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Resident asks for railroad whistle ban through Hoopeston

A Hoopeston resident would like CSX Railroad trains to be quiet and has asked the Hoopeston City Council for help.

George Goodwine spoke at Tuesday's council meeting, asking that a whistle ban be enacted in Hoopeston.

Goodwine said the Illinois Commerce Commission, which regulates railroads, has a list of crossings in the state at which whistle bans may not be imposed and that Hoopeston is not on the list.

"If you live within five blocks of the CSX Railroad, and that's probably one third of Hoopeston, you hear some engineers lay on the horn from Wellington, it seems like, until they get out to Steely Creek someplace," he said.

Goodwine said that according to the ICC, crossings in

cities with whistle bans must have arms or lights at crossings, which would eliminate the need for the city to install new equipment.

Cliff Stayton, CSX public safety coordinator and a former engineer, said whistles improve safety. "Whistles save lives, there's no other way to put it," he said. Engineers must blow whistles within 1,320 feet of a crossing for not less than 10 seconds, which can seem like a steady blast when crossings are close together, he added.

Stayton cited a decision in Florida to ban whistles, which resulted in an 84 percent increase in crossing accidents the first year. The figure later dropped to 64 percent after other measures were implemented.

The issue was referred to the civic improvement committee.

Rossville village board to take no action on fire station request

ROSSVILLE—Village officials will take no action on a request for a special use permit for a new fire station until the parties involved have discussed a proposed compromise.

The Rossville Village Board on Monday voted 5-1 to table a request that the board amend the zoning ordinance to allow a special use permit to build a fire station in an R-1 residential area.

After an executive session, Mayor Terry Prillaman said the board will not discuss the requested change until the Rossville Fire District board meets with resident Ed Perkins who has suggested moving the planned fire station one acre north of the originally-planned site just north of Perkins' home at 102 York St.

The land would have to be taken by eminent domain because it is not currently for sale.

Trustee Kay Ritter was the sole dissenting vote. "I think we're missing the whole issue," she said after the meeting. The village was asked to amend its ordinance,

not approve a fire station at a specific location, she said.

With a lawsuit filed against the village by the fire district and a threatened lawsuit from Perkins if the village amends the ordinance, "I don't know why we don't have the right to amend our own ordinances," she said. "If we don't, what's the function of the village board."

The fire district is expected to meet as early as this week to consider Perkins' proposal.

In other action, trustees:

- approved a tax levy of \$19,586, up from \$18,705 this year. This is the second year the village has sought the tax, which had been removed for two or three years. The increase represents a 4.5 raise on an assessed valuation of \$8.5 million, Prillaman said.
- approved employee Christmas bonuses. Full time workers will receive \$100 and part time employees will receive \$50.
- Cut five cents on December gas usage, billed in January.

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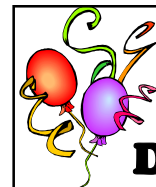


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Junior YABA Standings 12/15/01

1. Rush & Co.	23	13
2. The Gutter Gang	20	16
3. Strike Zone	19	17
4. Strikers	17	19
5. Alley Cats	15	21
6. Sting Rays	14	23

High Scratch Game: Strike Zone 467, Rush & Co 456, Sting Rays 446; **Scratch Series:** Rush & Co 1,285, Strike Zone 1,272, Alley Cats 1,249; **Handicap Game:** Rush & Co 1,027, Strike Zone 982, Alley Cats 981; **Handicap Series:** Rush & Co 2,996, Alley Cats 2,911, The Gutter Gang 2,863. **Boys Scratch Game:** Josh Dobkins 125, Trevor Rush 119, Dane Nocholls 113; **Scratch Series:** Josh Dobkins 318, Josh Birch 309, Westley Rush 291; **Handicap Game:** Josh Dobkins 237,

Trevor Rush 235, Tyler Rush 222; **Handicap Series:** Josh Dobkins 654, Westley Rush 624, Zachary Puralowski 610. **Girls Scratch Game:** Jessica Dobkins 131, Kalyn Sanford 122, Jennifer Porth 101; **Scratch Series:** Kalyn Sanford 336, Jessica Dobkins 278, Jennifer Porth 255; **Handicap Game:** Jessica Dobkins 238, Kalyn Sanford 213, Jennifer Porth 209; **Handicap Series:** Kalyn Sanford 609, Jessica Dobkins 599, Jennifer Porth 579.

Briefly

Cantata to be held

The Hoopeston Community Christmas Cantata will perform at 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 19 at the First Church of the Nazarene. The concert is free and open to the public.

DACC at HMA

Kevin Jett of DACC will hold office hours from 9 a.m. to 1 a.m. the first and third Thursdays of each month at the Hoopeston Multi Agency. For more information, call (217) 443-8561



Police News



A 20" bicycle was found Tuesday in the 500 block of North Third St. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Jason A. Funk, 24, of 201 E. Main, was arrested

at 11:22 a.m. Monday in the 200 block of South Bank. He was charged with battery after police said he hit a 19-year-old man.

Funk was released on a notice to appear.

Urbana fan organizes premiere party for 'Lord of the Rings'

You could call Cindy McNew "Lady of the Rings."

The Urbana woman has organized a gathering of more than 80 people who will converge on the Lorraine Theatre Wednesday night for the opening of "Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Ring," based on JRR Tolkien's trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings."

Theater owner Greg Boardman said McNew contacted him after she had problems getting a block of tickets to see the movie at a Champaign theater. One member of McNew's list of attendees suggested the Lorraine, where he planned to see the film. Although she had never been to the theater, she had heard about it from several people, Boardman said.

McNew and several members of her group are expected to dress in costume for the initial showing of the film.

The group plans to make a night of the opening, having dinner and discussion at Compton's Bar and Grill afterwards.

McNew's party is not the only group of out-of-townners planning to see the film at the Lorraine. Several others from Champaign and Danville have expressed interest in watching the movie at the theater so Boardman has set up advance ticket sales in those cities.

Film watchers are in for a treat. "It should be awesome at the Lorraine," Boardman said. There are horses' hooves pounding, as riders are pursuing someone, and screams that will chill you.

"Lord of the Rings, presented in SDDS/HPS-4000, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

Weather



Mostly cloudy becoming mostly sunny today. High 40. Tonight, clear. Low 22. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 43, low 34.

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



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