The Daily Journal (Flat River, Missouri) · Tue, Aug 17, 2010 · Page 18

Doe Run Company wins rescue honors

The Doe Run Company's Missouri-based mine rescue teams recently captured the highest mine rescue honors in the nation – as well as the company's best finish in its 35-year mine rescue contest history.

From July 27 to 29, Doe Run's Maroon and Gray teams competed in the Mine Safety and Health Administration's (MSHA) 2010 Metal/Nonmetal National Mine Rescue Contest.

Doe Run's Maroon Team prevailed against 38 other teams from 16 states to win the field competition, capturing the national championship title.

Doe Run's Gray Team also qualified for the final round, marking the first time in history that both teams advanced.

"Safety is paramount to our business, so all of us at Doe Run not only appreciate, but also applaud the employees who dedicate their time to this critical area," said Jerry Pyatt, Doe Run's vice president, domestic operations and chief operating officer. "Although Doe Run's mine rescue teams won the awards, the real winners are our employees working underground, who go to work every day knowing the best mine rescuers in the nation are at the ready."

To win, the team managed a simulated mine emergency that tested how well its members adhered to mine rescue procedures and how quickly they completed specific tasks. The Maroon Team consists of Luke Davis, Denny Dickerson, Andrew Hampton, Steve Kearns, Jerry Laramore, Ricky Martin, Shawn Pratt and Steve Setzer.

Two members of Doe Run's Gray Team, Garry Moore, Jr. and Kenny Wood, were also awarded honors with a third place finish in the two-man technician competition. That event tests the team's skills on mine rescue equipment, including breathing units, gas detectors and communications systems.

Recently, Moore and Wood earned third place in the same event at the 40th Southern Regional Mine Rescue Classic in New Iberia, La.

The Gray Team includes Brad Beck, Randy Hill, Kevin James, Wayne Marlin, Garry Moore, Jr., Kenny Sherrill, Charlie Walker and Kenny Wood.

"Competitions like these are invaluable, because they simulate the same type of pressure the teams face underground in a real emergency," said Bob Roscoe, who served on Doe Run's mine rescue team for 20 years, and currently serves as Doe Run's vice president of mining. "By training and testing year-round, mine rescuers have already been drilled on multiple situations. If an event occurs, they respond cohesively, efficiently and almost naturally."

Staying at the top of their game requires rigorous training. For preparation, Doe Run's mine rescue teams train eight hours monthly. They're drilled on emergency scenarios using the most current technology available. The regimen increases to 40 hours monthly during competition season, which sharpens skills and brings rescuers together to share best practices.

Doe Run's teams train by simulating emergency response disasters at the company's West Fork Mine, located in southeastern Missouri. Scenarios are often created by the opposing team or team alumni. Team members then collaborate and critique each other, and learn from the expertise and best practices shared by tenured team members.

This fall, both of Doe Run's mine rescue teams will compete in the 28th annual Southeast Missouri Mine Rescue Contest at Missouri University of Science & Technology in Rolla, Mo.

Last year, the Maroon Team successfully captured the Best in State title for a record fourth consecutive year. In November, the Maroon and Gray technician teams will compete against the best in the world, in the International Mine Rescue Competition near Sydney, Australia.

Doe Run's success in mine rescue contests correlates to its overall safety record. Because of Doe Run's commitment to safe mining practices, the company's six underground lead mines, located in Missouri's Viburnum Trend, have earned MSHA's prestigious Sentinels of Safety Award more than 24 times since 1971.

All new mining employees undergo 40 hours of in-depth safety training on MSHA guidelines. In addition, Doe Run has built emergency safety features into the mines, including a number of secondary escape shafts and ventilation holes.

The mines, many of which are interconnected by miles of underground roadways, have also established a number of underground designated points of safety. These safe areas contain breathing air, drinking water, first-aid supplies and phones.

Lead mining in Missouri is conducted entirely underground, usually at a depth of 800 feet to 1,200 feet below the surface. At this level, the mines consist mainly of dolomite, a strong type of rock with natural geologic properties that make it naturally stable.

For added safety, Doe Run uses careful and methodic mining practices, including the room-and-pillar mining method in which rock pillars (up to 35 feet wide and 120 feet tall) support the ground above.

Mine ceilings are also secured with roof bolts, which help support up to 18 tons of rock in active mine areas. Doe Run also utilizes remote mining, in which an electronic remote control unit allows miners to safely operate a loader and excavate blasted ore from hundreds of feet away.

2010 Metal and Nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest

Reno Gazette-Journal (Reno, Nevada) · Tue, Jul 27, 2010 · Page 6

YOUR TURN

Rescue teams are the unsung heroes of mining

HILDA SOLIS

When an emergency situation unfolds in a local community, police, fire, and search and rescue units are among the first to respond. But what happens when disaster strikes below the Earth's surface? Mining hundreds of feet underground to extract valuable minerals presents numerous challenges and hazards.

