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Probation office serves several purposes in Vermilion County

Probation may not seem like a severe punishment for criminals but the head of Vermilion County's Probation and Court Services said it's no slap on the wrist.

"We don't think it (is a slap on the wrist)," said Director Jack Harmon at Monday's Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting. By statute, courts are mandated to find other means of punishing criminals other than incarceration. Probation and intensive probation are ways to do that.

One reason for not locking criminals away in jails is the cost. Harmon said it costs \$20,000 to \$25,000 to

house an inmate for one year. The same year on probation costs approximately \$1,500 or \$5,000 on intensive probation, Harmon said.

Harmon's office has a staff of 33 and oversees all forms of probation, including adult and juvenile and work release programs. Probation officers can search clients' homes without warrants, arrest violators and do instant drug tests. "It's almost like Gestapo tactics but it's paid off a lot," Harmon said.

The office has more than 3,000 clients currently in the
See PROBATION on other side

New foundation, marketing director hired by local hospital

A Florida woman has been tapped to head two departments at Hoopeston Regional Health Center and Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Charlene Drawdy of Altamonte Springs was on Monday named Director of Development and Public Relations, said hospital CEO Frank Caruso.

Drawdy comes to the hospital and foundation with 16 years' experience in healthcare sales and marketing and operations management.

Most recently, she has been executive director of Heritage Woods at Lake Mary—Genesis ElderCare assisted living community still under construction. She has also served as administrator of Adult Care Management Corp., Ocala West, Fla; group sales and marketing manager of Beverly Enterprises for central Florida; and director of development for the Hospice Foundation of Marion County.

Drawdy, who will begin her duties July 2, will be a welcome addition to the hospital and foundation, Caruso said. Although marketing and foundation director had been separate positions, Drawdy's background makes her qualified to lead both, as does the

connection between keeping the public informed and marketing the foundation. "It makes more sense to combine them into one," he said.

Additionally, Ruth McFadden has been hired at the hospital to oversee administrative and clerical work for Drawdy, Caruso said.

Medical center PA resigns

Shelly Reiten, Physician's Assistant at the Charlotte Ann Russell Medical Center, has resigned her position, said Frank Caruso, CEO of Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Reiten, who has served in Hoopeston for more than two years, has accepted a position in the Champaign-Urbana area, closer to her husband and infant.

Although Reiten served full time, Caruso said the clinic must only have a physician assistant present for half the hours a clinic is open to meet state requirements for a rural health clinic.

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Probation continued from other side

system. Of those, about 800 are sentenced in Vermilion County but move elsewhere and serve out their probation. The county gets about 200 probationers moving in, which is "a net gain. I like that," Harmon said.

Harmon will also oversee the new county juvenile detention facility expected to open Oct. 1.

Like probation over incarceration, the \$3.6 million juvenile facility will save money for Vermilion County taxpayers. "This county has spent a lot of money housing juveniles away from Vermilion County," Harmon said. In the last four years, \$300,000 has been spent on detaining youthful offenders in juvenile facilities in other counties. Approximately 15 youngsters under age 17 are taken to other facilities each month, Harmon said.

The new juvenile center will house 26 youngsters. Harmon hopes to be able to "sell" beds to other counties who need a place for their juvenile offenders.

Coming to the Vermilion County facility will not be as pleasant for youngsters as some others. "It's nothing fancy," Harmon said. "I didn't want anything fancy. We want it to be a jail. We don't want them to come back."

Smelt Fry

Saturday noon-3 p.m.

Southern Comfort 9-1 Saturday

No cover charge

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125 S. Chicago, Rossville



Hoopeston Jaycees

Cookout

Jerry's IGA
Saturday, June 9
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Boneless chicken
breast meal \$4



Unlike McLean County's facility, which offers amenities such as pizza parties, Harmon said the Vermilion County juvenile detention facility will offer the bare necessities: three meals each day, education, exercise, a nighttime snack and television in common areas. Food and laundry services will be provided by the county jail but the youth center will include a microwave and refrigerator for juice and other beverages, as well as basic staples for youngsters who are brought in after regular supper hours.

Juveniles will sleep on cement slabs covered by a plastic mattress. "I didn't want to give them pillows because they tend to put them down the commode but the (Department of Corrections) said I have to," Harmon said. To ensure pillows don't get flushed, Harmon found a mattress manufacturer who builds the pillow into the mattress.

The center will house not only youngsters waiting to appear in court but also those sentenced to jail time of up

Obituaries

RAMOS—Guadalupe Ramos, 66, of Hoopeston, died at 1:05 a.m. Tuesday, June 5, 2001 at Provena United Samaritans Medical Center, Logan campus, Danville. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday at St. Anthony Catholic Church. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Thursday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home with a prayer service at 7:45 p.m.

In the Hospital



**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
June 5**

Admitted: E. Lavonne Barker, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Carl Dixon, Marie Webber

Weather



Partly sunny, chance of showers, thunderstorms today. High 75. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 55. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 74, low 57.

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

to 30 days.

The number of children being arrested and sentenced is increasing, a fact Harmon credits, at least in part, to uncaring parents or those who are in the system. "Kids grow up thinking it's normal to go to court, not to have any green in their pockets except food stamps," he said. "In some families, it's a badge of honor to go to jail."

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RUMMAGE SALES

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Ambia, Ind. town-wide rummage sale, Saturday, June 9. 15 or more families. Sales all around town.

721 S. Market, Hoopeston, in alley. Saturday, June 9, 8-? Furniture, microwave, clothes, misc.

908 W. Main, Hoopeston. June 9 & 10, 7 a.m.-? Cookie jars, salt & pepper shakers, baby furniture.

208 N. Harrison, Rossville. Friday, June 8, 8-? 3 family rummage & moving sale. Clothes, furniture, bedding, knickknacks, bikes, items too numerous to list.

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