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Bertha's



By
BERTHA PARSONS

It's a great day!

It's a great day! I woke up, was able to get up. Thank you Lord. Yes, I know I'm a thankful fanatic. Blame it on my mother, Martha Lashley, Helen Kaufman, Wanda Ervin, Ellen Lingley, Deanna Lohnes, Pat Polson, Ann Teegarden, Louise Lawson, just to name a few, that always found something to be thankful for and they made sure you knew it.

Christmas most certainly is a great day. It's Jesus' Birthday. It's time to celebrate with family, friends, neighbors and even strangers. Many years ago when Chanute AFB was active, we invited four total strangers (soldiers) to our home for Christmas. It was a day that changed how I looked at new friends forever. They were so thankful to be with us, to share our food. They shared their traditions and what their Mama would fix just for them.

We had wrapped a candy bar for each soldier and an apple and orange to take back to base. They were so grateful for the small gifts but mostly for a home cooked meal and being with family.

What makes your day great? Come on, is it having all your shopping done? Getting a card from a far-away friend? Being invited to breakfast and they pay? Whoopie! So if you are having trouble finding a great day, I suggest you make up one. I'm not kidding; here is how it works. Think of a happy time. Now see the picture in your mind and the great day appears.

Great days are like finding the perfect gift. Still looking for the right gift this Christmas? Here's one that's easy to find; non-fattening, not costly, one size fits all: HUGGING! It helps the body's immune system, it reduces stress and depression, helps one sleep, it's rejuvenating, No side effects, anyone can apply it, unbreakable, kinda like a miracle drug.

HUGGING is all natural, no preservatives, no pesticides, no artificial ingredients, 100% wholesome! Can you believe it? Hugging is perfect for making a great day. No movable parts, no batteries, no assembly required, plus fully returnable. What a perfect way to give someone a great day. Try it! You really might be surprised!

HIGHLY WRECK-AMENDED

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Fifth annual community dinner to be held on Christmas Day

Everyone is welcome at the this year's Hoopeston Community Christmas Dinner.

This is the fifth year for the dinner, which will be held from noon-3 p.m. Christmas Day at Hoopeston Multi Agency, 206 S. First Ave.

Those planning to attend must make a reservation. Contact numbers are (217) 495-1620 and (815) 341-8541. Delivery is available for shut-ins by calling either number.

Donations of money, time and food are being accepted for the event. An account has been set up at First Farmers Bank and Trust for donations made out to Community Christmas Dinner.

Organizers are also looking for volunteers to cook turkeys and side dishes or desserts, as well as people who can serve at the dinner or deliver meals to shut-ins.

Anyone interested in volunteering in any capacity is asked to call (217) 495-1620 and (815) 341-8541.

Briefly

At the library

Upcoming activities at Hoopeston Public Library include:

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

Last minute gifts - An assortment of books is available for \$2 per bag or three bags for \$5. HPL coffee mugs are \$5 each!

Birthday card shower

Francis Troxel will celebrate his 80th birthday December 24 and would enjoy hearing from friends. Cards and notes of well wishes may be sent to him at 1107 S. Second Ave., Hoopeston IL 60942.

Breast cancer support group

Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support Group meets the third Thursday of each month at The Pit Stop at Fast Lanes. The group is open to all past and present breast cancer survivors. The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21.

For more information, call Pat Foster, (815) 984-4040.

Holiday closings

• Hoopeston City offices, except the police department, will be closed December 25-26 for the Christmas holiday.

• Hoopeston Public Library will be closed Monday and reopen with regular hours on Tuesday.



Photo/Bloomington Police Department

NEAL

POWELL

Former Hoopeston man, woman held on multiple drug charges

A former Hoopeston man is being held in the McLean County jail on \$250,000 (10%) bond after he and a Bloomington woman were arrested December 13 on drug charges.

Lucas E. Neal, 33, and Nitasha J. Powell, 34, were arrested after members of Bloomington Police Department's vice and street crime units conducted a search in the 200 block of South Mason St., where they seized 12.4 grams of cocaine, with an approximate street value of \$1,200, \$2,525 in currency and drug equipment.

