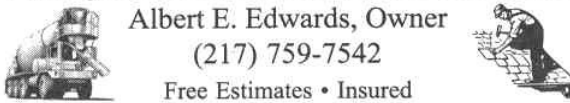


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**Thursday, September 12, 2002**  
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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### Remembering

Hoopeston Area High and Middle School students, above, recite the Pledge of Allegiance Wednesday during a ceremony to mark the first anniversary of 9/11. Left, flags decorate the sidewalk at the Hoopeston Post Office, which also served cake and punch in the lobby on the anniversary of the terrorist attack.

### Sheriff explains history, role of post

A Hoopeston youth may have a job with the Vermilion County Sheriff's Department - when he gets a little older.

Derek O'Neal, 10, attended the Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting with his great-grandmother, Louise Lawson, O'Neal questioned featured speaker Sheriff Pat Hartshorn about how drugs are brought communities and about early release of prisoners due to good time and overcrowding, prompting Hartshorn to ask the youngster if he wanted a job with the department. "You're asking really good questions," he told O'Neal.

Regarding the drug problem, Hartshorn said part of the reason people sell drugs is the same reason people break into homes and commit other crimes - "we have some bad people in our society...and when you have bad people, they usually try to make money illegally," he said. "People who do this care not about their community or about the people they get hooked on drugs."

**See SHERIFF on other side**

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## Health Department officials announce confirmed case of West Nile Virus in Vermilion County

DANVILLE—The first human case of West Nile Virus has been confirmed by the Illinois Department of Public Health. According to the IDPH, the virus has been confirmed in an 89-year-old Vermilion County man who is currently hospitalized. The number of confirmed cases statewide now exceeds 300.

Health Department Administrator Steve Laker said he would not disclose what part of the county the man re-

sides in, saying to do so would be to provide possibly identifying information.

Over the last five weeks, specimens from 11 county residents have been submitted for West Nile Virus testing at state labs, Laker said. To date, the department can confirm five negative reports and the one positive test.

The specimens were submitted because individuals' symptoms were similar to those of West Nile Virus,

which include high fever, headache, neck pain and stiffness, sensitivity to light, stupor, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis. Most people infected have no clinical symptoms of illness. Others may become ill three to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito.

Laker urged residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites by draining standing water where mosquitoes breed, wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts at dusk and dawn, using mosquito repellent with 25-35 percent DEET, checking screens for tears and other openings.

### Sheriff continued from other side

As for O'Neal's question about early release, Hartshorn explained the concept of "good time," time cut off a sentence for prisoners who behave and said that those who are released early are often released to other facilities such as half-way houses where they remain under supervision.

Sheriffs were the first law enforcement officers in the U.S. and are the only elected law enforcement officials to be elected, said Hartshorn, who has spent nearly 30 years with the department and was elected sheriff in 1990.

The sheriff provides law enforcement for all people including those in rural areas and communities without police departments. For cities with police departments, sheriff's deputies provide back-up when needed and in cases of major crimes such as murders, may be called on to investigate the crimes.

The Vermilion County Sheriff's Department covers three areas of law enforcement: law enforcement, judicial and corrections.

Law enforcement includes providing uniformed deputies on patrol in marked police cars, investigators and the juvenile division. Several special units are included in the law enforcement arm, including DARE (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) program, the canine program, scuba dive team, drug interdiction team, elder services officers, a bomb technician, all terrain search and rescue, lake patrol, crime prevention unit, a team which handles civil disorder and a special operations/



Sheriff Pat Hartshorn speaks at Monday's Neighborhood Watch meeting.

tactical unit, commonly known as a SWAT team.

The judicial aspect is the enforcement arm of the courts and includes duties such as delivering summons, executing warrants, providing bailiffs for the courthouse, courthouse security and transporting prisoners from the jail to court. The judicial part also handles extradition of prisoners.

The corrections portion - running the county jail - takes about half the department's personnel and budget, Hartshorn said. Approximately 55 people work at the jail, handling everything from booking prisoners to serving them meals.

The prison is overcrowded - 235 prisoners were housed there Monday - but a \$10 million construction program will ease that somewhat by adding 75 beds to the existing prison, Hartshorn said.

### Police News



A chrome **Mongoose** bicycle was reported taken from the 900 block of East Young Tuesday. The bike, missing since Saturday, is valued at \$110.

### Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 78. Tonight mostly clear 55. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 80, high 58.

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

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Part time laundry attendant position available. Apply in person at Hoopeston Coin Laundry, 209 S. First Ave., Hoopeston.

Hoopeston Migrant Head Start is seeking applicants for bilingual teachers and teacher aides, and bus aides positions. Applications are available at 520 E. First North St., Wellington, IL. EOE.

255-260

### HOUSES FOR RENT

2 bedroom house for rent. \$375/mo. References and deposit required. No pets. Available Oct. 1. (217) 283-6025 or 283-5350 (evenings).

254-267

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Corner Thompson & Rt. 1, Hoopeston. Saturday, Sept. 14, 8-1. Furniture, bedspread, curtains, coins, Tiffany light fixture, misc.

### VEHICLES FOR SALE

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