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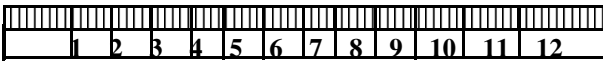
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Friday, Feb. 28, 1997

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Agents break county bust record for second time this month

A Hoopeston man and two Chicagoans were arrested last night in a drug raid that sets a new record in Vermilion County.

The Vermilion Metropolitan Enforcement Group (VMEG) arrested Jose Julio Castaneda, 36, of Hoopeston and Elizabeth Ibarra, 19 and Manuel Ramos, 25, both of Chicago.

All were charged with conspiracy to deliver cocaine and possession with intent to deliver more than 400 grams but less than 900 grams of cocaine.

The three were expected to be arraigned Thursday. Prosecutors were expected to ask for \$1 million bond for each person.

The charges are Class X felonies, carrying a possible sentence of 12 to 50 years' imprisonment.

According to a VMEG spokesman, the arrest was made at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday near Hoopeston, when agents seized approximately 20 ounces of high-quality cocaine. The drug has a street value in excess of \$140,000, according to a VMEG news release.

The amount is the largest ever confiscated in Vermilion County, breaking the record set Feb. 5 when more than 18 ounces of cocaine was seized.

The arrests were part of a joint investigation by VMEG, Hoopeston police, Vermilion County Sheriff's

See BUST on other side

Milford man says put a coat on...your pick up truck, that is

Spring may be right around the corner, but a local business owner is hoping area residents will want to put on coats - on their pick up trucks, that is.

Patrick Teig of Milford recently opened ToughCoat, a spray-on truck lining business. Work is done at R & M Auto Body, one block south of Read's Chevrolet on Route 1.

Teig uses special equipment to spray on a urethane liner that bonds directly to the truck bed. The spray-on liner, which, Teig stressed, is not a paint, offers several advantages over traditional bed liners, he said.

First, there is no loss of bed space. Also, unlike some traditional liners, the spray-on variety allows tool boxes, camper tops and fifth wheel plates to fit without problems. And, unlike traditional liners which do not fit truck contours, this liner leaves no space between the truck and liner, eliminating water leakage and subsequent corrosion, as well as scratches from a moving liner. "And it can't be

stolen," Teig said.

Spray-on liners are available in black, white and blue, and a red version will be coming soon, Teig said. The liners are impact-absorbing and will not warp, crack or split. They also resist scratches, abrasions and chemicals, and have a textured, no-slip surface, he said.

Besides pick up trucks, the urethane can be used for trailers, dump truck beds, 4X4s and off-road vehicles.

The process takes approximately four hours to complete, but vehicles must remain at the shop overnight to allow the liner to dry.

Teig became interested in the process after reading about it in magazines and after an acquaintance saw the product at a farm show. With more people driving trucks, Teig said he saw a need. "People didn't used to have trucks like they do now," he said. "It seems they've become more popular and this is a good way to protect them."

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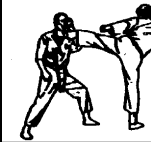
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Show choirs to compete at Pekin Invitational Saturday

The Hoopeston Area Middle School and High School show choirs will participate in the Pekin High School Show Choir Invitational on Saturday.

The HAMS "Cornjerker Connection" will perform at 10 a.m. in the theater and the HAHS "New Direction" will present their performance at 1:15 p.m. in the Pekin High School gymnasium on Court Street, or Route 9, in Pekin.

Admission will be \$6 for day performances, which start at 8:30 a.m. and \$6 for evening/finals performances beginning at 7:15 p.m., or \$10 for both day and evening shows.

The Hoopeston Area show choirs, as well as the jazz bands, will perform in concert on Thursday, March 6 at the Hoopeston Area Middle School gym.



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Court dispositions



Feb. 20: William Mills, Rossville, deceptive practice, pleaded not guilty; bench trial April 3.

Antonio Montez, Hoopeston, disturbing the peace, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

Jeannie Miller, Hoopeston, writ hearing, forfeited bond.

Amy Miller, Hoopeston, inoculation, pleaded guilty; \$75 total.

Loretta McGee, Hoopeston, inoculation; nolle pros.

Bust continued from other side

Department and Illinois State Police Criminal Drug Conspiracy Task Force (CCTF) agents.

The two raids netted more than one kilogram, approximately 2.2 pounds, of cocaine, with a street value of more than \$278,000. Additional arrests will be forthcoming, according to the news release.

VMEG is a multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement

Pamela Nixon, Potomac, rule to show cause hearing;

Police News



Mark A. Bernard, 38, of 414 McKibben, Rossville, was arrested at 11:01 p.m. Wednesday by Rossville police. Bernard, wanted on a county warrant for failure to appear, was released on \$300 cash bond.

group comprised of the Vermilion County Sheriff's Department, Danville Police Department and Illinois State Police.

The CCTF is made up of agents from the Illinois State Police, Springfield Police Department and Illinois Attorney General's office. The group targets upper and mid-level drug conspiracies.



Lunch menus



Hoopeston Area Grade Schools

MONDAY: Pulaski Day. No school.
TUESDAY: Sub sandwich/bun, tator tots, corn, graham crackers, orange.
WEDNESDAY: Sausage pizza, salad, applesauce.
THURSDAY: Hamburger/bun, French fries, cheese, fruit cocktail, cookie.
FRIDAY: Chicken patty/bun, tri tator, salad, pears.

Hoopeston Area High/Middle Schools

MONDAY: Pulaski Day. No school.
TUESDAY: Sub sandwich/bun or roast beef/bun, tator tots, corn, pudding, orange.
WEDNESDAY: Sausage pizza or Z rib/bun, salad, applesauce.
THURSDAY: Hamburger/bun or turkey/bun, French fries, cheese, fruit cocktail, cookie.
FRIDAY: Chicken patty/bun or fish/bun, tri tator, salad, pears.

Rossville-Alvin schools

MONDAY: Pulaski Day. No school.
TUESDAY: Institutie Day. No school.
WEDNESDAY: Hot ham & cheese/bun, seasoned

green beans, spicy applesauce, choclote cake/peanut butter frosting.

THURSDAY: Oven fried chicken, shipped potatoes/gravy, buttered carrots, Jello, bread, butter.

FRIDAY: Vegetable/beef soup, cheese sandwich, pickles, fresh fruit, stove top cookie.

All menus include milk.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

Feb. 26, 1997

Admitted: none.

Discharged: none.

Weather



Scattered showers today. High in the mid 40s. Tonight, continued rain. Low in the upper 20s. Tomorrow, warmer with continued showers. High near 55, low near 44. Sunday, partly cloudy. High near 46, low near 35.

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