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Rep. Tom Bennett announces census forms are coming soon

In an email to constituents, Rep. Tom Bennett (R-Gibson City) announced that 2020 census forms will be arriving over the next few weeks.

"It is critical for our communities and our region that every single resident be counted by the census," he said.

Bennett explained that every year, residents of the 106th district pay millions of dollars to Springfield and Washington in taxes. Those taxes go into hundreds of state and federal programs for everything from public schools to transportation to police protection and much more. When the policymakers in Springfield and Washington decide where to send those funds, one of the first statistics they look at is the census.

For example, he said, if a small town requests a grant to put in a new water and sewer system, the agency will consider the town's population when deciding how much funding to approve. "If only half the town's residents were counted in the census, the agency might approve half of the necessary funding for the project, even though everyone in town paid their taxes," he said. "In other words, the town and its residents would not get their fair share of funding because the population count was inaccurate."

In a state like Illinois, census officials estimate that the 106th district would miss out on \$1,400 in federal funding. See CENSUS on other side

Disaster proclamation to allow increased COVID-19 resources

Building on the state's robust and coordinated response to COVID-19, Governor JB Pritzker issued a disaster proclamation Monday to unlock additional federal resources and help the state prepare for the potential of further spread. Issuing a disaster proclamation is the method of declaring a state of emergency in the state of Illinois, which 13 states across the United States have entered into.

"As we've said from the beginning, the state of Illinois will use every tool at our disposal to respond to this virus, and this is the next step in that commitment," said Pritzker. "We stand ready to put the full weight of state government in preparation for a full-fledged response when needed and will continue to update the public regularly, responsibly and honestly as the situation evolves."

The proclamation formalizes emergency procedures already underway across state government by activating the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), physically bringing together decision-makers from every state agency and the state's mutual aid network to deploy resources as necessary during this public health threat.

State and local partners benefit from a disaster proclamation. See PROCLAMATION on other side


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Administrators
 Hoopeston Area is top-heavy with administrators. At 119:1, it is far below the state average of 172:1.* The average administrator salary is \$75,010. Danville and Hoopeston - which have the highest poverty rates in Vermillion County - each gave administrators a 4% raise this year.

Teachers
 Hoopeston Area is also under the state average when it comes to class size of 17, compared to 20 statewide.* That results in more teachers and higher pension costs.

Keep YOUR money!
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Proclamation continued from other side

mation in the following ways:

- Allows federal reimbursement for state response costs
- Allows use of State Disaster Relief Fund, covering direct state costs and reimbursements to Illinois National Guard and mutual aid groups
- Allows use of the state's mutual aid network, groups of public safety response professionals, that are available to deploy to areas of shortage
- Authorizes the governor to activate Illinois National Guard reservists, some of whom may be doctors and nurses
- Allows expedited procurement should it be necessary
- Authorizes additional executive authorities to protect public health and safety

Since January, the Illinois Department of Public Health and Illinois Emergency Management Agency have worked with local counterparts across the state to prepare for additional cases as expected.

IDPH is currently operating three testing labs statewide – in Chicago, Springfield and Carbondale. These state

Obituaries

WOOD—Bonnie K. Wood, 73, of Watseka, died Monday, March 9, 2020, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until the 11 a.m. funeral Thursday at First United Methodist Church, Watseka. Burial will follow in Floral Hill Cemetery, Hoopeston. Memorials are suggested to the church or American Diabetes Association. Among her survivors, is a sister, Betty Shaffer, of Hoopeston.

Census continued from other side

ing per year for every uncounted person.

“Be sure to complete and return your census form, and make sure your neighbors do as well,” Bennett said. “A full and accurate count is essential.”

Once forms arrive, residents with questions may call the Census Bureau Customer Service Center at 1-800-923-8282.

Constituents who would like to receive Bennett's weekly email updates may go to repubennett.com and click on the “Email Updates” tab.

Weather

Showers likely today, tonight. High 62, low 34. Tomorrow, sunny. High 48, low 33.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

labs meet current need, and commercial testing expansion is anticipated this week.

In addition, a sample of patients who present with flu-like symptoms are being tested at 15 hospitals statewide: seven in Cook County, three in other areas of northern Illinois, three in central Illinois and two in southern Illinois.

Major insurance companies and Medicaid and Medicare are also covering testing costs.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, public health officials urge the general public to take the same precautions as during flu season — with renewed vigilance:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Large 3 BR ground level, washer dryer room, \$575/mo.; 2 BR downstairs, washer/dryer hookup, \$450/mo.; 1 BR ground level, \$400/mo. Call (217) 304-1103.

HELP WANTED

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for seasonal workers. Applications may be picked up at City Hall, 301 W Main St.

City of Hoopeston Swimming Pool is accepting applications for lifeguards and assistant manager for the 2020 season. Applications are available at City Hall, 301 W. Main St. 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon-Fri.

Robinson Chiropractic, a thriving and expanding chiropractic clinic, is looking for team oriented, multi-tasking, detail-oriented people. Candidates will be trained to assist with patient care. Customer service and phone skills a must. Candidates must be enthusiastic, outgoing, positive, great with people and have an interest in natural health and wellness and be flexible as we continue to thrive and grow in offices. Send resumes to trina.keller@robchiro.com.

United Prairie-Hoopeston has opening this Spring for the following: CDL Drivers and Non-CDL. Please pick up applications at 18978 E 3850 North Rd, Hoopeston, IL 60942. For more information, please call the office, 217-888-0164 or Jordan Reese, manager, 217-918-2876.

We are currently hiring for our Verizon location next to McDonald's in Hoopeston! Are you interested in pursuing a career in sales where you can earn a base plus commission? Then this position might just be for you! If you like sales, love technology and have a competitive spirit you may have what it takes to join our amazing team! You'll use your knowledge and passion for

- Clean often touched surfaces frequently
- Maintain social distance (3 feet) between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing
- Avoid visiting long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes, especially if you're sick
- Stay home if you do not feel well
- Plan a safe visit to the doctor if you experience any symptoms

Vulnerable populations – including people 60 years and older or those with certain health conditions like heart disease, lung disease, and weakened immune systems – are recommended to avoid large gatherings.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has a statewide COVID-19 hotline and website to answer any questions from the public or to report a suspected case: call 1-800-889-3931 or visit IDPH.illinois.gov.

technology to deliver an effortless customer experience while pursuing challenging and rewarding goals! This role comes with an hourly base and commission package as well as awesome benefits. Please email your resume to seth.wilson@alstiremart.com or stop by our store for more details.

Aquality Solutions is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1st Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL, is offering many job opportunities for full-time and part-time positions. We offer full-time positions with a full benefit package. 1st and 2nd shifts are available.

Full-Fill Industries also offers a unique opportunity to choose the schedule that fits your lifestyle. You may choose to work 1, 2, or 3 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and you can pick your shift. Machine Operators are needed for 1st & 2nd shift.

We are now offering a part-time flexible work schedule for Moms & Dads who want to earn some extra cash during school hours. We are now offering an 8:00 am - 4:30 pm schedule to fit the needs of your family while your children are in school.

If you are interested in applying for a growing company, please apply on-line at www.full-fill.com go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

RUMMAGE SALES

HOOPESTON: 329 W. Main (C&D Outdoor Improvements shop). Fri. & Sat., 8-3. Collector farm toys, all scales; model trains, all scales; toys, several shop tools and wrenches, lawn care items F 250 01 tailgate, shop lights, household items, misc. Inside a heated building. Rain, shine or snow!