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Just the Facts®

Thursday, April 24, 2003

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication

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www.justthefacts.net

Local residents meet to discuss future of historic building

Ways to use a Hoopeston landmark - and ways to pay maintenance costs, was the focus of a meeting of approximately 35 residents Tuesday night.

Capstone Bank has offered to donate the Willdon Building to the city. However, while tenants in the building pay more than \$18,000 annually in rent, Mayor Chalmers Flint has estimated utilities and upkeep could reach \$30,000 yearly.

Suggested uses for the building included a restaurant, rooming house, office and small business incubator.

As for funding the building, Alderman John Haughee suggested an activity that was used once before in the building's history.

Haughee suggested selling 1,000 shares at \$100 each. Funds would be used to pay expenses and make repairs for about five years, giving the city time to find suitable tenants or sell the building.

Jacob McFerren, who had the building constructed, used the same approach, getting investors for the former Hoopeston Department Store, which occupied the first two floors and basement of the building when it was erected.

Resident Jean Minick researched the building's history after Flint announced Capstone's willingness to donate the structure to the city.

Constructed in 1906-07, it is made of stone, concrete and steel and was considered fireproof. At 70 feet high from sidewalk to cornice, the Willdon Building was also considered a skyscraper in its day.

It was not until 1931 that the building became a bank. Bank equipment, including the vault, came from a defunct bank in Park Forest. The vault was state-of-the-art. The door alone weighs 16 tons and was moved to Hoopeston by flatbed railcar, Minick said.

Interested residents will meet again in the near



Photo by Jean Minick

Ornate stairways, such as that pictured, are one hallmark of Hoopeston's Willdon Building. The future of the building was discussed at a meeting Tuesday night.

future. Flint, who is researching the possibility of using some tax increment financing (TIF) funds to help save the building, will call a meeting in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, residents who have suggested uses for the building are asked to call the mayor's office, 283-5320, Minick at 283-7121 or Just the Facts, 283-

It's time to Weed & Feed your lawn!

Call T & L Landscaping for all your lawn needs!

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New Location

Connie's Creative Corner

504 E. Wyman, Hoopeston
(217) 283-4650

Hours:
Tues. & Fri. 8-5
Wed. & Thurs. 10-7

Fish Fry

5-8 p.m.



Friday
American Legion
502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

Manager's Spring Special

\$2 off Oil Change

with purchase of wiper blades or air filter

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Hoopeston

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TATER'S Bar & Grill

Friday:
Michael David Duo
No cover
\$1.50 domestic beer
Rib eye dinner **\$9.95**

Saturday:
Pork chop dinner
(10-12 oz.) **\$9.95**
Steak & Shrimp
\$15.95

225 E. Main, Hoopeston




Tacos are back!

Thursday
3-8 p.m.
**\$1 beer
V.F.W.**

Hoopeston American Legion

Due to circumstances beyond
our control, bingo has been
cancelled for April 24.



A **41-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Tuesday that his truck was stolen from the 700 block of South Fifth St. The truck was later recovered in the 500 block of East Thompson.

David Todd Cannon, 23, of 229 W. Maple, was arrested at 3:25 p.m. Tuesday in the 200 block of West Maple.

He was arrested on a charge of criminal damage to auto on a complaint from a 19-year-old Hoopeston woman who alleged Cannon broke a window of her 1996 Pontiac.

Obituaries

LANE - Melvin E. Lane, 72, of Hoopeston died at 3:50 p.m. Monday, April 21, 2003 at Veterans affairs Illiana Health Care System, Danville. Funeral services will be at 11 am. Friday at Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 9-11 a.m. Friday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Weather



Rain likely today and tomorrow. High today 65, low 45. Tomorrow's high 60, low 42.


For current weather conditions, call the **Hoopeston Weather Line** at (217) 283-6221.

Elizabeth Frerichs
will be available for facials at
Sue's Shear Design
April 27 & 28
Only a few openings left!
Call **283-7700** to schedule your appointment
Mother's Day gift certificates available



**Smile...It makes people wonder
what you're up to!**

Police News



Kerry N. Ragusa, 42, of 520 W. Elm, Apt. 4B, Wenona, was arrested at 6:24 p.m. Tuesday in the 800 block of South Fourth St.

Ragusa was charged with disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 44-year-old Hoopeston man.

Ragusa was released on a notice to appear.


A **41-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Tuesday that his blue Ford pickup truck was stolen from the 500 block of East Thompson.

No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 7:52 a.m. Wednesday in the 600 block of West Maple. Police said Dana Carter, in a 2001 Dae-

woo, and Tamela Hoskins, in a 1997 Plymouth,

Hoopeston Rotary is selling super-duty garbage bags. 3 mil. 100 bags - \$15

Call Craftsman Printing, (217) 283-9574, Kebby Knake, 283-9525 or Ross Swartz, (815) 984-4581.



Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maxwell Street Day in Wellington, Saturday, May 3, 2003. 8 a.m.-? Bake sale, breakfast, lunch at Methodist Church. Town-wide garage sales.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 bedroom, 1 bath in Hoopeston. Appliances furnished. \$400/mo., \$400 security deposit. Available immediately. Call (815) 432-6081

AUCTIONS

Thinking of having an auction?
Go to www.jonwitvoetauctioneer.com or call (217) 748-6289!

Betty Markley Estate Auction. Sat., May 3 - 10:30 a.m. Corner Rt. 9 & S. 2nd Ave., Hoopeston. Appliances, furniture, household & kitchen items, outdoor items & tools, antiques, glassware & primitives, lawn & garden equip., woodworking equip., power & hand tools, shop materials, plumbing equip. & mechanical tools. Need more info? DeWitt Auction Co., (217) 283-7161. Bill DeWitt 040000372 & Harl Miller 041000645.

HELP WANTED

Part time cook wanted. Apply in person at Tater's Bar & Grill, 225 E. Main, Hoopeston.

HOUSES FOR RENT

Available immediately: 2 bedroom, 1 bath in Hoopeston. \$350/mo., \$350 deposit. (217) 748-6765

HOUSES FOR SALE

405 E. Seminary, Hoopeston. 3 bedroom, 1.5 baths, nice garage. \$45,000. (217) 283-7209

104-115

RUMMAGE SALES

405 W. Lincoln, Hoopeston. Saturday, 7-2. Household misc., tools, ice cream pub table w/2 chairs, large desk chair, small keyboard.

506 Cedar, Hoopeston. Saturday, 8-noon. Multi-family sale. Clothes (all ages) baby items, dishes & more.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1997 Ford Taurus. V-6, PW/PL/CD, beige. Excellent conditions. 79,000 miles. \$4,950. (217) 283-4323