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Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

Just the Facts[©]

Phone/Fax:
(217) 283-9348

Email:
publish@justthefacts.net

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942



Police News



No tickets or injuries were reported in an accident at 10:03 p.m. Thursday at Lincoln and Sixth St.

Police said Sylvia Hultquist of Hoopeston, in a 1993 Ford, was eastbound on Lincoln when she was hit by a 2002 Chrysler van driven by Linda Sheppard of Hoopeston.

Tony L. Irvin, 21, of 816 S. Fifth St., was arrested at 12:27 a.m. Friday after a traffic stop in the 700 block of South First Ave.

Irvin, wanted on an Iroquois County warrant for failure to appear for jury trial, was released on \$485 cash bond.

A **27-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Friday that someone entered her home through a window, took meat from the freezer and stole a 1991 Chevro-

let truck. The truck was later found in the 900 block of East McCracken.

A **41-year-old** Hoopeston man reported Friday that someone took a grey Sandrock Roadmaster bike from the 900 block of East McCracken. The bike was found Saturday on East Wyman.

Barry E. Moore, 42, of 711 E. Seminary, was arrested at 2:47 a.m. Saturday at Third St. and East
See **POLICE** on other side

Township building said sold

Unconfirmed reports indicate the deal to sell a Hoopeston building as a home for WitchSchool.com has been completed.

Neither seller/Realtor Larry Tobeck nor buyer Ed Hubbard of WitchSchool.com immediately returned phone calls seeking comment on whether the building, at 200 E. Penn, was sold.

However, other sources indicate they were contacted for comment on the closing by area media sources.

One of those was the Rev. Tim Kovalcik of the East Lynn United Methodist Church. "We believe the community is united," he said Monday. "We believe we're on the moral high ground," he said, adding the matter is now "in God's hands."

Last week, Hubbard said he would not locate the school in Hoopeston after hearing residents' complaints about the school. "I'm not going to go through with it," he said last Tuesday after a meeting at the Hoopeston City Building.

Previously, Hubbard had said the school expects to be open in September. WitchSchool currently accepts students for online courses. The building will be used for seminars and to house the school's shipping business, which includes books, incense and other items.

Briefly

Multi Agency van schedule

This week's schedule for the Hoopeston Multi Agency transportation project is: Tuesday, Kankakee, (leave at 8 a.m.) Wednesday, Danville; Thursday, Hoopeston shuttle; Friday, closed. For more information or to arrange a ride, call the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Community center activities include: Tuesday, ladies euchre, noon; Thursday, men's coffee 9:30 a.m., men's euchre, noon; Friday, closed.

Music Booster winners

This week's winners in the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing are: July 7, Bruce Mayer; July 8, Tater's Bar & Grill; July 9, Craig and Gail Lithgow; July 10, Joe Steiner; July 11, Linda and Duane Sheppard.

Trash Walkers

Trash Walkers will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday behind Read Chevrolet.

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Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: Just the Facts has received many emails concerning the proposed Witch School in Hoopeston. Due to space limitations, not all will be printed. Below is a random sample of letters received.

Editor,
I read with great disappointment the treatment of the Wiccan founders of a private school in Hoopeston. I am a lawyer licensed in the states of Illinois, Massachusetts, and Missouri and for seventeen years, I practiced law in the St. Louis metropolitan area. I am also a practicing Witch and the author of the book "Pagans and the Law: Understand Your Rights." This book is due for general release in just a few days.

Had the Hubbards been Jewish, this never would have occurred. The First Amendment of the federal Constitution plainly prohibits the establishment of any religion, and it would seem that the mayor of Hoopeston and others think that this public entity is theocracy.

I have news for them. Federal courts, state supreme courts, and the EEOC all recognize Wicca as a religion meritorious of First Amendment protection. The cases are

legion, and they are all cited in my book. Once my book hits the shelves, Wiccans and other Pagans will no longer lay down and take this sort of abuse. Cynthia Simpson, a Wiccan who wished to perform invocations at her County Council, sued the Council for their blatantly discriminatory refusal to place her on their clergy list. If the Wiccan school founders procure a good attorney, the town of Hoopeston will be in for a big shock.

