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# Just the Facts<sup>©</sup>

Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348  
Lourdine Florek, owner

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

[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## ★ Police News ★

**Chase R. Miles**, 20, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were called at 12:19 a.m. Sunday to break up several altercations at Blue Moon Saloon, 306 E. Main.

He was charged with resisting arrest, threatening a public official and criminal damage to state supported property after he allegedly broke out the back window of a squad car.

Miles was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

A **21-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 11:26 a.m. Sunday that someone stole her purse from

her vehicle parked in the 300 block of West Elm.  
See **POLICE** on other side

### Church on Easter? Come join us

# Easter Sunday

**2 services - 9 & 10:30**  
**Breakfast - 8 & 10**

- |                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Relaxed Atmosphere       | Yes     |
| Casual Dress             | Yes     |
| Egg Hunt for Kids        | Yes     |
| Childcare                | Yes     |
| Great Preaching          | Maybe 😊 |
| Awesome Music            | Yes     |
| Wonderful Free Breakfast | Yes     |
| A Great Experience       | Yes     |

**Hoopeston Church of God**  
 1004 East Orange 217-283-9330  
[hoopestonchurch.org](http://hoopestonchurch.org)



Photo courtesy Carl Ankenbrand

### Say cheese

Kirsten and Kameryn Burt enjoy a photo op with Miss Hoopeston Abigail Foster while eating lunch Sunday at Pizza Hut.

Tuesday is  
**Senior Citizens & Ladies Day**  
 Now save **\$7 off** your oil change at  

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## Cultra's Clips: Senate approves bills, passes to House; insurance fiasco questioned

SPRINGFIELD—Senate lawmakers worked to move bills through the legislative process before a March 30 deadline, advancing hundreds of measures addressing issues that State Sen. Shane Cultra (R-Onarga) said range from criminal justice and procurement matters, to state financial reporting and veterans assistance.

Also last week, the Legislative Audit Commission met to review the handling of an almost \$7 billion state health care contract, which was sharply criticized in recent weeks by the Auditor General. And a new report by a financial ratings agency once again placed Illinois' budget woes in the spotlight.

Hundreds of bills were approved by Senate lawmakers this week, the deadline for most Senate measures to be sent to the House. When the Senate returns, they will concentrate on proposals originating in the House, while the House focuses on measures the Senate sent to them.

Several bipartisan measures seeking to help Illinois veterans were among the bills approved in the Senate. Illinois veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

(PTSD) will have greater access and ability to utilize service dogs in public places as part of Senate Bill 3687, which enables service men and women living with PTSD to take their service dog into all public places and buildings designated by the state.

On a related note, under Senate Bill 2837, citizens who have served in the military could request that a "Veteran" designation be placed on their drivers' licenses, state ID cards, and disabled ID cards, as is allowed in 14 other states. This will help veterans, who often qualify discounts and other benefits upon providing proof of their service.

The Legislative Audit Commission met March 29 in response to a recent audit blasting the Quinn Administration's handling of a nearly \$7 billion health care contract.

A March 8 report by State Auditor General Bill Holland sharply criticized the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) for its handling last year of a five-

### Fire Calls



Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 2:07 a.m. Sunday to State Route 1 and 4000 North to assist Hoopeston EMS with a rollover traffic accident.

### Police continued from other side

A **63-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 12:25 p.m. Sunday that someone stole several items from her vehicle parked in the 700 block of West Maple.

**Police are investigating** a hit-and-run accident reported at 12:32 p.m. Sunday at McFerren Park. An unknown vehicle hit a 2010 Pontiac owned by Chellsea Weinard, of Hoopeston.

A **16-year-old** Hoopeston youth was charged with disorderly conduct after police were called at 8:55 p.m. Sunday to the 300 block of West Washington. The youngster was released on a notice to appear.

### Weather



Breezy today. High 71. Tonight, chance of storms. Low 57. Tomorrow, sunny. High 71, low 42.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

year, \$6.6 billion contract to the state's largest insurer to administer HMO plans for state employees, retirees and dependents.

During discussion at the hearing, it became evident that different officials had different interpretations of the law detailing oversight of the procurement process.

Lawmakers on the Audit Commission agree the Governor and his Office of Management and Budget have questions they need to answer about why certain memos were ignored and why they continued along a line that cost the state money and put at risk the people who depend on state health insurance.

Finances were once again in the news, following a report published by Fitch Ratings showing that, as a percentage of residents' income, Illinois government has the second-highest debt in the U.S.. Illinois' public debt represents 25 percent of Illinois residents' annual income. Only Hawaii, with debt equaling 25.8 percent of annual income, surpasses Illinois.

Illinois' debt-to-income ratio is more than three and a half times higher than the national average of 6.9 percent. Cultra noted that Illinois is alone in the nation with its combination of high debt and poor credit rating.

Fitch Ratings calculates that Illinois taxpayers owe \$134 billion, including \$101 billion in pension debt and \$33 billion in other state government debt. The calculation does not include Illinois' sizable backlog of bills, about \$8.5 billion according to the Illinois Comptroller and would drive the total debt even higher if included. The non-partisan Civic Federation has estimated that that backlog alone will climb to about \$35 billion within five years.

### This week's 'Only in Chicago'

Only in the Chicago area, would legislators spend time regulating silly things. Among my "NO" votes this week, a bill to discriminate against employing smokers, inline skating restrictions and legislation to make it easier for the Chicago police to collect parking revenues from your pay check.

## Classifieds

### HELP WANTED

Part time bartender at VFW, Hoopeston. Call (217) 283-5025 for application and interview.

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