

SILGAN EMPLOYEES



Vote YES

Paid for by Teamsters supporters

North Fork Conservation Club



Friday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

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Silgan employees to vote on joining Teamsters Union

Employees of Silgan Containers will vote today on whether to join the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The election will be open to 104 hourly production workers, said Tim Donovan agent of record representing Danville-based Local 26 of the Teamsters. Clerical and supervisory personnel are not eligible for union membership and will not vote.

Voting will be held from 6:30-7:30 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. The election will be held by the National Labor Relations Board and will be supervised by an NLRB representatives.

Donovan has met with Silgan workers since Dec. 4, 2001, when seven men inquired about joining the union. Five or six meetings have been held since then.

Workers have voiced several concerns. "Respect is a big thing," Donovan said. "They want the company to treat them as individuals rather than just a number."

Wages and benefits are also sticking points for workers. "Raises have not been forthcoming for them in quite

some time," he said. Also, while the pay scale at the local plant is close to scales at union shops, benefits, especially the pension plan, is not, he said.

On average, workers at the Hoopeston Silgan plant make \$16.50 per hour, according to company information.

If the union vote is approved, a union agent will meet with all workers to determine what issues should be addressed in a labor contract. All employees, even those who did not vote for the union, must join the group. "We don't have open shops," Donovan said.

The Teamsters initiation fee of \$200 per person will be waived if the union vote passes. However, workers will pay monthly dues of two times their hourly pay. Dues are usually deducted from employees' paychecks.

If workers vote to join the union, they will then elect representatives to the negotiating team and also shop stewards.

The negotiating team will meet with Silgan representatives to work out a contract. If both sides are unable to reach an agreement, workers may vote to strike.

See UNION on other side

Briefly

Baseball signup

Pony League (ages 13-14) and Colt League (ages 15-17) Saturday and Sunday, Mar. 9-10 at the Fence-It-In booth at the WHPO Business Expo. Registration fee is \$25.

For more information, call Tom Spear, 283-9529 or Vickie Means, 283-6372.

Tiny Tots

"March Lions" is the theme of this week's Hoopeston Public Library Tiny Tots program. Children will meet at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Multi Agency. The program is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

It means so much, especially now
A memorable Easter.

Wonderful, affordable collectibles
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Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert

702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days

Fish Fry

5-8 p.m. Friday

American Legion

502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

Enjoy John McElhaney on piano

and Ashley Leverenz on violin

Fish Dinner \$5.50 Shrimp Dinner \$6.50, Chicken Dinner \$7.00, ribs: half rack \$8.50, full rack \$16.

Tax & Tip not included



356th Annual Rossville Antique Show & Sale



Rossville-Alvin High School
Saturday, March 9 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday, March 10 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
(CST)

\$2 donation good for both days

Sponsored by the

Rossville-Alvin Boosters

Manager: Naomi Freeman

(217) 748-6720

Food available both days.

Antique & specialty shops open downtown



Maui Club

9 p.m.-1 a.m. Saturday

No cover charge

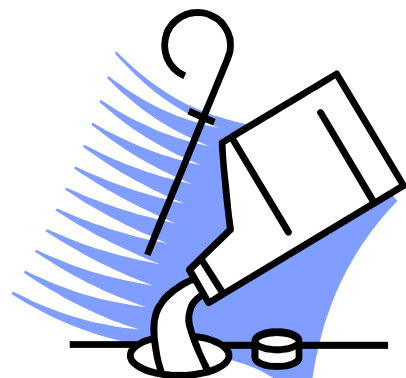
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900 West Orange, Hoopeston
(217) 283-5131 www.starchrysler.com



Jeep

Union continued from other side

As for the stewards, they represent a “cop on the beat kind of thing,” Donovan said. Rank and file members go to stewards with complaints. Stewards then meet with management to work out differences or pass the problem up the line to Donovan, his boss and finally, arbitration.

Donovan discounted thoughts that joining a union would be the death knell for the local plant. “We get blamed for that a lot,” he said. “If you look at the numbers, a lot more non-union plants close than union plants.”

Union officials say joining the Teamsters would benefit workers. “I think what it does is to give them a voice in their work place, said Local 26 president Gary Collett. “It gives them a better say in their work environment.”

Union representation would not interrupt the flow of business unless contract talks bogged down and an agreement could not be reached. “We don’t promote striking,” Collett said, “but we use it as a last resort.”

Having a union may benefit the company, too, Donovan said. “Many employers like unions because everything is all right there in the contract,” he said. “There aren’t many gray areas.”

Local 26 represents approximately 3,200 workers in 14 counties and includes workers in the manufacturing, trucking and warehousing industries and the private sector.

Silgan officials had no comment on the vote.

The plant has a long history in Hoopeston, dating back to 1894. Workers have never had a union. Cans were once manufactured there. Currently can ends are produced.

**Benefit
for Sherry Palomo**
Sunday, March 10 Noon-10 p.m.
Food, 50/50, Raffle, Auction, \$100 gift certificate

Main Street Inn
306 E. Main, Hoopeston
Proceeds to defray expenses for cancer treatment



Police News



A **63-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Tuesday that the U-joint of his 1977 Dump truck was damaged while the truck was in the 100 block of East Maple.

William E. Drollinger, 28, of 525½ S. Second Ave., was arrested at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the 500 block of South Second Ave. He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 45-year-old Hoopeston woman.

Drollinger was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Andrew R. Coon, 23, of Danville, was charged with driving on a suspended license, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and failure to secure children in restraints following an accident at 7:58 a.m. Wednesday.

Police said Coon, in a 1994 Plymouth Sundance, was eastbound in the 500 block of West Lincoln

New Books at the Library



Fiction:

Beasts by Joyce Carol Oates

Bleeders by Bill Pronzini (mystery)

Conflict of Interest by Nancy Taylor Rosenberg

Non-fiction:

Mannequins at Home in Illinois and Western Indiana by Don Chambers

Books for Children by Katherine Patterson

Weather



Cloudy, chance of rain today, tonight and tomorrow. Today’s high 55, low 46. Tomorrow’s high 58, low 47.

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

Dance
Quintyn Ryder
9-1 Saturday
No cover charge
Rickey G’s
Village Pub
125 S. Chicago, Rossville



when he drove through four yards before hitting a large bush and a tree. Police said he was semi-conscious and did not remember the events.

Coon and two passengers were treated at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.



Chili/Potato Soup Luncheon & Supper

Sponsored by the
Hoopeston Jaycees

Saturday, March 9

Hoopeston Multi Agency

206 S. First Ave.

Adults \$5, kids under 5, \$2.50

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit Brianna’s Baby Shop on E-bay, seller netitnow.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 bedroom upstairs apartment. Available Mar. 7. No pets. \$275 plus deposit. (217) 283-7698.

APARTMENT WANTED

Single person wants 1-2 bedroom apt. or house. \$300-\$350 range. Call (217) 283-4272. 66-72

HELP WANTED

Full time employment position opportunity. Farming and/or custom application experience preferred; will require custom spray license and CDL driver’s license; excellent pay wages and benefits. Contact Hoopeston Fertilizer 217-283-5183. 50-77

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

18 cu. Ft. Amana refrigerator, like new, \$300; Magic Chef self cleaning electric range, \$100; new Echo 18” chain saw in box, \$300; sofa, \$100. (217) 748-4287. 63-67

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1989 Honda Shadow 1100. 17,000 original miles. \$5,000 OBO. (217) 283-4132.

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