

HOOPESTON RADIO, INC.

WHPO 101 COUNTRY

221 E BANK ST.

MILFORD, IL 60953

PUBLIC FILE INFORMATION FOR 2ND QUARTER 2022

AS STATION MANAGER, I CAN CERTIFY THAT HOOPESTON RADIO, INC. WHPO 101 COUNTRY RUNS DAILY NEWSCASTS AT 6 A.M., 7A.M. 8A.M. & 12P.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY AND 7 A.M. ON SATURDAY AND AIRS DAILY PSAS FROM AD COUNCIL AROUND THE CLOCK. ATTACHED IS A LIST OF ISSUES FROM NEWSCASTS AND LIVE INTERVIEWS FOR DIFFERENT EVENTS AND ISSUES AROUND THE COMMUNITY.

I CAN ATTEST THAT NEWSCAST AND PSAS RUN DAILY AND ISSUES ARE COVERED MONTHLY.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JBakken". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops and a cursive script.

JAMIE LEE BAKKEN, GENERAL MANAGER

HOOPESTON RADIO, INC. WHPO 101 COUNTRY

WHPO 2nd quarter 2022 issues:

1. 19-year-old Buckley resident died from injuries received from a single-vehicle wreck

Posted About Three Months Ago by WHPO

A 19-year-old Buckley resident died from injuries she received when she was ejected from her vehicle during a single-vehicle wreck near Loda Thursday night.

Champaign County Coroner Duane Northrup said Hannah Luening was pronounced dead at 11:35 p.m. in the Carle Foundation Hospital Emergency Department, Urbana.

Preliminary autopsy results indicate Miss Luening died from multiple blunt-force injuries she received during the crash. Miss Luening, the driver, was ejected from her vehicle when it left the roadway, striking a culvert and rolling over several times near county roads 200N and 200E near Loda.

Iroquois County Sheriff's Department and the coroner's office are investigating the circumstances involving the crash.

2. Hoopeston Thompson Avenue Project update

Cross Construction, Inc. of Urbana Illinois was awarded the Thompson Avenue project in the City of Hoopeston on March 29, 2022 by the Illinois Department of Transportation for \$993,593.15 (Contract 91612). Cross Construction plans to start construction on April 20, 2022. The overall scope is the replacement of concrete curb and gutter and resurfacing. The roadway will remain open during construction, but at times reduced to one lane. Residents are urged to use caution while traveling Thompson Avenue. The project limits are from east of the CSX railroad crossing easterly to just east of 9th Street. The project is funded with a combination of Federal Highway, REBUILD Illinois, and Motor Fuel Tax funds. The project has 55 working days with an anticipated completion of work at the end of August.

3. Central Illinois Land Bank Authority awards contract to demolish 6 Hoopeston property. The Central Illinois Land Bank Authority (CILBA) awarded a \$78,500 contract to Lee Farms Excavating to demolish 6 residential properties in Hoopeston over the next few weeks. This builds off the twelve demolitions that CILBA did throughout Vermilion County last Fall – four of those properties were located in Hoopeston. The demolition work is being funded through a \$125,000 Illinois Housing Development Authority Strong Communities Program grant, a \$100,000 matching grant from the Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation, and a \$50,000 match from the City of Hoopeston.

Bill Nicholls, who is a Board member of the land bank and the Hoopeston Retirement Village Foundation, said "the foundation was excited to provide matching funds on the state grant so CILBA could scale up their demolition work locally. This is a great example of collaboration where the land bank wrote that state grant for Hoopeston and that was matched by a local foundation and the City. The land Bank has also been a great resource for technical and legal assistance that the smaller communities don't have access to." CILBA is excited to have over \$250k,000 to really move the needle on much needed demolitions in Hoopeston.

The following 6 properties are being demolished by the land bank: 320 Front Street, 322 Front Street, 520 E Honeywell, 210 E Washington, 406 E Thompson, and 908 W Washington. Two of the properties were donated to the land bank, two were purchased from the County Trustee, and another two required nine months of legal work to obtain the property title.

Kellie Ferrell, a Hoopeston City Councilor, said "the land bank has been a great resource in tackling some eyesore properties that were top priorities for the City. We're thrilled with this land bank partnership and excited to keep the work going – CILBA has already identified the next batch of 4 properties to be demolished." Over the last two years, CILBA has raise over \$500k for demolition work throughout Vermilion County. Besides the Hoopeston demolitions, the land bank also wrote grant applications for Georgetown, Rankin, Ridge Farm and Westville. Each community received a \$45,000 grant from Illinois Housing Development Authority Strong Communities Program that will be administered by the land bank.

