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Lourdine Osborne  
editor

**Just the facts**

Friday, May 13, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!  
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Susan Comstock  
ad manager

## One injured, four suspended in senior prank

One Hoopeston Area High School student is hospitalized and four are suspended following what is being described as a senior prank.

Dustin Weber, 17, of Rankin, was in fair condition yesterday at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, after he fell approximately 50 feet down a chimney at the high school.

Weber and fellow seniors Chris Timmons, Ricky Martinez and Nathan Lockhart, and junior Ben Sollars, reportedly climbed onto the high school roof at approximately 11 p.m. Wednesday. Weber climbed to the top of the brick chimney, then fell inside, according to Mark Conolly, high school principal.

Weber then reportedly climbed to a ledge inside the chimney, approximately 25 feet from the bottom. He remained there until he was rescued by Hoopeston police and emergency medical technicians.

While Weber remains in the hospital, the other boys involved have been suspended from school for five days, Conolly said. "They've got five days to think about (their actions)," he said.

Additionally, the seniors will not be allowed to participate in the class trip to Great America on May 25, Conolly said.

Sollars will be barred from his senior class trip next year, he said.

Conolly called the boys "basically good kids. They've never created any problems in the school building," he said.

The accident may be related to Senior Week, when district seniors participate in special activities, although the incident is "something obviously not sanctioned by the school," Conolly said.

The non-injured boys regret their actions. Conolly said he questioned them Thursday morning. "Every one of them was extremely contrite," he said.

Conolly hopes the incident will serve as a signal to other students that something which "starts out as a prank could end up in a drastic tragedy," adding that it was "by the grace of God that (Weber) wasn't killed or paralyzed."

Conolly said this is the first serious incident to occur during senior week in the 16 years he has been with the district.

Because the incident was not connected with school-sponsored activities, Senior Week will not be cancelled for future classes.

However, Conolly said, students should be aware that Senior Week activities are "privileges, not rights accorded them by birth."

Whether charges will be filed against the boys has not been determined. School attorney William Nelson and the school's insurance company were expected to discuss the situation yesterday.

## Ag dept.: The check's in the mail for C & S producers

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois Department of Agriculture on Wednesday began paying claims delayed by a challenge from C&S Grain, Inc.

The claims stem from the December 1993 failure of the grain dealer and warehouse, which operated in Alvin, East Lynn, Fountain Creek, Henning and Wellington.

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**Court dispositions**

**Guillermo Martinez**, Kankakee, illegal parking, continued.

**Melanie Brougher**, Hoopeston, nuisance camper, nolle pros.

**William Brown**, Hoopeston, junk car, nolle pros.

**Brian Beaty**, Hoopeston, illegal consumption, \$75, criminal damage, \$75, six months court supervision.

**Charles Little**, Indiana, two counts deceptive practice, nolle pros. Checks made good.

**Bobby Swartz**, Hoopeston, theft, \$75, three months court supervision.

**Jeffrey Strawser**, Hoopeston, disorderly conduct, \$75; resisting arrest \$75; one year court supervision.

**James Crozier**, Danville, obstructing justice, not filed by state's attorney.

**Jeffrey Garner**, Hoopeston, domestic battery, not filed by state's attorney.

**Checks continued from other side**

The department paid 45 claimants whose payments were delayed by petitions C&S Grain filed with the department in April.

These payments are in addition to the \$3,442,689.94 the department paid last month for 236 claims C&S did not challenge.

Ag director Becky Doyle denied the company's petitions, but the department had to wait 35 days before paying challenged claims, allowing C&S time to appeal her decision.

C&S filed complaints in Vermilion County on May 10 against the remaining unpaid 82 claimants, arguing the claimants are due less money than the amount approved by the department.

If C&S and the department reach an agreement on the undisputed portion of the appealed claims, the 82 claimants will be paid the undisputed portion of their claims within one working day of when the agreement is signed.

The department finished liquidating grain at the company's five facilities earlier this month. The facilities held 1.7 million bushels of corn and soybeans worth \$7,758,337.

That amount, coupled with proceeds from prior grain sales, collateral, accrued interest, and other sources, bring total receipts to \$8,163,434.

The department paid \$158,000 in liquidation expenses and \$3.4 million in grain claims, leaving \$4,562,862.14 to pay remaining claims.

The remainder is at least \$182,846 short of the amount needed. The shortfall will be paid from the Illinois Grain Insurance Fund, financed by grain dealers and warehousemen statewide. The fund has a balance of \$1.8 million.

**Police News**

**Richard L. Matthews**, 29, of 512 E. Main St., turned himself in to Hoopeston police at 10:59 a.m. Thursday. Matthews was wanted on a county traffic warrant.

A key ring with several keys on it was found in front of 228 E. Main. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

**In the hospital**

**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**  
 May 11, 1994


**Admitted:** Naomi Knapp, Cissna Park.

**Discharged:** none.

**Weather**

Sunny today. High in the mid 70s. Tonight, cloudy. Low in the low 50s. Tomorrow, scattered thunderstorms. High near 76, low near 55. Sunday, isolated thunderstorms. High near 75, low near 63.

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