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Friday, December 18, 2009
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net

Rep. Tim Johnson criticizes Gitmo transfer, debt ceiling hike

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Timothy V. Johnson, along with six other members of Republican Illinois Congressional Delegation and the House Minority Leadership, strongly criticized the Obama Administration and the Illinois Governor's office for planning the transfer of up to 215 terrorists at Guantanamo Bay to the Thomson Correctional Center in Illinois.

Johnson also denounced the House of Representatives vote to increase the federal debt ceiling to a new high of \$12.394 trillion.

The GOP delegation joined in a press conference to denounce the plan, shortly after Obama and Illinois Gov.

Pat Quinn formally unveiled their intentions to house the terrorists on U.S. soil.

Johnson and other members of Congress attempted to block the transfer to Thomson for the past month, with appeals to Quinn and the administration that such a transfer puts U.S. citizens at risk, among a host of other concerns. Johnson is also an original co-sponsor of H.R. 4097, which would prohibit the use of federal funds to transfer the enemy combatants to the United States.

"They're putting our people in peril and they're tout-ing this in the name of job creation. I fear the presence

See JOHNSON on other side

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For more information, call Tanya McVicker,, (217) 283-5531, ext. 255

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Johnson continued from other side

of the terrorists here will act as a magnet for their sympathizers. I fear their presence will evolve into a public stage from which to broadcast their hate. I fear for the safety of our people. And I fear for the future of our country when our leaders are justifying the detention of terrorists in the name of economic development. I find that insulting. If this Administration was serious about economic development, we wouldn't have double-digit unemployment and record numbers of homes in foreclosure. FutureGen would be up and running and we wouldn't be talking about another stimulus bill.

"There are a great deal of additional concerns with this decision, both constitutional and logistical.

"But the gravest concern is security. The President's own people - including FBI Director Robert Mueller and Philip Carter, the Department of Defense engineer of this project who apparently resigned last Friday - have agreed there is an increased security risk to the move and a potential for further radicalization of fringe elements drawn to the vicinity. Understand this will be the largest single concentration of incarcerated terrorists in the United States. That is a thought that should sober us all."

Police News



Police are investigating the theft of an undetermined amount of fuel from Arends Brothers John Deere, 1111 S. Dixie Highway. The theft, valued at more than \$300, was reported at 7:28 a.m. Thursday.

Hoopeston Fire Department was called to Arends Brothers at 7:53 a.m. Thursday to wash down a gasoline spill resulting from the theft.

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident reported at 6:46 p.m. Wednesday at Country Terrace Apartments, 705 E. Orange. An unknown vehicle hit a parked 2005 Chevrolet owned by Logan Davis of Hoopeston.



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Regarding the debt ceiling, Johnson said, "This is the second time this year we have raised the debt limit and I have no doubt we'll back here doing it again in a couple of months," Rep. Johnson said. "We last raised the debt limit last February, by \$789 billion under the first of the so-called stimulus bills. Today we added another \$290 billion to the debt ceiling.

"The reason for this is simple. We can't pay our bills. This Administration doesn't know how to say 'no.' It doesn't comprehend that government cannot be all things to all people and hope to survive. Our country was founded on the ideals of limited government and self-reliance. That is what made us strong and prosperous.

"Instead of looking for ways to pare back our spending and be self-reliant, we continue to spend more of our children's and grandchildren's money. President Obama

Obituaries

BEER - Twylla M. (Farney) Beer, 82, of Cissna Park, died at 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2009 at hoe. Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Apostolic Christian Church, Cissna Park. Burial will be in Apostolic Christian Cemetery, Cissna Park. Visitation will be 4-7 p.m. Friday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park and 9-10 a.m. Saturday at the church. Memorials are suggested to Cissna Park Ambulance and Fire Department or the church.

VAUGHN - Jean Marie (Davenport) Vaughn, 56, of Rossville, died at 3:07 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15 2009 in Danville. Funeral service will be at 4 p.m. Friday at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Visitation will be 2-4 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Cremation rites will be accorded. Memorials are suggested to the family of Jean Vaughn, c/o Anderson Funeral Home, 427 E. Main St., Hoopeston, IL 60942.

Weather



Mostly cloudy today. High 39. Tonight, chance of snow. Low 26. Tomorrow, chance of snow. High 32, low 21. Sunday, chance of snow. High 30, low 18.

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

and the Congressional Leadership have spent over a trillion dollars this year alone on a failed stimulus, a bank bailout, buying two car companies and a half-trillion on an omnibus spending bill. They aren't done yet, with a looming takeover of health care, a national energy tax and another ill-conceived 'stimulus' proposal on the horizon.

"To put this in perspective, this is the fifth increase in the national debt ceiling since Speaker Nancy Pelosi took control of this Congress. When Democrats won control, the debt limit was \$8.96 trillion. The current debt limit means every American household is on the hook for more than \$100,000.

"We are adding to burdens at the worst time ever. Fully a tenth of our workforce is out of work, millions more than were predicted to be when we passed the first of the so-called stimulus bills. That's more than 15 million people out of work, not paying taxes, and yet we are adding to the tax burden of the dwindling numbers of people who are. We're heaping ballast on a sinking ship. Our profligacy will someday haunt us."

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