

Neponset man killed in accident

By **DONNA BARKER**
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PRINCETON — A rural Neponset man died Friday as the result of a motorcycle accident just west of Princeton.

George Allan “Al” Bates, 68, was pronounced dead at the scene about 7:30 p.m. Friday by Bureau County Coroner Janice Wamhoff.

On Monday, Bureau County Sheriff John Thompson said there were no witnesses to the accident. Site reconstructionist Gary Becket has been assigned to the accident to determine what happened.

In giving a review of the day’s events, Thompson said Bates’ daughter came to the Bureau County Sheriff’s Department in Princeton at about 3:30 p.m. Friday to report her father had left his residence earlier in the day to go to Princeton for some medical tests at Perry Memorial Hospital. Her father had not arrived at the doctor’s office nor had he contacted her.

At that time, Thompson said he assigned officers to attempt to find Bates, who had left his residence on his motorcycle. Officers combed roadways between the Princeton and Neponset areas but did not locate the man.

At about 7:27 p.m., family friends located Bate’s motorcycle about 100 yards from 1850 East Street, which runs north from Route 6/34 on the west edge of Princeton. The motorcycle and Bates were found in an overgrown area of shrubbery, Thompson said.

Assisting at the scene in addition to the Bureau County Sheriff’s Department and the county coroner were the Princeton Fire and Ambulance Department and the Princeton Police.

The accident remains under investigation.

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County fair breaks records

Mother Nature cooperates

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PRINCETON — Thanks to Mother Nature smiling over Princeton, the 155th Bureau County Fair was a record-breaker in most every way, according to Tracy Brenneman, marketing director for the fair.

On Monday, Brenneman said the final numbers and figures aren’t all tabulated, but it looks like there were definitely record crowds at the fair on both Saturday and Sunday.

“We parked every square inch we could on Saturday for sure and about the same for Sunday,” Brenneman said.

He said the grandstand events were very well attended this year. Eighteen hundred people attended Friday night’s country western show starring Craig Morgan. Sixteen hundred people attended the Sunday morning worship service. The demolition derby on Sunday night was sold out. Saturday’s tractor pull had 150 vehicle pulls, which made it one of the top three pulls in the state, Brenneman said.

It wasn’t just the grandstand shows that saw the big crowds, Brenneman said. Crews had to bring in bigger bleachers for the elephant shows, which were standing room only shows. He said the elephant show has been one of the most well received shows he can remember.

Also, booths in all the exhibit halls were all sold out this year. As far as the animal departments, there were some departments that had a larger than usual turn-out, while others were down a bit, which he said is expected from year-to-year.

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BCR photo/Terri Simon

The midway at the 155th Bureau County Fair was a busy place during the entire course of the fair, which began Wednesday afternoon and ran through Sunday night. Between plenty of fair food stands, exciting rides and games of chance, there was a variety of activities for fair-goers of all ages. With the cooperation of Mother Nature, the fair set a variety of records during the event, especially with attendance.

CPASA studies survey results

By **DONNA BARKER**
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Editor’s note: This is the first in a two-part series.

With the start of the school year, the Community Partners Against Substance Abuse Coalition (CPASA) is continuing its work to reduce substance abuse among youth in Bureau and Putnam counties.

CPASA Chairman Dawn Conerton said the coalition recently reviewed the results of the Illinois Youth Surveys (IYS)

taken voluntarily by students at several area junior high and high schools. Participating schools handed out surveys in paper form last year, or students could take the surveys online. Surveys were taken from Feb. 1 to April 30 in order for comparisons to be made with statewide figures, Conerton said.

The number of local participating schools is increasing, Conerton said. In 2008, seven Bureau County schools participated in the survey. In 2010, that number increased to 11 schools. For 2012, CPASA hopes to see even more

Bureau County schools participating, Conerton said. In Putnam County, both the junior high and high school participated.

“In order for us to get a clear picture of youth drug and alcohol use in our target area of Bureau and Putnam counties, we need to have as many schools as possible take the Illinois Youth Surveys,” Conerton said. “The more you understand the issues facing our youth, the better able we’ll be to address them.”

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