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Annual Ham & Bean Dinner
Oct. 2, 1997 - 11am - 2 pm
Multi Agency Building
206 S. First Avenue
Hoopeston, IL
Donation: \$3.50 per person
283-5544

Tickets available at the door
Contact Multi Agency for more ticket info

Lourdine Florek
 owner/publisher

Just the facts®

Phone: (217) 283-9348

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 1997
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

Can production to stop at Silgan, 50 to be laid off

First the corn left. Now the cans are going. Silgan Containers Corporation announced Monday to workers at its Hoopeston plant that can production at the plant will cease next year, eliminating approximately 50 jobs.

About 100 employees will continue working at the factory, making can ends.

The move is a further restructuring designed to meet competitive pressures, said area manager John Wilbert of Woodland Hills, CA.

“Our business has been flat,” Wilbert said. While processed food sales have increased, canned food sales have not, resulting in consolidation and closed plants across the country, he said.

Wilbert pointed to the local picture as proof. “The amount of canning done in Hoopeston, compared to 20 or 30 years ago, has dropped,” he said.

Monday’s announcement will affect three of six canning lines at the plant. The other three were scheduled to be eliminated last year, but some were

saved due to unexpected orders, Wilbert said.

He does not foresee unexpected orders saving lines this time. “Business could change,” he said, “but this is our best estimate.”

Employees who attended Monday’s meeting said the news was sad, but not unexpected.

The lines - and 14 job classifications - are expected to be gone by the end of April 1998, said employee Dave LaBounty. “It don’t look good for Hoopeston all the way around,” he said.

Seniority will be a factor when eliminating employees, Wilbert said, adding workers with as many as 12 years will be without work.

That means older employees will have to do the work of younger ones, which could prove physically challenging, LaBounty said. “Their knees and backs can’t take it,” he said. “A lot of them have carpal tunnel.”

See CANS on other side

Chamber says save those milk jugs for holiday decorating

Drink milk and help the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce light up the town for Christmas.

The Chamber plans to light up Hoopeston with luminaria as part of its Nov. 22 citywide Christmas Open House and is asking residents to save plastic gallon milk jugs to use as part of the decoration.

Officials hope to have enough to decorate Main Street from Route 1 to the downtown area and Market St. from Route 9 to the downtown. “We want to make it an event,” said Robin Lawson, chairman of the Chamber promotion committee.

Residents are asked to take clean milk jugs to downtown businesses, which will store them until the open house.

The lights will be put out by members of the Hoopeston Area Students Against Driving Drunk, Lawson said.

Along with lights and special savings, the Open House is expected to include musical entertainment.

Of course, no Christmas Open House would be complete without the arrival of Santa. Word from the North Pole is that the jolly old elf will temporarily trade in his reindeer for a more modern mode of transportation, arriving in Hoopeston via train.

Santa is expected to visit with children in Hoopeston area businesses during his first day in town.

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It's Tuesday!

Celebrate surviving Monday!

Crois'anwich

Sausage, Ham or Egg w/egg and cheese



99¢

Served until 10:30 a.m.

Routes 1 & 9, Hoopeston

Wolfe

Funeral Home

907 W. Main St.

Hoopeston, IL.

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Police News

★

Christina Rhodes of Shell Mart, Routes 1 and 9, reported Sunday that someone in a maroon Corsica failed to pay for \$21 worth of gas.

The car had no license plates on it, but was last seen heading north on Route 1.

Cans continued from other side

Employees who lose their jobs will be offered special benefit provisions, as well as help finding new jobs, Wilbert said.

Workers speculated that the latest restructuring may sound the death knell for the local plant, but preserving history may keep the factory open. "This is the oldest can plant that I know of that's still operating today," Wilbert said.

Silgan purchased the plant in August 1995 from American National Can.

It is one of 32 manufacturing facilities owned by the company throughout the United States.

Obituaries

DANNER - Robert "Bob" A. Danner Sr., 66, of Rossville, died at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, 1997, at his home. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Wolfe Funeral Home, Rossville. Burial, with military graveside rites, will be in Rossville Cemetery. Visitation was 5-8 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the Shriners of Vermilion County Children's Foundation.

In the Hospital

+

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Sept. 25, 1997
Admitted: Florence McCalla, Hoopeston.
Discharged: none.

Sept. 26, 1997
Admitted: Lawrence Hopkins and Paul Lohnes, Hoopeston.
Discharged: Clara Agnes Wood and Harrison Wheeler, Hoopeston.

Sept. 27, 1997
Admitted: none.
Discharged: none.

Sept. 28, 1997
Admitted: none.
Discharged: none.

Weather

☀

Partly sunny, windy today. High 69. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 55. Tomorrow, sunny. High near 71, low near 47.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 3:55 p.m. Monday in the 800 block of South Fourth St.

Police said Amanda N. Storm, 706 S. Fourth St., backed her 1994 Chevrolet into a 1986 Toyota driven by Jessica L. Brackmann, 505 E. Lincoln.

Court Dispositions

⚖

Sept. 4: Charles Richardson, Rantoul, uninsured; nolle pros.

Billy Robinson, Hoopeston, to pay \$282; continued to Dec. 4.

Steve Robinson, Hoopeston, to pay \$115; failed to appear.

Joaquin Romero, Danville, speeding; failed to appear.

Steak Fry

Friday, Oct. 3

5:30-8 p.m.

American Legion

502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

Steak - \$10 Chicken - \$7



Classifieds

FOR RENT

Large metal building with dirt floor for rent for winter. \$200/month. Call (217) 283-5391. 268-273

HELP WANTED

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