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By

BERTHA PARSONS

Making the right choices

A New Year. New goals and right choices. My Mother used to say two things about choices, #1, "When in doubt, don't." #2, "Follow your heart." Making right choices means no one should make choices for you.

When you follow your heart, decide how to live your life, make your goals happen, it's all up to you.

What kind of choices am I talking about? Everything, from jobs, marriage, kindness, anger, location, upsets, happiness. You name it, everything in our life is a choice! I really don't want you to say there are some things I have to do, I have no choice! WRONG! You have to work, you have to pay bills and if you get sick, that's not your choice.

This is where your attitude comes in. You still have a choice about how you handle your life and no one else can do it. I have always believed that a positive attitude will carry you through many difficult, sad and troubling times. It has worked for me many years.

When in doubt, don't. I probably use this quote in my life more than any other except, "With God all things are possible." I have taught my children and grandsons (I have no granddaughters), if you have to make a choice and you're not sure – don't. It's that simple. You know in your heart what you should do but others try and sway you into doing something else. Always follow your heart.

Will you make some wrong choices? Of course. Mistakes will happen. Learn from them. Do not dwell on them. Smile and move on, this is your life, live it the way that's right for you.

Everything you do should give you joy, and miles of smiles. You may think I'm crazy, but I learned a long time ago from my daughter, Marie, that making choices I wanted would always be the right choice.

Do not rely on others to make your choices. Never think you're not smart enough, or lack the time to figure it out on your own. Yes, you can! The choices you make can be the right ones if you have no doubt and you follow your heart.

It is amazing how much our choices make our life what we want. If we make them for ourselves they will always be right.



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Police charge three in Dollar General shoplifting incidents

Three Hoopeston people were arrested after two shoplifting incidents Sunday at Dollar General, 415 S Dixie Hwy.

The first was at 2:40 p.m., involving Ashley N. Graves, 26, and Skylar L. Pickett, 26. Employees called police after reviewing a surveillance tape allegedly showing the two taking an item without paying for it.

Police charged Graves with theft and, after reviewing the film, charged Pickett with criminal damage to property, alleging he tried to remove an item from its packaging to remove a security tag. Unable to do so, he then reportedly put items on a different shelf, police said.

Both were issued notices to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

The second incident was at 4:37 p.m., Shenoa D. Webb, 26, was charged with theft after police reviewed surveillance footage of her allegedly transferring several items from a shelf to her purse. She was located, charged and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

Food bank Foodmobile coming to McFerren Park in February

The John P. Cadle Foundation and Eastern Illinois Foodbank are teaming up to distribute a truckload of food from the Eastern Illinois Foodbank to hungry area families. The distribution will be held at McFerren Park Civic Center (1 McFerren Way in Hoopeston) on February 10 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. All Vermilion County residents who meet income eligibility criteria are welcome (*see below*). Those attending are asked to bring boxes or bags to transport food.

The distribution is part of the Foodbank's Foodmobile Program, a system of mobile food pantries designed to help bring nutritious food to areas of chronic or extreme need. Through the program, local companies and organizations are invited to contribute toward a one-day distribution of food and optionally participate in the distribution process. The cost to partner with the Foodbank on a Foodmobile distribution is \$3,000.

The Foodmobile distribution comes at a critical moment for area residents. Data released by Feeding America, the nation's network of food banks, shows that a staggering 14% of people in eastern Illinois are considered food insecure, which means they sometimes lack adequate access to food. More shockingly, nearly 20% of children are food insecure. (feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-studies/map-the-meal-gap.aspx)

All eligible residents of Vermilion County needing food are welcome to attend the Foodmobile distribution. To be eligible, a household must have an income at or below 185% of the federal poverty level, or approximately \$3,746 per month for a family of four. Full eligibility criteria are listed below. Other area Foodmobile distributions can be found by visiting the Foodbank's website at www.eifoodbank.org and clicking "find help."

Maximum monthly income per eligible household:

Maximum monthly income per eligible household (for each additional household member over 8, add \$644):								
Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Monthly Income	\$1,859	\$2,504	\$3,148	\$3,793	\$4,437	\$5,081	\$5,726	\$6,370

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Briefly

2018 Birthday Club

Hoopeston Jaycees are proud to continue the giving tradition by hosting the 2018 Birthday Club. Details and registration information is at www.hoopestonjaycees.org.

Dental screenings

Due to bad weather earlier in the month, dental screenings at Maple School were rescheduled to January 23-24.

At the library

Upcoming events at Hoopeston Public Library are:

Cooking the Books, 6-7 p.m. Thursday. This month's theme is "Celebrating Pie Day." Choose a recipe from our special cookbook section at the main desk and a staff member will copy it for you. Make it and bring it to share on January 25.

Tiny Tots story program, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Friday. For youngsters ages 0-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

NYT Best Sellers Book Club, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29. For men and women. Books to be discussed include New York Times bestsellers Ugly Love by Colleen Hoover, LaRose by Louise Erdrick, The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead, Mean Streak by Sandra Brown, All We Had by Annie Weatherwax and

Defending Jacob by William Landay.

For more information on any library activity, call (217) 283-6711 or email info@hooplib.org.

Preschool screenings

Preschool screenings for area children ages 3-5 will be held locally next month. Developmental, hearing and vision tests will be given with possible preschool or early childhood placements for children who qualify.

In Hoopeston, a screening will be held February 8 at First Presbyterian Church, 915 E. Orange.

A screening will be held in Rossville on February 22, at Rossville Church of Christ, 514 E. Attica.

To make an appointment, call (217) 444-3266.

Get crafty!

Bring your smiles and your project and share your

Lady Cornjerkers beat back deficit to take fifth place in Vermilion County Tournament

After trailing in both the first and second quarters, the girls' Hoopeston Area basketball team fought to end the third quarter tied and took the lead in the fight to win fifth place in Friday's Vermilion County Tournament finals.

Freshman Lexie Breymeyer led the team with 10 points towards the team's 34-29 win over Armstrong-Potomac.

Senior Ariel Reeves was 4 of 4 from the free throw line and had the team's only three-pointer with a game-total nine points. Rounding out the total were Breanna Martin with six, Sadie Drayer four, Alisyn Watson 3 and Shelby Symmonds two.

Hoopeston Area led in fouls with 18, compared to Armstrong-Potomac's 12.

In the race for third Salt Fork topped Westville, 47-42. The championship crown went to Oakwood after the Comets burned Bismarck-Henning/Rossville-Alvin, 31-21.

The Cornjerker women were scheduled host BH/RA Monday and Oakwood on Wednesday before traveling to Danville Friday to take on Schlarman.

Weather

Chance of rain/snow today, then cloudy. High 36. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 23. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 35, low 23.

knowledge and friendship at a new craft club. If you don't have a project, bring your friendship and a desire to learn.

The club meets Thursdays, bi-weekly, from 5-7 p.m. in the Hoopeston United Methodist Church fellowship hall, 403 E. Main.

The next meeting will be January 25. Other upcoming dates are February 8, 22, March 8, 22 and April 5, 19.

Bring a snack to share, if you can, and a beverage for yourself. Donations for use of the space are welcome but not necessary.

Hope to see you there!

Hoopeston FFA Alumni
Scholarship & Education Auction
Saturday, January 27
Hoopeston American Legion
Silent Auction 4-6 p.m.
Live Auction 6 p.m.
 Food 4:30 p.m. til we run out. Free will offering.
Come bid, buy & spend to benefit the FFA & kids

Classifieds

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