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Crews clean up derailment scene, cause under investigation

CSX railroad crews worked into the night and early morning hours Wednesday to clean up the site of a derailment north of Hoopeston.

The two-engine, 64-car freight train derailed at about 7:35 a.m. Tuesday, said Kim Skorniak, CSX corporate media representative. The train included

50 loaded cars and 14 empty cars.

Twelve cars derailed with four turning over, blocking the siding and single main track, she said.

The train was heading southbound from Chicago to Danville when the derailment occurred.

The cause of the incident is not expected to be known for a few weeks as investigators examine the track, operating procedures and train, Skorniak said.

The derailment was south of Iroquois County Road 100 N at County Road 2400 E, north of Floral Hill Cemetery.



CSX employees and equipment work Tuesday afternoon to move train cars from a derailment north of Hoopeston.

Paxton man killed in accident near Rankin

A Paxton man was killed early Wednesday in a two-vehicle accident on County Road 3550 N and Rt. 49.

Michael F. Reiken, 62, was pronounced dead at 5:16 a.m., according to Vermilion County Coroner Peggy Johnson.

Mr. Reiken, in a Ford pickup truck, was westbound on County Road 3550 North, south of Rankin, when he failed to stop at the intersection of Route 49, according to Illinois State Police at Pesotum.

Mr. Reiken hit a southbound tractor-trailer driven by Wilbur Elledge, 41, of Brockton.

Elledge, who was wearing a seatbelt, was uninjured, according to police reports.

The road was shut down for four hours, police said.

An inquest will be held at a later date.

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Increased water capacity helps ISO rating, may cut insurance premiums for rural residents

Adding the tanker truck to the Hoopeston Fire Department's fleet helped reduce rural Grant Township's ISO rating and may help rural residents save on property insurance.

Alderman Brandon Hamilton announced at Tuesday night's Hoopeston City Council meeting that effective Jan. 1, 2006, the ISO rating will drop. Lower ratings

often translate to lower insurance premiums, he said.

The department may go for a lower rating in the city after it receives a ladder truck from the Watseka Fire Department.

Hamilton also said Engine #3 was sold on ebay for

\$1,000. Lowell Null purchased the truck.

The council also learned from Alderman Bill Goodwine that Shannon Ruh, a Peace Corps Fellow, will begin her duties Jan. 16, 2006.

Police News



No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 12:55 p.m. Tuesday in the 300 block of East Main. Police said Alfred Pate of Hoopeston, in a 1992 Dodge Ram, backed from a parking space into a parked 2003 Ford truck owned by Kuncce Sales & Service, Milford.

Deonta J. Bryant, 27, of 318 Clements, Danville, was arrested at 4:12 p.m. Tuesday at 309½ W. Penn.

Bryant, wanted on six Vermilion County warrants for failure to appear, was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville in lieu of bond.

Obituaries

FOSTER - Garry D. Foster 46 of Hoopeston died at 10:45 p.m. Monday, Dec., 19 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, Hoopeston.

Arrangements are pending at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 38. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 26. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, chance of rain late. High 40, low 32.

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

Margarita's

329 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-9090



**There's still time to get
a picture with Santa!**
Santa will be here
Tues., Wed., Thurs. 10-7
Fri. 8-2

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hoopeston Auxiliary Police is now accepting applications. Applicants must be 21 years of age. Applications available at Hoopeston Police Dept., 301 W. Main, anytime.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Rossville: 1-2 bdrs. Riverview Apartments. Completely refurbished, on-site washers & dryers. 1 bdr. \$310/mo., \$310 deposit. Call (217) 840-3672.

HELP WANTED

Organist/pianist to play for worship services and accompany choir at Hoopeston United Methodist Church. If interested or for more information, call (217) 283-6738 or 283-6542.

Part time clerk needed for municipal court. No more than 20 hours per week. Successful candidate will be available immediately. Applications are available at Hoopeston City Hall and must be turned in by Dec. 28.

HOUSES FOR RENT

Hoopeston: 1 BR w/3 car garage. No pets. \$375/mo. (217) 304-3477

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