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**Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

Phone/Fax (217) 283-9348  
 Lourdine Florek, owner

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## Volunteers sought for Memorial Day grave decorating

*Flags to be placed Friday,  
 Ready for Monday's service*

Volunteers are being sought to help put flags on  
 veterans' graves at Floral Hill Cemetery for Memori-



*Photo by Carl Ankenbrand*

### *Running towards their future*

Kraig VanWieringen and Brock Ramos run down the  
 aisle to participate in their graduation Friday at  
 Hoopeston Area High School. The seniors had taken  
 part in Friday's boys track sectionals at Gibson City.  
 VanWieringen was one of three valedictorians set to  
 speak at the event.

al Day. Work will begin at 9 a.m. Friday. For more  
 information, call Bob Duffin, (217) 840-9241.

Memorial Day service will begin at 10:30 a.m.  
 Monday at the Floral Hill Chapel. It will feature the  
 Hoopeston Area High School band. Dustin Hurt will  
 be the keynote speaker.

The event will be broadcast on WHPO. In case of  
 inclement weather, the service will be held in the  
 McFerren Park Civic Center.

Following the ceremony, the community is invited  
 to the VFW for a complementary lunch.

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Fire department says thank you

The Hoopeston Fire Department would like to thank everyone who donated to the Firemen's Bash and Ball, especially Larry Baughn, The Junior Women's Club, Hoopeston Jaycees, Karen Porth, Jerry Prosis, Hoopeston Foods, and Steve Compton. Thanks to you, it was a great success! We would also like to congratulate all the winners.

Iroquois should rethink wind laws

Most counties in the state of Illinois are rushing to open their doors to investors in order to increase jobs and revenue. However, Iroquois County, also needing revenue, is quickly closing its doors and destroying opportunities for the only two resources it has in abundance: farm land and wind. Despite two wind farms currently under construction giving the county almost half a million dollars since November 2010, the county board still issued a six month moratorium on their wind ordinance, effectively halting any new expansion of wind energy for the foreseeable future. An extension of this moratorium was placed at the May meeting so the six months is now seven. Existing wind farms are projected to bring in millions of dollars for the county, townships, schools, libraries, fire depart-

ments, and individuals. Stockland Fire Department just received over \$20,000 from Settlers Trail Wind Farm. Fees from existing wind farms in the county over the last six months alone have rescued the county from its deficit and placed them in the black at the present time.

Wind farms provide clean, renewable fuel, are part of the national government mandate for renewable fuel sources over the next 20 years, and lessen our dependence on fossil fuels and foreign countries. Most, if not all, parts of wind towers are manufactured in the USA.

Prairie Green Township with 183 residents, the second to the lowest assessed evaluation in the county, four condemned bridges and no chance of other industry, has organized to negotiate a fair and equitable contract for all residents with a wind company but is being denied a possible wind project because the Iroquois County Board is not convinced that wind farms are good for the county and has thrown up serious road blocks for their construction and development.

The main objections revolve around the pretense of protecting the small property owner. The thought is that a person who owns 2-10 acres does not benefit financially from wind farms because their acreage is not large enough to warrant a turbine. The board fails to

realize that large property owners may not get turbines either but everyone gains in better roads, bridges and schools. The revenue from the wind farms pays for all this without raising taxes. This leaves citizens with more money in their pockets for personal expenses.

The county has initiated a setback requirement in the current wind ordinance proposal that is prohibitive to wind companies. A setback is the distance between a residence or property line and wind towers. Generally setbacks are to minimize or eliminate noise and flicker effects. This can be done in 1500 ft or less. No county in the state has more than a 1400 ft. requirement and most either require 1000 ft or less. However, the Iroquois County Board has insisted on putting a 2000 ft setback in place with the option for property owners to waive that distance if they wish to negotiate monetary compensation. A survey of four different wind companies state with great certainty that they will go to other counties if this is put into practice. Wisconsin has placed 1800 ft setbacks and wind companies are leaving. Waivers only cause friction between land owners as some negotiate more than others while some refuse to negotiate at all and the whole project is cancelled leaving nothing for anyone. Wind companies do not need uncertainty and friction.

A far better solution is to initiate a 1500 ft setback and require a "Good Neighbor Policy" for ALL residents within the footprint of a wind farm. This way all property owners benefit equally. There is no friction, the wind companies have flexibility in the placement of towers and they are not left with holes in cost projections. Prairie Green residents were ready to put this into action before the moratorium.

Iroquois County has way too much to lose by blocking wind companies. Please talk to your County Board Members and urge them to reconsider and write a wind ordinance that will WELCOME wind companies to the county. Literally millions of dollars in revenue will be lost if our wind ordinance is too restrictive. Setbacks must not exceed 1500 ft. Decommissioning fees must

not be exorbitant. Let residents within the footprint negotiate the terms of decommissioning. Permit fees must be reasonable. In short let us encourage these investors and not treat them as the enemy.

Horseshoe Wind Farm Negotiating Committee  
Delmar and Carolyn Graham  
Richard Ziebart  
Richard Swartz  
Earl Dixon  
Theta Lee  
Dale Graham  
Merle Sparenberg

Briefly

Blood drive

Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital is holding a blood drive from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday. Registration for the drive will be held in the front visitors lobby by Gallerie Romantique.

HAHS summer school

Hoopeston Area High School will hold credit recovery summer school June 8-30. Cost is \$116 per course. Students must sign up with Kay Brown by May 27 to reserve a seat in the class.

Court Dispositions

April 7

Hector Saldivar, Hoopeston, fined \$180 at sentencing; status hearing June 2.

Rocky Walker, Hoopeston, pleaded guilty to restraint of dogs by owner or keeper, fined \$180.

James Roof, Hoopeston, location of parking facilities case dismissed.

Obituaries

NEWMAN - Maxine Newman, 87, of Hoopeston, formerly of Rankin, died at 11:45 p.m. Thursday, May 19, 2011, at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Funeral Mass will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Anthony Catholic Church, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Rankin Union Cemetery, Rankin. Visitation was 5-8 p.m. Monday at Wolfe Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Hoopeston.

Police News

Jennifer L. Garrett, 41, of Hoopeston, and a 15-year-old Hoopeston girl were arrested after a fight at 8:09 p.m. Sunday in the 300 block of East Washington.

Each was charged with battery and released on a notice to appear.

Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 71, low 58. Tomorrow, high 78, low 58

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

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Layden Manor apartments. Taking applications. 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Laundry on site. Utilities extra. \$400-\$450 per month. Call 217-375-4202. Deposit and references required.

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