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Friday, April 11, 2014

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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Lafayette man is a suspect in March motel homicide

A Lafayette, Ind., man arrested Wednesday is considered a suspect in the murder of a Hoopeston man, said Hoopeston Police Chief Mark Drollinger.

Carlos L. Suarez, 44, of Lafayette, was arrested in the 500 block of South Fifth St., on Vermilion County warrants for aggravated discharge of a firearm, reckless discharge of a firearm and criminal damage to property.

Those charges stem from a February 16 incident when a man reported that two people approached a vehicle he was in. One person beat window out of the vehicle while a second person shot at or towards the vehicle, Drollinger said.

Suarez was taken into custody without incident at 8:08 p.m. by Hoopeston Police and Vermilion County Sheriff's Department. He was taken to the Public Safety Building in lieu of \$10,000 cash bond.

Drollinger did not elaborate on why he considers Suarez a suspect in the March 9 murder of Bruce Eldridge at the Downtown Motel.

Eldridge was staying at the motel, at 200 E. Main, when the shooting occurred in an adjacent room. Drollinger had previously said he does not believe Eldridge was the intended target of the shooting.

Witnesses reported seeing a man dressed in black enter a room and fire shots. An area resident chased the suspect to a dark colored SUV, which drove away.

Open House

Sunday, April 13, 1-3 p.m.



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Hoopeston seeks citizen input to spur economic growth

City officials and members of Hoopeston's Economic Development Committee are looking for ways to make Hoopeston more attractive for current and potential residents, businesses and tourists. The city has contracted with Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) to develop an economic development strategy over the next few months.

The planning process started March 13, when about 25 community members with a variety of economic development interests, met with Susan Chavarria, CCRPC Regional Planning Manager, to discuss the city's strengths, challenges and resources.

The next step is to have a public meeting to give more residents the opportunity to discuss what Hoopeston's economic development strategy should include.

That meeting will be held from 5-7:30 p.m. Monday, April 14 at St. Anthony Parish Hall, 423 S. Third St.

See GROWTH on other side

Management addresses yesterday's questions.... Leadership addresses the questions of tomorrow! Are you ready to take your team to the next level?

Three classes from the DACC Corporate Education Leadership Certificate Series will be offered at the DACC Hoopeston Higher Learning Center beginning in August. There will be a free informational session April 16th, at 2 pm at DACC-Hoopeston for area business owners and managers to attend to learn more.

> Call 217-283-4170 for more information, or to let us know you plan to attend.

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Hoopeston -Stingrays to hold signups, seek swimmers, parents to help for 2014 season

Hoopeston Stingrays Swim Team is preparing to start another season of competitive swimming. Signups will be held on Sunday, April 13 from 2-4 and Saturday, April 19 from 9-11 at Hoopeston City Hall.

Boys and girls ages 6-18 are invited to join. The fee for one swimmer is \$40, two is \$60, and three or more is \$75. Fee assistance may be available upon request.

Youngsters are broken up into age groups and swim various strokes, including relays. Swimmers can compete in individual freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and medley and freestyle relays.

Those eight and under and 9-10 swim one length of the pool, and 11-12, 13-14, and 15-18 swim two lengths. Three boys and three girls of each age group compete in each individual event.

Parents are needed to volunteer to help run the swim meets, which are completely run by the coaches and parent volunteers. Any parent who would like to assist

Obituaries

KNAPP - Sylvia E. Knapp, 81, of Cissna Park, died Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at ASTA Care Center of Ford County, Paxton. Funeral was at 10 a.m. Thursday at Apostolic Christian Church, Cissna Park. Burial was in Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Cissna Park. Visitation was 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park, and one hour before service at the church. Memorials are suggested to the church, ASTA Care Center of Ford County, or Harbor Light Hospice of Decatur.

Among Mrs. Knapp's survivors is a daughter, Darlene Medler, of Hoopeston.

WHITE - Frances Ruth (McCormick) White, 98, of Hoopeston, formerly of Bismarck, died at 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014, at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. She was cremated. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. memorial service at Northside Church of Christ.

17167 E 2750 North Rd. Bismarck. Burial will follow in Gundy Cemetery, Bismarck. Memorials are suggested to Austin Graduate School of Theology, 7640 Guadalupe St., Austin, Texas 78752.

Police News



A 43-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 4:15 a.m. Wednesday that a window in his apartment was broken out. The damage occurred in the 200 block of North Market.

Robert H. Irvin, 23, of Cheneyville, was arrested at 6 p.m. Wednesday John Greer Grade School, 609 W. Main. He was charged with registered sex offender on school property per the Vermilion County State's Attorney's office and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Growth continued from other side

Some responses from the March meeting reflect wellknown factors for residents, such as wanting to renovate the Lorraine Theatre, having access to local healthcare resources and working on the balance between developing business along Routes 1 and 9 and revitalizing downtown business opportunities.

Other topics might surprise residents. The new DACC Hoopeston facility, for example, hopes to strengthen local educational opportunities and engage local teachers, when possible. The city has paint and facade improvement programs for residents and businesses to help improve curb appeal. Participants mentioned desires for such things as a sit-down restaurant, clothing stores, hotel, and perhaps a truck stop.

At Monday's meeting, CCRPC staff will facilitate discussion of the draft goals and objectives based on input from the kickoff meeting. "We hope to have a large number of people come out and share their ideas," Chavarria said. "It's so important to get residents vested in this process so they will invest in Hoopeston's future by helping make this economic development strategy a success."

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 66. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 44. Tomorrow, breezy, chance of storms late. High 73, low 56. Sunday, storms likely. High 67, low 41.

in governing the swim team is asked to volunteer to be on the Swim Team Board. Anyone interested in coaching is also asked to contact us.

Classifieds

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