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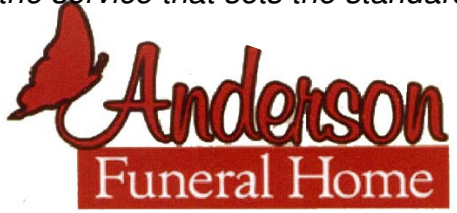
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Dignitaries, residents turn out to honor local fallen soldier

It has been two years since Hoopeston learned of the death of PFC Jeffrey Wallace in Iraq, but his family and community remember. And because of caring Hoopeston citizens, future generations will have a reminder of what Mr. Wallace did.

Sunday, Mr. Wallace's family and friends, along with local and state dignitaries and members of Mr. Wallace's military unit gathered at McFerren Park for the unveiling of a monument in his honor.

In an hour-long ceremony, the "Lest They Be Forgotten" memorial was unveiled at the south end of McFerren Park.

Mr. Wallace died May 24, 2005 in Iraq when the Humvee he was in hit a landmine.

Mr. Wallace was memorialized in speech—by Mayor Bill DeWitt, Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn and members of his military unit—and in song, by his father, Scott Wallace, who composed a song about his son's life and death.

"You're the one, Hoopeston's son...the one who answered duty's call," he sang. "If I could take your place, mistakes I would erase," Wallace continued, his voice cracking. During an instrumental part of the song, Wallace wiped tears from his eyes.

DeWitt said Mr. Wallace made "the supreme sacrifice for his family, his community, his country and God, a theme echoed by Quinn, who quoted the Book of Isaiah and Abraham Lincoln.

Citing Isaiah, Quinn said Mr. Wallace helped "speed the cause of righteousness," and that his life and death "summed up the essence of American democracy."

Quinn, the keynote speaker, spoke of how Mr. Wallace was a 16-year-old high school student when terrorists attacked on Sept. 11, 2001 and how he volunteered for military service after school.

While he did not know Mr. Wallace personally, Quinn said the young man is a roll model, a man who did not



Scott Wallace, father of PFC Jeffrey Wallace who was killed in Iraq, sings a song he wrote about his son at Sunday's "Lest They Be Forgotten" memorial dedication.

have the chance to see his daughter. "God have him not many years in this life but the gift of a life well-lived," he said. "God bless the USA and God bless Jeff Wallace."

Quinn made one misstep in his speech about Mr. Wallace, referring to his nickname as "Jeffco." Family and friends quickly corrected him, yelling out "Jeffro."

Dave McFadden, who helped spearhead a fund drive to purchase the memorial, said it was the "efforts of a

See SOLDIER on other side

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Wellington-Greer Fire Department
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Wellington Fire Station
4-8 p.m.
Fish Dinner \$7
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for cooking the Memorial Day meat and
thanks to the
Women's Auxiliary
for all of their help

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Soldier continued from other side

proud and generous community" that helped make the memorial possible. In less than 11 months, the memorial became a reality thanks to people who gave money or time or materials. "Everybody gave from their hearts," he said.

The "Lest They Be Forgotten" memorial was designed by Gregg Garvey, in honor of his son, Justin, who also died in Iraq.

The memorial features a pair of soldier's boots, weapon and helmet atop a stone base. A flag stands behind the memorial.

Each memorial is inscribed with the words "Dedicated to the fallen heroes of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Lest They Be Forgotten."

Each memorial also contains information on the soldier it honors. Mr. Wallace's is inscribed with "PFC Jeffrey R. Wallace, United States Army, Operation Iraqi Freedom, May 24, 2005."

Police News

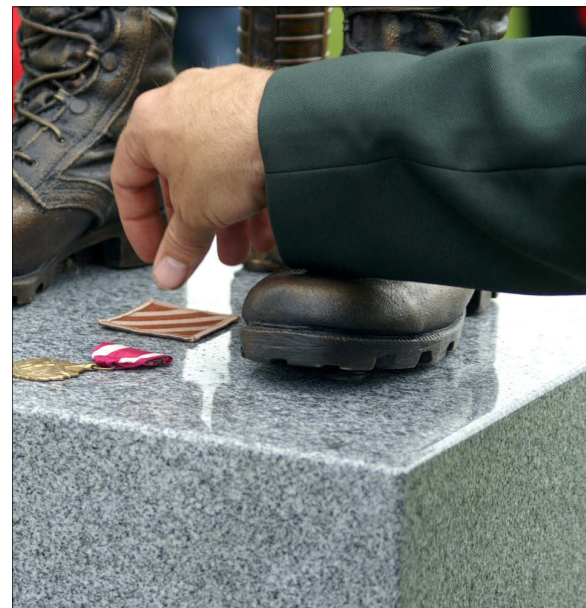


Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 4:42 p.m. Monday. An unknown vehicle it a 2001 Chevrolet owned by Caron Denny-Longfellow of Hoop-eston, while it was parked in the 800 block of South Third St.

Obituaries

FOX - Ethel May Fox, 95, of Indianola, formerly of Rossville, died at 9:45 p.m. Monday May 28her daughter's home. Arrangements are incomplete at the Wolfe Funeral Home, Rossville.

MANN - Charles D. Mann, 82, of Cissna Park died at 10:40 a.m. Wednesday, May 23 at home. Funeral service was at 10 a.m. Saturday at Apostolic Christian Church, Cissna Park. Burial was in Mann's Chapel, Rossville, with gravesite rites by Cissna Park American Legion Post. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park and 9-10 a.m. Saturday at the church. Memorials are suggested to Danville Provena Cancer Center or Provena Hospice.



An unidentified soldier places a medal on the base of the "Lest They Be Forgotten" memorial in honor of Jeff Wallace following Sunday's dedication of the monument, which is located in McFerren Park.

Fire Calls



Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 7:29 p.m. Monday to Plaza Commons, 715 W. Elm, for a report of a space heater smoking. Police also responded.

Correction

It was incorrectly reported in Monday's issue that Pauline Reckner's vehicle hit one driven by Lisa M. Zamora. Zamora struck Reckner.

Just the Facts regrets the error.

Weather



Partly cloudy today. High 87. Tonight, chance of thunderstorms. Low 64. Tomorrow, chance of thunderstorms. High 84, low 65.

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

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LOST & FOUND

Found: female mix dog, sandy & white, wearing red collar. Found on Lover's Lane. Call (217) 283-9657. Leave message.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

Baldwin classic upright piano. Oak w/bench. Mint condition. \$2300. (217) 213-1184

RUMMAGE SALES

406 E. Chestnut, Hoopeston. Fri. & Sat., 7-3. Lots of merchandise: bedding good used clothes, dishes.

803 E. Maple, Hoopeston. Fri., 8-2, Sat., 8-12. 3 family moving/garage sale. Older washer & dryer, bathroom vanity, computer desk, 2 computers, TV, small appliances, sump pump w/hose, kitchen items, movies, tapes, books, crafts, women's & girls clothing, purses shoes. Lots of stuff! You name it, we've got it!

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