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By
BERTHA PARSONS

Just a Minute

Have you ever said, "I'll be with you in just a minute," or "It's only going to take a minute?" Well, I've said that a time or two! A minute, only 60 seconds, sure seems like no time at all, and what difference can it make?

Let's start with the race you lose first place by 60 seconds. Or you need to catch a flight and are just a minute late as the gate closes. While driving, you're distracted a fraction of a minute and it costs your life. Are you still wondering, why on earth is a minute so important in my life? Every minute makes up years of your life. How awesome is that!

Last week, my life encountered a lot of change. No matter how organized we try to be, something unexpected written in an e-mail (took a minute), a card with a sweet note, (took a minute), a call from a dear friend just to say hello. (took a minute). You and I rely on those minutes to get by each day. Really, what would we do without them? Having friends who have been with you and for you in all the minutes can change your life. It has mine.

It's never easy being alone and for those of you who are, the minutes of your day seem to go slowly by. You can be a difference by calling a friend, dropping in next door to say hello.

Write a note to your grandchildren. You guessed it, takes just a minute.

Our lives are full of change, decisions, laughter, bills, illness and joy. Just a minute, where is the joy in all this life of ours? My mother would say, "Don't count on anyone for your joy and happiness."

Joy can come from the smallest moment or gift. It can be seeing a child take its first step, maybe that phone call that says all the tests were negative. Perhaps a small bouquet of flowers from a friend to brighten your day, a hug from your hubby first thing in the morning. Joy takes just a minute and it is everywhere you are. Joy doesn't care who you are, where you live, how old or young you are, your job or title. Joy just wants to live in you. It is just a minute away from making your day great!

Mother was right, don't count on your spouse or significant other, your kids, your friends or neighbors to give you joy. Only you can reach inside and bring joy out to live with you.

Sharing my minutes with you is such a joy to me. A real blessing!

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Bennett updates on bills that passed and those that did not

By TOM BENNETT

State Representative 106th District

April 29 was the deadline for House bills to advance out of committees to the House floor. Any bill that did not make it out of committee by then is considered dead for the year and will have to start over next January.

As the House began passing bills over to the Senate, we saw some good pieces of legislation continue to advance through the process. [House Bill 2133](#) extends protections for children from online predators to cover cloud-based networks as well. I co-sponsored [House Bill 2177](#), which allows high schools to give

posthumous diplomas to students who went into the military before graduating high school and were killed in the service of our nation.

That bill was inspired by the superintendent of a school district in western Illinois who wanted to award posthumous diplomas to three servicemen from that community who lost their lives in Vietnam after leaving school early to serve in the military.

One of the timeliest bills to advance out of committee was [House Bill 2417](#), which enhances penalties for violating "Scott's Law," the state law which requires drivers to change lanes and give room to state troopers and other first responders who are stopped along a roadside.

This legislation comes at a time when the Illinois State Police have had 16 of their vehicles struck on Illinois roadways in just the first three months of this year. Three troopers have been killed in these accidents, including two last week. Regardless of whether this bill passes or not, drivers on Illinois roadways must always remember to slow down and move over for emergency vehicles.

Some bills which did not advance before the deadline

I am relieved to report that several bills which I opposed did not make it out of House committees before the deadline.

Two abortion bills, [House Bills 2467](#) and [2495](#), did not make it to the House floor before the deadline. These bills would repeal the law requiring parents to be notified before their underage daughter may receive an abortion, and would prohibit doctors from refusing to perform abortions in violation of their conscience.

While these bills; and a similar Senate proposal ([Senate Bill 1942](#)); appear stopped for now, there is a bill still active in the Senate ([Senate Bill 1594](#)) which would repeal the parental notice law. It looks like we

See BILLS on other side

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Bills continued from other side

have not heard the last of this effort.

Some anti-Second Amendment bills also failed to move forward in the House. These include [House Bill 2331](#), which would have added an extra tax of 3.75% on firearms and firearm parts. Another anti-Second Amendment bill which did not advance was [House](#)

From the Blotter

Zackery J. Gaffney, 25, of Rankin, turned himself in to police at 12:13 p.m. Monday. Wanted on a Ford County warrant for failure to appear/possession of paraphernalia, he was released on bond with a new Ford County court date.

Terry Williams, 29, of Hoopeston, was arrested after his vehicle was stopped at 11:28 p.m. Monday for a traffic violation. He was charged with driving while license suspended and was released on a notice to appear in Vermilion County traffic court.

Court Dispositions

March 12

Elbert Cannon, Hoopeston, status check April 4 in two cases.

Melissa Kinnaird, Hoopeston, status check April 4.

Linda Drollinger, Hoopeston, status check April 4.

William Wilkerson, Hoopeston, status check April 4.

Rebecca Burton, Hoopeston, case turned over to state for further enforcement.

Sabrina Allen, Hoopeston, failed to appear, found guilty of general nuisance, fined \$180; status check April 4.

John Seiters, Hoopeston, pleaded not guilty, trial April 4.

Haley M. Edwards, Hoopeston, failed to appear, found guilty of unlawful acts constituting disorderly conduct, fined \$280; status check April 4.

Holly R. Irvin, Hoopeston, failed to appear, found guilty of restraint of dogs by owner/keeper, fined \$180; status check April 4.

Weather

Chance of showers, breezy today. High 55. Tonight, cloudy, breezy. Low 47. Tomorrow, breezy, cloudy, chance of thunderstorms. High 71, low 43.

[Bill 888](#), which would have required every applicant for a FOID card to turn over all their social media information so that it could be reviewed by authorities

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The City of Hoopeston is now accepting applications for Seasonal Employees for several of our departments. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W Main St. Hoopeston.

Small Wonders Preschool is seeking applications for its Preschool Director/Teacher position for the 2019-20 school year. Please send cover letter and resume to First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 297, Hoopeston, by April 10. Our program is a half-day program M-F during the school year for 3- and 4-year-old children. Candidates must be Director qualified by DCFS standards which can include sixty credit hours of college with eighteen hours in courses related directly to child development from birth to age six.

Crosspoint Human Services, of Danville, is currently recruiting for several human services positions. Positions include School based Mental Health Therapists, Residential Technicians and Day Training Technicians. Visit our website at www.crosspointhumanservices.org.

Our growing chiropractic office is looking for an ambitious person for the position of Practice Representative who can help

us continue to grow. Experience not necessary for the right person if they are self-motivated, have a good attitude and professionalism. Must be willing and able to learn and pay attention to detail. Excellent oral communication, customer service and presentation skills a must. Applicants must have a valid driver's license, and transportation with insurance. This is a marketing/sales type position. Interviews will begin immediately. Send resume to Box F, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942

Looking for a fulfilling job in the natural health care field? Busy chiropractic office needs a team oriented, multi-tasking person. Candidate will be trained to assist with patient care. Customer service and phone skills a must. This is a part time position with strong potential to be full-time. Send resume to Box G, Just the Facts, P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston IL 60942.

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