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Tuesday, May 10, 2011
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Website provides legal information for low income people

Judge Karen Wall and circuit Clerk Dennis Gardner announced the opening of a new online legal self-help center at a press conference last week. The center may be used by anyone with a computer and high speed internet access and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at <http://vermilion.ilinoislegalaid.org>.

The center provides legal information for simpler, civil legal problems often faced by lower income people. The center was established to provide correct and current legal information to those who must go to court but cannot afford or find an attorney to represent them. For people without a computer with high speed internet access, public access computers are at Hoopeston and Danville public libraries.

The new center is the result of the collaboration among Vermilion County Circuit Court, Hoopeston Public Library, Danville Public Library, Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation and Crosspoint Women's Shelter. Technical support and assistance was provided by Illinois Coalition for Equal Justice and Illinois Legal Aid Online.

"It seems that each month, more and more people are coming into court without an attorney to represent them," Wall said. "Very often these litigants have no

idea about how to present their case to the judge. The new legal self-help center will help these people by giving them information about their legal problem. There really isn't any substitute for a qualified attorney to represent people in court, but for many people, this is not a realistic option. Unrepresented litigants will need to take time to prepare for their court hearing if they wish to understand their legal problem and how the court system works."

Garner was also supportive of the idea. "Everyday, people come into our office looking for help because

See WEBSITE on other side

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Police News



A set of keys was found at 12:30 p.m. Thursday at the McFerren park playground. The claimed the keys Friday..

A Girls Softball League representative reported at 9:12 a.m. Friday that someone damaged the back stop fence at the field at Union Park in the 600 block of McNeil.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 11:30 a.m. Friday in the 300 block of West Main.

Police said William Clingenpeel, of Milford, in a 1992 Oldsmobile, was westbound and struck a parked 1997 GMC, owned by Brian Pierce, of Hoop-
 eston.

Virginia L. Hale, 42, of Hoopeston, was issued a notice to appear in municipal court on a battery charge. She was charged after an incident at 8:38 a.m. Saturday in the 400 block of East Young. A 24-year-old Hoopeston woman alleged Hale struck her in the face.

A 45-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 9:21 a.m. Saturday that someone keyed her vehicle while

it was parked in the 700 block of North Fourth Street.

A 38-year-old Hoopeston woman reported at 10:27 a.m. Saturday that someone stole cash from her home in the 300 block of South Market.

A 40-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 11:21 a.m. Saturday that someone damaged the sewer system at a home in the 400 block of South Third Street.

A 22-year-old Hoopeston woman reported Sunday that someone damaged her vehicle sometime after 1 a.m. in the 200 block of East Seminary.

Kaylee A. Page, 24, of Hoopeston, was arrested after police were repeatedly called to the 200 block of North Fourth Street for reports of Page yelling and disturbing the peace.

Website continued from other side


they cannot find an attorney to represent them” he said. “We are not attorneys and until now, we haven’t really had a good place to send these litigants to find good legal information that is easy to understand and use. This will be a great benefit to these unrepresented people.”

The circuit clerk’s office will begin handing out a sheet listing options for lower income people to find help, as well as information about the Vermilion County Self-Help Center.

The website has information on simpler civil legal problems, as well as instructional videos, automated legal forms and other legal information on such things as powers of attorney, Medicare, Medicaid and unemployment compensation.

The Vermilion County Legal Self-Help Center is the 57th such center opened in Illinois since 2007 by the Illinois Coalition for Equal Justice and Illinois Legal Aid Online, working in collaboration with local court systems, public libraries, legal aid organizations, bar associations and other community organizations.

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 86. Tonight, chance of storms. Low 67. Tomorrow, chance of storms. High 87, low 66.

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

She was charged with unlawful acts constituting disorderly conduct and was released on a notice to appear.

Correction

First Presbyterian Church and Computer Works were inadvertently omitted from the list of donors to the list of sponsors of Hoopeston’s Great American Cleanup.

Just the Facts regrets the error.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

HOOPESTON - COZY 2-Bedroom 1-Bath Unit. Full basement. Walk to shopping, quiet area. NO PETS. \$475 + deposit. 624 S. 8th. Available April 1, 2011. 4 plex across from the park. Do not disturb the tenant. Call for more info. 217-260-2546.

HOUSES FOR RENT

3 or 4 BR. 2 1/2 Baths. Upstairs laundry. Nice layout for family home. \$600 per month. First and last month. 21-377-6741. Leave voicemail.

LOST & FOUND

Lost: six-year-old black long haired cat. Weighs about 8 lbs, name is Izzie. Last seen Friday in 600 block of East Penn. Reward. (217) 390-0027

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Almost new black gas stove, \$200; almost new gas water heater \$200. (217) 516-0564

Maytag washer and dryer approximately 5 years old. Good condition. \$200 - Call 217-304-2260 after 5:30 pm

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