Few can forget the tragedy that unfolded last April when 29 miners were killed in an explosion at a West Virginia coal mine. But how many of us truly comprehend the relentless role that rescuers played as their search for the missing men spread out over several days?

While safety in mining has improved over the years, the potential for danger always exists, and in the event of an emergency, only specialized groups of professionals can be called upon to help rescue miners who might be trapped and injured underground.

Mine rescue teams spend countless hours preparing for a mine emergency they hope never happens. Mine rescue contests, held in mining communities throughout the country, enable these teams to sharpen their skills in a competitive environment.

One such event begins today at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. The 2010 Metal/Nonmetal National Mine Rescue Contest kicks off three days of competition, with nearly 40 mine rescue teams from 16 states. Eight of those teams are based right here in Nevada. The Mine Safety and Health Administration, an agency I oversee as secretary of labor, is the main sponsor of this event.

The contest consists of several activities. In the field competition, teams must navigate through a simulated mine emergency while judges rate them on how well they adhere to mine rescue procedures and how quickly they complete specific tasks. In the first aid contest, emergency medical technicians tackle real-life scenarios. The technician team must make necessary checks of multi-gas instruments and self-contained breathing apparatuses for proper working condition, check the portable communication system to ensure that it works properly and check the available mine rescue equipment and supplies to ensure that they are in functional condition.

Nevadans are no stranger to mining tragedies. Over the past 15 years, 47 miners have died in accidents at metal and nonmetal mines in this state, the most for any state in the country.

In June 2007, a 30-year-old miner operating a load-haul-dump vehicle at an underground gold mine was killed when his vehicle fell through the floor into a void created by subsidence. Hazardous conditions complicated efforts to locate the miner, who had become engulfed in the collapsed ground. He was recovered nearly two weeks later.

Mining tragedies bring home in a monumental way how essential rescue teams are during a rescue and recovery operation. Their bravery and commitment are unsurpassed and, knowing what may be at stake during an emergency, they nevertheless push themselves to the limit to protect and serve their fellow miners. They deserve our utmost respect and gratitude.

Hilda L. Solis is the U.S. secretary of labor.

COMING UP

WEDNESDAY: Steve Wiel and Robert Sprague argue that efficiency is the cheapest and best energy program.

2010 Metal and Nonmetal Mine Rescue Contest

Reynolds County Courier

Serving Reynolds County Since 1873

Volume 137, No. 3 Thursday, Aug. 19, 2010 75¢

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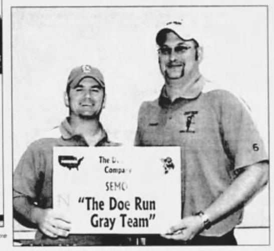
See Doe Run, Page 2

Photos Submitted by Amy Moore

Doe Run Maroon National Champions

THE DOE RUN MAROON RESCUE TEAM won the national championship and will compete in Australia in November. Team members, above, are: front, from left, Dan King-team trainer from Desloge, Steve Setzer from Dillard, Shawn Pratt from Viburnum, and Denny Dickerson from Ellington; back, Luke Davis from Ellington, Ricky Martin from Steelville, Jerry Laramore from Belgrade, Steve Kearns from Farmington, and Andrew Hampton from Ellington.



Third-Place Winners

DOE RUN GRAY TEAM Technicians Garry Moore Jr. of Ellington, left, and Kenny Wood of Bunker won third place in the two-man technician competition.

Judge Seay Seeking New Challenges

Judge William Camm Seay, circuit judge in the 42nd Circuit, will run as an unopposed Democratic candidate for the office of Crawford County prosecuting attorney in November's General Election.

Sid Pearson, current Crawford County prosecutor, has withdrawn his candidacy to serve another term and is seeking an appointment from the governor to finish the two years that are left in Judge Seay's term.

Seay met with the Crawford County Democratic Committee to ask for their endorsement and to have his name be placed on the ballot in place of Pearson's.

"I'm grateful to all the people in the 42nd Circuit for the opportunity to serve," Seay said. "I am in my 16th year of service, the third six-year term. I had already decided that this would be my last term as judge. There are no term limits for a circuit court judge. I believe that people can become stale when they fill an office for a number of consecutive years. I love a challenge. I believe we all need to be challenged. I was seeking another challenge and had made the decision to run for the Crawford County prosecutor's office after my term was completed in two years. The decision to end my service as judge at the end of this year was made for the benefit of my family and to be able to stay close to home," he said.

