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Lourdine Florek, Owner

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## Project Success, U of I, DCEO, work to provide computers, hotspots to Hoopeston families

Project Success of Vermilion County and Hoopeston Area School District #11 partnered with the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign's Community Data Clinic, the State of Illinois, and PCs for People to expand Internet and technology access for families. Ninety laptops and internet hotspots were distributed to Hoopeston residents.

The partnership was made possible through a grant to the University from the Illinois' Community Data Clinic from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Regional Engagement for Adoption + Digital Equity (READY) program. PCs for People is a national nonprofit organization that recycles donated computers from corporations and nonprofits and then refurbishes those devices for low-income individuals and families.

More than 1.1 million Illinois households lack at-home computer access. Recent reports show more than a third of Illinoisans can't cover a basic survival budget, with an estimated 11.9% of the state's population in 2019 living at or below the poverty line, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. East Central Illinois demonstrates even higher than average need among its 331,000 residents, with four counties – Champaign, Vermilion, Ford and Iroquois – flagged as poverty “watch” or “warning” counties by the Heartland Alliance's Poverty report in 2019. The region's six-county average for poverty was measured by 2019 census data at 12.1%; while two of the six counties - Champaign and Vermilion - demonstrate particularly high poverty rates of 19.9 and 16.8% of the county populations respectively.

“Research has shown how uneven economic recovery in Illinois has been since the end of the Great Recession in 2010, with more than a third of Illinois households not earning enough to cover a basic sur-

vival budget,” said Dr. Anita Say Chan, director of the Community Data Clinic at the University of Illinois. “Following COVID, families continue to face challenges because of low wages, sparse savings and the increasing cost of basic household goods and services, including the internet. We at the University of Illinois and the Community Data Clinic are grateful to be part of committed civic partnerships that can help to address the deep need for economic and digital access support for East Central Illinois families.”

Companies and nonprofits who would like to donate multiple computers to PCs for People for refurbishment for future distributions throughout Illinois should go to the PCs for People website at [www.pcsforpeople.org/illinois](http://www.pcsforpeople.org/illinois) for more information.

“Excited would be an understatement, when I heard about this amazing opportunity to work with the University of Illinois and PC's for People,” said Sadie Hofer, Lead Site Coordinator at Project Success.

**See HOTSPOTS on other side**



Residents gather at McFerren Park Civic Center to take part in a program to provide them with laptop computers and hotspots to expand their internet and technology access.

*Photo contributed*



**Hotspots** continued from other side

“Being from such a close knit community, I knew the need was overwhelming, she added. “Hearing all of the families talk about how they are going to use their laptops for job searching, going back to school, a resource to connect with their students, teachers, reach out to family members, etc. made this event so worth it!”

“Programs like this are why we do what we do,” said Casey Sorensen, CEO at PCs for People. “The lack of access to digital devices and internet impacts almost every aspect of a person’s life, from healthcare to education to employment. We are proud to work with these partners to serve Illinoisans and be part of the solution for better lives for these individuals.”

“PCs for People has been a respected partner for over 20 years in efforts to bridge the digital divide,” said Kevin Poe, Managing Director, PCs for People.

“With the pandemic bringing what we have long recognized even more to light in terms of internet access and technology being absolutely essential to increased education and employment opportunity, PCs for People is proud to partner with other organizations who are excited and proactive in addressing this unfortunate disconnect as well.”



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**From the Blotter**

**On November 3**, Milford Police arrested Dean E. Fisk, 38, of Milford. According to police reports, Fisk was wanted on an Iroquois County warrant for failure to appear on criminal damage to property.

He was taken to the Iroquois County Jail, where he remained in lieu of bond.

**Stefonice T. Moffitt**, 20, of Champaign, was arrested after police received information at 4:15 a.m. Sunday that an unidentified woman was being battered and held against her will in the 1000 block of Savannah Ct.

According to police reports, officers arrived to find the information was correct and arrested Moffitt on preliminary charges of aggravated domestic battery and unlawful restraint. He was taken to the Public

**Weather**

Mostly cloudy, slight chance of rain today. High 59. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 46. Tomorrow, mostly cloudy, chance of rain late. High 60, low 51.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit [justthefacts.net/weather/](http://justthefacts.net/weather/).

Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

**Julie R. Stevens**, 39, of Hoopeston, was arrested at 7:16 p.m. Sunday while walking in the 300 block of West Main. Wanted on a Vermilion County warrant, she was taken to the police station for processing, then taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville by a Vermilion County deputy.

**Court Dispositions**

**October 13**

**Matthew J. Cheesman**, Hoopeston, failed to appear at initial appearance for general nuisance, found guilty by default, fined \$180; status hearing November 10..

**Guadalupe E. Acosta**, Hoopeston, general nuisance case dismissed by hearing officer.

**Amy L. Stephen**, Hoopeston, failed to appear at status hearing for general nuisance, found guilty by default, fined \$280 plus \$100-per-day abatement order still in effect. Status hearing November 10.

**Joseph D. Hart**, Hoopeston, failed to appear at status hearing for general nuisance, found guilty by default, fined \$280; status hearing November 10.

Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce  
Business & Organization

**Christmas Tree  
Decorating Contest**

Saturday, Nov. 20 during the Magical Express  
at McFerren Park Civic Center  
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East Lynn Fertilizer is seeking a full time applicator. Call 217-375-4225 or stop by 41284 S Main St., East Lynn, IL for more details.

Silver Brothers is looking for part-time mixer drivers. Hours will vary. Must have Class B CDL, pass a drug test, be able to climb a ladder, and lift 75 lbs. Pay will be \$20/hour to an experienced driver. Perfect opportunity for a retired person wanting some extra money. Stop by 105 E. Washington, Hoopeston for application.

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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 1<sup>st</sup> St. in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

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