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United Community Fund drive falls short of 2000 goal

An ambitious goal for the 2000 United Community Fund of Grand Township fund drive will not be met.

The \$45,000 goal will be missed by approximately \$5,000, said drive chairman Tom Grey at a board of directors meeting Wednesday.

Current pledges total about \$37,000, with about \$3,000 more expected in the next few weeks, he said.

The industrial sector helped pull the drive over half-way to the goal, with Schumacher Electric leading the way. Of the \$26,287 pledged from local industries—up from \$19,885 last year—the donation from within the plant totaled more than \$12,300.

Money raised by the United Community Fund is dis-

tributed to approximately 20 agencies providing services in Grant Township. Because the board is comprised of volunteers and has little overhead, nearly every dollar collected is used for charitable purposes.

In unrelated business, the board:

- approved new officers for 2000, including Grey as president and Joann Gocking as vice president. Aly Jackson will remain treasurer and Susan Redden will stay on as secretary.
- discussed the Hoopeston Hoops 3 on 3 basketball tournament, set for June 24. The board hopes to have a minimum of 100 teams competing in the event which will be held in downtown Hoopeston

Coroner's jury suggests arm for Rossville railroad crossing

DANVILLE—A Vermilion County coroner's jury recommended improved safeguards at a railroad crossing in Rossville.

The jury met Tuesday to hear testimony concerning the death of Christina M. "Christy" Burt, 19, of Hoopeston, who died Oct. 5 when her car was hit by a train at the Henderson Street crossing.

The coroner's jury ruled Miss Burt's death accidental and recommended a crossing arm be installed at the Henderson Street crossing, said Mike Rortvedt of the coroner's office.

The recommendation will be forwarded to the CSX Railroad, along with a copy of the inquest, Rortvedt said. Whether the railroad will follow through is undecided. "We can't force them to do it but it would behoove the railroad to pay attention to a jury's recommendation," he said.

According to reports, Miss Burt was driving north on Church Street, which intersects with Henderson at the

crossing. Miss Burt turned east on Henderson to cross the tracks at about 9:20 a.m. when she was struck by the train. She was pronounced dead at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

At the time of the accident, Rossville Police Chief Paul DeWitt called the crossing dangerous because of its location. Motorists on Church Street cannot see trains on the tracks behind them until they turn onto Henderson at the crossing.

He said although the crossing bells and lights were working at the time of the accident, sunlight may have prevented Miss Burt from seeing the lights.

DeWitt estimated the train was traveling 50 m.p.h. at the time of the accident, the speed limit for trains through the village.

A toxicology report showed traces of cannabis in Miss Burt's system but the amount or when the drug was taken could not be pinpointed, Rortvedt said.

Cannabis can remain in the body for 30 days, he said.

Beanie Bear "The End"

Drawing for 1 each day this week
*One of Hoopeston's
most beautiful sights—
a greenhouse full of poinsettias.
Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert*
702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days

Sponsor of The Week

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HOOPESTON, IL

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Quality & Fair Value



FEATURED ON YOUR
WHITE & GREEN
PHONE BOOK COVER

Hoopeston American Legion Auxiliary

Christmas Party

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7
American Legion
\$5 gift exchange

RSVP Vickie, **283-6312**, by Thurs., Dec. 2

*Our meal will be cooked and served
by our Legion Officers*



Burger King

starts your day off right!

99¢ Croisan'wiches

Sausage, bacon or ham with egg & cheese

& French toast

No limit

Rtes. 1 and 9, Hoopeston



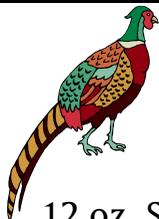
**Bertha's Christmas
Around the World Sale**



At the Resale Mart
Downtown Hoopeston
Saturday, Dec. 4 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
50%-75% off
Get a chance on a Restoration Cabinet
\$60 value—w/purchase
Resale 1 Day Discount—\$1 off any clothing item

*Wolfe
Funeral Home*

907 W. Main St.
Hoopeston, IL.
(217) 283-5088



Pheasant Roost

(765) 884-1884

Friday Nights

12 oz. Sirloin \$9.95
24 oz. Sirloin \$17.95
10 oz. N.Y. Strip \$11.95
10 oz. Ribeye \$12.95

*Fish, Pork chops, Shrimp, Chicken,
& more also served*

1st & 3rd Saturday Nights

Various size cuts Prime Rib plus all of
the above. Fish not available on Saturdays.

