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Phone/Fax:  
(217) 283-9348  
Email:  
[publish@justthefacts.tm](mailto:publish@justthefacts.tm)

**Hoopeston officer resigns post after accident investigation**

Hoopeston police Officer Carlos Ramos resigned Wednesday, effective immediately, following an investigation of an accident in which he was involved.

Ramos' resignation came on the heels of an investigation into an accident at 1:57 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, south of Route 9 on County Road 1300 East, said Gary Miller, Vermilion County Sheriff's Department chief investigator.

According to the initial report, Ramos, who was on duty, told a Vermilion County deputy that he was southbound on 1300 East, known locally as Radio Hill Road, when a vehicle came from behind, striking his squad car in the rear.

The driver of the second car, Bradley Cress, 20, was ticketed by the deputy for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and not wearing a seat belt.

Cress contacted Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger on Feb. 13, saying he believed information in the initial report was inaccurate. Cress was then referred to Miller.

**House fire investigated as arson**

The Illinois State Fire Marshall's office is investigating a fire which occurred at 4:41 a.m. Friday at 307 Front St.

An accelerant was used but the substance used has not been released by investigators, said Fire Chief Brian Laird.

The unoccupied home was owned by Jose Torres, who was remodeling it, Laird said.

Firemen spent approximately three and a half hours at the scene and were later called back to extinguish a hot spot.

Damage to the home was estimated at \$30,000 to \$40,000, Laird said.

Miller said the investigation led police to two women who saw the accident but were not mentioned in the initial report. "After interviewing the witnesses, our belief is (Ramos') vehicle was stopped in the road and...was having some kind of conversation with the unnamed witnesses," he said.

Ramos' resignation may not be the end of the matter. He may also face criminal charges when Miller's report is reviewed by the Vermilion County State's Attorney's office.

Ramos was hired by the department in 1988. He was laid off a short time later due to budget cuts and was later rehired. He has been an officer for about 10 years, Drollinger said.

Ramos' resignation puts the Hoopeston department one man short but a new officer will be hired to replace him, Drollinger said.

The Hoopeston Police Commission will review eligible applicants from the current list of candidates who completed department testing to be officers, he said.

**Bleacher bid-letting planned**

Hoopeston Area High School will get new bleachers thanks, in part, to a \$50,000 grant.

The state grant will pay approximately half the cost of replacing the seats, said building and grounds superintendent Ron Lewis.

He made the announcement at Thursday's district school board meeting.

Specifications for the bleachers, expected to be wood with plastic overlay, will be drawn up by architect Bob Hible of Danville. Bids will be opened March 23.

The district has spent \$17,000 to \$18,000 repairing the 32-year-old existing bleachers in recent years, Lewis said.

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## Police News



A woman's ring was found Friday. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

**April M. Padilla**, 43, of 16262 E 2750 North Rd., Danville, was arrested at 3 p.m. Friday at city hall. Padilla was charged with driving while revoked, oper-

ating an uninsured motor vehicle and on an Iroquois County warrant. She was released on notices to appear on the traffic violations and \$200 cash on the warrant.

### Fire calls

The Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 1:20

9:30 a.m., men's euchre, noon.

This week's Teen Reach activities are: Monday, closed; Tuesday, karate 6-6:30 p.m.; Wednesday, second quarter awards/Family Night 5:30-7 p.m.; Thursday, Katie 4 p.m., Dee Ann Ryan, 5:30, Peer Court.; Friday, movie.

### Meetings

- Rossville village board, 7 p.m. Monday, village office
- Hoopeston City Council, 7 p.m. Tuesday, city hall.

## Obituaries

**KELLER**—Ralph E. Keller, 79, of Hoopeston, died at 2:55 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, 2001 at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Danville. Funeral services were at 2 p.m. Sunday at First Presbyterian Church, Hoopeston. Burial was in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Saturday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Memorials are suggested to First Presbyterian Church, 915 E. Orange St., Hoopeston, IL 60942.

**YARBROUGH**—Eldon H. Yarbrough, 88, of rural Rossville, died at 1:20 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, 2001 at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Danville. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Antioch Church of Christ east of Rossville. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Monday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. Memorials are suggested to Antioch Church of Christ, 37605-B N 1900 East Rd., Rossville, IL 60963.

## Weather



Mostly cloudy today. Snow early, changing to rain. High 45. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 32. Tomorrow, chance of rain or snow late. High 47, low 35.

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

## Briefly

### Calendar winners

This week's winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: Feb. 19, Vanessa and Don Skinner; Feb. 20, Tyler and Stewart Johnson; Feb. 21, Dave Schippert, Cissna Park; Feb. 22, Edith Baldwin; Feb. 23, Joyce Weber, \$200.

### Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: Monday, closed; Tuesday, Hoopeston/Rossville shuttle; Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville.

For more information or to arrange a ride, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Community center activities include: Monday, closed; Tuesday, ladies euchre, noon; Thursday, men's coffee,

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## Classifieds

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sign up to get hour house on map for HOOPESTON'S TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE, Sat., March 17, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Send your name, address, phone number, \$5 fee (per house) and list of items you're selling to Brianna's Baby Shop, 107 E. Main St. You'll receive a confirmation call. 3 members of any local non-profit organization or church are needed to volunteer in civic center on March 17 in exchange for donation to your group. Businesses may buy an ad for the map. Stop in Global Fashions for more details. 046-059

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Large 2 bedroom upstairs apartment. References, security deposit, first month required. Call (217) 283-7920 after 5 p.m. 038-tfn

### CHILD CARE

Mother of one wanting to baby sit toddlers or school children. Call Nikki at (217) 397-9958. 046-052

### HELP WANTED

Food service associate. Full time position. Day shift. Cooking skills preferred. Contact Beth Totheroh, Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, 701 E. Orange St., Hoopeston, IL 60942, (217) 283-5531, ext. 200. 046-052

### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Leer truck topper. Fits standard Ford Ranger. Nice. \$125. Marlin lever action 22 caliber rifle, model 39A. Excellent condition. \$165. Rockwell 8" table saw w/accessories. \$35. Phone (217) 283-7916.

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