3. Vermilion County Man sentenced 40 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections

In May of last year, after a bench trial before the Honorable Nancy Fahey, Percy Freeman was found guilty of First Degree Murder and Aggravated Battery. At trial, Prosecutors presented evidence through Danville Police Officers and independent witnesses that on April 24, 2019, Freeman, along with other individuals, tracked the victim Roosevelt Anderson through the Fair Oaks housing complex. When Freeman and his cohorts captured Anderson, they struck him with their fists, pistol whipped him, and then shot him one time in the head. Vital evidence in the case included surveillance video obtained from the Vermilion County Housing Authority, which captured the fatal attack.

Yesterday, April 26, 2022, Freeman was sentenced by Judge Fahey to forty (40) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The sentence shall be served at 100 percent, and will be followed by three (3) years of Mandatory Supervised Release (i.e., Parole). Upon his release from imprisonment, Freeman will be required to register as a Murderer pursuant to the Illinois Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act. The Illinois Attorney General's Office prosecuted the case in cooperation with Vermilion County State's Attorney's Office. State's Attorney Jacqueline Lacy thanked the prosecution team and the Danville Police Department for their dedication to this investigation and ensuring the just resolution. She further noted that, "Criminals who insist on terrorizing our community will be held accountable and severely punished."

4.

Husband and Wife arrested from Hoopeston Liquor store after months of theft

THEFT OVER

Date Occ: 05/22/2022

Location: Tedds Beverage 101 W Main St

Arrest: Amika Mishra (36) year old F/A from Hoopeston

Arrest: Rakesh Mishra (40) year old M/A from Hoopeston

Details: HPD was called to above ref a theft that occurred by employees over several months. After investigations interviewed the suspects, Husband and wife both placed under arrest and taken to the PSB.

5. Hoopeston man dies in the Iroquois County Jail

An inmate at the Iroquois County Jail suffered a medical incident and died, officials said.

The person's name has not been released. Police said he was from Hoopeston, Illinois and was arrested Wednesday by Iroquois County deputies during a traffic stop due to having an outstanding warrant. The warrant was out of Newton County, Indiana for failure to appear on an aggravated battery to a public official charge.

While he was at the jail, police said he suffered a medical incident. Corrections officers and deputies attempted to save him and he was taken to the hospital by ambulance. He passed away at the hospital.

State police said an autopsy has been completed and results are pending.

Per policy, the Illinois State Police are investigating the incident. They were notified about the death by Iroquois County investigators at about 1 a.m. Thursday.

6. Car pulled from Lake Vermilion, missing woman found inside

The Vermilion County Coroner, Jane McFadden stated that a vehicle was recovered at Lake Vermilion late Wednesday night which belonged to the missing 26 year-old Danville, IL woman, Abigail M. Brandenburg. Ms. Brandenburg was found inside the vehicle. No foul play is suspected in this case as an autopsy was performed today on May 12, 2022. Ms. Brandenburg's next of kin were contacted.

7.

Inmate captured after escape during transport, police say

A Gary man in transit from one jail to another Wednesday managed to escape and get a gun, resulting in a shootout between him and police, according to Indiana State Police.

Jayme Lopez, 36, was being moved Wednesday from Iroquois County Jail in Illinois to Newton County Jail in Indiana, according to the Indiana State Police. Lopez has an active warrant out of Newton County causing his need for transportation between jails.

Upon arrival just after 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Newton County Jail, Lopez escaped from the transport vehicle, police say.

According to police, officers from around the area responded quickly and set up a perimeter to begin searching for Lopez.

Two and a half hours later, troopers with ISP located Lopez at an apartment at 707 E. Lincoln St. in Kentland. Police first safely evacuated the apartment building of other people and set up a perimeter. Lopez had obtained a firearm at some point after he escaped and entered an apartment, police say. JASPER COUNTY SHERIFF'S TACTICAL SQUAD WAS CONTACTED, ACCORDING TO POLICE. THE SQUAD IMMEDIATELY ARRIVED TO NEGOTIATE WITH LOPEZ. HE FIRED MULTIPLE SHOTS FROM INSIDE THE APARTMENT TOWARD OFFICERS, POLICE SAY. ONE OF THE SQUAD OFFICERS RETURNED FIRE, STRIKING LOPEZ. HE THEN SURRENDERED TO OFFICERS WHO IMMEDIATELY GAVE MEDICAL AID TO LOPEZ.