Dunnington, Ind.

Just 15 minutes away!

Before heading out of town for holiday shopping, this year try Hoopeston merchants first

Editor's note: The following column originally appeared in December 1997. It seemed fitting to run it again.

It's Saturday. Everyone's in the car and it's been filled with gas. You're ready for a day of Christmas shopping.

But where will you go?
Danville? Champaign? Lafayette?
Why not try Hoopeston first?

I can hear you saying "They don't have what I want," or "Their prices are too high," but before you get carried away, when was the last time you shopped Hoopeston to know that?

Obviously, Hoopeston merchants won't have everything you need to fill your gift-giving list, but I'd bet you would be amazed at what you can find in this town that won't cost you an arm and a leg.

There are lots of reasons why you should shop Hoopeston.

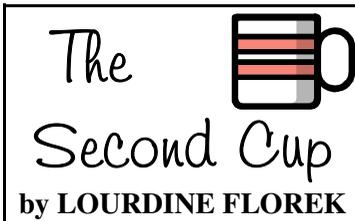
First, you'll get a good deal. Merchants are knocking themselves out trying to get your business. They're open longer hours, on more days, so they'll be here when you're ready to shop. Many of them have cut prices (some below cost) to help save you money. So you can shop when you want and save money.

Aside from that, it makes good sense to shop locally.

Obituaries

FEGETT—Mary L. Fegett, 48, of Milford, died at 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1999 at Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be in Maple Grove Cemetery, Milford. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

LEWIS—Marvin C. Lewis, 86, of rural Rankin, died at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 29, 1999 at Illinois Knights Templar Home, Paxton. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at Ford-Baier Funeral Home, Paxton. Burial will be in Glen Cemetery, Paxton. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Pleasant Grove Methodist Church or a charity of the donor's choice.



Shop owners pay taxes that help fix our streets, keep our schools open. When the clubs you belong to need donations, our merchants are the ones who come

through for you.

Without their support, what would happen to the Music Boosters, the Sports Boosters, the Lions Club? Where would we get things to raffle off when it's time for our group to raise funds?

And don't for one minute think that your little bit of shopping won't help. If every man, woman and child in Hoopeston bought just one Christmas present from a local store, our merchants would have a very merry Christmas, indeed.

We moan about factories cutting jobs and groan about Stokely moving canning out of Hoopeston. We have no

Police News



The siding of a home in the 800 block of East McCracken was reported damaged Tuesday.

A 47-year-old woman reported Tuesday that her cell phone is missing. It was last seen in September in a vehicle in the 300 block of West Lincoln.

A 28-year-old woman reported Wednesday that she had paid a bill but was notified it had not been paid. An investigation shows the bill has been paid.

In the Hospital



**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Nov. 30**

Admitted: Nicholas Terrell, Hoopeston.
Discharged: Irene Colunga.

Weather



Mostly cloudy today. High 52. Tonight, cloudy. Low 33. Tomorrow, rain. High 58, low 40.

For the current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

control over those things and the loss of income that will affect our town.

But we do have control over the success of our businesses. If we shop locally, they will stay open. If we don't, they will close. It's that simple.

A few business owners are saying privately that this Christmas will make or break them. If they break, we might as well kiss our town goodbye because if a few close, more will follow, just like dominoes.

Oh, it's fun to hop in the car and make a day of Christmas shopping, buying gifts, having lunch. This year, though, why not start a new shopping tradition. Visit your stores, have lunch in your town.

If you can't find that Super Duper Bop 'Em thingy-bob for little Johnny, feel free to find it elsewhere. Just please, please give our businesses a chance first.

It will help our businesses, our town and you'll still have plenty of gas to get to all those Christmas parties.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Are you looking for a stable job in town? Join a team of workers dedicated to quality and service—and we have a lot of fun too.

Where? Hoopeston Hospital Food Service Department

What? Part time shifts available

When? Day shifts

How? Applications available in hospital lobby

Why? For benefits, good working environment and in-town employment. 330-336

Bartenders, waitresses & cooks. (815) 889-4472. 336-341

HOMES FOR RENT

In Hoopeston. 2 bedroom 2-car garage, living room, dining room, basement, utility room. \$400/mo, \$400 deposit. (217) 283-5093. 334-337

PETS

1 yr. old beagle/basset dog. Shots and vet-checked. (217) 748-6968.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1971 Impala. Runs well. Needs body work. \$500. (815) 984-4711 after 5 p.m. 333-337

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