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Lourdine Florek  
 editor

**Just the facts**

Susan Comstock  
 ad manager

**Tuesday, July 25, 1995**  
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!  
 (217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

## Hoopeston Foods purchase of Pillsbury plant completed

Friday will be a lucky day for 50 of the approximately 130 Pillsbury employees who will remain with Hoopeston Foods, Inc.

At a press conference Monday, Hoopeston Foods president John Steele announced 50 workers will be offered positions with the company.

Because company and union officials are still hammering out a method of informing employees, workers will not be notified until the end of the week whether they will be asked to remain, Steele said.

Those who do not work for Hoopeston Foods will receive severance packages from Pillsbury. Pillsbury has also made outplacement services and counseling available to all employees.

Hoopeston Foods will recognize both plant unions, Grain Millers Local 399 and Teamsters Local 26, and will not request salary or benefit concessions from employees, Steele said.

According to company secretary Tad Ballantyne, future concessions will probably not be sought. "We don't see a need for concessions down the road, either," he said.

The company recognized the unions because "we didn't want to come in and disjoint everything," Steele said. "We don't need three years of mending. We don't want a confrontational relationship."

Production is expected to begin Monday, giving officials time this week to check machinery and order needed supplies, including spices and condiments. "We couldn't run but a day or two on what we have in-house," Steele said.

Production at the plant could be twice what it was under Pillsbury, Steele said, estimating Pills-

bury output at "nearly five million cases" annually.

Whether the plant will see increased production levels will depend on sales. "You've got to have a need," Steele said. "The capacity is there. You've just got to have the business."

Hoopeston Foods will make dried beans its mainstay, but officials plan to develop their own bean brands, both ethnic and basic. Further plans include expanding the company's import business, Steele said.

Illinois-grown beans will receive top priority because they will help keep shipping costs down, making the decision to purchase the plant "an even better business deal," Steele said.

Financing for the purchase came from various sources, including \$3.4 million from American National Bank and Trust Co., Chicago; \$650,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs; \$100,000 from the Vermilion County Community Development Corporation; and \$100,000 from Hoopeston's revolving loan fund.

Steele praised those involved with arranging financing. "There were a number of times when this deal could've fallen apart...but they stepped up to the table every time," he said.

## Police News

**Robert S. Akers**, 17, of 607 W. Washington, along with two 14-year-old boys and two 15-year-old boys were arrested at 9:41 p.m. Sunday, charged with loitering. All were released on notices to appear.

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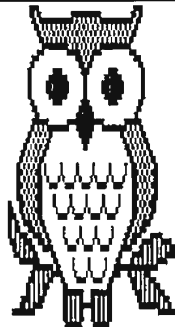
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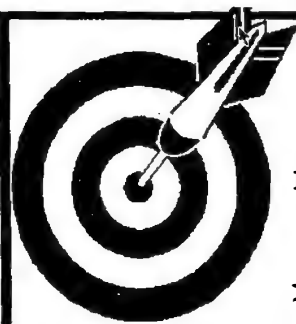
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## Happy Birthday Aunt Martha

Hope it's a great day!



## Classifieds

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Hoopeston Lions Club park stand in McFerren Park will be open 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, July 29, in conjunction with the conference swim meet hosted by the Hoopeston Swim Team. The Lions Club will serve fish, burgers and hot dogs.

### MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

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## Up & Coming

### Spikers needed

The Hoopeston Kiwanis Club needs volleyball teams for a tournament during the Larry Claypool Classic, Aug. 12 & 13, at Chrisman Park in Rossville.

Teams must be mixed, with a minimum of two girls on the court. Cash prizes will be awarded and proceeds will go the American Cancer Society.

To register or for more information, contact

Phyllis Freeland at (217) 283-5081 or Laura Bibb, 283-6608.

### Playcrafters meeting

The Hoopeston Playcrafters will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 27, in the Kankakee Federal community room. The meeting is open to the public and newcomers are welcome. Tryouts for "Dracula" will be held after the meeting. Scripts are available at the Hoopeston Public Library and may be taken for overnight viewing.

## Letter to the editor

### Editor:

This is in response to Joyce Brookwalter's letter. If you think that all the Sweetcorn Festival is about is beer, you are terribly wrong.

It is true that the beer tent is popular, but whose fault is that? If people did not want beer in the park, they would not patronize the beer tent.

How can you say the festival is about beer? Have you looked in a schedule of events for past festivals? There are many things going on besides the beer tent. There are many family and children-oriented events.

Do you know what the dollar gate fee for entering the park during the festival is used for? It is

used for the many community oriented projects the Hoopeston Jaycees run during the course of a year. Some projects include the underprivileged children's Christmas party, senior citizens' Christmas party, Toys for Tots and McFerren Park upgrades and renovations. The Jaycees also donate to various charitable organizations, including Hoopeston Area extra curricular activities.

This is just a very small list of the charitable things the Jaycees do in one year. Do you still think the Sweetcorn Festival is about beer?

James F. Eyrich  
Hoopeston

## In the Hospital

### Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

July 20, 1995

Admitted: Marvin Sprague, Rankin; Mary Irene Dukes, Jeff Wisdom and Guadalupe Ramos, all of Hoopeston.

Discharged: Susan Ennen, Hoopeston.

July 21, 1995

Admitted: Marsha Bogard and Robert Dalton, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Eula McBride, Hoopeston.

July 22, 1995

Admitted: Mary Beth Justice, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Jeff Wisdom, Hoopeston.

July 23, 1995

Admitted: Leota Bailey and Danny Cobb, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Marsha Bogard, Hoopeston.

## Weather

Partly cloudy today, with a 40 percent chance of afternoon thunderstorms. High in the low 90s. Tonight, scattered thunderstorms. Low in the low 70s. Tomorrow, isolated thunderstorms. High near 86, low near 73.

## Mern's

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\*Hoopeston Public Library

Rossville

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