See **CHARGES** on other side

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Join us at
Rossville Family Restaurant
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for Christmas Dinner
 Open 6 am until 2 pm
 Serving Dinner special 10:30 until 1:30
 Take out available
 Reservations accepted -217 748 6201

Hurry on in!
Friday is the last day we'll be open before Christmas so stop in and get those last-minutes gifts!
 We'll be open 10-5 through Friday, be closed Saturday-Wednesday and reopen Thursday so we and our employees can spend time with our families!
May the Light of Christmas shine on you and yours!
Merry Christmas from
Global Fashions Mr. B's Cafe T&L Lawn Care

Sports Roundup

Boys' Basketball

Sixth grade boys lose tight game

The sixth grade was in a tough defensive battle Thursday night as the game remained tight from the start until the final minutes.

It was a tightly contested game as the score was 2-1 at the end of the first quarter, 7-10 at halftime. Just like the fifth grade game, the sixth grade team forced a late comeback with some tight defense and aggressive rebounding. In the end, Rossville was able to run out the clock and win one of the closest games all year by a final score of 21-19.

Evan Lile lead the team in scoring with 6 points, Ayden Field added 4 points, Owen Root scored 3 points, and Ryker Small, Gaven Montez, and Mason Rush each scored 2 points.

Fifth, sixth grade lose to Oakwood

The fifth and sixth grade teams hosted Oakwood leading into the Christmas break and both teams fell short.

The fifth grade team got down early and battled back to lose to the Comets 37-21. Gavin Walder led the team with 6 points, followed by William Brockus making two

fast break lay-ups for a season high 4 points. Trenton Montez did an excellent job running the offense and chipped in 4. Rounding out the scoring was Chase Wilson 3, Kayden Simmons 2, Hunter Kinnaird 2.

Gavin Walder led the Cornjerkers with 2 rebounds followed by Hunter Kinnaird, Angel Zamora, Julian Lopez, and Eligh Hofer with one rebound each.

Chase Wilson, Hunter Kinnaird, Nate Gash, Noah Marshall and Augustus Irons each had a steal on the night.

The sixth grade team had a great second half, outscoring the Comets, 9-7. Wyatt Eisenman led the Cornjerkers in scoring with 6, followed by Owen Root with 4, with Kaleb Hollen and Mason Rush 4 points each and Bryson Brewer knocking down one free-throw for his only point of the night.

Hollen led the team with 2 rebounds followed by Root, Brewer, Evan Lile, Felix Hernandez and Miles Robinson each with a board.

Court Dispositions

November 2

Beth Williams, Hoopeston, status check December 7.

Tonya Edwards, Hoopeston, two cases transferred to state for collection.

Nichole Hansen, Hoopeston, status check December 7.

Raquel Rossolille, Hoopeston, status check December 7.

Myrna Moore, Hoopeston, status check December 7.

Juan Acosta, Hoopeston, status check December 7.
Carrie Arce, Hoopeston, case transferred to state

for collection.

Ashley Simpson, Hoopeston, status check December 7.

Ray Williams, Hoopeston, status check December 7.

Richard Strawser, Hoopeston, status check December 7.

Robin Irvin, Hoopeston, case transferred to state for collection.

Matthew Minard, Hoopeston, status check December 7.

Vance LaBaume, Hoopeston, status check December 7 on two cases.

Obituaries

LONGEST - Ronald Longest, 76, of Hoopeston, died at 1:40 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017 at Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center. Arrangements are pending at Blurton Funeral Home.

SCHELLHARDT - Dolores Grae "Dee" (Howell) Schellhardt, 92, of Hoopeston, died Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017 at Heritage Health, Hoopeston, after a short illness. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Anderson Funeral Home. Funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at First Presbyterian Church, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Public Library, 110 N. Fourth St., Hoopeston IL 60942 or First Presbyterian Church, 915 E. Orange St., Hoopeston IL 60942.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 41. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 27. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of rain late. High 44, low 37.

Charges continued from other side

According to court records, preliminary charges for Neal include five counts of manufacture/delivery of cocaine near a school/public housing /park; three counts of manufacture/delivery of 1-15 grams of cocaine; and two counts of possession of up to 15 grams of a controlled substance.

Powell was charged with manufacture/delivery of cocaine near a school/public housing/park; manufacture/delivery of 1-15 grams of cocaine; and two counts of possession of up to 15 grams of a controlled substance. Her bond was set at \$50,000 (10%).

Arraignment for Neal and Powell is set for January 5.

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