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Lourdine Osborne editor

Just the facts

Tuesday, April 26, 1994

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

Susan Comstock ad manager

Siren silenced as means of traffic control at fires

First, the Hoopeston fire department had a bell to ring when fire struck.

Modern technology changed that to a siren.

But now, for the first time, Hoopeston has no audible warning system in case of fire.

It's not that the siren is broken, said fire chief Chuck Fenwick. It's silent for another reason.

Fenwick said officials decided not to sound the alarm hoping to decrease traffic at fire scenes. "We decided to do it for the month of April to see if there's a reduction in traffic," Fenwick said. "This is plan A. If this doesn't work, we'll have to go to plan B."

Plan B is issuing citations to sightseers. "If not blowing the siren is not effective, the city fathers

are seriously looking at issuing citations. No one wants to do that, but if people don't stop, we'll have no choice."

Fenwick said those who follow fire trucks block traffic, often causing firemen to walk up to a block to reach a fire.

This is the first time in Fenwick's 23 years with the department that the siren has been stilled, although "it's been discussed numerous times," he said.

No official figures were available, but Fenwick said he believes the plan has reduced traffic to some degree.

The same people visit the sites of most fires.

See **SIREN** on other side

Birthday party to raise funds for crime solving effort

A Hoopeston girl is turning her birthday party into a way of helping others.

Mandi Hardcastle, a sophomore at Hoopeston Area High School, is using her 16th birthday party as a fundraising event for the Jessica Roach/Holly Anderson Fund.

The fund was established to offer a cash reward to information leading to the arrest of those who abducted the girls.

"I knew I was having a party and I wanted to help, so I thought I'd combine them," Hardcastle said. "It'll be fun and it'll make me feel better."

Hardcastle said when Jessica Roach was first listed as missing, then later found dead. "that scared me. I wanted to do something. I asked my mom about it and she said she'd try to help me."

The party will be from 7 p.m. to midnight May

14 at the McFerren Park Civic Center.

The evening's entertainment will be provided by the Bootkickers Club and DJ Don Wolfe, who is volunteering his services.

Concessions will be available and a 50/50 drawing will be held.

Food for the party has been donated by several businesses, including Subway, Price Less, Jerry's IGA and Pepsi.

To publicize the event, Hardcastle has put posters up not only in Hoopeston, but in Rossville, Milford, Georgetown and Catlin as well.

The teen stressed that the party will not be a traditional teen party. "There'll be all kinds of music," Hardcastle said. "Everybody's invited."

Two dollar donations to the party will be accepted at the door.

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CELEBRITY WAITER

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TODAY!

Letter to the Editor

Reader has suggestions for improving rail crossings

Editor:

Once again it's time for the railroad crossings in Hoopeston to be repaired.

The last few times these crossings have been repaired, they used treated wooden planks. These planks last only a few years and then the railroad company has to repair them again.

There is a better way to repair these crossings, I think, by using steel or hard rubber composition rectangular or square "plates." I'm sure we've all seen crossings like this, using these plates. They make a much smoother crossing and last for many years.

I may not be using the correct terminology regarding these plates, but I'm sure the railroad company knows what I'm talking about.

I wonder how many Hoopeston people have had

to have their vehicles repaired to to these rough crossings (the Main Street crossing is horrendous!), such as front end re-alignment, replacing damaged shock absorbers, broken springs, etc.

I would respectfully suggest that the Honorable Mayor of the city of Hoopeston or the Hoopeston city council, or the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce contact the railroad company and suggest strongly that they repair these crossings as I have suggested or maybe another even better way, rather than the old, out-dated method using wooden planks.

This may initially be a little more expensive for the railroad company than the old wooden plank method, but would last much longer.

William C. Rankin
Hoopeston

Obituaries

RAUCH - Bessie E. Rauch, 84, of Colfax and formerly of Hoopeston, died at 4:25 a.m. Sunday, April 24, 1994 at Lakeland Regional Medical Center, Lakeland, Fla. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour before services at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Colfax United Methodist Church.

Siren continued from other side

"You see the same vehicles and the same faces," he said. "It's a few that ruin in for the majority."

Fenwick said firemen now depend on pagers to learn of fires, adding that not sounding the siren has not been a problem. "It hasn't hindered our response," he said.

The decision to silence the siren was a joint one made by Fenwick, Mayor Bob Ault, and Drew Allen, chairman of the city's fire committee.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
April 21, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: none.

April 22, 1994

Admitted: Samuel Campana, Rankin: Linda Evans, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Michael Kuntz and Otilie Gibbons, both of Rankin.

April 23, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: Charles Reed, Hoopeston.

April 24, 1994

Admitted: Elizabeth Walker, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

Weather

Showers and thunderstorms ending this morning. High in the upper 70s. Tonight, low in the upper 50s. Tomorrow, scattered thunderstorms. High near 74, low near 57.

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