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Lourdine Florek  
editor

**Just the facts**

Monday, July 10, 1995

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

Susan Comstock  
ad manager



## Police News



Both drivers in an accident Thursday were ticketed by police.

Julie M. Carl, 20, of 321 W. Elm, was east-bound on West Elm in a 1994 Dodge van. Erin Mills, 16, of 522 W. Chestnut was northbound on Third Ave.

Both told police they stopped before entering the intersection, although Mills entered the intersection first and was struck by Carl.

Carl was ticketed for failure to yield and Mills was ticketed for failure to wear a seatbelt.

Mills and an unidentified passenger were taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital for treatment.

The accident occurred at 6:07 p.m.

Alison Hughes, 709 S. First Ave., reported Thursday that someone broke the antenna of her car while the car was parked at Community Bank.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 10:12 p.m. Thursday.

A 1968 Ford F-100 driven by Brian L. Smith, 721 S. Market, was backing from a parking space at 714 W. Orange and struck a 1989 Plymouth Sundance driven by Vauna Wills, 716 E. McCracken.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 2:22 p.m. Friday.

A 1995 Buick Park Avenue, driven by Myrtle Clark, 6385 State Route 9, and a 1995 Honda Civic, driven by Jamie J. Strawser, 716 W. Main, were backing from parking spaces at Jerry's IGA and collided.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 6:23 p.m. Friday.

Martina M. Solis, 422 W. Lincoln, was backing

her 1990 Chevrolet in the alley behind 221 W. Chestnut when she struck a GTE pole, breaking it off at ground level.

Stanley P. Pickett, 18, of 556 Second North, Wellington, was arrested at 8:40 p.m. Friday on a Vermilion County traffic warrant.

Pickett was released after posting \$300 cash bond.

No injuries were reported in an accident at 10 p.m. Friday. An unidentified vehicle struck a parked 1983 GMC pickup truck owned by Christopher A. Layden, 11443E 4200N Rd., while it was at the Shell Mart, Routes 1 and 9.

Sean P. Barrett, 33, of 15532 O'Connor Ave., Allen Park, MI., was arrested at 9:16 p.m. Friday, charged with reckless driving and resisting arrest. He was arrested after motorists near Routes 1 and 9 complained he was driving recklessly. Barrett was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

A 14-year-old boy was arrested at 9 a.m. Saturday, charged with four counts of calling in bomb threats and extortion. He was released to his parents pending the filing of a juvenile petition.

The signs reported stolen July 5 from Ted's Home Beverage were found Saturday in a vehicle at the Phillips 66 station. No arrests were made in connection with the theft.

## Weather



Partly sunny and hot today. High in the low to mid 90s. Tonight, fair. Low in the upper 60s. Tomorrow, sunny and hot. High near 98, low near 68.

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## Letter to the editor

### Editor:

It is difficult to believe what has happened recently in Hoopeston. There have not simply been one or two injustices, but a string of public betrayals.

First is the landfill expansion. Every time I return to Hoopeston, this seems to be what people ask me about most. I often find myself explaining reasons I believe the Hoopeston city council has taken the position it has. As difficult as that is, it is even more difficult to explain why elected officials don't listen. In April, voters overwhelmingly said no to the expansion. There should be no compromise and no misunderstanding. Voting citizens of Hoopeston don't want the landfill. I hope voters make it clear to the council that they will not stand for this kind of behavior.

Second is a \$100,000 loan the city council promised to a mystery company. While I understand that this is not illegal, it is unethical. Citizens have a right to know where their tax dollars are going. This company could have a history of bankruptcy, corruption or graft. This is a community that was built on honesty, trust and hard work. City officials should be stoical leaders setting the example for youth of the community. By not fully disclosing the company's history and future plans, the city council has betrayed the voters' trust.

Finally is the new disciplinary policy proposed by some Hoopeston educators. There are a few things that need to be considered before any actions are taken.

The first is what will these "punished" students do if they are removed from extracurricular activities? For many, these activities are the only beneficial social and recreational outlets they have. Many have little money or little family support, using activities as an escape from a tough home life. What is Hoopeston Area High School going to do when those people go back out on the streets?

Second is a question of *in loco parentis* or in

place of the parent. Educators are effectively putting themselves in the position of the parent. How far is HAHS going to go in the quest to "educate" young people of the community?

Third is the idea that all students are going to be judged alike. Students not smoking or drinking will be punished for desiring a social life.

This policy seems to invade the students' right to privacy protected under the Constitution. It also appears non-drinkers and non-smokers are being subject to "cruel and unusual punishment" specifically outlawed under the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution. I understand the need to set up policies in which alcohol and drug abusers are punished; however individuals have an inherent right to autonomy. Before Hoopeston educators decide to step into the students private lives, they should consider the complex results of their actions, not just the singular problem they are looking to solve.

Furthermore, it is up to Hoopeston residents to change the direction the community is going. The voters feel betrayed by the very people they have supported for years. When the flag flies in Hoopeston, it symbolized democracy, freedom and justice, not deceit, dishonesty and deception.

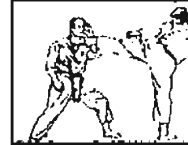
When I grew up here, my parents ran a small tuxedo business from our home. One day, someone filed a complaint because there were a number of cars blocking their drive. They claimed we were committing a zoning violation, which, essentially, we were.

But my parents decided to try and change the zoning statute, so they gathered signatures from friends, neighbors and merchants. They went to the city council, presented their case, and won. Democracy had worked. The voters spoke and the council listened. That's what I thought Hoopeston stood for. I believed we helped each other and democracy helped us all. But it's not the first time I have been wrong.

Matthew Parsons  
Carbondale, IL

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