

Fish Fry
5-8 p.m. Friday
American Legion
502 E. Penn, Hoopeston
Also serving pork chops
Includes baked potato, salad & roll.
Carry-outs available 283-6312



Tacos are back!
Thursday 3-8 p.m.
\$1 beer
V.F.W.
Corner of Fourth Ave. & Orange, Hoopeston



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Ministers suggest prayer as way of combating witch school

Area ministers are telling their congregations to pray for those who plan to open a witch school in Hoopeston while on another front, residents who oppose the school may call city hall and leave their names.

The witch school, which is expected to open in the former Grant Township building at 200 E. Penn, is a part of Telepathic Media, a company which combines web page design and Wicca teachings.

Some residents have expressed their concern to the Hoopeston Ministerial Association, asking what the group is doing about it, said the Rev. Ann Schwartz, Presbyterian minister and association president. "I'm not

sure what the association would be doing," she said. "What they want us to do is stop them from coming but I don't think we can do that. We can't stop a business transaction."

Schwartz said she encourages those who are concerned about the witch school to pray about it. "For people who are very upset, that's probably what they should be doing."

Since the announcement was made about the school locating in Hoopeston, Schwartz said she has done some studying on the issue but doesn't have enough informa-

See **WITCH SCHOOL** on other side

Free Gift for you
when you come in for the
Garden Walk

Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert
702 W. Main, Hoopeston 283-5578 Open 7 Days

We have
Pool Chemicals!
Olympic Hardware
516 N. Dixie Hwy. Hoopeston
(217) 283-5186
Open Sundays




Hoopeston Area Garden Walk

Saturday, June 28 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tickets \$5 in advance, \$7 Saturday. Available at
Flowers & Gifts by Molly Culbert and Stephanie Cank
Hoopeston Area (217) 283-5578



Mayor emphasizes city did not sell building to witch school

Hoopeston Mayor Chalmers Flint is stressing to the public that the Hoopeston City Council did not sell the building that is expected to become a witch school.

Flint said he has received numerous calls and comments from residents criticizing the council for selling the building and has also heard comments about township officials selling the building to witchschool.com. Neither is true. "We're just as opposed to the idea as (residents) are," he said.

In fact, the building was owned by Arlen Alwardt and Larry Tobeck. They purchased the former Grant Township building in 1994 for \$13,100. Officials at witchschool.com are paying a reported \$40,000 for the building.

Also, reports that the school will be located in the former city hall are incorrect. The school is expected to be at 200 E. Penn, not 229 S. Market.

Propane Tank Exchange

\$14.99
with OPD Valve only

Jerry's IGA
Hoopeston Plaza
Rtes. 1 & 9
Hoopeston



Witch school continued from other side

tion to have an informed position on it. "I'm not in any way an expert," she said. "I've just begun."

However, she added, Christians need not be frightened of the school. "If you're a Christian and firm and strong in your beliefs, I don't know what you'd be afraid about," she said.

Doing anything other than praying to keep the school out of Hoopeston might violate the civil rights of the Wicca group, she said. "If a group of Jews wanted to build a synagogue or a group of Muslims wanted to

build a mosque, would our reaction be the same," she wondered.

The Rev. Jeremy Morton at the Church of God is also recommending prayer to his congregation, urging church members to "turn to the Lord and let Him work out the situation."

Morton said he does not agree with what the Wicca church teaches but "I'm just going to love them and pray for them and encourage people to do the same."

Hoopeston ministers are not the only ones who are praying. In Rossville, New Bethel Fellowship members are praying not only in church but as they drive around Hoopeston, said Pastor Jim Lloyd.

Lloyd sees a correlation between the witch school opening and the release of the latest Harry Potter book, which deals with witchcraft and sorcery.

Many teachers embrace the Harry Potter books because children are interested in reading them. However, Lloyd sees that as bringing Wicca - a religion by Internal Revenue Service standards - into the schools while not allowing children to pray. "That's a little upsetting," he said.

Like the Harry Potter books, Lloyd said the witch

school will target impressionable youth. "When it gets in here, they're coming after your children," he said.

On another front, Hoopeston Mayor Chalmers Flint said city hall can act as a clearing house for residents who want the school to know it's not welcome in Hoopeston. "I don't know if it will do any good but we can take names and pass the message on," he said.

