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Hoopeston to add 11th officer to police department

A Paxton man has been named the newest Hoopeston Police Department officer.

Jeremy Welch's appointment was announced at Tuesday's Hoopeston City Council meeting. He was approved by the Hoopeston Police Commission.

Welch, 29, was hired under the COPS grant program. He will begin his duties June 19. After training, he will work third shift, said Chief Mark Drollinger.

He has worked part time for the Homer Police Department and is a certified part time officer. He will return to the Police Training Institute in the fall for a two-week transition course for full time officers.

Welch has also served as a counselor for Lincoln's Challenge, a program for troubled youth. He is an Army veteran, having served in Desert Storm, and is a member of the National Guard, Drollinger said.

In related business, the council learned Officer Darrin

Tate received a certificate from the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists for his work against DUIs, said Alderman John Haughee, police committee chairman.

In unrelated action, the council:

- will accept bids for civic center roof repairs. Specifications will be available Thursday at city hall and will be opened at 8:30 a.m. June 20.

- approved applying for a housing rehabilitation grant. The city will spent approximately \$1,750 to apply for the grant, which, if awarded, is expected to be approximately \$290,000 to rehabilitate homes on the northeast side

City officials applied last year but were turned down; a previous grant application was approved.

- discussed a burned residents on East Young and ordinances pertaining to repairing or demolishing burned structures.

State's attorney candidates discuss issues at Watch meeting

The two men who hope to be Vermilion County's top prosecutor see the same problems in the state's attorney's office. How they differ is in solving the problems.

Attorneys Frank Young and Paul Manion spoke at Monday's Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Manion, the Democratic candidate and Young, his Republican challenger, each said problems in the state's attorney's office include delaying cases and lack of communication with assistant state's attorneys and police.

Young, a Danville native who earned an accounting degree before returning to school to study law, said if elected, he would speed up the trial process. "You have witnesses and victims coming in four, five, six times," he said. "That can't happen. You

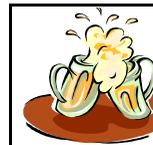
have to be prepared. You have to be ready to go to trial when it's called for trial."

Young said he would use part time, less experienced attorneys to handle arraignments and preliminary hearings, leaving assistant state's attorneys to try cases. This method would free up lawyers to prepare for trial and save the county money, he said.

Additionally, Young would like to see assistants meet with the Vermilion County Sheriff's Department and county police departments to prioritize cases.

Asked about sentencing, Young said the sentence should fit the criminal's history. Those with no previous record may deserve probation while those who have a history of crime, especially violent crime,

See ATTORNEYS on other side



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Police News



A **20-year-old** man reported Monday that he lost his black wallet while at a family reunion at McFerrer Park. The wallet, containing identification and several papers, was lost Saturday.

A **woman** reported Monday that the front license plate is missing from her 1991 Dodge.

Apolinar Solis, 38, of 38836N 1830 East Rd., was arrested at 12:43 a.m. Tuesday on Rt. 1.

Police said after a traffic stop, Solis tried to elude

police by driving to his home. Hoopeston police, assisted by Rossville and Vermilion County police, went to his home.

Solis was charged with aggravated fleeing and eluding, driving on revocation, two speeding violations and driving in the wrong lane. He was taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville, where additional charges are pending.

Dustin Solis, 17, of the same address, was taken

into custody at the same time, when he tried to interfere with the arrest of the elder Solis. He was also taken to the Public Safety Building.

An **unidentified** vehicle hit a Vermilion Waste Dumpster Monday night at Hunt's Trailer Park, 615 W. Orange.

Cassie D. Laners, 31, of 214 Holmes, Rossville, turned herself in to police at 12:40 p.m. Tuesday. She was released on \$193 cash bond.

Attorneys continued from other side

should be treated more harshly. "If they've done violence on drugs, there's no mercy," he said. "I have very strong feelings about drugs."

To eliminate the backlog of cases, Young said he would evaluate each case and perhaps lower the charges filed. "A lot of cases are poorly charged to begin with," he said. Also, cases with possible jail time would be tried while those which would result only in fines could be returned to city courts.

Manion agreed the backlogged cases must be settled. "You make deals better than you normally would to get a handle on the situation," he said. "You can't try all the cases."

Schools not in on promotion

A miniature football promotion sponsored by Sports Promotion Network is not authorized by Hoopeston Area schools. The company has contacted several area businesses about the promotion, which seeks advertisements for miniature footballs.

For more information, call the superintendent's office at 283-6668.

Obituaries

MAYBERRY—Roy L. Mayberry, 72, of Hoopeston, died at 11:47 a.m. Monday, June 5, 2000 at home. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial with military graveside rites will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to Carle Hospice, Danville.

Manion said if elected, "as far as is humanly possible, every felony case would be disposed of within a year" and no case would be continued more than once without good cause.

Manion said he would decrease the number of assistant state's attorneys from nine to eight and pay the remaining attorneys \$30,000 annually, rather than \$24,000 which they now receive, causing more interest in the positions. "Last year, \$60,000 was returned to the county because they couldn't find attorneys," Manion said.

Like Young, Manion would prioritize cases, with violent crime, drug sales and DUI cases receiving top priority.

Additionally, he would assign some assistants odd-numbered cases and others even-numbered ones, and would have attorneys try them on corresponding dates. He would also make provisions for third shift police officers to receive late morning or afternoon

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

June 5

Admitted: Richard Swope, Lila Jennings, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Rolland Kietzman.

Weather



Mostly sunny, warmer today. High 78. Tonight, clear. Low 55. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 85, low 63.

For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

court times rather than early morning. He said he would also return phone calls punctually.

Monday's meeting was the first in a planned series of meetings with candidates, said Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger. The July 10 meeting is expected to feature circuit clerk candidates Leigh Busby Hughes and Susan Miller; Aug. 7, Craig DeArmond and Dave Ryan, both judge candidates; Sept. 11, Rick Rohrer and Nancy Kelley, recorder candidates; Oct. 2, state representative candidates Tim Johnson and Mike Kelleher; and Nov. 6, coroner candidates Peggy Johnson and Bruce Stark.

All meetings are at 7 p.m. at the Hoopeston city hall.

Classifieds

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RUMMAGE SALES

Village of Rossville All Town Garage Sales. Saturday, June 10. 35+ sales. Maps at village office. 25¢ sale at The Opera House. Also 100s of books 1/2 price. 8 a.m.-?

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