



South County SPOTLIGHT



HHS Scho Bowl @
Tri-County
2/7 at 5:00 pm

UJHS VB @ Urbana MS
2/7 at 4:15 pm

VGH Frosh BBB @ Uni
High
2/7 at 6:00 pm

HJHS VB vs Salt Fork
2/7 @ 6:00 pm

HJHS VB vs VG
2/8 @ 4:00 pm

ST Thomas VB vs Arthur
Christian
2/8 @ 6:00 pm

UHS Wrestling @ IHSA
Setional Meet
2/8-2/9 TBA

UHS Frosh BBB vs Unity
Invite
2/9-2/14 times TBA

UJHS VB @ Shelbyville
Invite
2/9 at 9:00 am

Sidney Village board
public water mtg
2/9 @ 10:00 am

VGH BBB vs Arcola
2/9 @ 11:00 am

UHS Senior Citizen's
Sweetheart Dinner
2/10 @ 4:30 pm

UJHS VB @ MS
2/11 at 4:30 pm

HJHS VB @ AP
2/11 at 6:00 pm

St Thomas VB @ Danville
Lutheran
2/11 at 6:00 pm

UHS BBB @ Monticello
2/12 at 5:30 pm

UJHS VB vs Paris Mayo
2/12 @ 5:30 pm

VGH BBB @ Cumberland
2/12 at 6:00 pm

HJHS VB @ Shiloh
2/12 at 6:00 pm

St Thomas VB @ Coun-
tryside
2/13 at 6:00 pm

Sidney Village Board
public water mtg
2/13 @ 7:00 pm

VGH Frosh BBB vs Sul-
livan 2/14 @ 6:00 pm

HHS Scho Bowl vs Ob-
long 2/14 @ 5:00 pm

UHS Wrestling @ IHSA
State meet 2/14-2/16

St Thomas VB vs Shiloh
2/14 @ 6:00 pm

If you have an upcoming
event that you would like
to see featured in Spotlight,
email us at vgnews@mchsi.com
or call us at 832-4201



Harvest Ridge Wind Farm Will Pay More Than \$50 Million to the Community in the Next 30 Years

(Newman, IL) – February 1, 2019 – Today, the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm released its updated tax projections based

on its proposed wind turbine layout. The wind farm will provide more than \$50 million in tax revenues to Douglas

County's schools, townships, roads, and other vital public services over the first 30 years of the wind farm's operations.

The Shiloh School District stands to benefit the most, with approximately \$850,000 in tax revenue from the wind farm in the first year alone. Over the next 30 years, Shiloh is estimated to receive more than \$19 million from taxes paid by the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm.

The other big beneficiaries are Heritage High School, Newman Township and its Road District, Parkland Community College, and several other public services, including the community library and fire districts.

"These new tax dollars will make a meaningful, long-term impact to the fire department" said Rick Hedrick, Broadlands Fire Chief. "It will go towards self-contained breathing apparatuses and other important turnout gear that needs

replacing every five years, such as helmets, gloves, and coats. The payments from the Harvest Ridge Wind Farm will enable us to upgrade the equipment that allows us to provide this vital public service."

EDP Renewables (EDPR) is one of the largest owners and operators of wind farms in Illinois. To date, EDPR has paid more than \$54 million in taxes to the communities in which its five operational Illinois wind farms are located.

"I have personally seen how our wind farms have transformed communities around the state," stated Aaron Weippert, Operations Manager over EDP Renewables' five operational Illinois wind farms. "I've seen schools be completely rebuilt and township roads go from gravel to black top because of the taxes paid by a wind farm. I hope we can bring these benefits to Douglas County, as well."

Wind farms in Illinois are taxed in the same manner across the state. The location of each individual wind turbine dictates which public services will receive the tax revenue. The assessed value of the equipment will depreciate by only 2 percent each year, but by law the value can never go below 30% of its original value. This ensures that Harvest Ridge will provide a stable, long-term source of revenue for schools and other public services.

The Harvest Ridge Wind Farm tax projections are based on the current levy rates of each of the taxing districts. More information on how wind energy is taxed is available at the Illinois Department of Revenue: <http://www.revenue.state.il.us/LocalGovernment/PropertyTax/WindEnergyDeviceValuation.pdf>

Taxing District	Year 1 Estimated Tax Revenue	Estimated Total Tax Revenue by 2050
Shiloh Unit 1	\$ 850,000	\$ 19,000,000
Heritage High School	\$ 370,000	\$ 8,000,000
Douglas County	\$ 320,000	\$ 7,000,000
Newman Township Road District	\$ 230,000	\$ 5,300,000
Newman Township	\$ 220,000	\$ 5,000,000
Parkland Community College	\$ 150,000	\$ 3,500,000
Newman Fire District	\$ 65,000	\$ 1,500,000
Newman Regional Library	\$ 60,000	\$ 1,400,000
Broadlands-Longview Fire District	\$ 40,000	\$ 900,000
Murdock Township	\$ 35,000	\$ 800,000
Murdock Township Road District	\$ 25,000	\$ 600,000
Villa Grove Unit 302	\$ 25,000	\$ 600,000
Multi-Township Assessor	\$ 11,000	\$ 260,000
Allerton Fire District	\$ 11,000	\$ 260,000
Douglas County Museum	\$ 5,500	\$ 130,000
Camargo Villa Grove Library District	\$ 1,500	\$ 36,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 54,000,000

Heritage CUSD Special Board Planning Meeting Discussion Agenda

HERITAGE COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8

February 2, 2019 – 8:00 a.m.
Homer Building – Classroom 102 JH Hallway
SPECIAL BOARD PLANNING MEETING- NO BOARD ACTION PLANNED
I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

