



Helpers Brenda Judy, Carolyn Eyrich, Valarie Paulson, Betty Richards and Marilyn Unger pose with Santa after his visit with local children.

Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce would like to thank everyone involved in making Santa's visit to town a success. A special thank you to Family Health Care of Hoopeston, Gibson Hospital for their \$500 donation, Cell One and staff for all of their help with the events, Cafe Delights for cookies, Pamida for candy canes & cups, Ashley Lewis of Adalay Photography, Hoopeston Methodist Church, Santa, all his helpers and all those who donated to the Holiday Punch Card and silent auction wreaths. Thank you, too, to WHPO, the Chronicle and Just the Facts for their help.

The Chamber is always looking for new business owners to join, share ideas and bring new, exciting things to our community. Call Valarie Paulson, (217) 283-6260; Tom Bookwalter, (217) 979-1318; or Brenda Judy, (217) 497-4143.

Email:

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Tom Bennett, right, Republican candidate for the 106th district, discusses issues with residents at a coffee event Saturday at Fast Lanes.

Candidate pitches conservative views with local voters

A hopeful for the 106th congressional seat made his pitch to a handful of voters Saturday.

Tom Bennett, of Gibson City, talked with about a dozen people at Fast Lanes. He is one of five Republican candidates running in the March 20 primary to represent the newly-formed district.

The 55-year-old was born and raised on a small family farm near Gibson City. He has worked for State Farm in Bloomington for 26 years and is currently an information technology manager. He is a former high school

teacher in the Melvin-Sibley district, a former school board member, and is currently a trustee on the Parkland Community College board.

Bennett believes his background makes him a well-rounded candidate for the office. "My background in education, agriculture, those are important pieces.

As for why he's running, "I'm tired of what I see in Springfield," he said, adding "I can sit and complain about it or I can try to do something."

See CANDIDATE on other side

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Police News

Police are investigating a hit-and-run accident what occurred Friday in the 400 block of North Ninth Avenue. An unknown vehicle hit a parked 2001 Ford station wagon owned by Lillian Burton, of Hoopeston.

Candidate continued from other side

Bennett called himself "conservative in a variety of ways," saying Illinois must balance its budget, preferably by not raising taxes. After recent deals with CME and Sears to cut the 67 percent tax increase approved last year, "you know others are going to be lining up," he said. "That tells me (the tax rate) is too high."

Bennett said cuts must be made. The areas that get the most money are education, social services, such as Medicaid, and prisons.

Bennett talked about being in a gas station and watching a customer pay for doughnuts and candy bars with a LINK card, while talking on cell phone and wondered about the types of food that should be eligible on the program and whether cell phones are a "right."

He is also concerned about state pensions, which should be able to stand alone, he said.

A proponent of the Second Amendment, Bennett said he favors concealed carry. "There's nothing wrong with guns," he said. "It's party of life." Asked his opinion on the need for FOID cards, Bennett said mandated background checks should be sufficient. "Those work," he said.

Asked about issues, Bennett readily gave his thoughts. A question about casinos brought the answer, "I don't like them" because while they bring jobs and business, they have social costs. Asked about mandatory drug testing for welfare recipients, "let me ask you, is there a down side to this," he asked.

Asked about vouchers that could be used for private schools, Bennett said he would favor those. A question about another education-related issue - banning collective bargaining for teachers and other public employees - Bennett said "we'd have to talk about that. I don't like knee-jerk reactions."

Bennett's family is supportive of his run, although his 89-year-old mother "says I'm crazy," he said, laughing.

More information on Bennett is available at his website, thomasmrbennett.org.

Rory R. Kempen, 25, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 8:15 p.m. Friday in the 700 block of West Main. Wanted on an Iroquois County felony warrant for failure to appear/aggravated battery great bodily harm, he was taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville.

Byron Hedgecock, 82, of Hoopeston, was ticketed after an accident at 10:15 a.m. Sunday at Euclid and Main. Police said Hedgecock, in a 2007 Chrysler, was ticketed for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident after striking a 2006 Pontiac driven by Ashley Castillo, also of Hoopeston.

Hedgecock was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County Circuit Court.

A 62-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 1:50 p.m.

Obituaries

SOLIS - Maurilio "Shorty" Solis, 88, of Hoopeston, died at 3:54 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Nursing Home. Memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Brown-Alkire Funeral Home, Hoopeston. Burial will be in Floral Hill Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home with Rosary at 7:30 p.m.

Letters to the Editor

Lions Club appreciate donations

The Hoopeston Lions Club would like to thank all of the organizations, churches and individuals who donated cash or food to assist with the Christmas Food Baskets that we distributed.

A special thank you to Hoopeston Regional Health Center for the hams that were donated to put into each basket. Your generosity allowed us to provide assistance to many needy families. It is great to live in a community that cares.

Hoopeston Lions Club

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 26. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 23. Tomorrow mostly sunny. High 37, low 26.

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

Celeste Norteña Baile De Invierno

American Legion

502 E. Penn, Hoopeston

8-12 p.m.

\$10 Entrada (Niños Gratis)

SABADO
14 De
ENERO

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117 E. Attica St. (on alley)

Rossville IL

(217) 772-1440

Open: Tues., Wed., Thurs. Fri.

7 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sat. 7 a.m.-noon



New chiropractic office, in the Hoopeston area, is seeking team oriented, multi-tasking, energetic and dependable assistant. Computer experience a must along with customer service, and phone skills. Position involves assisting with therapy, x-rays, and patient care. Previous experience with insurance/collections desirable but not necessary. Attention to detail and a positive attitude are essential. Send resume to: Office Manager, 7 Boiling Springs Rd., Danville, IL 61832

Classifieds

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