Dana D. Eilers
Attorney
North Chatham, MA

Dear Editor,
I am a High Priest in the religion of witchcraft. I run the twenty year old coven named Aglaian Triad of Wicca, which is located in Homewood, Illinois. I know the leaders of WitchSchool.com, Ed Hubbard and Don Lewis, well.

Witchschool.com and its leadership do not represent all those who call themselves Witches. Witchschool.com teaches that you can learn our religion by participating in a series of web pages and emails, and is a kind of correspondence school. Many Witches such as myself believe that instruction in our religion can only take place through face to face instruction, and we do not believe that religion can be propagated through the Internet.

Whether or not WitchSchool.com locates in Hoopeston, we need you to know that WitchSchool.com does not represent all of Witchcraft and the neo-pagan religions. Please do not judge us by what you witnessed last week in the city council meeting.

Also, not all of us blame you for religious intolerance. I personally believe that the Christians of Hoopeston have the right to feel as they do, and you should not be

belittled or attacked for your belief that your religion is incompatible with Witchcraft. I personally believe that Ed Hubbard and WitchSchool.com have not done a good job communicating with the Hoopeston community in a respectful way, and you have the right to feel angry that an outside group is possibly buying your former Town Hall. However, if they decide to go forward with it, it is their legal right, and you have no choice but to respect that as a private property transaction protected by law.

Should WitchSchool.com locate in Hoopeston, or elsewhere in central Illinois, you can be good neighbors. But it requires efforts on the part of both the Christian community and the leaders of WitchSchool.com to show each other the mutual respect they deserve, and to stop throwing epithets at one another.

I believe painting the town of Hoopeston as religiously intolerant, as some neo-pagans are doing, hurts future

Police continued from other side

Penn. Police said Moore was wanted on a Monroe County, Fla., warrant for grand theft auto.

He was taken to the Public Safety Building to await extradition to Florida.

Daniel J. Crowley, 23, of 715 E. Thompson, was arrested at 3:45 p.m. Saturday in the 600 block of West Elm.

He was charged with operating an uninsured motor vehicle and driving while license suspended and was released on notices to appear.

Melanie A. Keith, 18, of 28 Arlington Dr., Danville, was ticketed for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and failure to yield - left turn, after an accident at 7:39 p.m. Sunday.

Police said Keith, in a 1987 GMC, was at North Market and East Young, entered the intersection and was struck by a 1999 Mercury driven by Larry J. Rutledge of Hoopeston.

Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today tonight and tomorrow. High today 88, low 70. High tomorrow, 82, low 65.

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

relations between neo-pagans and Christians in the area. I do not support that, and I am joined by other Witches in that belief.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Benner
High Priest
Aglaian Triad of Wicca

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Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Apartment over garage at 327½ E. Young, Hoopeston. \$300/mo. plus deposit. Call after 2:30 p.m., (217) 283-7887.

AUCTIONS

Auction - Pearl Lind Est., 706 E. Penn, Hoopeston. Sat., July 12, 11 a.m. A 90-year collection of furniture, appliances, household items, antiques, collectibles, lawn & outdoor equip., misc. Far too much to list. Also, 1996 Mercury Grand Marquis w/26,850 mil & 1997 Ford F150 XLT truck w/25,618 mi., both like new. Bill DeWitt, CPA IL #040000372. Info? (217) 283-7161

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Obituaries

MOORE - Shirley A. Moore, 72, of Rossville died at 9:28 p.m. Thursday, July 2, 2003 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral serves were at 10 a.m. Monday at Rossville United Methodist Church. Burial was in Potomac Cemetery. Visitation was 5-8 p.m. Sunday at Wolfe Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Rossville. Memorials are suggested to the American Diabetes Association.