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Lourdine Florek editor



Susan Comstock ad manager

Thursday, December 1, 1994

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

Area man dies in grain bin accident Wednesday

A Stockland man died Wednesday in a grain accident at a local elevator.

Ivan Wise, 34, was pronounced dead at 12:20 p.m. at the Demeter elevator facility on North Market St., said Vermilion County coronor Lyle Irvin

The cause of death was apparently suffocation, caused when Mr. Wise fell into a corn bin, Irvin said, adding an autopsy was scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Preliminary results of the autopsy were expected to be available Wednesday night, with final results available in about two days.

An inquest is also pending.

The Hoopeston rescue squad was called to the scene at approximately 9:30 a.m., said Chuck Fenwick, Hoopeston fire chief.

Members worked for more than two hours to find Mr. Wise, who had been working in the bin.

Fenwick said the situation was worsened because an auger was being used to empty the bin, causing a "funnel effect." Wise was not caught in the auger, he added.

Rescue team members, attached to safety lines, dug an undetermined amount of corn from the bin before locating Mr. Wise under eight to nine feet of corn, Fenwick said. It was a situation where we

See ACCIDENT on other side

Local attorney's office adds Chicago lawyer as partner

A Chicago attorney has become a partner in a Hoopeston law office.

Kate Giffin, previously a staff attorney at Benos & Associates, has joined as a partner with Calvin Hultquist, creating the firm Hultquist & giffin.

Giffin received her law degree from John Marshall Law School, where she received honors as a finalist in the Prince Evidence National Moot Court Competition (New York City) and in the Fred F. Herzog Moot Court Competition.

She is a Colorado native and received her bachelor of science degree in journalism at the University of Colorado.

Giffin intends to focus her practice on family law, personal injury and criminal defense. She will begin seeing clients sometime in December.

"I have had the opportunity to visit Hoopeston a few times recently and have found the people to be very friendly," Giffin said. "The community seems safe, which is a big change from Chicago. I am really looking forward to building a practice with Calvin and getting involved in the community."

Hultquist praised his new partner, saying "she has excellent credentials and the personality to fit in well in our community."

He also expressed surprise at the number of Chicago-area attorneys who applied for the position. "About 20 Chicago attorneys applied and several attorneys from Champaign," he said. "small-town life seems to be a major attraction. Perhaps it signals a future revitalization of America's small towns. Hopefully, industry and commerce will follow the flow of professionals and executives out of major metropolitan areas into towns like Hoopeston."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hoopeston Jaycess Christmas trees are here. Rt. 9 & 2nd Ave.; M&N Pallet. M-F, 4-8 p.m., Sat-Sun, 12-6. 334,336

Pankcake & Sausage Day, Rossville Methodist Church, Sat. Dec. 3, 10 a.m. -5 p.m. Donations, \$3.50, under 12, \$2.50 334 336

Rossville Women of Today bake sale, 9 a.m.-?, First National Bank in Rossville. Cookies, muffins, pies, angel food cakes, low fat items.

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Up & Coming

Slab open weekends

The city slab will be open to the public the next two weekends for disposing yard debris and branches only. After the weekend of Dec. 3, the site will be closed for the winter.

Chapter 1 meeting

A Chapter 1 Parents/Student/Teacher meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, at John Greer Grade School. The program will be "Hooked on Learning." Refreshments will be served and prizes will be given.

Education sessions planned

An educational program offering GED classes,

field trips and college-credit courses will be offered at John Greer Grade School in January.

For more information or to sign up for classes, call the Chapter 1 office at 283-7038.

Miracle Tree

Names of area children on Miracle Trees at Weber's Drug Store and Pamida on Friday. Residents may select names and buy presents for the children, helping make their Christmas merry.

Santa hours

Santa will be in his house every Friday and Saturday from 2-4 p.m. The house is located next to Global Fashions.

Accident continued from other side

had to empty the bin."

Ken Klemme, Demeter vice president, said he could not corroborate Fenwick's account of what happened

"We really don't know for sure (what happened," he said. "To talk about what happened, it would just be guessing on my part and I'd prefer not to do that."

Klemme said the initial time period after the accident was spent in the rescue effort and we haven't had time to conduct an investigation," he said.

Klemme verified that Mr. Wise was employed by Demeter as a grain handler, but was unsure how many years he had been with the company.

He was also unsure how much corn was in the 120,000-bushel capacity bin, but said the container was "significantly less than half full."

Company employees, upset by the accident, were dismissed early Wednesday afternoon, Klemme said. The company is arranging counseling services for employees who request it, he added.

The tragedy galvanized Hoopeston, as help came from all sectors of the community.

In all, approximately 100 people helped in the rescue effort, Fenwick said, including Hoopeston

city employees, as well as those from FMC, DM Fertilizer, Hoopeston Fertilizer and Jerry's IGA.

Hoopeston and Rossville ambulance personnel also responded

Private citizens also assisted in removing corn, rotated in 10-minute shifts to avoid being overcome by corn dust, he said.

"It was a community effort," Fenwick said. "In a situation like this...everybody pitches in. It's a tremendous community for that."

Funeral arrangements for Mr. Wise are pending at the Brown-Alkire Funeral Home.

In the hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital Nov. 30, 1994

Admitted: none. Discharged: none.

Weather



Partly sunny, breezy and considerably milder today. High in the low 50s. Tonight, fair. Low 35-40. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 56, low near 36.

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