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**Monday, Dec. 30, 1996**  
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

## Judge rejects city's arguments, gives 28 days for new defense

A Fifth Circuit judge has given city attorneys 28 days to come up with a new defense in a suit filed by the Hoopeston Chronicle.

Last Monday, Judge John P. O'Rourke filed an order rejecting three arguments put forth by the city for closing parts of revolving loan meetings to the public, but gave the city 28 days to come up with new reasons for closing the meetings.

The newspaper is suing the city for closing the June 3 meeting. Springfield attorney Don Craven, representing the Chronicle, said the closing does not fall within exceptions of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, which states when meetings may be closed to the public and media.

Responding to the suit, city attorneys argued that the Freedom of Information Act exempts the city from disclosure of loan documents, that the Illinois Small Business Development Act requires loan documents be kept confidential and that the loan

applicant requested confidentiality.

O'Rourke ruled the three reasons were not applicable in the situation. He gave no reason for granting the extension.

Judges frequently grant extension, said Hoopeston attorney Paul Manion, whose firm handles city legal matters.

Manion and city attorney Jim Spiros, currently on vacation, will "study (the ruling) over in the next week or so" before filing a response, Manion said.

Manion believes the extension is a good sign for the city. "If the judge felt there was no merit on our side of the fence, he would have issued a final ruling," he said.

"In fairness, I would say we lost round one, but in many cases, you lose round one and win the war," he added.

## Briefly

### Music Booster winners

Winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: Dec. 30, Marcia Hellmuth, Bourbonnais; Dec. 31, Ted Morris, Hoopeston.

Drawings for 1997 winners will begin Jan. 6.

### Multi Agency van, activity schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency senior van is: Tuesday and Wednesday, office closed; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, Danville.

To make reservations or for more information, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Activities at the center include: Thursday, men's coffee, 9 a.m.; men's euchre, 12:30 p.m.; Friday, unemployed worker discount program, 1-3 p.m.

### Food for Fines

The Hoopeston Public Library is once again helping the Grant Township Food Cupboard.

From now until Jan. 3, 1997, the library will accept nonperishable food or paper products in lieu of fines for overdue materials. Each item donated will equal \$1 toward the fine.

All items collected will be donated to the Food Cupboard.

### Library closed for holidays

The Hoopeston Public Library will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 31 and Wednesday, Jan. 1 for the holidays.

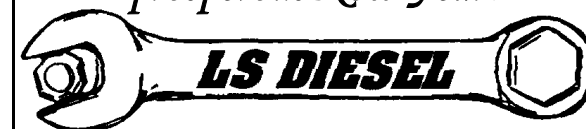
*Paper White Narcissus  
ready to burst into bloom  
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Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert  
702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days!*

**New Year's Eve Dance**  
Hoopeston American Legion  
featuring "Smoke River"

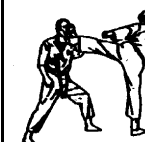


*Limited tickets available*  
\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door  
includes champagne toast at midnight, party favors  
For info, call the Legion, (217) 283-6312

*Happy Holidays and best wishes  
for a happy and  
prosperous New Year!*



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will close at noon  
Tuesday and be  
closed Wednesday  
for New Year's Day



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Couple to stand trial for rural Hoopeston toddler's death

A judge has ruled a rural Hoopeston woman and her boyfriend stand trial on charges related to the death of the woman's son.

Circuit Judge Ralph Pearman of Paris ruled Thursday that there is enough evidence to file obstruction of justice charges against Connie Lynn Donnelly, whose 17-month-old son, Jakob, was killed when a van backed over him at the family's rural Hoopeston home. Gary W. Halstead, 45, of Kingman, Ind., will be arraigned on similar charges.

The charges stem from Sept. 16, when Donnelly told police she accidentally backed the van over Jakob. Donelly and Halstead later said Halstead had been driving the vehicle.

A county coroner's jury ruled the death accidental at a Nov. 6 inquest.



Police News



A coat reported stolen on Dec. 23 at 705 E. Orange was recovered Thursday and returned to the owner.

Art Feller, 101 Garfield, Cissna Park, reported Friday that someone took a cellular phone from his 1994 Cadillac while it was parked in the alley of the 200 block of East Main.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident Friday at 830 E. Seminary when an unidentified vehicle damaged a fence.

Obituaries

**BOBIS** -George M. Bobis, 93, of Hoopeston, died at 3:55 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, 1996, at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Danville. Funeral services will be at 9 a.m. Tuesday at Pape Memorial Home and Cremation Gardens, Danville. Burial will be in National Cemetery, Danville. Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. Monday, with a trisagion wake service at the funeral home at 6 p.m.

**HORTON** - Maye O. Horton, 90, of Rankin, died Friday, Dec. 27, 1996, at Knights Templar Home, Paxton. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Knapp Funeral Home, Rankin. Burial will be in Rankin Union Cemetery. Visitation was Sunday at the funeral Home. Memorials are suggested to a charity of the donor's choice.

**WILLIAMS** - Robert E. Williams, 76, of Potomac, died at 4:10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, 1996, at St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis. A memorial service was held Sunday at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home. There was no visitation. Memorials are suggested to the American Heart Association or charity of the donor's choice.



Court dispositions



**Dec. 19: David Compton**, Lafayette, Ind., stop sign violation, pleaded guilty; \$95 total, three months court supervision.

**Taryn Parkhurst**, Covington, Ind., speeding, pleaded guilty; \$95 total.

**Heather Walsh**, Danville, too fast for conditions, pleaded guilty; \$95 total, three months court supervision.

**Deanna Weathew**, Potomac, speeding, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

**Holly Anderson**, Danville, \$45 plus \$148.49 restitution due; failed to appear.

**Andrew Alvarez**, Danville, paid \$75.

**Stuart Anthony**, Hoopeston, theft, pleaded guilty; \$150 total, \$75 bond to apply.

**Brian Benjamin**, Hoopeston, nuisance junk, pleaded not guilty; trial Feb. 6.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High in the mid 40s. Tonight, clear. Low in the upper 30s. Tomorrow, partly sunny, warmer. High near 56, low near 40.

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Hoopeston

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