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Lourdine Osborne
editor

just the facts

Wednesday, May 25, 1994
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Danville man dies in semi-motorcycle accident

A Danville man died at 8:45 Tuesday morning after his motorcycle was struck by a semi truck in Rankin.

Charles Gilbert, 45, of route 3, Danville, was pronounced dead at the scene at the intersection of routes 9 and 49, said Merle Miller, Vermilion County sheriff's deputy.

Miller said Gilbert was stopped at the intersection when his motorcycle was struck by a semi driven by John Wilson, 42, of Independence, Mo. Wilson was not injured.

Wilson was charged with failure to stop at a stop sign. Miller said the cause of the accident is still under investigation.

Pillsbury/JOA drops product line made at local plant

Workers at the local Pillsbury plant may face more temporary shut-downs next year, the result of a corporate decision to eliminate six lines of prepared canned beans.

The company announced it will discontinue Grean Giant baked beans, Joan of Arc Pork and beans and four "Something Special" beans in flavored sauces, said Nancy Perron, public affairs manager at Pillsbury headquarters in Minneapolis.

The change, planned for Oct. 1, will not result in permanent lay-offs for any of the 138 local workers, Perron said, but is expected to temporarily shut down at least part of the plant early next spring.

The plant already experiences shut-downs, sometimes affecting all production areas and sometimes in limited areas.

Whether the decision will cause a total or limited shut-down is unknown. "It's too early to know exactly what will happen," Perron said.

However, the effects will be minimized because production of the six lines was included in other production. "It isn't as though there was a dedicated line just for these products," she said.

The Hoopeston plant will return to a production schedule similar to that of three and four years ago, before the new lines were added.

Test marketing on the six products, which began almost three years ago, showed good initial results, but the products were unable to garner sufficient market share. Perron said. "They never achieved better than scattered distribution nationwide," she said.

Pillsbury would not release information on how many cases of the six lines are produced in Hoopeston annually, or the percentage of total production those products represent.

Perron attributed low sales to consumer loyalty to other brands. "There are some regional competitors that enjoy high levels of customer loyalty," she said.

Pillsbury will instead focus on non-prepared beans, including chili, garbanzo and pinto beans which "are doing very well," Perron said. "We're very strong in that. We're projecting growth in those areas."

The change is expected to strengthen the company, according to Perron. "This isn't the first step in shutting down the bean business."

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NOTICE

Rossville residents are asked to conserve water for the next 3-4 days due to the water tower being drained for repainting. Service should be restored by the weekend.
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Local solid waste collection company now accepting applications for route drivers. CDL Class B license preferred, but will train the right candidate. Good wages and good benefits. Please send resume to Box C, c/o Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 143-154

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Three people injured in two-vehicle accident Tuesday

Three Hoopeston residents were treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital Tuesday following a two-car accident.

Injured was David W. Watson, 815 W. Main, and two of his children, Vincent, 2, and David Michael, 5.

Watson's wife, Deanna, said all three received bruises and scrapes.

The accident occurred at 11:10 a.m. at the intersection of East Maple and South Market. Watson, who was southbound, was stopped. According to

police reports, a car driven by Margaret K. Crawford, 78, of 202 S. Second, Ambia, Ind., failed to stop, striking Watson's vehicle. Crawford was ticketed for failure to stop at a stop sign.

According to Mrs. Watson, the experience was not totally bad for her children.

While being transported to the hospital, the children were given dolls by local emergency medical technicians. Mrs. Watson called the gesture "wonderful," saying the act helped comfort her children.

Girls' softball season kicks off with minor league games tonight

Opening day of the Hoopeston Girls' Softball Association is expected to be something special.

Games begin tonight with minor league action at Union Park, said John Hardcastle of the association.

"We're trying to make the opening game special," he said. A local celebrity is expected to be recruited to throw the first pitch, and the national anthem is expected to be played or sung before the game.

Major league games will begin next week, following graduation and the conclusion of the high school season.

This year's roster consists of 185 girls in 14

teams, seven each in the major and minor leagues.

The number is "way up from other years," Hardcastle said, attributing the increase to the addition of two teams, one in each league, from Rossville.

Local businesses sponsor teams, at \$200 each, Hardcastle said. Money is used to pay for uniforms, equipment and field maintenance.

Girls ages eight to 18 participate, Hardcastle said. Minor league teams include girls up to age 12, while girls 13 to 18 are in major league teams.

Games are played Monday-Friday during June and July. Minor league games begin at 6 p.m., followed by major league action at 8 p.m.

Police News

Rossville police are investigating burglaries at Rossville Hardware and the American Legion hall. Both were reported Monday. Several pieces of jewelry, stereo equipment and cash were taken from the hardware store. Cartons of cigarettes and cash were taken from the Legion.

Donald E. Graham, 623 W. Washington, reported Monday that someone took a television, coffee maker and CB radio from his motor home. Police are investigating.

Ivan Garcia, 18, #13 Hunt's Trailer Court, was arrested Monday, charged with domestic battery

and criminal trespassing on a complaint from Brenda Colunga, 323 N. Sixth Ave., and police officer Doug Wagoner. Garcia was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Police are investigating a Tuesday report of three broken windows at the Lorraine Theatre.

Weather

Partly sunny today, 40 percent chance of rain. High in the upper 70s. Tonight, clearing. Low in the mid 50s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 74, low near 55.



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