





Karaoke Contest Wednesday, Nov. 22 Warm-ups 9:30-10:30 Contest at 10:30 Judged on audience applause 1st \$100, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25 Pla-Mor Lanes 719 W. Elm, Hoopeston

Ruby Nell's 225 E. Main St., Hoopeston Taco Night Wednesday Generation II 8-12 No cover Closed Thursday



Grand opening

Mayor Bill DeWitt, left, and Ryan Anderson cut a ribbon during Sunday's open house at Anderson Funeral Home in Hoopeston. Anderson purchased the former Hamilton-Orr Funeral Home and will run it as a family venture. Also pictured are Anderson's parents, Dave and Karen Anderson.

VISA

BJ's Pump

Bar & Package Liquor Store

1023 W. Main, Hoopeston







is now open 517½ S. Dixie Hwy., Hoopeston (217) 283-4707 *Shawn Cade, Owner*

Steak Fry

Serving Friday, 5 p.m. Rib eyes, New York Strips, Chicken Wings *Mike Ingram & Kayla Brown 9-1* No cover **BJ's Pump** Bar & Package Liquor Store 1023 W. Main, Hoopeston

Economy continued from other side

requirements, over the last couple of years, Haugen said the average land requested for projects is 150-200 acres. "Companies just don't want other things on top of them," she said.

Hoopeston officials are working to get rights to parcels that might attract businesses, said Dick Read, member of the Vermilion Advantage board of directors and Hoopeston Economic Development Steering Committee. The city is trying to get options on large parcels of property so that if a company is interested, the property can be purchased quickly. "It's all about having your ducks in a row," Read said.

Companies interested in locating in Vermilion County are also looking for bigger buildings, with 275,000 sq. ft. being the average requirement. Companies also want newer buildings while "most of what any community has sitting out there is of a different vintage," she said.

On the whole, Haugen said, Vermilion County's economy is estimated to hold steady or improve slightly. An economic projections survey of companies show 90 percent experienced steady to steady growth conditions this year and 86 percent expect steady to steady growth conditions during the first half of 2007. "We've had the best outlook we've ever seen," Haugen said.

Court Dispositions

Oct. 19

James J. English, Hoopeston, status hearing continued to Nov. 16.

Dennis L. Thomas, Hoopeston, status hearing continued to Dec. 7.



Hoopeston Fire Department was called at 4:12 p.m. Sunday to a kitchen on fire in an apartment at 710 Wyman. The fire was extinguished before firemen arrived.

Police News

A 49-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 8:10 a.m. Monday that someone took a medical pad from his vehicle while it was at Centennial Manor, 426 E. Honeywell. On the downside, there are some problems that Vermilion Advantage is working to overcome. Among them include rising healthcare costs, fuel costs and lack of a qualified work force.

To meet the needs of its members, Vermilion Advantage is working with county schools to promote science and math among students to make them more attractive to employers. While lack of a qualified work force is a national concern, Vermilion Advantage wanted to "try to address it, not just whine about it," Haugen said.

One way to create a qualified work force is through the Engineers for Tomorrow program which pays part of a student's tuition, offers paid internships and guarantees a minimum two-year job with one of the member companies. Officials hope to replicate the program for other sectors, such as physical therapy, accounting and others.

Another Vermilion Advantage program in many county schools is Character Counts, which focuses on character trait. Hoopeston Area grade schools are among those taking part in Character Counts where, in November, students have been learning about citizenship.

Once the area has young professionals, the key is to keep them and to do that, Vermilion Advantage has started the Young Professionals Network for people ages 21-39. The group holds monthly activities, such as golf, cookouts and others, to allow younger professionals to meet and socialize.

Another problem facing the county is what Haugan termed "white flight," where CEOs of Vermilion County companies live elsewhere. Mahomet is a favorite choice for company officials, she said. The problem is company leaders question whether small schools can keep up with their children's needs. Vermilion Advantage is working with corporations to show the need for CEOs to live where they work. "We're trying to recapture that back in the county," she said.

Vermilion Advantage is also trying to increase aware-

Weather

Sunny today. High 51. Tonight, clear. Low 32. Tomorrow, sunny. High 57, low 34.

For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

ness of shopping in the county, using Chamber Dollars, which may be spent anywhere in the county and by labeling products that are produced partly or completely in the county.

More information about Vermilion Advantage is available on its website, www.vermilionadvantage.com.

Classifieds APARTMENTS FOR RENT Rossville: 1-2 bdrs. Riverview Apartments. Completely refurbished, on-site washers & dryers. 1 bdr. \$310/mo., \$310 deposit; 2 bdr., \$360/mo., \$360 deposit. Call (217) 840-3672. Small 1 bedroom furnished upstairs apt. \$320 per mo, heat and water included. No pets, Call (217) 283-9310 Hoopeston: 1 BR, ground level apt. Appliances, water included. \$305/mo. (217) 304-3477 HELP WANTED Pizza King taking applications for lunch hour kitchen help. Apply in person, 111 E. Main, Hoopeston. Daytime part-time help wanted. Dependable, hardworking person able to multi-task. Must be able to work weekends. Applications may be picked up through Nov. 30 at Hoopeston Coin Laundry. HOUSES FOR RENT 2 BR duplex available immediately. \$325, water included. (217) 304-2145 Very large 2 BR townhouse in Rossville. 1300 sq. ft. \$425/mo. trash included. (217) 304-2145 LOST & FOUND Missing Nov. 9, Medium sized orange male cat. Medium length hair. Last seen on North East side of Hoopeston. Reward. Phone 283-6868, leave message if no answer. Found: a pair of glasses at Hoopeston Hospital. Owner may identify and claim at the reception desk. **REAL ESTATE** Marilyn Moore Realty Your Hometown Broker Marilvn Moore Etherton 802 E. Penn St. Hoopeston This classic home has 4-5 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Hardwood floors, Thermopane windows, some stained glass, pocket doors, central vacuum, large floored attic, new detached 2-car garage \$120,000. Call Marilyn for this and other listings, 217-497-7692 Call (217) 283-9348 to place your ad.