One Hoopeston woman collected more than 50 signatures last weekend at her church. Those signatures were turned in to city hall and other people have been calling almost daily since news of the witch school first appeared.

Don Hubbard, director for the school, previously said residents should let him know about objections to the school opening in Hoopeston.

Several residents have already told Flint they don't want the school and Flint said he has tried to pass that information on to school officials without success. "I called them but they haven't called me back," he said.

The sale on the building is supposed to close July 7. A representative of Monna Ulfers Real Estate in Watseka, which is handling the sale, said there has been no change in the deal.

Low enrollment causes '03 Summer Fun Club to end early

The Hoopeston Area Youth Club (HAYC) board of directors voted Tuesday night to discontinue the "Summer Fun Club" for 2003 effective June 30.

Low enrollment in the program prompted this decision.

Children pre-registered for future weeks will be

Police News



A **70-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Tuesday that her purse was lost or stolen in the city.

Matthew S. Ray, 20, of 33983 N 1700 E Rd., Rossville, was arrested at 1:20 p.m. Tuesday at the police station. Ray was charged with the theft of a bicycle on June 15.

He was released on a notice to appear.

A **36-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported Tuesday that she received an email requesting personal information and a credit card PIN number to be sent by return email.

contacted by a Summer Fun Club staff member and refunded their money.

More than 15 children a week enjoyed the activities at McFerren Park during June. The Hoopeston Area Youth Club is proud of this program and would like to thank the effort and enthusiasm of the Summer Fun Club staff. They would also like to thank supporters of and gracious donors to the program.

Summer Fun Club will be offered again in the summer of 2004.

Questions or comments may be directed to Mark Connolly, HAYC president, 283-6668.

Weather



Thunderstorms likely today. High 80. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 58. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High 78, low 55.

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

Classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Having out of town visitors? We have two 1 bedroom furnished apartments available by the night or by the week. TV, phone, utilities included. (217) 283-7996.

HELP WANTED

CHITTICK FAMILY EYE CARE

We are seeking an energetic, self-starter to join our team in the Hoopeston office as a Front Office Receptionist. This position requires customer service experience, an individual that can handle multiple tasks, be organized and have exceptional telephone etiquette. Computer knowledge and previous insurance and accounts receivable experience is helpful. If you are interested in an exciting opportunity with the Chittick Family Eye Care team, please forward your resume to:

Chittick Family Eye Care
Attn: Practice Administrator
159 North Vermilion
Danville, IL 61832

HOUSES FOR RENT

419 N. Market St. 2 Bedroom, fenced yard, central air, stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer, \$385/month, \$385 deposit. (217) 283-5150

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Riccar upright vacuum cleaner. 1.5 years old, excellent condition. On-board tools. \$398 negotiable. (217) 375-4464.

Amana 18,000 BTU window air conditioner. \$200. (217) 283-5200

RUMMAGE SALES

616 E. McCracken, Hoopeston (in rear). Fri., 8-2, Sat., 8-noon. Miscellaneous items.

836 E. Elm, Hoopeston. BIG 3 family sale. Sat., 8-2

Fortees, Apartments, 700 block of S. First Ave., Hoopeston. Sat., June 28, 8-? Items for sale include Crystal Flo 200 lb. sand pool filter, Hayward & Jacuzzi 40 g.p.m. pump motors, 5,000 BTU window A/C, toys, clothing, lamps, misc.

WANTED TO BUY

Good used gas stove, refrigerator, clothes dryer, kitchen cabinets. Call (217) 283-9731 or (217) 722-0813.

Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad.

Rod's Home & Auto and RadioShack

Stock Reduction Sale
on all in-stock lawn mowers
Huge Savings!!!

300 E. Main, Hoopeston (217) 283-5931

Hoopeston Rock Service

**Free delivery in Hoopeston! Half off
delivery to other areas! thru 6/30**

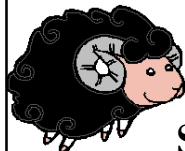
Rock: ¾" 1¼, 2", landscape rock, pea gravel,
sand, road pack.

Delivery/spreading available. Hours by appointment.

Rich Stipp, owner
(217) 283-5492 (217) 304-0884
Email rstipp1949@yahoo.com

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