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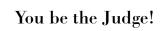




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MAPPING program's Economic Pros-

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MAPPING group develops high-priority goals for city

Two main goals have been established by a Hoopeston group examining the community's overall health.

Becoming a community that builds bridges across its issues and strengthening economic growth and prosperity are the high priority goals developed during MAPPING the Healthcare of the Community.

The MAPPING program, sponsored by the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University, brought local people together over the last several months to look not only at traditional healthcare issues, but also the community's economic, social and environmental health.

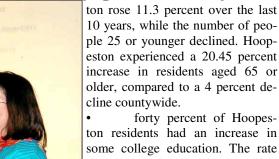
Nearly 40 people, representing various Hoopeston organizations, met Tuesday to learn the results of the program.

looked at where the community is now and where it may want to be perity Team at Tuesday's MAPPING in five, 10 and 20 years, said Char-

lene Drawdy, Hoopeston Regional Health Center director of development and marketing, who oversaw the MAPPING program.

Drawdy presented statistics on Hoopeston, including:

- while Vermilion County population declined by 4.9 percent in the last census, Hoopeston's increased by 1.6 percent.
- the number of 45-65-year-olds in Hoopes-



- ton residents had an increase in some college education. The rate was only 18.6 percent in Vermilion County. More than 33 percent of residents were working for an associate's degree compared with 13.4 percent in the county; however there was a 20 percent decrease in the number of bachelor's degrees received, compared with a 13.2 percent increase in the county.
- Hoopeston's median income rose 43.5 percent in ten years, to \$31,947, a bigger increase but still below the county's median The MAPPING group Jean Minick discusses findings of the income of \$34,071. The number of people earning \$50-78,000 increased by 56.9 percent.
 - the number of people living in poverty decreased 5.8 percent but 50 percent of Hoopeston students receive free or reduced price lunches. Among senior citizens, 12 percent are at the poverty level.

The statistics provide an indicator for the group to focus on, Drawdy said. "Our senior population has grown significantly," she said. "We have to ask ourselves if we're meeting their needs. We also see that our young people are going to college and

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	48			16

aren't coming back because of a lack of jobs."

See MAPPING on other side

Mapping continued from other side

Hoopeston has a good business base, said Jean Minick, chairman of the MAPPING economic prosperity committee. Hoopeston has 120 businesses and job shops and 35 home based businesses providing services to the community. The group plans to

Solution to yesterday's puzzle

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		47 E	G	0				⁴⁸ E	N	D		

survey those businesses to determine their wants and needs, she said.

While statistics provide information for potential direction, residents must have faith in their community, said Mayor Chalmers Flint. "Believe me, I've worked on faith the last two years," he said. "I have faith something's going to happen on that corner," he said.

Flint would like to see a new motel, restaurant and perhaps a strip mall at the intersection of Rtes. 1 and 9. That, he said, would be an impetus to other development. "My guess is if it happens on that corner, it's going to spread through town," he said.

Faith, combined with action, can create great things, said Mary Jane Clark of Western Illinois University. "You need to set Big Hairy Audacious Goals for your town," she said.

Drawdy agreed, and said MAPPING volunteers will be at the forefront of making it happen. "Tell your friends and neighbors," she said. "There's

Weather



Chance of flurries today. High 32. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 18. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of snow late. High 35, low 22.

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