

**Hoopeston Lions Club** Fish Fry in the Park

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Wednesday, July 20, 2016

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Lourdine Florek, Owner

# Life experience led new HMA leader to director's position

For some people, life experiences provide almost everything that's needed when a dream job comes along.

Yolanda Pemberton is one of those fortunate people.

"When I look back at my life, it all brought me here to this," said Pemberton, who was named executive director of Hoopeston Multi Agency at the end of March.

Her life is her resume. Raised in Port Isabel, Tex. and of Hispanic ethnicity, Pemberton worked for a housing authority in Texas and the Private Industry Council in Dallas.

A stint at State Farm resulted in meeting and marrying Mike Pemberton, who took over the State Farm office in Hoopeston nearly 20 years ago.

In Hoopeston, Mike became a member of the Multi Agency board of directors and Yolanda became a volun-

In time, she decided she would like to be the director. While she had social service and private business credentials, she lacked one thing: a college degree.

"I needed a degree so I went and got a degree," she said, laughing. Earning the degree didn't happen overnight. Juggling being a wife and mother, Pemberton took online classes for several years. "My kids and my husband were very encouraging," she said.

In fact, she said, son Michael started college in 2009 and they both finished together when in 2014, Pemberton received a BA degree from Eastern Illinois University focusing on business and social services.

The next step was to wait for an opening.

Following the resignation of director Maria Sermersheim earlier this year, board member Bill Nicholls temporarily took the helm of the Multi Agency as a search began for a new director.

Pemberton said during her interview, she made no secret of the fact that she wanted the position, telling interviewers "I REALLY want this job" more than once.



#### **PEMBERTON**

Her skills, enthusiasm and education paid off.

"I'm very happy to be here," Pemberton said. "I wake up smiling. I come in early. I stay late. I'm happy."

All is not rainbows and unicorns at the Multi Agency in the area of finances. Because of Illinois' budget crisis, HMA funding was cut. "I think we're doing very well, considering we're not getting money from the state," she said.

To keep the doors open, Pemberton widely publicized the annual May fund drive, which many Hoopeston residents said they were previously unaware of, and she

See LIFE on other side

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# The PIT STOP at EAST LAMES

Wednesday: Ribeye Sandwich or Pork Chops

Thursday: Swiss Steak or Popcorn Shrimp

Cod or Ribeye Steak Friday: Saturday: Prime Rib and Ribeye

Enjoy your dinner Saturday night, then settle back in the chairs on the patio and watch the fireworks without ever leaving!

## Open Bowling

Daily 12-close, Sat. 1-close

## Fall Leagues now forming!

 Ladies needed on Monday & Wednesday. Friday Night Mixed forming for Oct-March

### From the Blotter

Angelina Savage, 42, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 3:01 a.m. Sunday in the 400 block of East Penn. She was charged with breach of peace constituting disorderly conduct on a complaint from a 52-year-old woman who alleged Savage yelled and blew the horn of her car loudly enough to wake up everyone in the house.

Savage was released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

**Brandon R. Irvin**, 21, of Hoopeston, turned himself in to police at 10:20 a.m. Sunday. Wanted on a traffic warrant for failure to appear/speeding, he was released on bond with a new court date.

**Roy Zamora**, 25, of Hoopeston, was ticketed for operating an uninsured motor vehicle after a collision at 2:49 p.m. Monday at Casey's General Store, 115 E. Orange.

Police said Jeri Brown, of Hoopeston, in a 2016 Chevrolet Malibu, pulled from a pump and ran into the passenger side of Zamora's 2004 Chevrolet truck.

No injuries were reported.

Cherrica Hamby, 27, of Hoopeston, was arrested after

police were called at 5:20 p.m. Monday to remove a person from a home in the 800 block of East Lincoln. Hamby was charged with battery and released on a notice to appear in Hoopeston City Court.

**Brandon R. Casner**, 34, of Hoopeston, was arrested after a police investigation into a battery reported by a 31-year-old Hoopeston woman at 5:30 p.m. Monday in the 300 block of South Third Ave.

He was charged with domestic battery and taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

### **Fire Calls**

Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 12:55 p.m. Sunday to the 600 block of East Thompson after a neighbor reported a lightning strike hit a house and smoke was showing.

Wellington and Rossville fire departments, Hoopeston police and Arrow Hoopeston ambulance also responded. No estimate on damage was available.

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## Life continued from other side

took to Facebook to ask HMA followers to vote in an online contest where the top prize is new office furnishings. She also plans on doing a lot of grant writing to get more dollars in the door.

Her other goals include working to improve the structure of the Rising Leaders program and reaching out to the local Hispanic community. "I'm going to try to tap a little more into it," she said.

Other additions and changes are open. "I want to be able to bring new programs, but I don't know what the community wants," she said. Suggestions are welcome and can be made by calling the Multi Agency at (217) 283-5544.

Pemberton would like to entice more residents to volunteer, especially for the youth program. The number of participants has grown "and we're trying to get more" and adults are needed to help out.

When she's not on the job, the 55-year-old Pemberton is involved in many activities, including taking part in Tom Sweeney productions, teaching conversational Spanish for Danville Area Community College, running in 5k races - and getting ready to run a 10k - and being a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church.

She also makes time for visits with her children, Mi-

### **Obituaries**

**REDMAN** - Roy E. Redman Jr., 71, of Milford, died Friday, July 15, 2016. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at Baier Funeral Home, Watseka. Burial will be at a later date in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland. Memorials are suggested to donor's choice.

STONE - Georgia Willadean (Storie) Stone, 80, of Hoopeston, died July 16, 2016. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Wednesday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Danville National Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to Alzheimer's Foundation of America, 322 8th Ave., New York, NY 10001.

## Weather

Chance of thunderstorms today. High 87. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 73. Tomorrow, excessive heat watch from noon Thursday to 7 p.m. Friday. High 93, low 75.

chael, 25, who studied international business and Asian studies and Anissa, 23, who studied political science and anthropology.

But these days, she mostly focuses on keeping the Multi Agency going. "It has to continue because of the work we do," she said.

"Did I mention I really LOVE my job?"

# -Briefly

## Abe Lincoln program

As part of its "Heroes" Summer Reading Program, Hoopeston Public Library will host Kevin Wood, Abraham Lincoln re-enactor, for "Heroes of History. The program will be 2-3 p.m. Thursday at the library, 110 N. Fourth St.

Limited seating is available for local events interested in the first-person presentation.

Wood, as Lincoln, will talk about his life and the history of the United States from Independence through the Civil War.

### **Breast cancer support group meeting**

Hoopeston Breast Cancer Support Group will meet at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 21 at The Pit Stop at Fast Lanes Bowling Alley. For more information, call Pat Foster at (815) 984-4040.

# **Classifieds**

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