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Friday, February 21, 2014

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P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

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Man pleads guilty for second time to wife's 2005 murder

A Hoopeston man will return to prison after pleading guilty again to the 2005 death of his wife.

Steven Miller, 39, pleaded guilty in January 2006 to one count of first degree murder in the shooting death of his wife, Eva R. Miller, on September 5, 2005. He was originally sentenced to 35 years in the Department of Corrections.

However, the Fourth Appellate Court reversed the plea in December 2012, granting Miller a new trial. On March 22, 2013, Miller was allowed to withdraw his guilty plea.

Tuesday, Miller pleaded guilty in Vermilion County Circuit Court to one count of second degree murder and one count of aggravated battery. He was sentenced to 20 and 25 years in prison, respectively, with sentences to run concurrently and with credit for the eight years, five months and 13 days served from September 5, 2005 to February 17, 2014.

Miller's appeal and subsequent appellate court decision stemmed from a difference between facts presented at the first trial by Larry Mills, then-assistant state's attorney, and the terms of the original plea agreement.

Miller's plea to an amended first degree murder charge did not stipulate the use of a gun, although Mills

referenced that murder resulted from a shooting.

According to reports, on the night of the murder, police were called at 10:04 p.m. to the Miller home in the 200 block of West Lincoln. Miller first claimed his wife committed suicide. He later recanted that statement.

At the first trial, Mills said Miller believed his wife was having an affair with a coworker. The couple, who had a history of domestic violence, argued and Miller went upstairs where he got a .380 pistol. He returned downstairs, confronted Mrs. Miller, then pointed the gun at her from two to three feet away. Mills said as she

See MURDER on other side



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Briefly

Jaycees to hold festival forum

Hoopeston Jaycees will hold a forum about the 71st National Sweetcorn Festival at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, at Hoopeston American Legion Post, 502 E. Penn St. It is open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to voice their opinions about what they would like to see at this year's National Sweetcorn Festival.

For more information on the forum, the Hoopeston Jaycees or the National Sweetcorn Festival you can email uinfo@hoopestonjaycees.org.

Barstool Golf signups

Registration is underway for Hoopeston's Barstool Golf event. Cost is \$80 per foursome. Sign up and pay at one of the following locations: American Legion, BJ's Pump, Phil and Mary Uptown Saloon,

VFW, and Fast Lanes.

Proceeds benefit the United Fund of Grant Township. Barstool Golf will start at noon March 15.

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Back-to-back wins put HA in tie for first in conference

A 60-35 win against Armstrong on Tuesday put Hoopeston Area's record at 16-9, creating a tie for first place in the Vermilion Valley Conference with Bismarck-Henning.

Wednesday's 50-33 win over Westville brought the Cornjerkers to 17-9 and 10-2 in the conference, continuing

it's tie for first place.

Mason Layden led scoring against the Trojans with 18. Brennan Crose had 11, Trey Layden added nine and Nathan Michael had two three-pointers for a total six on the night.

Rounding out scoring were Daniel Lawson with five, David Cornelius with four; three each for Bryce Leigh and Alex Long and one for Mitchell Grove.

Mason Layden again led scoring in Wednesday's contest against Westville, with 16. He was followed by Trey Layden with 15, including two three-pointers. He was also four of four on free throws.

Additional scorers were Brennan Crose with nine, Lawson with four, Michael with three, Leigh with two and Cornelius with one.

The Cornjerkers' final game will be Friday at Milford.

Police News



An LG model VS410 cell phone was found at 9:10 a.m. Wednesday in the 300 block of East Maple. The owner may identify it at the police station.

A 23-year-old Rankin man reported at 9:24 a.m. Wednesday that while his car was parked at a private residence in the 800 block of East Seminary, the rear window of his vehicle was shattered with a beer bottle.

A key ring with several keys, including at least one GM product key, was found about a week ago in the area of the Downtown Motel. It was turned into police Wednesday and may be identified at the police station.

Murder continued from other side

reached for the gun, Miller squeezed the trigger with the gunshot striking his wife in the face.

Her body fell into a chair. It was then, Mills said, that Miller put the gun on her body and placed her hand on the gun to make it look like a suicide that Miller discovered when he came home from work.

Miller was moved from the Department of Corrections to the Public Safety Building in Danville in January 2013, when he was granted the appeal. He is scheduled to be returned to the Department of Corrections.

New Books at the Library



Fiction

I Even Funnier (I, Funny...Book 2) by James Patterson (young adult)

The Wedding Planners of Butternut Creek by Jane Myers Perrine (large print, inspirational)

All Things Hidden by Tracie Peterson (inspirational)

Romance at Rainbow's End by Colleen L. Reece (large print, inspirational)

Weather



High wind warning until 3 a.m. Friday. Breezy today. High 38. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 26. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 40, low 18. Sunday, partly sunny. High 30, low 12.

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