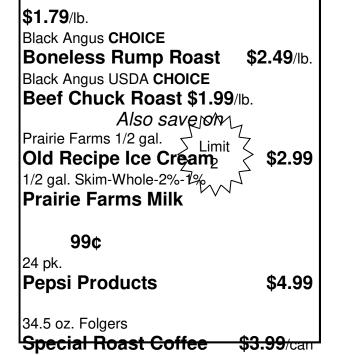
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Attorney candidates discuss issues at Neighborhood Watch

Two people, each who would like to be Vermilion County's State's Attorney, discussed issues facing the office at Monday's Hoopeston Neighborhood Watch meeting. Democratic candidates Sandra Hoth and William Donahue will face each other in the March 16 primary. The winner will go up against incumbent Frank Young in November.

DONAHUE Hoth also is a former

Vermilion County Assistant State's Attorney, serving there from 1994-2001. She also has worked in the Marion County, Ind., prosecutor's office, serving the Indianapolis area, and is currently in the Clark County State's Attorney's office.

Donahue has practiced law for 20 years, 17 of them in criminal law. He worked under several Vermilion County State's Attorneys including Craig DeArmond, Michael Clary, Larry Mills and Young. He currently works in the Iroquois County State's Attorney's office.

Each candidate cited two major problems with prosecutions in Vermilion County: not enough cases are filed and offenders who should be punished are receiving probation..

Donahue said if elected, he will bring a philosophy to the office of looking at each case an looking at the community as a whole. While the state's attorney's office does not improve communities by bring jobs, the office does affect communities by delineating what is acceptable behavior. "We can create an environment that people want to move to," he said.



Also, since it is the state's attorney's job to represent the people, "when you look at (each case) from the victim's side, you don't lose vour enthusiasm," he said.

He advocates using the office's resources more efficiently. "We can't do everything but if we can organize, we can do a lot more," he said. Donahue would im-

plement a felony review program, meeting with chief law

enforcement officials from the county, to keep up on the status of cases, find cases that might have fallen through the cracks and get law enforcement input on how prosecutors are doing. He said he would also seek public input on the office. He would also push for stricter punishments for convicted criminals. Currently, "defendants predict to arresting officers that won't be charged - and they're right," he said.

Hoth also criticized Young's efforts, saying the state's attorney "is an advocate for the people of the state of Illinois. Frank Young is not doing any of that," she said.

Giving offenders, especially drug dealers, probation sends a message to other drug dealers, she said. "I believe if this 'slap on the wrist' approach continues, we'll have more drug dealers and gang bangers from big cities coming to Vermilion County because they'll hear Vermilion County is the place for you because you probably won't get prosecuted."

Too many first-time drug dealers receive probation - a practice Hoth said she would stop if elected.

Asked how they would do more considering

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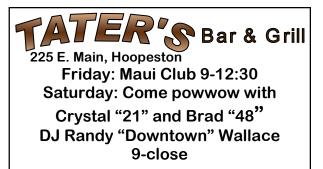
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the current caseload for local judges, Hoth said she believes that if the state's attorney's office does more, judges

See CANDIDATES on other side

Candidates continued from other side would follow suit.

Donahue said he believes in "working smarter, not harder," and would find a better balance of prosecuting cases, using, in part, better communication with law enforcement and the judiciary.

The candidates had slightly different opin-

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ions when asked whether they favor the death penalty.

Hoth said state law allows for the death penalty and that she would apply the laws, if needed

New Books at the Library

Non-fiction:

America's Women: Four Hundred Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates and Heroines by Gail Collins

Losing My Faculties: a Teacher's Story by Brendan Halpin

Inside Mrs. B's Classroom by Leslie Baldacci

The Essential Conversation: What Parents and Teacehrs Can Learn About Each Other by Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot

Connecting to Learn: Educational and Assistive Technology for People With Disabilities by Marcia J. Scherer The Pregnancy Bible...Your Complete Guide to Pregnancy and Early Parenthood

The Best American Poetry 2003

The Hidden Half of the Family: a Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy by Christina K. Schaefer

Police News

Nikki R. Grant, 16, of 624 E. Washington, was ticketed for failing to yield the right of way after an accident at 3:44 p.m. Tuesday.

Police said Grant, in a 2001 Plymouth, pulled in front of a 1998 Pontiac driven by Joshua M. Blakey of Hoopeston, who was eastbound on Young at Fifth St.

Grant and two unidentified passengers were taken to Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital.

Marshall D. Burton, 51, of $601\frac{1}{2}$ E. Young, turned himself in to police at 9:50 a.m. Wednesday.

Burton, wanted on an Iroquois County war-

Weather

Snow likely today and tonight. High 31, low 20. Tomorrow, chance of flurries early. High 28, low 13. For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service (217) 283-6221.

but stopped short of endorsing it.

Donahue, however, said he favors the death penalty and while he has not experienced any, has heard of cases in which he could not imagine not having the death penalty as an option. However, he said, that sentence must be used carefully.

Both candidates favor Peer Court, a judicial system for youngsters overseen by peers.

"It's a great opportunity to stop something before it becomes a problem," Hoth said.



Friday 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Fish, chicken strips, shrimp & clam dinners plus 2 sides **\$5.50 Carry outs or delivery: 283-4646**

