



### **By Russ Pankonin**

*The Imperial Republican*

Legislative candidate Dan Hughes of Venango hit the campaign trail hard last week. He appeared in three different parades and held a fundraiser in Imperial Saturday night.

More than 50 area supporters of Hughes attended the event. A similar event is planned in Grant this Saturday.

Even though he can't officially file as a candidate for the 44th Legislative District until Dec. 1, Hughes has been addressing issues important to the 44th District.

Water obviously plays a huge role in the success of the 44th District, he said during the fundraiser.

He said property taxes continue to be a concern. Many feel property taxes are too high.

A big share of the local property taxes goes to paying for education. State aid for schools continues to be a challenge in the state.

As valuations in rural areas increase, the needs-based formula returns less state aid to many rural school districts in the state.

**Laying the Foundation**

Hughes said his experience on the Nebraska Wheat Growers board, and then the U.S. Wheat Associates, represent just a few of the roles he's played to lay the foundation for becoming a state senator.

Serving on the board of U.S. Wheat Associates and ascending to role of chairman has allowed him to travel the world and bring that perspective back to Southwest Nebraska, he said.

Other areas of service he cited included serving on the Nebraska Ethanol Board, serving as a committeeman for the Chase County Farm Services and 12 years on the Grant/Perkins County School board of education.

As a school board member, he said he worked to provide the best education with the most effective use of dollars and personnel.

