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Mustard Seed Christian Daycare to hold open house Sunday

The dream of providing a Christian daycare in the area has become a reality and will be shown off to the public this weekend.

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare, located in the former Rossville-Alvin High School building, will hold an open house from 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

The daycare opened to care for children on February 26, 2007. It is a mission outreach project of the Rossville United Methodist Church. While there are many quality home daycare programs in the area, Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is the only daycare facility in the fifty-mile stretch of Illinois Route One from Danville to Watseka.

As a not-for-profit corporation, Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is fully funded by generous contributions and grants. All of the labor to prepare the facility except the plumbing and the fire security system has been donated by over 50 volunteers who have given their time and talents to get the daycare open.

A full staff of teachers who meet DCFS regulations operate the daycare Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.. Barb Amy, of Williamsport, Ind., is the director of the daycare. She has operated daycare centers in Indiana and North Carolina in the past and has been instrumental in guiding the volunteer Board of Directors of Mustard Seed through the DCFS and state regulations that are mandatory for a center of this type.

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare has a three-year agreement to rent the space in the Rossville-Alvin High School building. It is a goal of the church board and the school board that this project is a successful one that will benefit the communities of northern Vermilion County. Many people drive past the high school building to go to work in Danville.

Not many options are available for parents for quality affordable daycare for children, especially those under

the age of two. The center will accept State of Illinois subsidy payments for parents who qualify which will make the daycare a viable option for most families.

The most recent additions to the facility were a child's bathroom installed in the two's room which will be used for potty training and a fenced playground on the south end of the high school. With these projects completed Mustard Seed Christian Daycare moved from the permit

See DAYCARE on other side



Photo contributed

Away they go

Scoutmaster Shawn McMillan sets off cars at the annual Boy Scout Pinewood Derby Thursday, as Scout Andrew Myers and Brad Wheeler look on. Andrew took second place and Brad took third in the competition.

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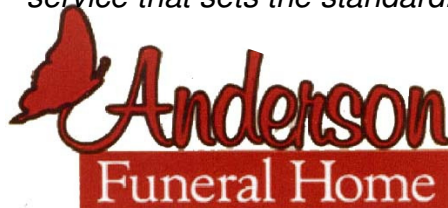
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Letters to the Editor



Ameren's 'power failure'

The customers of Ameren have learned a new definition for "power failure." It now describes the failure of Ameren to deliver electricity to its customers at a fair and reasonable rate, and failure to it stockholders and employees to run a trustworthy and financially sound company.

The "power" (top management) in Ameren have thrown their company into dangerous waters (their credit rating), violated the trust of their customers and tarnished their image for years to come.

This is a perfect argument for utility regulation. After a 10-year rate freeze, Ameren was entitled to a fair and reasonable rate increase. Here comes the power failure. Instead of a 30% hike (3% per year) which would have been enough, they launched an assault on the pocket-books of everyone unfortunate enough to be in their sights. Ameren quietly discontinued the discount rates for their all-electric customers. These victims have seen

their heating bills raise from four cents per kilowatt hour to 12 cents. Does a 300% increase sound unbelievable? Believe it! These people were offered discounted electricity in an attempt to compete with natural gas and propane in areas that Ameren could not sell natural gas. Rossville, my home town, is one of those communities who own their natural gas system. Ameren cannot sell their gas here and have offered electric discounts along with cash incentives for years. Now they have turned their backs on those commitments.

Why would Ameren no longer feel the need to compete with natural gas in communities and other areas where Ameren gas is not available? Because if they get away with this atrocious rate hike, they don't have to!

Shame on you, Ameren. This reckless assault will not be forgotten for a long time. All Ameren stockholders should demand the resignation of your CEO and re-evaluate the rest of upper management. All Ameren customers should contact their elected representatives

and let them know we are watching them. I certainly will be, watching for now and then remembering at election time!

Gene Roach
Rossville

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Police News



A **52-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 5 p.m. Monday that someone took change and a woman's black purse containing identification, a prescription and an undisclosed amount of money from a 1993 Dodge van in the 600 block of East McCracken.

A **44-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Monday that someone took a blue Huffy bicycle from the 200 block of East Main.

A **17-year-old** woman reported Tuesday that someone

took a CD player from her vehicle while it was in the 600 block of South Seventh St. The rear driver's side window was also broken.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today. High 68. Tonight, breezy. Low 54. Tomorrow, storms. High 67, low 53.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Daycare continued from other side

stage to a full DCFS license to care for 38 pre-school children starting with six-week old babies.

Nearly a year ago, Mustard Seed Christian Daycare was an idea in a small church to use an excellent facility available in the community to serve a need. Today it is an example of how a community can work together to complete a project. The daycare will depend on donations to help cover its expenses until it is full of children. planned at the daycare in the near future.

Call Barb Amy at the center (217) 748-6370 to enroll a child or get more information.

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Classifieds

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