Drollinger said.

Obituaries

PRATHER—Georgia Cass Prather of Rossville died Monday, Jan. 3, 2000 at home. A memorial open house will be held from 1-5 p.m. Saturday at her home at 214 E. Attica St., Rossville. Sunset Funeral Home and Cremation Center, Danville, was in charge of arrangements.

In the Hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Jan. 4

Admitted: Minnie Nichols, Amos Baumgartner, Hoopeston.

Discharged: George Davis, Earl Clouse.

Weather

Cloudy, flurries this afternoon and tonight. High 33, low 23. Tomorrow, morning flurries. High 30, low 21.

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

on the DACC campus, 2000 E. Main St., Danville.

The event is sponsored by Vermilion County Clerk Lynn Foster and the Illinois State Board of Elections.

The workshop will be geared to candidates' filing requirements and recent changes in the filing laws.

The seminar is expected to last two hours. For more information, call Foster's office, (217) 431-6688 or the State Board of Elections, (217) 782-4141.

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