A helicopter later took Lopez to a South Bend area hospital. Lopez's condition was unknown, police say.

The news release from the state police did not give the name of the officer who shot Lopez.

Police also did not say how Lopez managed to escape from the transport vehicle.

Police continued Wednesday night to investigate.

8. Hoopston man found in Tennessee.

The search for an escaped man in a rural Illinois town has come to an end.

Javier Aguirre, 47, of Hoopston, was found on Sunday at about 7:30 p.m. by the Clarksville Police Department in Montgomery County, Tennessee.

Aguirre escaped from a hospital transport van on I39 near milepost 28 in Minonk just before 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4.

It was reported Aguirre was a danger to himself and others, and Illinois State Police (ISP) Air Operations, as well as ISP K9 units, searched the area to no avail.

As a result of his escape, ISP investigated all alleged criminal damage to property by Aguirre during his escape, and the Woodford County State's Attorney issued a \$60,000 warrant for Aguirre's arrest.

9.

Hoopeston man sent to the big house

A Vermilion County Jury on March 9, 2022, found Donald Langston, formerly of Hoopeston, Illinois guilty of six (6) counts of Home Invasion, a class X felony and two (2) counts of Aggravated Battery, Deadly Weapon, a class three (3) felony.

The Jury heard evidence that on February 7th, 2020 Donald Langston went to his estranged wife's new house armed with a bat and a bb gun, forced his way in and attacked her and her family. Langston struck his estranged wife in the head with the bat. Several victims who were in the home at the time of the home invasion and also suffered severe injuries to the head and body. Langston then chased his estranged wife out of her home and attacked her again, but fled as the police arrived.

Typically, a class X felony is punishable by six (6) to thirty (30) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with three years of mandatory supervised release. However, after a hearing, the Court could make certain findings based upon the facts in this case that would increase the penalty. Aggravated Battery, Deadly Weapon is punishable from two (2) to five (5) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Today, Langston was sentenced by Circuit Judge Charles Hall to twenty (20) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections on the counts of Home Invasion, which merged at sentencing. The Court made a finding of great bodily harm as to the charge of Home Invasion. Therefore, Langston must serve the twenty (20) year sentence at eighty-five percent (85%). Langston was also sentenced to five (5) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections on the counts of Aggravated Battery which merged at sentencing. The Court found severe bodily injury on the charge of Aggravated Battery and therefore the

10. Casey's Expands in the Hoopeston Community with New Store

Casey's (NASDAQ: CASY), the third largest convenience store retailer and fifth-largest pizza chain in the United States, today announced the opening of its store in Hoopeston. Located at 912 S. Dixie Highway, the store opening celebration—complete with in-store specials and Casey's handmade pizza—will begin on May 5, 2022. In addition, Casey's is "Here for Good" by providing guests with a convenient place for fuel, snacks and freshly prepared foods, and being a positive force in the community.

"At Casey's, our purpose is to make the lives of our guests and communities better each day," said Darren Rebelez, President & Chief Executive Officer, Casey's. "We're excited to welcome our neighbors to our new stores where they can find everything they need to keep their day going, including our delicious handmade pizza, snacks and drinks, and other daily needs."

The new Hoopeston store will offer guests the chance to try Casey's Favorites with \$1 Single Topping Pizza Slices, \$0.50 Casey's Donuts, and \$1 Medium Fountain Drinks or Coffee during their Grand Opening celebration.

The 4,283 square-foot store will be open 24 hours seven days a week. It will offer a six-gasoline pump island setup with the following fuel types: 87E, 91E, 93E, E85, DEF and biodiesel blend. In addition, the new store will have Casey's delicious, made-from-scratch pizza, bakery items, breakfast sandwiches and burritos, full-service free-brewed coffee station, and more.

"We are constantly listening to our guests so we are meeting their needs and giving them a reason to visit Casey's every day," said Tom Brennan, chief merchandising officer, Casey's. "In addition to great products, we offer guests a fantastic loyalty program – Casey's Rewards – where they can earn and choose how they use the points they get when they shop with us."

