

City Council hears update on ICAC

Written by Chris Lee

Holyoke City Council members heard a brief update about the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) initiative from Phillips County Sheriff's deputy Barry Winckler at their Tuesday, Feb. 21 regular meeting.

Last year, the City voted to provide three months of internet service for the ICAC program.

Winckler attended last week's meeting to discuss the ICAC program, which he said has gone very well—so well, in fact, he has taken on many more areas in addition to Phillips County.

With the possible exception of the City of Fort Morgan, Winckler said he is the only one in the 13th Judicial District who is actively using a computer to track online child pornography. He is preparing the search warrants, court-ordered production of records and paperwork to get law enforcement into the homes to get the files off computers.

Holyoke City Council voted to supply the ICAC program with three more months of internet access for 2012.

The internet fees are paid by Phillips and Sedgwick counties, City of Holyoke and Town of Haxtun. Winckler said there is a possibility in the future to obtain grant funds to help pay the internet charges.

The ICAC program is capable of searching computers to find people sharing child pornography. "Some are movies, some are pictures," Winckler said. "Disgusting and nasty things."

The way Winckler searches, he is logging about 111,000 registries or records to the main computer system database each day.

Locally, Winckler has worked seven cases in Phillips and Sedgwick counties. He has also done

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a couple in Yuma and Logan counties as well.

Reports of Holyoke city officials

Council members heard reports from city supt. Mark Brown, police chief Doug Bergstrom and deputy clerk Tillie Fisbeck.

Supt. Brown noted a vehicle hit a power pole in the 200 block of East Kellogg Street on Saturday, Feb. 18 which took out the power on the east side of Interoccean Avenue, South Campbell Street and west side of South Phelan Avenue for about five hours.

Brown said the swimming pool re-opened Monday, Feb. 20 and noted the city employees did a great job getting the painting done.

Chief Bergstrom said he had 10 applicants show up for a round of testing/interviewing and of those 10, he chose two to undergo a polygraph test. From those two, he scheduled one to complete a psychological test Wednesday, Feb. 22. Providing the applicant passed, Bergstrom said he hoped to get the officer to Holyoke to begin working. Should the candidate be hired, the Holyoke Police Department will be back to a full staff.

Fisbeck said two candidate petitions had been filed for the April 3 election but the signatures had not been verified. Mayor Orville Tonsing filed for the four-year term of mayor, while David Churchwell filed for a four-year seat to the council.

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