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Long-time officer leaves, new one begins at police department

Making a difference is highlight

In more than 24 years as a Hoopeston Police Officer, Steve Bane has made numerous arrests and driven countless miles around the city.

What stands out in his mind, however, are the things that happened less frequently - the times people thanked him for doing his job, for making a difference.

Over the years, Bane, who retired Feb. 2, said he has received a handful of notes and cards of thanks. "That means a lot to me," he said. "I keep those."

Bane spoke of an incident two or three years ago when a young man approached him at the National Sweetcorn Festival. The man shook his hand and thanked him for his part in an incident that Bane did not even remember. "In his mind, I saved him from being a criminal," he said. "That's probably the highlight."

Bane's law enforcement experience began at 21 when he joined the auxiliary police. On Aug. 22, 1979, at the age of 25, he was hired as a full-time officer.

During his tenure, Bane has served as juvenile officer, sergeant, range officer, commander of the tactical team, investigator, and most recently, hit-and-run investigator, a job he called "frustrating. You solve about one out of 50."

Age has caused some changes in the way Bane now

See HIGHLIGHT on other side



BANE

Police job fulfills dream

Quentin Morgan is a happy man.

After two years of part time police work, Morgan was hired Feb. 11 as the newest member of the Hoopeston Police Department.

"The Hoopeston Police Department is exactly where I want to be," said Morgan, who was hired to replace Officer Steve Bane who retired. "It's like coming home."

Morgan, 26, previously worked for a fencing company and did security work.

In 2000, he joined the Hoopeston Auxiliary Police and approximately two years ago, he was hired by Bane to work as a part time officer in Rankin. In December, he was hired by Milford Police Chief Mike Bane to also work part time in that village. During that time, he waited patiently for an opening at Hoopeston.

One of the main reasons Morgan is excited about working here is Chief Mark Drollinger. "He's very good at what he does," Morgan said. "I can learn a lot from him."

He has already learned some things in Rankin under Bane and is grateful for the opportunity there. "I want to thank him for giving me a chance," Morgan said. "Growing up, (police work) is all I wanted to do."

Morgan has attended the Police Training Institute for

See DREAM on other side



MORGAN

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Bowling Scores



Hoopeston Women’s Bowling League

2/9/04

1. Henning’s	61	27
2. R&R Body Shop	60	28
3. Weber’s Drugs	57	31

Police News



Dustin A. Solis, 21, of 38836 N 1830 East Rd., was arrested at 12:03 a.m. Monday at Parkview Court. He was charged with domestic battery on a complaint from a 21-year-old Hoopeston woman who alleged that Solis tried to choke her several times. Additionally, he was charged with criminal damage to property over \$300 after he allegedly beat his head against the left rear passenger window in the squad car, shattering the window. Solis was treated and released from Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

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- *Pla-Mor Lanes *Hoopeston Public Library
- *Hoopeston Express Lube *Downtown Motel
- *Oat’s Bait Shop/BJ’s Pump

Rossville

- *Ole Country Inn *Minuteman *Feedbag
- *Bray’s General Store

Milford

Wellington

- *Minuteman

Coffee Corner

and on the Internet at www.justthefacts.net

4. Yaden-Rethelford	48	40
5. Royal Bs	48	40
6. BJ’s Pump	47	41
7. Adda Girls	45	43
8. Off the Wall	40	48
9. Family Circus	37	51
10. Unger’s Jewelry	37	51
11. Gillins Oil	34	54
12. Bye	14	74

High Team Handicap Game: Yaden-Rethelford 1,061, Henning’s 1,046, R&R Body Shop 1,038; High Team Handicap Series: Yaden-Rethelford 3,036, Henning’s 3,021, R&R Body Shop 3,008; High Individual Scratch Game: Helen Taflinger 225, Candis Clayborn 217, Mona Birch 210; High Individual Scratch Series: Candis Clayborn 603, Helen Taflinger 583, Patti Lowe 581.

Highlight continued from other side

handles calls. “At this stage of my career now, I’d much rather help someone than take them to jail,” said the 50-year-old. “I’m not a young gun anymore.” Bane said he has enjoyed serving the public and the city of Hoopeston but admits some parts of his job have been difficult. Having to take children away from their homes and responding to domestic calls are among his least favorite duties, as are bar fights. “They’re usually over a pool game,” he said. “One went to the hospital and the other went to jail.” In his entire career, Bane has never fired his weapon on a call. “That’s a good thing,” he said. Over the years, Bane has had to arrest multiple generations of some families. “The parents are using drugs around the kids and then the kids use drugs, too,” he said. Another unpleasant part of his job is when, while eating at a restaurant in uniform, parents tell small children that if they misbehave, “the cop will take them to jail. I tell them I won’t.” Not all arrests are unpleasant. “Most of the people, if they’ve got any sense, know they’ve got it coming,” he said. Handling disagreements, whether in a home or a bar, causes stress for officers but Bane found a couple ways to deal with it. “You’d be so keyed up, you couldn’t write your name,” he said. To alleviate the stress, he would listen to Beethoven and, on his days off, headed

Illiana-Farmers League

Standings 2/11/04

1. Pla-Mor Lanes	23	5
2. CCPCC	20	8
3. FHHGG	19	9
4. Ravens	18	10
5. High Five	12	16
6. BJ’s Pump	10	18
7. Bacca	8	20
8. Bye	2	26

High Series: Brandon Hamilton 711, Kenny McVicker 683, Pete Sollars 650; High Game: Brandon Hamilton 256, George Fix 255, Kenny McVicker 255.

Thursday Afternoon Ladies

Standings 2/12/04

1. Pla-Mor	44	25
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off to fish. Most of his career was spent under the leadership of former Chief Orval Kaag, whom Bane credits as being influential in his live. “He didn’t have a whole lot of rules so it was easy to follow them,” Bane said. Also, Kaag fostered a family atmosphere among his men which Bane enjoyed. Bane only has one plan for his retirement: to keep working. He has spent the last nine years working two jobs, the last five as chief of the Rankin Police Department, where he plans to finish out his career. “If all goes well, I’ll be there another 10 years,” he said. In Rankin, Bane deals with the same types of crimes but in less volume than Hoopeston. Also, as chief, he has nights, weekends and holidays off, something he had not been able to do at Hoopeston. A retirement open house for Bane will be held from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday at Hoopeston City Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Mostly cloudy today. High 44. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 29. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 39, low 25. For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

Weather



2. Carolyn’s	38	31
3. Unger’s	28	41
4. Knuth’s	28	41

High Team Handicap Game: Pla-Mor 904, Carolyn’s 820, Knuth’s 819; High Team Handicap Series: Pla-Mor 2,429, Knuth’s 2,368, Carolyn’s 2,357; High Individual Scratch Game: Nancy Yergler 199, Tammy Bertram 190, Darlene Musk 181; High Individual Scratch Series: Darlene Musk 522, Tammy Bertram 488, Nancy Yerlger 483.

Briefly

Tiny Tots

“Strega Nonna” is the theme of this week’s Tiny Tots story program at the Hoopeston Public Library children’s room. Tiny Tots meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Fridays and is for children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult. Grave blankets must be moved Grave blankets and winter decorations at Floral Hill Cemetery must be removed by March 8. City employees will begin disposing of them on that date.

Dream continued from other side part time officers and will take a transitional course for full time police when the course is offered. To his new job, Morgan said he brings youth, aggression and “a passion for the job.” That he is a Hoopeston resident and knows the people will also be an asset, he said. Morgan graduated from Hoopeston Area High School in 1995. He and his wife, Lynn, have two children, Kaycee, six, and Gage, 2.

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