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her extra effort.*

Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

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Former Hoopeston employee investigated for missing money

Hoopeston police are investigating an alleged theft of city money by a former employee.

In a telephone interview Friday, Chief Mark Drollinger confirmed that an investigation into the alleged theft began February 21.

Drollinger said a suspect, whom he declined to identify, came forward and has assisted cooperated with the investigation. Results of the investigation have been turned over to the Vermilion County State's Attorney's office. State's Attorney Frank Young could not be reached for comment Friday.

Charges could range from theft over \$300 to official misconduct, both felonies, Drollinger said.

The estimate of the amount taken range from \$1,500 to \$10,00. A more exact figure is expected after an audit is completed.

Drollinger said the case was brought to him by city officials following a closed session at a recent city council meeting.

Mayor Bill DeWitt said Friday that the incident allegedly occurred in 2004, before he took office, and will likely result in changes to city's money-handling policies. "We have hopes of finding out how this happened," he said, adding changes may be made "so there won't be a change for anybody to make a mistake."

DeWitt declined further comment. "It's under investigation," he said. "They're doing an audit. I'm not going to say anything because I don't know."

Lack of comment does not mean officials are trying to cover up the incident, eh said. "We're not hiding anything," he said. "We're going to get to the bottom of this and get it corrected."

Hoopeston receives beautification award, sets cleanup date

Efforts to beautify the city resulted in an award from Keep Vermilion County Beautiful (KVCB).

Kristi Hudson, representing KVCB, presented Mayor Bill DeWitt with a plaque at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting.

The citation recognizes the city's efforts at beautification made last year under Claudia DeWitt, chairman of the city's beautification committee.

In related news, Hudson announced
See AWARD on other side

Kristi Hudson of Keep Vermilion County Beautiful, presents Hoopeston Mayor Bill DeWitt with a beautification award at Tuesday's Hoopeston City



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Lunch Menus



Hoopeston Area grade schools
MONDAY: Chicken nuggets, corn, applesauce, animal crackers.
TUESDAY: Sausage pizza, salad, pears.
WEDNESDAY: Chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, bread, oleo, peaches.
THURSDAY: Taco/soft shell, salad, pineapple, cupcake.
FRIDAY: Hotdog/bun, potato wedges, pineapple, brownie.

Hoopeston Area Middle/High School
MONDAY: Chicken strips, potato wedges, cheese sauce, Jello/applesauce; Choices: turkey/bun, ham & cheese/bun.
TUESDAY: Cheese pizza, salad, pears, cookie; Choices: chicken patty/bun, corn dog.
WEDNESDAY: Beef & gravy, whipped potatoes, green beans, bread, butter, peach slices, peaches; Choices: chicken nuggets, BBQ/bun.
THURSDAY: Chicken quesadilla, salad, pineapple;

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Choices: chicken nuggets, BBQ/bun.
FRIDAY: Chicken salad wraps, noodle soup, crackers, fruit cocktail; Choices: hamburger/bun, fish/bun.
Rossville-Alvin Grade School
MONDAY: Soft shell taco, corn, pears, bread, butter.
TUESDAY: Burrito, corn, pineapple bread, butter, oatmeal chocolate chip cookie.
WEDNESDAY: Hotdog, tater tots, orange, brownie.

THURSDAY: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, carrots, mixed fruit, bread, butter.
FRIDAY: BBQ rib, cheese stick, California blend, banana pudding.
CRIS/SAMS meals
MONDAY: Swiss steak, scalloped corn, broccoli, apples, wheat bread.
TUESDAY: Meatloaf, new potatoes, Harvard beets,

bananas, wheat bread.
WEDNESDAY: Country fried steak, whipped potatoes, Italian vegetables white bread, applesauce.
THURSDAY: Chicken parmesan, Capri vegetables, whipped potatoes, orange juice, wheat bread.
FRIDAY: Pork/orange glaze, baked potato, shredded lettuce/dressing, strawberry gelatin cake, yeast rolls.
All meals include milk.

Obituaries

ENNEN - Gordon Richard Ennen, 87, of Watseka died at 2:30 p.m. Friday, March 9, 2007 at home. Funeral service will be at noon Monday at Calvary Lutheran Church, Watseka. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery, Watseka. Visitation will be one hour before

service at the church. Memorials are suggested to Iroquois Memorial Hospice. Segur-Knapp Funeral Home, Watseka, was in charge of arrangements.
REDDEN - Lillian Redden, 90, of Rossville died at 10:55 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at Illinois

Knights Templar Home, Paxton. Funeral service was at 1 p.m. Saturday at Wolfe Funeral Home, Rossville. Burial was in Rossville Cemetery. Visitation was 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.



Police News



A **39-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 7:15 p.m. Thursday that someone took a Play Station from her home in the 500 block of North Seventh Ave.
An **18-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Friday that someone took a Verizon cell phone from Hoopeston Area High School, 615 E. Orange.
Patricia L. Benison, 32, of 528 N. Fourth St., was arrested at 12:49 a.m. Saturday at Penn and South Third Ave.

Benison, wanted on a Ford County warrant for failure to appear, was released on \$400 cash bond.
She was stopped after police said she made several turns without signaling, police said.
Jordan M. Davis-Ervin, 16, of Hoopeston was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and disregarding a traffic control device at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.
Police said Davis-Ervin, in a 1994 Ford, was northbound on South First Ave. and collided with a

1992 Oldsmobile driven by Jeffrey A. Coss of Hoopeston. No injuries were reported.

Award continued from other side
citywide cleanup will be held April 14 and will feature a three-pronged effort.
First, she said, free-cycling will be held at the McFerren Park Civic Center. Anyone with usable or fixable items will be able to bring those items to the civic center, where other residents may go through them and take what they want and/or need.
Hazardous materials and things like tires will not be accepted for free-cycling, Hudson said.
To handle those items, Hudson said she will take pictures of them and post them at the civic center at a later time. Residents who could use that half gallon of paint or those tires can then get information from the pictures and call the parties who have them.
The second part of cleanup day will be a cigarette

butt scavenger hunt. Those interested will be given bags and plastic gloves to scour the city looking for cigarette butts. Prizes will be awarded to the child, teen and adult who collect the most butts.
Hudson said she is working with Allied Waste to "Keep the Scene Green" and have a citywide collection of yard waste and several scrap metal dealers to take old appliances.

Weather



Breezy today. High 61. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 64. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 68, low 46.
For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Classifieds

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