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Lourdine Florek
editor

just the facts

Monday, January 30, 1995

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

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Former workers notified of change in NMI status

Former employees of the Hoopeston-based National Microsystems of Illinois say they were notified last week that the company filed for protection under Chapter 7 bankruptcy laws.

The company, which makes wiring harnesses for the automobile industry and products for the defense industry, has been under chapter 11 reorganization protection for about a year.

However, Saturday's mail brought official no-

tices to creditors to former employees who are reportedly owed back wages.

A hearing on the liquidation action was held Thursday in federal court in Danville, sources said.

Financial problems have plagued the company almost since it located in Hoopeston. Besides filing under Chapter 11 laws, the company has also been the target of IRS liens for back taxes.

Employees wait to learn fate of Howard Industries plant

MILFORD—Workers at the Howard Industries plant expect to learn this afternoon what will become of the plant - and their jobs.

Company officials were expected to meet to discuss liquidating the company's assets, said Connie Bell, president of Local 7761 of the United International Paper Union.

Officials then planned to meet with the union bargaining committee in the afternoon, Bell said.

The possibility of liquidation came after employees on Friday voted 89-54 not to accept a concessions package requested by the company.

Bell said the package included employees giving up one dollar per hour of wages, an increase in the insurance premium paid by workers and fewer vacation days.

"I think the majority of (employees) felt no matter how much they gave, it wouldn't be enough," Bell said of the vote. "If they would've taken this package, it would have set them back eight years."

Also on Friday, all but 50 employees received lay-off notifications, Bell said. The 50 remaining

were told they could report to work Monday but might not be paid, she said.

Bell blamed mismanagement on the company's financial problems, saying large customers have been lost because orders were not manufactured to specifications.

The company makes electric motors.

Employees do not expect to get any type of severance package, Bell said, adding that should the company file a Chapter 11, "the government will get theirs first, then the bank, then the vendors, then they employees. We're going to have to wait in line."

The predicted closing of the plant, which has been in Milford approximately 30 years, will have a negative effect on the community, Bell said. "I think it's going to have a very big impact on Milford," she said. "A lot of husbands and wives work there."

"It's been a really emotional week for everybody."

Company officials could not be reached for comment over the weekend.

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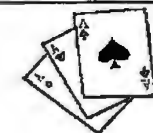


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Police News



No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 10:55 a.m. Friday at 320 W. Maple.

A 1982 Ford van, driven by Richard L. Lawson, 320 W. Maple, backed from the driveway of that address and struck a 1988 Dodge driven by Imogene H. Butterfield, 317 W. Maple.

Noah W. Deck, 314 E. Maple, reported Friday that someone took the four-wheel drive lockout from a 1992 Ford Bronco.

Eric P. Brandon, 22, of rural route 3, Milford, was arrested at 12:13 p.m. Saturday, charged with domestic battery.

Brandon was arrested following an altercation with his girlfriend at 725 E. McNeil.

He was released on \$100 cash bond.

Juan T. Lugo, 18, of 606 W. Chestnut, was charged with operating an uninsured motor vehicle and leaving the scene of an accident with vehicle damage following an accident at 1:58 p.m. Saturday. According to police reports, Lugo, in a 1994 Chevrolet, backed from a parking space at West Lincoln and South Sixth Ave., then pulled forward, striking a 1985 Oldsmobile owned by Lynn M. Rutledge, #45, Parkview Court.

Lugo, who reportedly left the scene, was identified by a witness, was later apprehended. He posted his driver's license as bond and was released.

leased.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 7:04 p.m. Saturday in the 100 block of East Main.

A 1995 Dodge, driven by Jonathan E. Jett, 744 E. Penn, backed from a parking space and struck a 1991 Mercury driven by Duane L. Harshbarger, Ambia, Ind.

Jett was at fault for improper backing.

Derby winners named

A field of 27 was narrowed to four winners in the annual Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby Thursday night.

Winners were Michael Catron, Michael Mastin, Dustin Gilpin and Ryan Lander.

Winners were based on the best two of three races said Marilyn McMillan, adding some races were very difficult to call.

A new track, used for the second year, "made a world of difference" in the races, she said. "We had an electronic eye, but it was still hard to tell who won."

Best of Show awards went to Ryan Bane and Chad Garrison. Those awards were given for cars deemed best looking by outside judges.

Obituaries

COOK - Florence E. Cook, 84, of Chicago, formerly of Hoopeston, died Saturday, Jan. 28, 1995 at Christ Community Hospital in Oak Lawn. Arrangements are pending at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home.

DAY - Mattie C. Day, 78, of Danville, formerly of Hoopeston, died at 11:35 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, 1995 at United Samaritans Medical Center, Sager campus, in Danville. A private memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. There will be no visitation.

WHITE - Richard White, 66, of rural Alvin, died at 4:50 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, 1995, at his home. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Monday at the Morrison Funeral Home in Bismarck. Burial will be in Boswell Cemetery, Boswell, Ind. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Weather

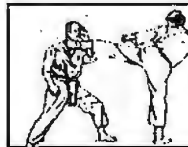


Partly sunny today. High in the mid 30s. Tonight, fair. Low in the mid 20s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 50, low near 25.



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