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Just the Facts
 Wednesday, May 6, 2015
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 www.justthefacts.net

VFW Menu
 Orange & 4th Ave., Hoopeston
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Rep. Bennett spends Monday with Hoopeston youth, voters

They were small in number but a group of area residents shared what they consider big problems in the state at a town hall meeting Monday evening.

State Rep. Tom Bennett (R-Gibson City), representing the 106th District, spent most of Monday in Hoopeston, visiting government classes at Hoopeston Area High School and lunching with civic leaders before meeting with a handful of citizens at Hoopeston City Hall.

Bennett started out by talking about the 106th District, which, he said, has 108,000 people living in it. He transitioned to the state of the state, saying that 12 years of one-party leadership has left Illinois with a \$6 billion deficit. The hike in the income tax rate passed under former Gov. Pat Quinn, which was supposed to remedy the deficit, instead was used for new programs, pension payments and...well...leaders aren't sure what. "Even today, we're not sure where it all went," Bennett said.

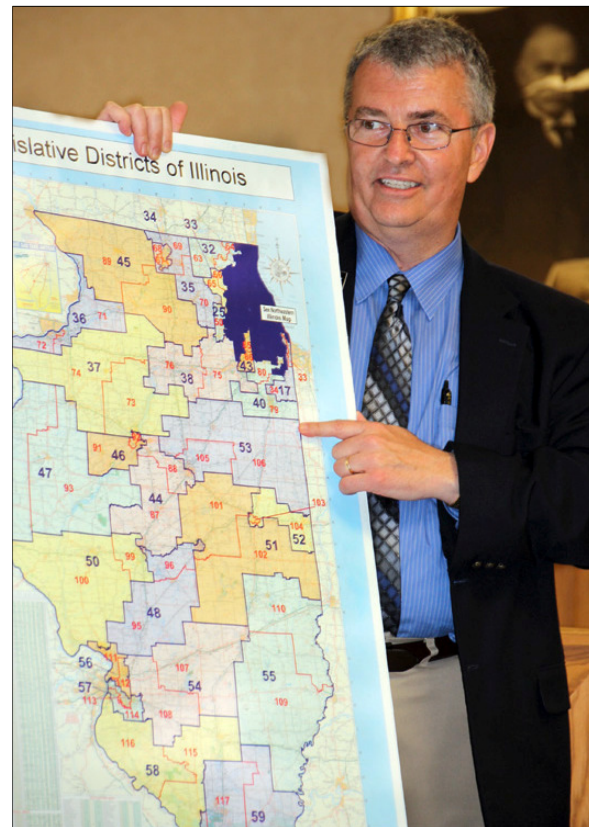
New Gov. Bruce Rauner got a thumbs up from Bennett, who praised his business perspective, which, he hopes, will help solve Illinois' problems and entice business growth in the state, and for his willingness to tackle tough issues. "You've got to applaud (Rauner) for trying to fix things," he said.

The state spends \$1 billion every 11 plus days, Bennett said. To bring that number into perspective for government students, they learned that 1 billion seconds ago was 31.7 years ago, or 1983, long before the students were born.

Along with too much spending, Illinois faces other problems. One is people fleeing the state. Last year, he said, more people moved out of Illinois than were born in the state.

Businesses, too, are moving - or closing their doors - due to the cost of doing business here.

Bennett is hopeful that Illinois can be righted. Changes





State Rep. Tom Bennett (R-Gibson City) points to his 106th legislative district on a map Monday at Hoopeston City Hall during a town hall meeting.

may encourage more business growth, which will, in turn, provide more tax dollars to spend on schools, roads and state programs.

See BENNETT on other side

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Mothers, Graduation, and Veterans

By BERTHA PARSONS

May is always such a busy time for everyone, with Mother's Day, Graduation and Memorial Day. All very important event's in one's life.

Every child's journey starts with a Mother, with lots of others in between to help a child reach graduation. No matter who you are your life touches others and can make a positive difference to each one you touch.

The bond between a Mother and child is indescribable, indestructible and irreversible. Yes, there are times when being a Mother is very hard and as Mothers we can get upset. But then our love outshines the upset and we are thankful to be a Mother.

Some of us whose Mother has left this world, we live with memories and pictures. Those of you who have a Mother living, what a joy! Make every moment count.

