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April 6: Mirna Brougher, Hoopeston
April 7: Lisa Danner (Community Bank) Hoopeston
April 8: Nancy Luke, Hoopeston

Lourdine Osborne
editor

Just the facts

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Tuesday, April 5, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
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Company president, attorney differ over closing

Despite losing their jobs, there are no hard feelings between former employees of Power Plus diesel repair service and the management, according to the company president.

Jeff Stipp, president of Hoopeston Fertilizer Company, issued a press release last Thursday on Power Plus' March 29 closing.

Stipp said the company closed to allow the parent company, Hoopeston Fertilizer, to take the "time, effort and funding being dedicated to the minor division and re-direct them towards more compatible acquisitions."

The release said Hoopeston Fertilizer intends to "improve present operations as well as expand operations over the next few months."

Stipp also apologized for any inconvenience caused to former employees and customers.

Stipp denied reports of problems between management and former company employees.

Those problems, according to attorney Calvin Hultquist, include employees not receiving wages, vacation and commission and being told not to remove their tools from the Power Plus building on Thompson Avenue.

Hultquist said he was contacted by Power Plus employees last Wednesday after a certified public accountant with Clifton-Gunderson allegedly told

employees that without receipts, they could not remove personal tools from the company office.

"I went over and sort of acted as mediator," Hultquist said, calling the situation "a misunderstanding."

Hultquist said it would be difficult for employees to produce receipts for tools. "The employees had those tools for years," he said. "Some of them literally have tens of thousands of dollars in tools."

Hultquist alleges the company kept poor records of inventory at Power Plus, saying employees told him an inventory had not been done in six years. "That's pretty sloppy procedure," he said.

Employees were able to get most of their tools, but Hultquist said the issues of back pay for the last pay period, commission and vacation still exist.

Power Plus could face court action if those issues are not resolved, Hultquist said.

Stipp, however, denies the allegations. Given a list of Hultquist's allegations, he replied "everything you said is not true."

Hultquist said customers with complaints should not call former manager Layton Seggebruch. All questions and complaints should be directed to Stipp, Hultquist said.

State grant expands Hoopeston Public Library services

A state grant is making it possible for more people to receive free services from the Hoopeston Public Library - at least for 13 months.

April 1 marked the beginning of a program providing free library services to those living the en-

tire Hoopeston Area and Rossville-Alvin school districts, said head librarian Lou Graham.

Money from an Illinois State Library grant will allow those residents free access to library ser-

See "LIBRARY" on other side

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Library continued from other side

vices until April 30, 1995.

The grant eliminates the \$35 per family, out-of-township fee normally charged to patrons living in Wellington, Rankin, East Lynn, Rossville, Alvin and surrounding rural areas.

To receive services, residents of either school district living outside Grant Township must show proof of residency, Graham said. That proof can be a current driver's license, voter registration card, tax receipt or current piece of mail, she said.

Patrons will have access not only to the Hoopeston library, but others in the Lincoln Trails system including libraries in Watseka and Milford, and larger libraries in Danville and Champaign-Urbana.

The system-wide card has been very popular. "We've been writing them left and right," Graham said.

Residents of the Rossville-Alvin district were included because so many of them currently use the library. One-third of out-of-township borrowers are from Rossville, Graham said. "It would have been so cruel not to include those people," she said. "It would have been a slap in the face not to include them."

After the grant period expires, residents of both school districts will be asked to pay up.

"To participate in the grant, we had to commit to holding a referendum in April of 1995," Graham said. That referendum will ask whether new patrons will support the library district. "They must make the decision whether or not they'll support it with their tax dollars," Graham said.

Although a tax levy has not yet been established, Graham said it will be "pennies compared to dollars. Schools get dollars. We get pennies."

More information will be released as it becomes available.

Library offers delivery service to homebound readers

The Hoopeston Public Library will now go to readers who cannot come to the library.

The library, in cooperation with Palmer American National Bank, has started a delivery program to homebound Hoopeston residents.

Those who are permanently - or temporarily - handicapped, may have books delivered by bank employees.

Graham said a small screening process is involved. "You can't just say 'It's raining out today. I think I'll have a Palmer Bank employee deliver books to me,'" she said.

Files will be kept on homebound borrowers which will include reading preferences. Other materials, including audio cassettes, large-print books, magazines and records may also be borrowed. To participate, call the library at 283-6711 and ask for home delivery.

In the hospital

**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
March 31**

Admitted: Wilbur Carter, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Janice Borders and Rodolfo Ortiz, both of Hoopeston.

April 1, 1994

Admitted: Eugene Laursen, Rossville.

Discharged: Kimberly Brown and Wilburn Carter, both of Hoopeston.

April 2, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: none.

April 3, 1994

Admitted: none.

Discharged: none.

Weather

Rainy today. High around 50. Chance of rain, 80 percent. Tonight, rain diminishing. Low in the mid to upper 30s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 46, low near 35.



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