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702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days

Lourdine Florek
owner/publisher

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Strangers to present no *Phantom Menace* at film opening

Strangers from far away will descend on Hoopeston May 19 when *Star Wars: Episode 1: The Phantom Menace* comes to the Lorraine Theatre.

The strangers will not be of an alien nature, however.

People are coming from Peoria, Chicago, Bloomington, Champaign, Danville, Lafayette, Ind., even Dayton, Ohio and Detroit, Mich., to see the film at the Lorraine, said theater owner Greg Boardman. "Someone in Mississippi...is planning his vacation to come to the Lorraine to see the movie as many times as he can," Boardman said.

The prequel to the *Star Wars* trilogy will have its maiden screening at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday at Screen 1. For the first two weeks of the run, show times will be 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., and 10:30 p.m. daily.

Boardman expects a large turnout for the film. "I expect attendance to be greater than 'Twister,' which is my biggest film so far at the Lorraine," he said. "I have had hundreds of emails going back months."

Episode 1 tells the story of events leading up to the original trilogy. The Federation is blocking and taxing trade routes to the Republic of Naboo. Two Jedi are dispatched to negotiate (Liam Neeson and Ewan MacGregor-a young Obi-Wan Kenobi) but this fails. The Federation wants to take over but the Jedi and Republic troops battle them. Along the way, a young Anakin Skywalker is introduced, who, in the later films, becomes Darth Vader.

Boardman, who saw the film earlier this week, praised the visual effects. "The 'outdoors' scenes are amazingly realistic, and all of the visual effects are very well done," he said. "I think *Titanic* had about 500 effects shots, this one has over 2,000. It is tough to tell live characters from computer generated ones."

In order to get the picture on opening day, Boardman had to do some convincing of Fox officials. Fox, the film's distributor, was concerned about Hoopeston's size, as well as low attendance at the Lorraine. "I had to show Fox what I had done in terms of other 'big' pic-

See FILM on other side

Film continued from other side

Figures preview to *Episode 1*

Those who cannot wait to see new characters in the *Star Wars: Episode 1: The Phantom Menace* film can get a sneak preview at a local store.

Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert is the local headquarters for *Star Wars*, with select collectible figures of the characters, with more to come in the next few weeks. Mugs and danglers (replicas of the movie's vehicles that can be attached by suction cups to computers or windows) are also available.

The decision to carry the collectibles was suggested by Mark Herman and James Hathaway, grandchildren of store owner Molly Culbert.

Mark Herman, a University of Illinois student, has collected *Star Wars* memorabilia for years and passed the interest to eight-year-old James, said the boys' mother, Laura Hathaway.

Figures available in the store include a young Obi Wan Kenobi, as well as Queen Amidala and Jar Jar. Hand-blown Christopher Radko ornaments of original *Star Wars* characters are also available.

"We're really excited about *Star Wars* here," Hathaway said, adding she is planning a *Star Wars* Christmas tree with laser ribbons and planetary ornaments. "It's going to be fabulous," she said.

Cemetery Flowers

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tures like *Apollo 13*, *Twister*, and so forth," he said.
 "The local attendance for regular, first run pictures is so bad that if it weren't for all of those out-of-town folks mentioned above, coming to my other "big" pictures, Fox would not have given it to me."

Another factor that helped get the movie on its opening day is the equipment at the Lorraine. "We are the only theater outside of the Chicago area that will be presenting Star Wars, Episode 1 in all eight channels of Sony Dy-



namic Digital Sound through our exclusive, HPS-4000 Sound System."

Advance tickets went on sale at 2 p.m. Wednesday. Cost for advance tickets is \$5 each; tickets may be used at any showing. Advance tickets are available at Global Fashions, Computer Works and the Lorraine box offices when the theater is open.

Tickets outside Hoopeston are available at Record Service on Green St, Champaign; Chart Records & Soltec, Inc., on North Ver-

Briefly

New board elected

The Hoopeston Jaycees recently elected a new executive board. Members are: Jimmy Polson, president; Amy Sheppard, management vice president; Toby Brown, community vice president; Michelle Gonzaleze, membership/ID vice president; Gilbert Warner, secretary; Dean Grimes, treasurer; Karen Porth, state director; and Tim Sharlach, supervising director.

Group meetings are held at 7 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the American Legion, 502 E. Penn.

Baccalaureate set

Hoopeston Area High School seniors have scheduled baccalaureate for 3 p.m. Sunday in the high school auditorium.

Graduation will be held at 8 p.m. May 21 in the middle school gym.

College graduate

James F. Eyrich of Hoopeston graduated cum laude from Illinois State University in a ceremony Saturday.

Eyrich received a BS degree in telecommunications

Police News



A vehicle in the 700 block of East Penn was scratched and had the rear fender dented. The damage was reported Tuesday.

Police are investigating a complaint from Jerry's IGA, Routes 1 and 9, regarding a person writing numerous bad checks.

management, part of the department of applied computer science.

Eyrich, son of Stephen Eyrich and Carolyn Eyrich-Mastin of Hoopeston, is network administrator for the Hoopeston Area school district.

Tiny Tots

"Magic Carpet" will be the theme of Tiny Tots story program this Friday. Children will also celebrate May Day.

The program starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room and is open to children ages 1-4 who are accompanied by an adult.

Alley cleanup

Hoopeston residents are reminded that the street and alley department is conducting alley cleanup in the city.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital

May 11

Admitted: Opia Downing, Champaign; Birdell Schwartz, Hoopeston.

Discharged: none.

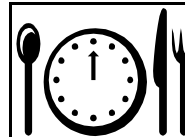
Weather



Chance of thunderstorms today and tonight. High 68, low 50. Tomorrow, partly sunny. High 74, low 53.

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

million St., Danville; Paxton Video, Paxton; Hear Here, Watseka; Park Electronics, Cissna Park; and Radio Shack, Paxton.



Back by Popular Demand

Lunch at

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225 E. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-5253

Classifieds

ADULT CARE

Wanting to assist an elderly person in their home with cleaning, cooking, shopping, etc. Contact Linda Zimmerman, (217) 283-6176. References. 127-133

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

May rent is FREE! 2 bedroom deluxe unfurnished at 503 E. Penn St. Kitchen includes dishwasher, disposal. Call (217) 283-6757. 131-144

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Like new Tappan electric stove \$175; futon bunk bed, very good condition, \$225. Call (217) 283-5307, leave message. 118-131

Three year old White GT205 riding lawn mower with 50 inch mowing deck (used half of 1996 and all 1997 mowing seasons). Twenty horse Briggs and Stratton engine. Fluid filled tires. Excellent condition. Asking \$2000. For information call (217) 283-6463.

PRODUCE FOR SALE

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RUMMAGE SALES

411 S. Sixth St., Hoopeston. Friday & Saturday, May 14-15. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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