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**Wednesday, June 8, 2011**

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Lourdine Florek, owner

[www.justthefacts.net](http://www.justthefacts.net)

## Johnson fields questions from constituents at town hall

U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson covered issues ranging from Afghanistan to wind farms at a town hall meeting Tuesday.

Approximately 15 constituents attended the meeting at Hoopeston City Hall, questioning Johnson about recent activity by the federal government.

Several voters had questions about the future of Social Security and Medicare under Rep. Paul Ryan's budget proposal.

If approved, that proposal would switch from how Medicare is currently funded to a voucher system that would allow seniors to purchase their own health insur-

ance. The proposal would not affect anyone currently on Medicare or those 55 and older.

Johnson said he favors Ryan's plan, as well as changing the eligibility age, as a means to "try to save the system." Asked why the government cannot be forced to repay money taken from the Social Security trust fund, Johnson said "there is no separate trust fund set up, since it's very first day.

"Without significant modifications, it's going to crash and burn," he added.

John McNeely of Armstrong asked why the U.S. continues its foreign aid program with the country \$14 trillion in debt. "We've got to stop giving money away to these damn countries, I don't care who they are," he said.

Johnson agreed, saying the budget crisis must be addressed. "If something isn't done, there's not going to be anything for anyone in this room - no Social Security, no Medicare, nothing.

Cutting the budget must also include defense, Johnson said after Jerry Trombley, of Hoopeston, asked why the

See QUESTIONS on other side

## Art open house set Saturday for recent Eastern graduate



ELLSWORTH

An art open house will be held from 1-4 p.m. Saturday for friends and family of Alice Ellsworth, a graduate of Eastern Illinois University.

The event will be held at the Wellington Park Shelter on Second North St.

Ellsworth is a graduate of Hoopeston Area High School.

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## Community Kids Safety Day

Saturday, June 11  
10 a.m.-Noon

**Presentations by:**  
**Chad Thomas with HEMA**  
**Hoopeston Fire Department**  
**Hoopeston Ambulance Service**  
**Ameren CIPS, CSX Railroad**  
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## Questions continued from other side

Department of Defense outsources so many services, such as food service.

Darrell and Kim Cambron, of rural Rankin, questioned Johnson about federal subsidies for wind and other renewable energy.

Johnson said alternative energy companies get tax breaks but no upfront subsidies.

Robert Geddes, Lovejoy Township Road Commissioner, asked about reports that, based on urging from the Soybean Association, the Department of Transportation will up road limits from 80,000 lbs. Johnson said increased limits would apply only to federal roads but Geddes said the current limit was initially only to apply to federal roads.

In related questions, Johnson was asked about measures that would require farmers' pickup trucks to display DOT numbers. Johnson said that requirement, as well as mandating commercial drivers licenses and for farmers, is being discussed. "We're trying to stop it," said Johnson, member of the Agriculture Committee. "It's government bureaucracy run amok."

Johnson is also trying to "pull in the in horns" of the federal Environmental Protection Agency. "If it keeps doing what it's doing, it's going to hurt the American farmer."

Johnson had no comment about questions about chemtrails in the sky. Bill McNeely, of Armstrong, said chemtrails remain visible longer than contrails left by airplanes. "If this was a good thing, wouldn't they tell us about it," McNeely asked.

Johnson said he would have his staff research the question.

## Police News

A **56-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 4:15 p.m. Sunday that someone took a CD player from his truck in the 300 block of West Penn.

**Douglas G. Land**, 49, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 6:28 p.m. Sunday in the 600 block of West Penn. He was charged with intoxicated pedestrian on public highway and was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Circuit Court.

**James Pascoe**, 65, of Hoopeston, was arrested after an incident at 7:53 p.m. Monday in the 400 block of East Penn. He was charged with aggravated domestic battery and was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

## Briefly

### Calendar winner

Dan Allison was the Hoopeston Area Music Booster calendar drawing winner for June 3.

### Keep It Clean

Keep It Clean volunteer group is boosting its schedule to twice weekly. The group will meet at 5 p.m. Wednesday at Second Ave. and Main and 9 a.m. Saturday at North Market and East Penn.

## Weather

Sunny, hot. High 96 with heat index of 100. Tonight, chance of thunderstorms. Low 72. Tomorrow, chance of storms. High 87, low 62.

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



U.S. Rep. Tim Johnson, left, discusses issues Monday with Jerry Trombley of Hoopeston.

## Court Dispositions

### May 5

**Bobbie Pearson**, Hoopeston, new status hearing June 2.  
**Jeffrey Coss**, Hoopeston, new status hearing June 2.  
**David T. Cannon**, Hoopeston, new status hearing June 2.

**Brandi Warner**, Hoopeston, new status hearing June 2.  
**Kathleen Robbins**, Rankin, new status hearing June 2.  
**Ashley Simpson**, Hoopeston, new status hearing June 2.  
**Steven Akins**, Danville, new status hearing June 2.  
**Chase Miles**, Hoopeston, new status hearing June 2.

## Classifieds

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