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By
BERTHA PARSONS

Gifts that never wear out

Christmas is over and I'm thinking of Valentine's gifts. It's all about love. I'm always looking for a special gift of love. Each of us has our own idea about love. Love of a person, love of things, love of life.

On Valentine's Day you may have received candy, flowers, jewelry, a tie. Giving a gift that never wears out is one of those really hard gifts to find. Or is it?

The gift of encouragement. There is always someone who needs a lift: friends going back to school, uncertain of their abilities, a child struggling with math, a spouse starting a new job. Just telling them, "I know you can do it!" can give them the courage to go on. It will never wear out.

The gift of kindness. I've received this gift. Being kind is your attitude toward others, always treating them the way you want to be treated. It can be a smile, a handshake, a letter or card.

We all have many opportunities to be kind. Yet we let those chances slip by because we are busy or not sure what to say. Remember kindness never wears out and is always welcome.

The next gift is so important. I can't do without it and I have very little of it! The gift of patience. I had to be in another country when it was passed out.

I'm blessed with a patient husband. I always say he has the patience of Job, which is very good living with me. Being patient with family and friends can be an awesome "never wear out" gift. Yet when thinking of that special gift for Valentine's Day it would be to calm down, cool it, make the best of any situation and understanding that means being patient.

Through the years I've learned about one of the very greatest gifts that never wears out or fades away. I love the gift of time. Time to call a friend, time to write a note, time to give 20 minutes for a drop-in visit. Time to meet for lunch and a chat. When we give of our time we really give of ourselves. That's all most of us want. Your time to show me you really care enough to call, write or stop in.

You may note I'm not spending a lot on gifts. I'm giving of myself. One that will never wear out and I hope you never forget. Love you all!

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Chris Polson, left, and Karen Porth recently joined the Polson Insurance Agency.

Polson Insurance Agency staff expansion is all in the family

A Hoopeston business has increased its workforce by 200 percent.

By adding two new people.

After 43 years in the insurance business, Leon Polson, owner of Polson Insurance and Tax Service, has added his wife, Chris Johnson Polson and niece Karen Porth as agents in the office.

Both are licensed to sell life, health, vehicle, commercial, farm and crop hail insurance, along with annuities, Polson said.

Polson opened his office on December 7, 1980 on the

porch of his then-home at 1016 W. Main. He moved to his current location, 218 E. Main, in 1996.

"I'm 65 and I want to slow down," Polson said as one reason why added the women as agents. Polson has been fighting colon cancer but it's a fight he intends to win.

But "slowing down" for Polson is not the same as slowing down for most other people. Between doctor appointments, chemotherapy treatments, more doctor appointments and the effects of the chemo, he has kept up-to-speed on his customers' needs. "I tell them, I keep

See POLSON on other side

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Third place finish moves Lady Cornjerkers to bowling sectional

Hoopeston Area Lady Cornjerkers bowling team started the road to Rockford Saturday, finishing a very strong third place in the Decatur regional.

The Lady Jerkers were led by Kayla Goble's 1037 and Jaylynn Linder's 1025. Goble had the ladies' high game of the day with a 209 under very challenging lane conditions.

Game 1 saw the Jerkers against eventual champion Pana. The Jerkers had defeated Pana earlier in the year but the rematch went to Pana by a 826-755 score. The

ladies sat in third place the remainder of the day, finishing behind Pana and 61 pins behind Abington. Streater High also advanced, finishing fourth, 190 behind the Jerkers.

Senior Mercy Linder, Emma Glotzbach and Alyssa Yaden round out scoring for Hoopeston Area, who now advanced to LaSalle Peru at 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.

Good luck to the Jerkers!

Conservation Stewardship Program applications accepted

Agricultural producers wanting to enhance current conservation efforts are encouraged to apply for the [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP).

Through CSP, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helps agricultural operators build their business while implementing conservation practices that help ensure the sustainability of their entire operation. NRCS plans to enroll up to 10 million acres in CSP in 2018. Applications for CSP are accepted year round, but must be received by March 2 to be considered for this funding period.

Through CSP, agricultural producers and forest landowners earn payments for actively managing, maintaining and expanding conservation activities like cover crops, nutrient management, buffer strips, and pollinator and beneficial insect habitat, while maintaining active agriculture production on their land. CSP also encourages adopting cutting-edge technologies and new management

Polson continued from other side

my cell phone by me in bed, so just call," Polson said, adding sister-in-law Janice Polson has been invaluable in running the office while he has had overnight hospital stays.

Family is important to Polson, who refers to Porth and her brother, Kevin, as "Kid 1" and "Kid 2." Both are more like children to him than niece and nephew. Porth returns the favor, drawing posters and plastering them on the office walls, reminding him to keep his stress level down and drink more water. "That's all I hear anymore, 'drink more water,'" Polson grumbled with a little smile.

His customers are also important to Polson, who for 43

Weather

Increasing clouds today. High 21. Tonight, chance of snow, with accumulation of 1"-3". Low 17. Tomorrow, decreasing clouds. High 26, low 8.

From the Blotter

Nireu Pharon Crosby, 21, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a 20-year-old Hoopeston woman reported a domestic battery at 12:39 p.m. Sunday at Parkview Court.

Police located Crosby in the complex and charged him with aggravated domestic battery. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

techniques such as precision agriculture applications, on-site carbon storage and planting for high carbon sequestration rate, and new soil amendments to improve water quality.

Some benefits of CSP include improved water quality, cattle gains per acre, crop yields and wildlife habitat and populations; decreased inputs; and better resilience to weather extremes.

NRCS updated the program to help producers better evaluate options and benefits to their operations and natural resources. New methods and software help producers see up front why they are or are not meeting stewardship thresholds, and allow them to pick practices and enhancements that work for their objectives. These tools also enable producers to see potential payment scenarios for conservation early in the process.

For more information, contact a [local USDA service center](#) or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted.

years has overseen the details of his expanding client base. To share that responsibility with his wife and niece speaks to the level of trust he has in them. "I'm glad they joined me," Polson simply said.

Chris and Karen are available by appointment to meet with clients not only work days, but nights and weekends, if necessary. They may be reached by called Polson Insurance at (217) 283-5515.

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