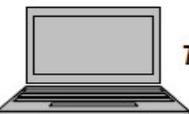


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Just the Facts
 Tuesday, May 29, 2012

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Sixteen-year-old charged with car theft, battering officers

A stolen car report ended with three Hoopeston officers being battered and the arrest of a 16-year-old Hoopeston boy.

Police were called at 2:49 a.m. Sunday to the 700 block of West Main, where a 49-year-old Hoopeston woman reported her vehicle had been stolen.

Officers found the vehicle in McFerren Park and when they tried to stop it, the driver sped up and attempted to flee before crashing into a tree and picnic table on the east side of the park. Police allege the driver then fled on foot and allegedly fought with officers before being subdued and taken into custody.

The youngster was charged with theft of a motor vehicle, aggravated fleeing and eluding, no valid driver's license, three counts of aggravated battery of a police officer and an Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) warrant for parole violation.

Police said the boy was on home confinement with electronic monitoring and had cut the monitor from his leg, which alerted Illinois Department of Corrections authorities that the boy had violated his probation.

In other police news:

Jamie M. Johnson, 38, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at 12:22 a.m. Thursday at West Penn and Third. She was charged with driving while license revoked and was released on a notice to appear.

A set of keys was found at McFerren Park. The owner may identify and claim them at the police station.

Four people were charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and cannabis after a traffic stop at 1:07 a.m. Saturday in the 900 block of South Seventh Street. Shawn Hurt, 18, of Rankin, Jacob Mitchell, 20 and Robert Wood, 18, both of Hoopeston, and a 17-year-old Alvin boy were all charged and released on notices to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Todd Longest, 23, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a traffic stop at Casey's General Store, 1022 W. Penn. He was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and cannabis and was released on notices to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Ralph M. Plecker II, 42, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 1:10 a.m. Sunday in the See POLICE on other side

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Briefly

Babysitting class

American Red Cross Babysitters' Training Class will be held from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, May 30, at First Presbyterian Church, Hoopeston. The one-day course for 11-15-year-olds will give them the skills and confidence to be great babysitters. Cost is \$85. Students should bring a sack lunch. Register by calling (217) 283-6229.

Change in walking hours

Effective immediately, the Civic Center will be closed to walkers at 3:30 p.m. It will not be open on Saturday and Sunday at all. Beginning June 1, it will be closed at noon. Beginning October 1, it will be open 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

WMD winners

May winners in the Women Making a Difference 50/50 drawing are: \$25, Mark Fletcher, Barbara Hale; \$15, Tia Petersen, Jim Brown; \$10, Tom Layden (donated back), Vickie Goodner.

Obituaries

REIFSTECK—Chester F. "Junior" Reifsteck Jr., 75, of Potomac, died at 4:50 p.m. Saturday, May 26, 2012, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Mann's Chapel Cemetery south of Rossville. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Wednesday and one hour before service Thursday at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church or donor's choice. Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, Hoopeston, is in charge of arrangements.

Police continued from other side

500 block of East Main. He was charged with battery on a complaint from a 38-year-old Hoopeston woman and also with possession of cannabis 2.5-10 grams.

Plecker was released on a recognizance bond with a date in Vermilion County Circuit Court.

A 51-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 3:29 p.m. Sunday that someone took four room air conditioners from her garage in the 300 block of North Market.

Foul play not suspected in Hoopeston man's death in jail

Foul play is not suspected in the death of a Hoopeston man at the Ford County jail.

Richard J. Gonzalez, 30, was found dead at about 4 a.m. Wednesday, according to a news release from Ford County Sheriff Mark Doran. Mr. Gonzalez was found dead in a single-person cell.

An autopsy was performed Wednesday at the Kankakee County Morgue. The cause of death remains undetermined until toxicology results are received, but may have been a medical issue.

Suicide has also been ruled out in the case, which is being investigated by Ford County Coroner Doug Wallace, as well as the Illinois State Police and Illinois Department of Corrections.

Weather



Sunny today. High 85. Tonight, clear. Low 56. Tomorrow, sunny. High 73, low 51.

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Mr. Gonzalez was charged with theft in October 2011 for stealing \$3,000 from the Farmers-Merchants National Bank in Paxton by using an ATM card to make a \$3,000 deposit, which the bank did not receive, then using the card to make a \$3,000 withdrawal.

Mr. Gonzalez was convicted by a Ford County jury on April 11 on one count of felony theft. He was sentenced May 14 to four years in the Department of Corrections.

Mr. Gonzalez is survived by his parents, Arthur and Margaret Gonzalez, of Hoopeston; Noah Gonzalez, Richie "Jr" Gonzalez, Brandon Salgaro, Julian McKelvey and Gabriel Gonzalez; two daughters, Alyssa Gonzalez and Mariah McKelvey; one brother Arthur Gonzalez and one sister Margaret Gonzalez and his paternal grandparents Augustin and Mary Gonzalez.

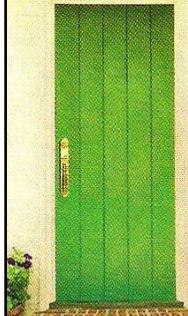
Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 11 am.-2 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. A memorial fund will be established at Iroquois Federal Savings and Loan Association, 511 S. Dixie Highway, Hoopeston IL 60942, c/o his children.

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Broker Associate

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