Graduation is a tremendously exciting time for the graduate, family and friends. As you may have guessed by my three adult children, I graduated from high school a "few" years ago. It was a wonderful, fun time for me.

Graduation begins a new chapter in the book of one's life. The spectacular thing is that only the graduate has control of what happens in his or her life. Wow!

Now is a perfect time to add Memorial Day (May 25) to our visit. A time to remember our Veterans, all the men and women who have given their lives and those still serving to protect our country and its values. Let's not forget because of these brave Veterans, we are free to write what we want, read what we want, have coffee & visit when we want.

Mothers give their children love, cookies and guidance then send them out to the world of school, where they learn more than Mother ever expected and they are on their way to graduation. By now they know everything and are ready to tackle the world head-on. Some join the military to become a new generation of Veterans.

Mothers, Graduation, Veterans, they are all wonderful opportunities to celebrate in May. Let's Party!

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Bennett

Gary Weinard, former Vermilion County Board chairman, outlined some issues facing the area, including the need for equitable school funding in the face of decreased assessed valuation; the need for state regulation for wind farms, especially allowable noise, that would apply to counties, like Vermilion, that don't have county-wide zoning laws; and truth from politicians; truth from politicians, unlike Speaker Michael Madigan's projected revenue for budgets that "didn't matter if it was achieved or achievable."

Russell Burge, a veteran and 40-year employee at now-Silgan Containers, told Bennett that his veterans identification card is not accepted at many places because it does not have his photo. Also, although he served for four years in the military, Burge said he worked and "made too much money" to qualify for VA care.

Those concerns were referred to a representative of U.S. Rep. John Shimkus, who attended the meeting.

Burge also questioned Illinois gun laws, especially concealed carry and the need for a Firearms Owner ID card. "I fought for that Second Amendment," he said. He compared Illinois, where a FOID card is required to purchase ammunition, with Indiana where "you can buy it over the counter, like a Snickers bar."

Bennett said he understood Burge's frustration with that issue, saying one of the first things he did was introduce legislation to get rid of the Illinois FOID. That simple idea blossomed into 242 pages of a potential piece of legislation still sitting in the Rules Committee. No gun legislation is currently moving forward, he said, except a bobcat bill that would allow bobcats to be hunted in counties where they are a problem.

Asked about fraud in programs like welfare and Medicaid, Bennett said he has been told by state departments that the problem is a federal one, while federal representatives say they are state problems. Armed with questions and criticisms of the programs, Bennett said he's going to talk with state officials again and get to the bottom of who is responsible and what can be done.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 83. Tonight, mostly clear. Low 60. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 84, low 64.

From the Blotter

A **35-year-old** Hoopeston man reported at 1:35 a.m. Monday that someone stole a vehicle from Silgan Containers, 324 W. Main. Police are investigating.

A **37-year-old** Hoopeston woman reported at 9:48 a.m. Monday that someone took several items from her garage in the 700 block of South Fourth St.

Obituaries

BELL - William Bell, 54, of Covington, Ind., formerly of Rossville, died at 11:12 a.m. Monday, May 4, 2015, at home. Arrangements are pending at Anderson Funeral Home, Hoopeston.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Honeywell Apartments: 2 BR, includes water, heat, pest control, off street parking (815) 984-4513

HELP WANTED

Hoopeston Memory Lane Preschool seeks a teacher/director qualified candidate for the fall 2015-16 school year. Must have associate's degree and experience in childcare. Please call (217) 504-1335.

The City of Hoopeston is taking applications for part time summer employee for the Street/Alley Dept. A CDL license is a plus but not required. Applications may be picked up at City Hall. The last day for applications is May 8, 2015.

HOUSES FOR SALE

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RUMMAGE SALES

HENNING: 330 S. Main. Fri., 8-3, Sat., 8-12. Moving sale—Craftsman tools, cement tools, vintage Snoopy phone/lamp, new kayak, Matco tool chest, GI Joe figures & toy vehicles, etc., big TV, chair, dining room table & 4 chairs, table saw, gun cabinet, Snapper push mower, Doc Savage paperbacks.

HOPESTON: 705 S. fifth St. Fri., 8-4, Sat., 8-1. Something for everyone!

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