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Lourdine Osborne
editor

just the facts

Friday, May 6, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Susan Comstock
ad manager

Police officers pleased with Catron trial verdict

The conviction Wednesday of Dennis Catron on six counts of molesting a young boy is very satisfying to Hoopeston Police Department officers involved in the case.

"I'm very pleased with the verdict," said Sgt. Danny Danner, investigating officer on the case. "Officer Moyer and I put in some long, hard hours on this case."

Moyer, too, was pleased. "I was ecstatic about the verdict," he said. "The system finally worked. We've been waiting three long years for this."

Catron was convicted Wednesday of molesting a then-13-year-old Ludlow boy. Three of the six counts were from Champaign County. The other three were in Vermilion County.

The verdict came as a surprise to Moyer. "I thought he'd be convicted on one or two of the charges," he said. "I didn't think all six would go."

The conviction was a joint effort between the Hoopeston police and the Vermilion and Champaign county police departments, Moyer said, adding that without the county departments, "we might not have gotten all six convictions."

Danner also credits the outcome to the victim,

now 16. "Without him, this conviction would have been impossible," he said. "He was the one who wanted to go forward with this."

The officers were not the only ones happy with Wednesday's verdict. Danner and Moyer reported that after the verdicts were read on the six counts, the boy's family members hugged the officers and thanked them for their efforts. "This is the first time a victim has ever said thank you," Moyer said.

Danner called the trial "emotionally draining," saying that for the first time in his 19 years of police work, Wednesday was the first time "any emotion came out."

Officers said the case was investigated "by the book." That effort was appreciated not only by the boy's family, but also by defense attorney David Ryan of Danville. "He congratulated both of us on our professionalism," Moyer said.

Danner said the entire department participated in the investigation, putting in over 100 man hours on the case.

Catron was tried in absentia and is believed to be in Thailand. He faces a maximum of 30 years in prison.

New animal control officer seeks input from public

The new person in charge of enforcing leash and related animal ordinances in Hoopeston is looking for ideas from the public.

Todd Underwood assumed the duties of animal control officer on May 4.

Underwood said he is looking for suggestions from the public on "what they don't see being

done that they think needs to be done."

Underwood suggested people mail suggestions to him at the police station, 229 S. Market.

Although looking for ideas, Underwood is not without a few of his own.

For example, he said he would like to publicize

See **ANIMAL** on other side

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Animal continued from other side

a description of animals picked up and taken to the veterinarian's office. Publicizing the information would allow owners to locate their missing pets before they are put to sleep. "It's kind of sad to put one to sleep when it's somebody's pet," he said.

Underwood is currently involved in hands-on training for his new job, but will probably attend a school for animal control officers, said police chief Orval Kaag. Classes, held in Rolling Meadows, have not been set yet, Kaag said.

Until then, "you more or less gotta put your gloves on and go for it," Underwood said.

Although new to the position, Underwood has

Local man hopes new business venture tees people off

You've got a big golf game coming up. Your putts are OK, but your driving ability leaves a little to be desired.

A local man has just what you need.

Ryan Devore will open Tee It Up at the end of June or early part of July.

Tee It Up will offer a driving range, club repair, lessons and concessions area, Devore said.

The business will be located off Route 9, near Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital, Devore said.

The idea came to life after Devore was offered a golf-related job out of the area, a job he couldn't accept because it started quickly and he did not have a place to live. "That's when I decided to do this," he said.

Beside opening for local duffers, Devore hopes students will benefit from his venture. "I want to get the high school involved since they have a golf club," he said, adding the site could also be used for physical education classes.

Currently, Devore plans to operate the business during daylight hours but said lights may be added later for night driving.

If lights are added, they will face away from the hospital and nursing home, said Devore's father,

already gotten a taste of what the job entails. He's already picked up a window-shopping dog in the downtown area and caught a very unhappy cat in a trap.

Underwood previously worked two part time jobs, at the Hoopeston post office and Ted's Home Beverage.

He accepted the new position for two reasons.

First, he said the new job offers benefits, including insurance, which will come in handy for his children, Ashlee, six, Amber, eight, and J.T., 10.

Second, he likes animals, but lives in an apartment with a no-pets policy. "This is as close as I could get (to having a pet)," he said.

Ron. The senior Devore added that hospital officials have toured the location and had no complaints.

Both Devores will be involved in the business. Ryan's mother will also be involved, "a little bit," he said.

The driving range will be located on approximately six acres of land owned by Ed and Barbara Lockhart.

A conditional use permit for the driving range was granted by the city council Tuesday night.

In the hospital

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

May 4, 1994

Admitted: Burt Livingston and Maurice Leigh, Hoopeston; Emil Edelman, Cissna Park.

Discharged: none.

Weather

Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers today. High near 60. Tonight, cloudy. Low in the low to mid 40s. Tomorrow, showers. High near 65, low near 45. Sunday, partly cloudy. High near 66, low near 45.

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