

Warm up to these Hot Deals



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6 cyl., auto/air
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2001 FORD ESCAPE

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Former area resident is first man sentenced to Death Row

Just a few weeks after former Gov. George Ryan commuted the sentences of prisoners on Death Row, a former Rossville man has become the first to be sentenced to die.

Anthony B. Mertz, 26, of Charleston, was sentenced to death Wednesday for killing 21-year-old Shannon McNamara, an Eastern Illinois University student.

The Coles County jury deliberated for about

2.5 hours before sentencing Mertz to die for killing and mutilating Ms. McNamara in June 2001.

Mertz' grandmother, Dorothy French of Rossville, was in the courtroom when the sentence was announced.

The death sentence will be automatically appealed to the state Supreme Court.

Even if it is upheld, it may be some time before Mertz' execution. Gov. Rod Blagojevich has ex-

Briefly

Tiny Tots

"White" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots story program 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room. Tiny Tots is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Can't make the Friday Tiny Tots? Starting March 4, Tiny Tots will also be held from 6:30-7 p.m. Tuesdays for those who cannot attend the Friday morning session.

Winners

Monthly winners in the Women Making a Difference drawing are: Janice Voyles and Donna Field,

\$25; Sue Anvick, \$15; and Robin Lawson, \$10.

Summer ball sign-up

Signup for Hoopeston summer ball programs will begin this weekend.

Participants may register at the Hoopeston Multi Agency from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, March 1, 8, and 15 and noon-2 p.m. Sundays, March 2, 9 and 16.

Sweetheart Dinner

The Hoopeston Area Sweetheart Dinner has been rescheduled for 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 7. The event was cancelled last Friday due to the weather.

Seniors do not need to call in reservations

State Farm is there for life.tm

You can count on your "good neighbor" agent to help with all your life insurance needs:

Whole Life

Term Life

Universal Life

Annuities



See me:



Karaoke

9 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday

No cover charge!

BJ's Pump

Bar & Package Liquor Store
1023 W. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-5700

Just 1 more new thing!
New casual pattern dinnerware.
Perfect for your bridal registry!

Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert

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



Just Say No.

If you have to switch banks again,

why not make it your choice this time.

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HOOPESTON, IL
BY APPT. OR WALK-IN

217-283-5178
Mon.-Fri 9:00-6:00
Saturday 9:00-5:00

LORRAINE

Screen 1: "Chicago" (PG-13)

Starring Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Richard Gere. Nominated for 13 Academy Awards including Best Picture!

Scope, 112 minutes, presented in SDDS
7:30 p.m. nightly, 2:30 & 5 p.m. Sat. & Sun.

Screen 2: "Jungle Book 2" (G)

Flat, 72 minutes, presented in Dolby SR Stereo
Final Week! 7 p.m. nightly, 2 p.m. Sat. & Sun.

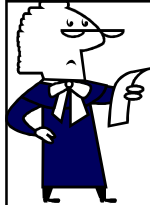
Coming soon: "The Hours," "Tears of the Sun," and "Gods and Generals."



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You be the Judge!

Karaoke Contest

Friday, Feb. 28 9 p.m.



28th annual ROTARY

Pancake & Sausage Day

Saturday, March 1

6 a.m.-2 p.m.

Hoopeston American Legion

\$4 Children 6 & younger FREE



Hoopeston Area grade schools

MONDAY: No school. Pulaski Day.

TUESDAY: Hamburger/bun, potato wedges, raisins, milk.

WEDNESDAY: Chicken nuggets, green beans, cheese sauce, fruit cocktail, milk.

THURSDAY: Hot dog/bun, corn, applesauce, cookie, milk.

FRIDAY: Steak nuggets, fries, pear slices, Sweetie Bears, milk.

Hoopeston Area High/Middle School

Rep. Johnson receives input from 15th District ag group

CISSNA PARK —As part of ongoing efforts to restore Illinois' agricultural economy, U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson (IL-15) has organized a series of agricultural advisory committee meetings with participation from all 22 counties in the district. One of those meetings was held Monday in Cissna Park.

"This year, we tried something a little different with our ad advisory meetings," Johnson said. "We invited local FFA chapters to participate in our discussion. The high school students will soon be the leaders in rural America and this is a wonderful opportunity for them to see federal farm policy in the making."

Restoring the ag economy will be done, in

Police News



Police are investigating a burglary reported Thursday at Craftsman Printing, 217 S. Bank. Someone kicked in the back, entered the business and took an undetermined amount of money.

Wally's Pub & Eatery
Rossville 748 6858

Friday Feb 28
2nd annual
MARDI GRAS PARTY
Featuring:
THE JAM BAND
FROM PARIS IL.
9pm-1am

Lunch Menus

MONDAY: No school. Pulaski Day.

TUESDAY: Chicken strips, potato wedges, cheese sauce, fruit cocktail, milk.

WEDNESDAY: Biscuit/sausage gravy or rib/bun, tri-tator, scrambled eggs, orange, milk.

THURSDAY: Chicken/noodles or fish/bun, mashed potatoes, peas, bread, oleo, pear slices, milk.

FRIDAY: Chicken patty/bun or hot dog/bun, fries, peach slices, milk.

Rossville-Alvin schools

MONDAY: No school. Pulaski Day.



TUESDAY: Taco/soft shell, corn, peaches, bread, butter, milk.

WEDNESDAY: Corn dog, baked beans, banana, mac & cheese, chocolate brownie, milk.

THURSDAY: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, pears, roll, butter, milk.

Buy of the Week

Great Stuff

Insulating foam sealant

Seals gaps & cracks

\$3.75/can

Brown's Cash & Carry

801 E. Thompson, Hoopeston (217) 283-7739

Classifieds

AUCTIONS

Thinking of having an auction?

Go to www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com or call (217) 748-6289!

HELP WANTED

Part time help, preferably retired, with mechanical background to work some nights and weekends. Contact JoAnne at Pla-Mor Lanes, (217) 283-5195.

LOST & FOUND

Lost in Alvin area: 4-year-old Jack Russell. White, brown & black markings. Answers to Luke. Had red collar and tags. Reward. Last seen Wednesday. Call (217) 765-2004.

RUMMAGE SALES

518 E. Penn, Hoopeston. Tag sale 1 day only, Sat., 9-2. Chairs, tables, lamps, antiques, glassware, misc. Several items \$1. Tables with boxes of items just \$1. Don & Bonnie Wolfe.

SERVICES

Pampered Pet Grooming. Lots of TLC. Call anytime for appointment. (217) 339-2340.

Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 35. Tonight, chance of snow. Low 20. Saturday, chance of snow. High 35, low 25. Sunday, chance of snow. High 38, low 22.

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



Hoopeston Gun Show



9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 1 & 2
McFerren Park Civic Center

For information, call **(217) 283-6857**

\$3 admission