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Secretary of State candidate plans better customer service

Dan Rutherford would like to improve service offered at the state's 130 Secretary of State offices. To accomplish that, he's challenging incumbent Jesse White for the job in the November election.

At a fundraising open house Thursday, Rutherford outlined his plan for streamlining service at the state's Department of Motor Vehicle offices, a plan that includes making better use of the Internet and credit cards.

Rutherford would like to revamp the system so people can use the Internet to schedule appointments at their local Secretary of State office, cutting the time people spend waiting. Each office would still take walk-in customers, like those who do not have Internet service.

Another change Rutherford would like to implement is to increase the number of offices that accept credit cards. Currently, he said, only 15 percent of offices accept Discover or debit cards.

Rutherford told a standing room crowd that his background in service will be an asset to the Secretary of State's office. "I've spent my adult life with a company that serves customers," he said, referring to ServiceMaster, a company he joined in 1985. Rutherford became responsible for expansion of the company's busi-



Lorraine McBeath of Hoopeston talks to Illinois State Sen. Dan Rutherford at an open house Thursday as Gwen Ennen of Paxton and Mary Bricker of Watseka, listen. Rutherford is the Republican candidate for Illinois Secretary of State.

nesses internationally, licensing services in Chile, Brazil, Honduras, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Guam, Venezuela, South Africa, Spain, Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, Panama, Italy, Mexico and the Philippines.

ServiceMaster is a family of service companies with trade names such as ServiceMaster clean, Terminix, Tru-Green Chem Lawn, Merry Maids, American Home Shield and Rescue Rooter.

"The largest service component in our state government is the Secretary of State," Rutherford told the crowd at Ruby Nell's. "You need a leader in the largest component of service in government who comes from

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The City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for the position of police officer. Applicants must successfully pass a written exam, physical agility test, oral interview, thorough background investigation, drug testing and a medical examination.

Applicants must be 21 years old at the time of appointment, U.S. citizen, high school diploma/GED, good physical condition; no felony arrests or misdemeanor convictions/pleas involving moral turpitude or domestic abuse; a valid driver's license, free of previous terminations from a law enforcement agency, unless exonerated by a judicial or administration review process.

The City of Hoopeston offers a competitive wage and benefit package including family health insurance, vacation, equipment provided, holiday pay. Contract negotiations are currently ongoing for a first-time contract between the officers and the city.

Applications may be picked up 24 hours a day at the Hoopeston Police Department, 301 W. Main Street, Hoopeston or downloaded from our website at www.hoopestonpolice.org and click on the EMPLOYMENT PAGE. All applications must be turned in to the Police Station no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 4, 2006.

Applicants will be contacted by the Board of Police Commissioners regarding a testing date.

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310 E. Main, Hoopeston



Susan R. Morefield, 32, of 200 E. Main, Apt. 18, was arrested at 7:05 p.m. Wednesday in the 200 block of East Main on Vermilion and Kankakee county warrants. She was taken to the Public Safety Building in Dan-

Obituaries

EDWARDS - Howard Ray Edwards, 57, of Rantoul, formerly of Hoopeston died at 8:47 a.m. Saturday, Uly 29 at home. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Monday at Wolfe Funeral Home, Rossville. Cremation rites will be accorded. Memorials are suggested to American Cancer Society.

SOLLARS - Merle L. Sollars, 78, of Las Vegas, Nev., formerly of Wellington, died at 4:20 p.m. Tuesday, July 24, 2006 in Bakersfield Calif., the result of a car accident. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery with military rites by Hoopeston American Legion and VFW posts. Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to American Cancer Society.

SOS continued from other side

the service industry."

To ensure good service from Secretary of State employees, Rutherford said he would visit each office during his first year in office. "For those who are doing a good job, I'm going to say 'thank you' and for those who need a little help, I'm going to 'encourage' them, and you know what I mean."

Rutherford admits his run against White is an uphill battle. "I know doggone good and well what we got into," he said, admitting he likes White. "Who can't like Jesse White," he asked. "He's a nice guy but he's not serving the public."

White has name recognition in Chicago, needed to win an election, but Rutherford is taking his battle to the north to get recognition. During the July 4th holiday, he appeared in parades in Wheaton, Glen Ellyn and Lisle and estimates he was exposed to well over 100,000 people by doing so. This week, he will speak on WLS-AM radio in Chicago, with an estimated audience of 1.5 million. "The stage we're walking on is huge," he said.

Police News



ville in lieu of \$900 bond.

Three people were arrested Thursday after allegedly taking property from residents' garages.

Eric R. Bell, 21, of Ambia, Ind.; John T. Morgenroth, 17, of 318 E. Washington; and Summer R. Bailey, 17, of 523 N. Sixth Ave., were charged with criminal damage to property over \$300, burglary and criminal trespass.

All were taken to the Public Safety Building, Danville. Charges stemmed from reports from a 56-year-old Hoopeston woman in the 400 block of West Elm; a 50-year-old man in the 400 block of West Chestnut and a 49-year-old man in the 500 block of South Second Ave.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 11:20 a.m. Thursday at 702 W. Main.

Police said William M. Cox of Rossville, in a 1995 International truck, was northbound on Sixth Ave. when he stopped for a vehicle to back from a parking space. Meanwhile, Thomas R. Garrison of Hoopeston, in a 1991 Buick, tried to pass Cox as Cox started to pull forward and turned into Cox' bumper. Garrison was at fault for improper overtaking, police said.

It's also expensive. Currently, Rutherford's war chest has about \$600,000, cash on hand. He estimated another \$400,000 is needed between now and the election, especially to reach the Chicago market. "You don't even begin to play for less than three-quarters of a million dollars," he said.

Besides gaining exposure, Rutherford is hoping Chicago Democrats will be disillusioned enough with Gov. Rod Blagojevich to stay away from the polls. "There's a lot of energy that Rod Blagojevich has got to go and that energy buoys all boats," he said.

Information on Rutherford's campaign is available at www.danrutherford.org.

Weather



Heat advisory through 7 p.m. Tuesday. Today and tomorrow, hazy. Highs 96, lows 74 with heat indices of 102-108.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

An employee of Casey's General Store, 1022 W. Penn, reported Thursday that the driver of a white Ford Taurus failed to pay for \$26 in gas.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 1:31 a.m. Saturday at BJ's Pump, 1023 W. Main. An unknown vehicle hit a parked 2000 Pontiac owned by Lucinda Zarate of Hoopeston.

Louis A. McGee, 21, of 805 E. Wyman was arrested at 5:20 a.m. Saturday in the 700 block of North Seventh St.

He was charged with criminal trespass to residence after a 63-year-old woman allegedly found him asleep on her property.

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