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Thursday, May 9, 2002

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

www.justthefacts.net

Gridley man visits Hoopeston in search of state senate seat

A Gridley man was in Hoopeston Monday to raise interest in his bid to be an independent candidate for the Illinois Senate's 53rd district.

Tim Turner hopes local residents will be among the 3,000 people he needs to sign petitions by June 17 to get his name on the ballot.

Turner, who calls himself "just a working guy - nothing special," plans to take on school funding if he gets on the ballot and is elected.

The current method of funding education is unconstitutional, Turner said adding the Illinois Constitution calls for the state to fund 50 percent of education costs. The government currently funds only 37 percent, he said.

Three quarters of property taxes go towards education with farmers paying \$30 per acre to schools. "It's an disproportional amount they pay for education," Turner said. The burden is worsened by a decrease in prices paid to farmers for their crops. In 1948, farmers received \$2.40 cents for a bushel of corn and paid significantly less to schools. Now corn is at \$2 per bushel and paying more to educate children. "I don't see that as being a fair trade," he said.

Addressing the single issue "is not the solution (to the state's financial problems) but it's a good place to start," he said, adding Illinois doesn't have a financial crisis but does have a spending crisis led by Gov. George Ryan and supported by legislators. "They could've stopped him," Turner said.

Turner would also like to see a recall legislation passed in Illinois. Currently, 12 states allow voters to recall officials who they believe are not doing their jobs. Illinois is not one of the 12, he said.



TURNER

Turner wondered aloud what other parts of the Constitution are or will be dismissed. "If they can ignore that part of the Constitution...maybe they can contest our right to have free speech," he said. "Maybe they can contest our right to keep and bear arms."

The 44-year-old admits he is not a politician. "Three years ago, I didn't even know what district I was in," he said. He became interested after the last gubernatorial election which, he said "produced the biggest tax raise in Illinois history. I purposed in my heart that someday I was going to pay those guys back."

Turner said his bid for a senate seat would be easier with a party affiliation but despite his Republican leanings, he believes he can accomplish more without being part of the "good ol' boy" political network. He is also not accepting money from special interest groups.

If elected, Turner said his attitude towards his position would be different from that of most politicians. "I don't think we have anyone in there who's for the working man," he said. "I'll be your employee."

His current campaign is to get "5,000 of my proposed employers to say 'yeah, he'd make a good employee.'"

Admitting his fight is an uphill one, Turner is optimistic. "They haven't beat us unless we give up," he said. "You can't just sit home and wait for it to happen. You have to make it happen."

Turner and his wife, Sandy, own a Gridley-based siding business. The couple has two children, Brian, 21 and Mary Beth, 19.

Turner, who is encouraging voters to "send a taxpayer to Springfield," may be reached at

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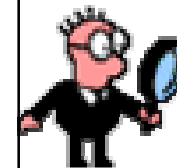
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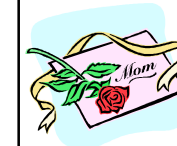
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Police News



No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 2:18 p.m. Tuesday at South Market and East Washington.

Police said Lynette M. Reardon of Potomac, in a 1995 Chevrolet, was parked in a driveway in the 200 block of East Washington when she checked for traffic, then backed into the street and hit a 1992 Mercury driven by Roger G. Reckner of Hoopeston.

Reardon was at fault for improper backing, police said.

A 15-year-old boy was arrested at 3:45 p.m. Tuesday in the 300 block of South Market.

The boy, wanted on a warrant, was taken to the Juvenile Detention Center in Danville.

Gwendolyn L. Mattox, 35, of 9204 Creek Rd., Clinton, Wis., was arrested following an incident at 8:35 p.m. Tuesday in the 400 block of North Eighth Ave.

Mattox was charged with burglary to auto, two counts of aggravated battery and resisting arrest. Police said an 18-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Mattox took the woman's purse from her car and that Mattox became combative when taken into custody.

Mattox was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

A vehicle at Crown Ford was reported damaged late Tuesday or early Wednesday. A large item had fallen

Obituaries

FITHIAN -Irene M. Fithian, 89, of Rossville, died at 4:34 p.m. Monday, May 6, 2002 at Provena United Samaritans Medical Center, Logan campus, Danville. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Danville. Burial will be in Spring Hill Cemetery, Danville. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Thursday at Wolfe Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Rossville.

MARTIN - Joan Foley Martin of Carbondale died at 4:36 p.m. Sunday, May 5,2002 at Memorial Hospital, Carbondale. Visitation was held from 5-9 p.m. Tuesday at Huffman-Harker Funeral Home, Carbondale. There

Briefly

Tiny Tots

"Picnics" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots. Children may bring a sack lunch. This is the last program until fall.

The summer reading program begins June 17.


Tiny Tots is sponsored by the Hoopeston Public Library. It meets at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Multi Agency and is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Featured speaker

Charlene Drawdy, marketing director for Hoopes-ton Area Health Care Center and the hospital foundation, will be the featured speaker at the Hoopeston Multi Agency's community potluck Thursday. Drawdy will speak on health issues and will answer questions from the audience.

The potluck will be held at noon at the agency located at 206 S. First Ave.

Weather



Morning rain then partly sunny today. High 63. Tonight, clear. Low 40. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 65, low 44..

For current weather conditions, call the Hoopes-

Classifieds

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