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**Wednesday, March 5, 2003**  
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

**P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942** **[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)**

## DTN Speednet ups ante for high-speed wireless internet

A committee to determine whether a wireless internet company should be allowed to use the city water tower for equipment was ready to recommend the tower not be used, but a representative of the company has upped the ante.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Hoopeston City Council heard from Mike Hansen, DTN Speednet site acquisition manager, who said the company is willing to address concerns the committee had, including:

- reimbursing the city for electricity used at the site. Hansen said power routinely costs about \$15 monthly.
- \$250 in services or cash or five percent of receipts, whichever is higher.
- paying \$500 when the water tower is painted to offset the increased cost due to equipment.

## Champaign County deputy lists tips for internet safety

Champaign County Deputy Allen Jones is a grown man who likes his job. But part of that job is sometimes posing as a young girl.

Jones was the featured speaker at Monday's Neighborhood Watch meeting sponsored by the Hoopeston Police Department. The deputy, who works with the Attorney General's task force on computer crimes, spoke on keeping families safe on the internet.

In his work, Jones sometimes goes into online chat rooms posing as a youngster to catch other adults who prey on children.

Jones called the internet "a virtual playground," saying children use it the way their parents used

**See INTERNET on other side**

**Champaign County Sheriff's Deputy Allen Jones discusses internet safety at Monday's Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting.**

"We've learned over the years that we can comply and make right any situation," Hansen said.

The council is expected to vote on the contract at its March 18 meeting.

In other business, the city's budget may be running 10-15 percent under budget, said Mayor Chalmers Flint. However, recent news reports indicate consumer spending is up, possibly due to income tax returns. "That can help fill the gap," he said.

In unrelated business, the council:

- learned bids will be accepted for weed control in the parks. Specifications are available from Eugene Warner.
- set a civic committee meeting for 4 p.m. March 11 to discuss mosquito abatement. Alderman John Haughee will present information from a countywide meeting.



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**Internet** continued from other side

playgrounds to socialize when they were young. The difference is, the anonymity makes it hard to know who’s who. “Billy from Dallas is 52, not 12 and he’s hanging out (in juvenile chat rooms) because he ‘likes’ kids. We try to protect the true children from the predators.”  
The responsibility of keeping children safe while they surf is up to parents. “A lot of people want to know what kids should do to stay safe on the internet,” he said. “We need to talk about what parents should do.”  
“A computer is not a babysitter,” Jones said. “It’s an educational tool that is also used for entertainment. Kids need to be supervised.”  
There are some tips parents can teach their children to keep them safer while they surf. The tips are part of “common sense - which sometimes doesn’t seem to exist - child-rearing,” he said.  
The first is to never give out their real name, address, age or school. With that information, predators can track children down in real life and harass or hurt them, Jones said. “It’s important to keep your information private,” he said.  
Children should be encouraged to go to appropriate sites. Some interesting ones Jones mentioned were for the Smithsonian Institute, NASA and one that debunks urban legends.  
Jones showed one urban legend, of a great white shark rising from the water towards divers suspended from a helicopter. “It’s a cool picture,” he said. “But it’s not real.” The picture also included the Golden Gate Bridge. “When was the last time you saw a shark in San Francisco,” Jones asked. “You can’t always believe what you see on the computer.”  
If a child receives a disturbing email or contact in a chat room, he should not delete it but should leave it on the screen and tell a parent or other trusted adult. The same is true for adults who witness online conversations that might be youngsters planning to commit crimes, he said. In those cases, law enforcement officials should be called to investigate, he added.  
Children are not the only ones who are victimized by contact with others on the computer. Many adults are victimized by financial scams which can cost them a great deal of money.  
Jones takes his “Protecting Families on the Internet” program to various groups and has a similar message for all. “This program is about ethics,” he said. “It’s about personal responsibility.”  
Along with trying to keep people safe online, Jones also investigates computer crimes. His training has been given to two local law enforcement representatives, Russell Rudd, Hoopeston’s 911 coordinator and Rod Kaag of the Vermilion County Sheriff’s Department, said Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger.  
The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be at 6 p.m. April 7 at County Terrace. Mayor Chalmers Flint is scheduled to be the speaker.



**Bowling Scores**




**Friday Night Mixed League**  
Standings 2/21/03

1. Hoopeston Weather Line	118.5	56.5
2. Northsiders	112	63
3. Tax Service Plus	110	65
4. RCP	104	71
5. Bar	104	71
6. T&L Lawn Care	95	80
7. Lucky Dogs	89.5	85.5
8. Stone Cold	87	88
9. Polson & Company	84.5	90.5

**High Team Handicap Game:** Hoopeston Weather Line 893, RCP 887, T&L Lawn Care 869; **High Team Handicap Series:** T&L Lawn Care 2,501, Hoopeston Weather Line 2,481, P.U.’s 2,471; **Men’s High Scratch Game:** Todd Underwood 249, Keith Hicks 246, Todd Keith 238; **Men’s High Scratch Series:** Todd Underwood 693, Tim Coon 645, Todd Keith 643; **Women’s High Scratch Game:** Glenda Reed 235, Jodi Coon 202, Sharon Polson 185; **Women’s High Scratch Series:** Glenda Reed 630, Jodi Coon 542, Karen Porth 495.


**New Books at the Library**



**Non-fiction:**

Unlocking the Sky by Seth Shulman  
Picnics by Pat Nekola  
Power Freaks by David L. Weiner  
The Responsibility Virus by Roger Martin  
Ballet and Modern Dance by Susan Au  
The Blessing: a Memoir by Gregory Orr

**Weather**



Winter weather advisory through this morning. Snow, 2-4 inches. High 30Tonight, chance of snow. Low 22. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 43, low 30.  
For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

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