11. Milford Man jailed for allegedly soliciting minor, traveling to Paxton to meet her

Paxton police arrested a Milford man early Wednesday after he allegedly solicited sex from a 15-year-old girl and traveled to Paxton to meet her.

About 8 1/2 hours after they began their investigation into the matter, Paxton police arrested Andy E. Leppard, 42, of Milford, around 12:05 a.m. Wednesday as he was inside his parked car in the 500 block of West Franklin Street, Police Chief Coy Cornett said.

Leppard was taken to the Ford County Jail, where he remained late Wednesday morning awaiting the setting of his bond.

Police arrested him on charges of traveling to meet a minor and indecent solicitation of a child, both Class 3 felonies, and solicitation to meet a child, a Class 4 felony.

Ford County State's Attorney Andrew Killian had not yet filed formal charges as of late Wednesday morning.

"I am awaiting the full police report," Killian said in an email, "but I anticipate a charging decision later this week."

Cornett said that around 3:24 p.m. Tuesday, Paxton police initiated their investigation into Leppard's alleged indecent soliciting of the teenager. On Tuesday night, Leppard allegedly drove to Paxton in a 2007 Ford Escort to meet the girl, Cornett said.

The car was seized by police under Article 36 of the Illinois Criminal Code, Cornett said.

Police also ticketed Leppard for unlawful possession of adult-use cannabis in a motor vehicle. Cornett said a small amount of cannabis was found inside a pill bottle in Leppard's possession.

Leppard is due to appear in Ford County Circuit Court on the cannabis charge at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9, court records show.

According to court records, Leppard is on probation in Iroquois County. Leppard was sentenced to four years of probation in August 2020 after pleading guilty to burglary, a Class 2 felony.

His criminal history also includes a misdemeanor retail theft conviction from April 2019 in Iroquois County, for which he received court supervision and a fine.

12. Man dies in Iroquois County go-kart crash

A 53-year-old man from Cissna Park was killed on Tuesday after his homemade go-kart collided with an SUV. The crash happened at the intersection of County Roads 1300E and 400N near Cissna Park. Sheriff's deputies said James E. Trent was ejected from his go-kart in the crash and sustained serious injuries. He was taken to the hospital by Cissna Park EMS, but later died. The driver of the SUV, 36-year-old Joel M. Kaeb, also of Cissna Park, was not hurt.

The Illinois State Police is assisting the Iroquois County Sheriff's deputies in investigating the crash.

13. Vermilion County man locked up for 11 years on a Meth Charge

On June 2, 2022, Jeffery Pate, formerly of Danville, pleaded guilty and was sentenced by Circuit Judge Charles Hall to 11 years Illinois Department of Corrections for the offense of Delivery of Methamphetamine. Delivery of Methamphetamine between 5 and 15 grams is a Class 1 Felony punishable from 4 to 15 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections and 1 year of mandatory supervised release (i.e. parole).

On June 6, 2021, Jeffery Pate, was the subject of a covert investigation by a team of specially trained drug enforcement officers with Vermilion County Metropolitan Enforcement Group. VMEG had been conducting an investigation in the Hoopeston area. During the course of the investigation, Pate delivered approximately 14 grams of methamphetamine to an undercover operative. The delivery of drugs by Pate was captured on video.

14. Potomac man gets 5 1/2 years in prison for probation violations

A Vermilion County man has been sentenced to 5 1/2 years in state prison for violating the terms of his probation from a previous drug case.

Judge Matt Fitton imposed the sentence on Kenneth L. Armstrong, 44, whose last known address was in Potomac, during a May 25 hearing in Ford County Circuit Court.

In January, Armstrong pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine with intent to deliver — charges that stemmed from his arrest in August 2020 — and was sentenced to 180 days in the Ford County Jail and placed on three years of probation.

A petition to revoke his probation was filed the following month alleging Armstrong committed new offenses within weeks of being released from the jail. At a March 15 hearing, Ford County State's Attorney Andrew Killian successfully proved the violations of the probation order, and the case was set for a May 3 sentencing hearing.

However, Armstrong's public defender, David Rumley, then left his position as a Ford County public defender to become the public defender in Logan County. As a result, the sentencing hearing was pushed back to May 25 so that Ford County Public Defender Harvey Welch could appear with Armstrong.

In seeking a sentence of six years in the Illinois Department of Corrections, Killian noted Armstrong's failure to comply with prior sentencing orders, his violations occurring within weeks of his release from jail, and the need to deter others from distributing methamphetamine.