"Should the governor appoint Sid to serve for the two remaining years of my term, the circuit will have an excellent replacement. He is a skillful attorney and prosecutor and will serve well."

Judge Seay is no novice to the prosecutor's office. He served three four-year terms as Dent County prosecutor after being elected in 1982 and taking office in 1983. Prior to being elected to the office, he served as assistant prosecutor from 1980 through 1982.

Judge Seay told the *Courier* that he has always loved the courtroom. This was instilled in him during trips with his father, Judge William E. Seay.

"Some people fall in love with the outdoors, some like the atmosphere of working in an office," he said. "I fell in love with the courtroom as a young boy traveling the circuit with my dad. Back then, courtrooms had spittoons and the lawyers smoked inside the courtroom. It was very different back then. I was the youngest of four children. I went with dad whenever I could. I remember my excitement because we would travel to different locations and go to different courtrooms. Along the way, Dad would stop at every community store and post office. The stores would have penny candy and five-cent sodas. I would listen to my dad talk with all of the people who were there. I have kept the tradition of stopping to visit with people while traveling the circuit. I enjoy doing that. There is no longer just one community store in any area.

"It's ironic that one of the biggest attractions about being a judge is now one of the reasons for my decision not to continue," Seay said. "The extensive traveling has become something that keeps me away from home. I find myself wanting to stay closer to my family and eliminate the 'windshield time' on the road."

The 42nd Circuit holds court in five counties–Crawford, Dent, Iron, Reynolds and Wayne.

The judge's family moved to Crawford County three years ago. "We sold our farm in Salem and moved to be near my wife's sister," Seay said.

"My wife, Sara, and I have four children. We have two daughters in their twenties, one son who is 22 years old and our youngest daughter who is 16," he said. "She was able to begin high school at our new location which worked out well for her and for us," he said.

"Dad tried to discourage me from following in his footsteps," Seay said. "When I went to college and discussed my career choices with him, he reminded me of all of the family meals he had missed, how many times during the night the family would be awakened by someone knocking on the door to speak with him, and how often he would have to be away from home. I listened to him, but it didn't change my dream of being in a courtroom," he said.

It appears that Judge Seay's dream is still alive. Although he is stepping down as judge, his workplace environment as a prosecutor will still be in a courtroom. He is simply changing hats.

Carol Lovell/Reynolds County Courier

Judge William Camm Seay

R-II School's Rock Building Comes Down

The Southern Reynolds County R-II School District received a Conservation Grant to provide the district with a biomass boiler to heat the facility by burning wood chips and/or sawdust. Preliminary engineering is now finished and construction will begin soon. The project is to be completed by next summer.

"Ellington schools would like to thank McCormack's Ellington Telephone Company for volunteering assistance with the project to cut some of the costs not covered by the grant," Southern Reynolds County R-II School Superintendent Dr. Mike Redlich said.

"With McCormack's help, the district was able to demolish the old rock building to prepare the site for the boiler."

The old rock building has had many uses over the years, from FFA to Band, before having structural concerns. The school district would like to gather more information about the history of the building.

"If anyone has any stories or information about the building, please send it to the school," Redlich said.

Dave Lovell/Reynolds County Courier

Council Approves Hiring of Architect For New Firehouse

Ellington residents are one step closer to acquiring a new firehouse. Ellington Fire Chief Lynndel Barnes received permission from the city council on Tuesday, Aug. 10, to hire an architect for the construction.

Barnes told the council the blueprints were needed in order to receive an approximate cost of the project and to obtain bids for the various construction jobs that would be required for the project.

Three bids were opened to place decals on the police department trucks. Show-Me Vinyl Inc. of Van Buren placed the lowest bid at $1,234.26. Alderman Dwain Crocker moved to accept the bid and to pay for the decals out of the general revenue fund. The motion was approved. A-One Imaging bid $1,600 and Precision Graphics bid $1,300.

Ellington Police Chief Randall Martin presented three bids for a wireless internet camera system. Onsite Computer Solutions in Ellington submitted the lowest bid at $2,703.03. Alderman George Shipp moved to accept the bid from Onsite, which was approved by the council. SEC Communications bid $10,000. Brooks Hill bid $2,975.15.

A youth, Ryan Dement, apologized to the board and to those in attendance at the meeting for vandalizing the soccer field. Dement has raked and seeded the area that he damaged.

The public apology was well-received by the board, and encouraging comments were offered to the youth for having the courage to admit to the act, correct the damage, and apologize.

Doe Run

Continued From Page 1

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The Doe Run Company is based in St. Louis. It is a privately held natural resources company and the largest integrated lead producer in the Western Hemisphere. Doe Run operates one of the world's largest, single-site lead recycling facilities, located in Boss. The Doe Run Company has operations in Missouri, Washington and Arizona.