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 editor

**just the facts**

Wednesday, July 20, 1994

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Susan Comstock  
 ad manager

## City officials want crackdown on park vandalism

City officials are tired of people vandalizing McFerren Park. and they want something done about.

In recent weeks, doors have been kicked in at the Jaycee shelter and Civic Center, picnic tables ruined and toilet paper and light bulbs stolen, said alderman Mike Eckersley, chairman of the city parks committee, said at Tuesday's city council meeting.

An electric meter was even removed from the Lion's stand. "We're going to find out who's doing that because they're going to be laying there," he said. "They don't know what they're messing with when they're messing with that."

Eckersley requested that police officers arrest people in the park after its 11 p.m. closing time.

Police have, in recent weeks, been cracking

down on loitering youth in the city.

However, police chief Orval Kaag said fixing the problem won't be easy. "We can't possibly eliminate it," he said. "We run it out of one place and they go somewhere else."

Kaag said it will be difficult to police the park, on the city's south side, with the nine officers on the force. "They don't give us additional people, just additional jobs," he said.

The problem is a growing one, the chief said. "It's always been bad, but it's worse this year than it's ever been," he said. "They're tearing that park apart." Most offenders at 11 to 22 years old, he added.

Those charged under the loitering statutes will receive notices to appear in court and can be fined or pay only court costs, Kaag said.

## Owners, health officials allay concerns over mobile cafe

Concerns raised by a Rossville businessman about a mobile restaurant in the village are unfounded, according to the owners.

At Monday's village board meeting, Larry Ward voiced concerns about traffic and health safety of the Shake Shak, a mobile restaurant which sells ice cream, barbeque, nachos, shakes and other products.

Ward and his wife, Leanne, operate Ole Country Inn and Sweet Dreams Confectionary.

Ward said yesterday that pulling the camper-turned-eatery into the mini park on Attica Street causes traffic problems.

Ward expressed concern about food products becoming overheated in the camper and won-


dered if the facility had water available. Also, he said, according to regulations, the unit is supposed to be removed from the property nightly, but that is not always the case.

However, Cheri Fox and Marsha Dukes, Shake Shak owners, say those concerns are unfounded.


Regarding traffic problems, "if I see a car coming, I go around the block until nobody's coming," Dukes said.

As for health concerns, Dukes and Fox say they have been licensed as a mobile restaurant by the Vermilion County Health Department and meet all their requirements.

That was confirmed by Kirby Riggle, Vermilion  
 See CONCERNS on other side

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### Concerns continued from other side

County Health Department director of environmental health.

Riggle confirmed that the mobile food unit scored a 99 of 100 possible points on the department's food sanitary inspection. The June 16 inspection turned up one violation regarding light shield end caps.

"They have everything that a restaurant has, except they're on wheels," Riggle said. "Everything" includes compartmentalized sinks, a hand-washing sink, hot and cold running water and freezer and refrigeration units.

Fox said the unit has a water supply, including five gallons used to make shake-ups, a holding tank and a hot water heater. "We are totally self-sufficient other than electrical power and there's an outlet there that we use," she said.

Riggle said as part of licensing for a mobile restaurant, the unit must be taken to a home base every evening.

However, he added he was aware that the vehicle used to move the Shake Shak was in an accident and was unavailable for a few days. "It's not going to hurt anything if it's one or two nights," he said. "If it happens every week, then we've got a problem."

Fox and Dukes are purchasing the mini park property and are considering putting a permanent structure on it. Meanwhile, they are looking at other ways of getting the camper on the property, she said.

Reception from most Rossville residents and tourists has been positive. "The tourists like the relaxing atmosphere of sitting in the park," she said.

And a problem with vandalism at the mini park has been severely cut, the women said. "The kids have been so good," Fox said. "They see a place they can sit and visit and nobody runs them off."

The Shake Shak is open 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and noon to 7 p.m. Sundays.

### Police News



No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 6:14 p.m. Monday. A car driven by Aaron P. Hasselbring, 200 W. Walnut, East Lynn, was at the railroad crossing on the 100 block of West Main when a vehicle driven by Cecil H. Burton, Centennial Manor, ran into it. Burton was at fault for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

William L. Buhrmester, 21, of 719 Scott Drive, was arrested at 7:30 p.m. Monday night. He was charged with domestic battery and resisting arrest.

According to police reports, officers were called to a domestic disturbance at that address. Buhrmester was booked, then taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Four youths were arrested at 10:18 p.m. Monday in the Hoopeston Cable TV parking lot.

Arrested were Emily Gonzales, 18, of 522 N Third St., Aaron W. Gress, 18, 425 N. Sixth Ave. Darren L. Conrad, 402 W. Washinton, and Richard W. Thompson, 20, 627 E. Main.

All were charged with loitering and released on notices to appear.

James Baer, Route 1, Hoopeston, reported that someone entered his locked vehicle while it was parked at Baer's Motel, Routes 1 and 9. Several items were taken.

### In the Hospital



#### Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

June 18, 1994

Admitted: Jordan Crose and Vivian Gaona, Hoopeston; Dorothy Knake, Milford.

Discharged: Willa Mae Leslie, Hoopeston.

### Weather



Sunny, hot and humid today, with a chance of thunderstorms. High near 94. Tonight, continued chance of storms. Low near 72. Tomorrow, scattered thunderstorms. High near 87, low near 74

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108 E. Main, Hoopeston Brian Lawson, owner

### Anniversary Celebration

Wilbur & Ardieth (Long) Watson of Henning, Ill., will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary at 1 p.m., July 23, at the Vermilion Fishing Club, north of Oakwood. A hog roast is being hosted by their grandchildren. All family, friends and acquaintances are welcome. Please bring a covered dish and lawn chair.

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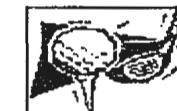
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