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Monday, September 17, 2007
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication
P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942 **www.justthefacts.net**

Leaders across region to discuss changing economic trends

The State of Working Illinois: Challenges and Opportunities community forum will bring together key leaders in East Central Illinois to discuss the significant changes taking place in the regional and state economy. East Central Illinois faces significant economic changes that most of the state and nation are grappling with. These changes include a shrinking manufacturing base, a growing low-wage service sector and a demand for a skilled workforce in critical sectors.

Community leaders will address issues of education and training, job quality and workforce well-being, and will brainstorm around new and innovative ways that local partners can work together in order to ensure that the East Central region has skilled workers, a strong economy and a thriving community in the 21st century.

The Forum, State of Working Illinois: Challenges and Opportunities, is being held at the University of Illinois Extension - Vermilion County, 12190 U.S. Route 150 in Oakwood from 3-5 p.m. and is a collaborative effort between the Vermilion County Workforce Investment Board (VCWIB), the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability and the Illinois Works for the Future Campaign.

In addition to bringing together key leaders in the re-

gion, today's Community Forum will also feature information from The State of Working Illinois report, authored by the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability and Northern Illinois University, which, for the first time in Illinois, tracks economic and workforce trends across regions and throughout the state.

These economic trends are not unique to East Central Illinois. From 1990 to 2005, Illinois lost 24.3% of its manufacturing jobs while three service industries (professional and business services, education and health services, and the leisure and hospitality industry) registered a 37.1percent increase. All three of these high-growth service sector jobs pay less than the jobs being replaced.

The State of Working Illinois: Challenges and Opportunities will discuss issues of education and training, job quality and workforce well-being, and opportunities to work together in new ways in an effort to ensure that the East Central Illinois region has skilled workers, a strong economy and thriving community. The State of Working Illinois: Challenges and Opportunities is made possible by the generous support of the Grand Victoria Foundation.

See TRENDS on other side

BELLY BUSTERS BREAKFAST
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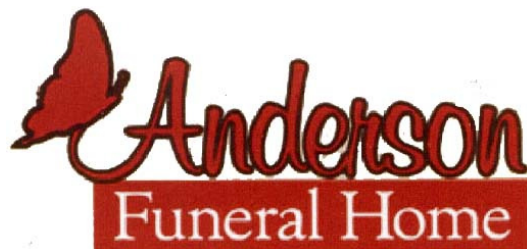

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Trends continued from other side

Confirmed panelists for the event include:

- Ralph Martire, Executive Director, Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
- Peggy Kunze, Walgreen's Accounting
- Mark Combs, Catholic Charities
- Dr. Ed Michaels, Center for Children Services
- Matt Groppi, Days Inn
- Shannon Ruh, Hoopeston Economic Development
- Todd Lee, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunities
- Cheryl Bradfield, Illinois Department of Employment Security
- Vicki Haugen, Vermilion Advantage – Chamber Division

Briefly

Town Hall meeting

The City of Hoopeston will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25 at St. Anthony's Parish Hall. The purpose of this meeting will be to provide a report on the outcomes of the Hoopeston Visioning Process. The four high priority goal areas (infrastructure, housing, business retention and expansion, and downtown revitalization) will be discussed in detail at this meeting. You will have the opportunity to provide input into the visioning process and sign up to be involved on a committee or volunteer for various projects. We hope to see you on Tuesday, September 25th - Your involvement is important to Hoopeston's future growth!

If you have questions or need additional information contact the Economic Development Office at 283-7873.

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- Brian Hensgen, Vermilion County Job Training Partnership
- Kay Smoot, Vermilion Vocational Education Delivery System (VVEDS)

The Vermilion County Workforce Investment Board provides policy, planning and oversight for local workforce development programs and affirmatively responds to locally identified workforce needs and designs a system that meets the needs of the unemployed, underemployed, youth and welfare recipients. VCWIB ensure that individuals are equipped with the skills needed by employers.

The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability is a non-partisan 501(C)(3) non-profit research and advo-

Tiny Tots

Tiny Tots will not be held next week.

Scouting signup

Daisy, Brownie and Girl Scout signup will be held from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18 at the Girl Scout Little House in McFerren Park. This is a great way to meet new friends and have lots of fun. We hope to see you there!

Obituaries

RUDIN - Alvin J. Rudin, 79, of Hoopeston died at 1 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 13 at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital. Funeral service was at 12:30 p.m. Sunday at Apostolic Christian Church, Cissna Park. Burial was in the church cemetery with military graveside rites by Cissna Park American Legion Post. Visitation was 4-8 p.m. Saturday at Knapp Funeral Home, Cissna Park. Memorials are suggested to Hoopeston Area Healthcare Foundation or Carle Development Foundation.,

Weather



Mostly sunny today. High 82. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 59. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 87, low 63.

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

cacy think tank that promotes fair, efficient and progressive tax, spending and economic policies. Illinois Works for the Future is a shared project of the Chicago Jobs Council, the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability and the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. The campaign proposes to leverage state funds and workforce and economic development policy changes to benefit underserved communities and strengthen Illinois' economic competitiveness.

For more information, please contact VCWIB Director Lori Brewster at 217/442-3044 Ext. 222 or Center for Tax and Budget Accountability 312/332-6522.

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