II. MONTHLY BUSINESS
• Recognition of Public – Questions, Discussion, and Submission of Topics
• Recognition Heritage Education Association

III. DISCUSSION AGENDA
• Board Member Topics
• Approval of Agenda
• Statements of Economic



Interest Filing prior to May 2019 Reminder
• Board Member Election and Forums Prior to April 2, 2019 Election & New Member Training
• District Preliminary Financial Profile Score for FY18

• State Changes with New Administration, Funding
• State Funding and Taxes – Capital Building Bill Gas Tax
• State Superintendent Change and Illinois ESSA Plan renewal
• PARCC and SAT

• Pension Shift and 3% Cap Update
• Minimum Teacher Salary Bill
• 176 Day School Year and Calendar and School Day Changes

• Enrollment & Staffing
• High School English Teacher Retirement
• Elementary Special Education Teacher Retirement
• Elementary Classroom teacher Retirements – 2 positions

• High School aide position (new update)
• Administration 2018-19 Mid-year Status Update & 2019-20 – Possible Federal Rollback of Behavior Guidelines

• Promoting Heritage District and District Newsletter
• Budgeting for 2019-2020 and Beyond
• Year #3 of HEA Agreement through 2019-2020 School Year

• Extension Outcome due April 2019 from December 2018 Levy filings
• Working Cash Fund Bond and Technology – Discuss December 2019 Levy per Russ Leigh Recommendation

• Heritage Pensions and Retirement Incentive
• District Financial Software Transition
• School Breakfast/Lunch
• Concerns of nutrition and district free/reduced statistic and Rollback of federal guidelines
• Parent Volunteers – Background Checking and Grow-

ing Program
• Curriculum Planning & Discussion
• Review Math, Science Social Studies, Fore
• Foreign Language High School

• Homer TIF District and Education Funds Use
• Junior High & Elementary Language Arts, JH Social Studies
• Extracurricular Activity Future Planning

• VGH Cooperative Vote and New HS Conference 2019-2020
• HSC Proposal
• Facilities/Maintenance Planning for Summer 2019 & Beyond

• Classroom Desks Both Schools
• District Classroom Cabinet Projects – New Requests?
• District Both Building Classroom & Hallway Lighting Project

• Homer Library Air Units
• Homer Junior High/Elementary School Lockers
• Homer bus safety in circle-signage and/or fencing

• Homer Main Gymnasium roof
• Homer Main Office entry remodel
• Homer Back Door Entries – ROE Inspection Ordered

• Homer locker rooms
• Homer parking lot/bus circle re-paving & lighting like high school in exterior parking areas
• Homer main office remodel

• Homer **Cont. pg. 2**

Vote for Your Favorite at Philo Library

Well, we made it through a record breaking cold spell. Hope everyone had enough books to read and movies to watch to get them through. We apologize if our closing caused anyone some inconvenience. As we've said before, in times of questionable weather, please call ahead 684-2896.

Our school classes have continued to brave the weather, when reasonable, to come to the library for storytimes. We have been reading some winter time stories. Jan Brett, "The Snowy Nap" is another story about Hedgie. Jan Brett's

books are full of beautifully colored illustrations that continue on each page. A must read for readers of any age. "One-Dog Sleigh" by Mary Casanova is a delightful adventure about a young girl and her dog going out for a sleigh ride and what happens when the other animals want to join in. "Little Penguin Gets the Hiccups" by Tadgh Bently isn't necessarily a winter story but a fun read. It's a story about a little penguin who gets the hiccups from eating spicy food and how his friend tries to help him get over them. This story requires help from

the audience. We have many other winter stories for readers of all ages.

Many local students will be voting soon for their favorite title from 3 different Illinois reading lists. The Rebecca Caudill Award for students in grades 4-8. The Bluestem award for students in grades 3-5. The Monarch Award for students in grades K-3. There is still time for reading another title or 2 if needed. We have the lists and many of the titles here at the library. More about the lists and voting in weeks to come.

Homer Library February Schedule of Events

Monthly Events
Homer Community Library February 2019
Library Board Meeting Feb. 13 at 1pm
Movie Matinee: The Greatest Showman

Inspired by the imagination of P.T. Barnum, The Greatest Showman is an original musical that celebrates the birth of show business & tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation.

Rated PG Runs 105 mins
Feb. 9 at 1 pm
Euchre at the Library
Join us for some low stress, no money, card playing FUN!
Feb. 15 at 7pm

Free Family Movie: Early Man

In this stop-motion animated comedy set in prehistoric times, a tribe of primitive hunters are displaced from their homes by emissaries from a distant empire that has mastered bronze-making. However, a tribesman named Dug (voice of Eddie Redmayne) tries to win his home back by challenging the invaders to a game of soccer. Directed by Nick Park, best known as the creator of the beloved animated duo Wallace and Gromit.

Rated PG Runs 90 mins
Feb. 22 at 7pm
Parent/Teen Movie Night: The Hate U Give
Rated PG-13 Runs 132 mins

Starr Carter is constantly switching between two worlds: the poor, mostly black, neighborhood where she lives and the rich, mostly white, prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Now, facing pressures from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and stand up for what's right. THE HATE U GIVE is based on the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller by Angie Thomas.

"Signs of the Season" By Jim Balmer



Old Man Winter froze the waters of the Embarras. Photo by Jim Balmer. To comment on any of the photos featured in Signs of the Season email us at vgnews@mchsi.com or send a letter to Villa Grove News PO Box 20, Villa Grove IL 61956. Comments may be published in future editions of the newspapers.