

LORRAINE

Screen 1: "The Rookie" (G)

Starring Dennis Quaid

Presented in SDDS/HPS-4000, Scope, 129 minutes

7:30 p.m. nightly, 3:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun.

Screen 2: "Panic Room" (R)

Starring Jodie Foster

Scope, 112 minutes, presented in Dolby Stereo

7 p.m. nightly, 9:15 p.m. Fri. & Sat., 4 p.m. Sat. & Sun.

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Postmaster trading in stamps for retirement on the road

After nearly 30 years of sorting mail for the United States Postal Service, Paul Ziemnisky is sorting through his personal possessions before he begins a traveling retirement.

Hoopeston's postmaster for 22 years, Ziemnisky is retiring from his position. His last day in the office is Friday.

This summer, Ziemnisky and his wife, Patti, will load up their travel trailer, get in their truck and head west to become gatekeepers for the Army Corps of Engineers at Centerville, IA, about 75 miles south of Des Moines.

The job lasts for five months for the next two years. The couple will work five days a week, from 7:30-9:30 a.m. and again from 3-8 p.m., "so I'm set to go fishing," he said. Their duties assigning camp spots to travelers at the 26,000 acre park

Ziemnisky found the job online, one of several sites looking for gatekeepers. He bid on the position, along with others in Vermont, Tennessee, Missouri and Idaho. The Iowa job was the first contract offered to



ZIEMNISKY

him. If they like the job, he plans to bid on other jobs in Texas or Florida for the winter months. "There are jobs wherever you want to work, whenever you want to work," he said.

He's already gotten a taste of what life will be like. Last year, he and Patti filled in for Mr. and Mrs. Paul Combs at a Rantoul campground.

After deciding to retire from the postal service, did not want to do nothing. "I wanted to be productive," said Ziemnisky, who turns 55 next week. "I consider it not really retiring, just going to another job that's less stressful."

Travel is something Ziemnisky hopes to do a great deal of during his retirement. "My goal is, in three or four years, to go to Alaska," he said. "They've got good salmon and it's our 50th state and it's wide open," he said. "Why go to Europe when the United States has so much to offer?"

Ziemnisky's new career will be different than the one he's had. After a six-year stint in the Air Force, Ziem-

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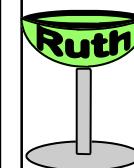
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See RETIREMENT on other side

Retirement continued from other side

nisky began his postal career in 1973 in the Champaign post office. He worked as a carrier, then was promoted to part time supervisor, then full time supervisor. He came to Hoopeston in March 1981 as postmaster. While here, he has also served as officer in charge at seven post offices, including the last one in Urbana last year.

The Rhode Island native came to Illinois when he was stationed at the former Chanute Air Force Base and decided to stay permanently. He took the postal exam after the military, following in his father's footsteps of working for the government. "I just knew working for the government was the way to go," he said.

Since beginning his postal career, Ziemnisky has seen many changes, including increased automation and computerization which affects even smaller offices in the postal system.

Ziemnisky will take more than his truck and trailer with him when he leaves Hoopeston. He's also taking fond memories of his employees and local residents. "The daily drive or walk delivering the mail in all types of weather takes a special person," he said. "The

clerks who service the customers at our windows have much to be proud of when it comes to service. Thank you for letting me work with you."

As for the people here, "I will never be able to thank all of those that I have met that made my life a little bit happier," he said. "I like the small town atmosphere and the willingness of people to help in times of need."

Although he plans to be gone much of the year, "I'll be back for a couple of months in the fall," he said. And he'd like a few touches of Hoopeston to take with him. "I told (clerk) Rita (Carter) to tape her voice so I can listen to it once a week," he said, laughing.

As commander of the Hoopeston American

Police News



No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 10:05 a.m. Wednesday at 314 S. Market.

Police said Sheila Edwards of Hoopeston, in a 1993 Chevrolet van, was northbound on Market and pulled from the roadway to the right, striking a parked 1987 Dodge owned by Loretta Strawser of Wellington.

Weather



Partly sunny today. High 55. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 35. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 52, low 34. Sunday, partly cloudy. High 55, low 35. Monday, partly cloudy, chance of showers. High 58, low 40.

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**Just the Facts
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Aprill for the
Easter holiday.
Publication will
resume Tuesday.**

