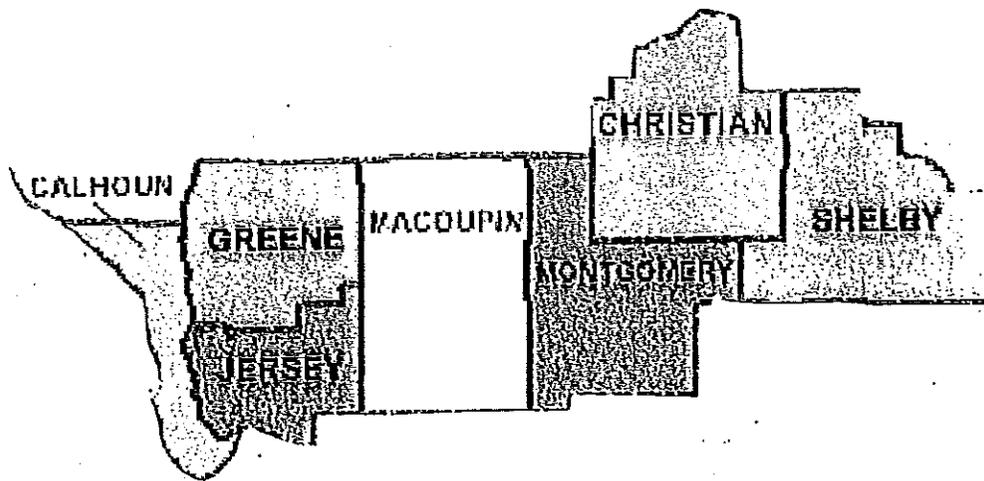


Annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan
Economic Development Administration (EDA)
West Central Development Council, Inc.

August 2008 - September 2009



WCDCDD
West Central Development Council
Development District

116 South Plum Street
Carlinville, Illinois 62626
Phone: 217-854-9642
Fax: 217-854-8082

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

*Strategic Planning for the Economic Development District
Comprised of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and
Shelby Counties*

ANNUAL REPORT

August – 2008 - September 2009

*Developed and Prepared by the
West Central Development Council, Inc.*



Shelby County
Shelbyville, Illinois 62565

WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

WHEREAS, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional council to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the **Shelby County Board** that **Shelby County** hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

SIGNED this 14th day of October, 2009

Shelby County Board Chairman

Seal:

ATTEST: Shelby County Clerk

WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

116 South Plum Street

PO Box 260

Carlinville, IL 62626-0260

Phone: 217/854-9644

FAX: 217/854-4765

Michael Sherer
Executive Director

WCDC
Policy Board

Andrew Manar
Chairman

WCDC
Board of Directors

Darrell Bellm
Chairman

West Central Development Council, Inc.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

Whereas, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities; and

Whereas, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the WCDC Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDs document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee and the Council hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

Signed this 17th day of SEPTEMBER 2009.



WCDC Chairman

ATTEST: *Kenneth Bask*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALHOUN COUNTY
P.O. BOX 187 HARDIN, IL 62047

Ph# 618-576-2351
Fax# 618-576-2895

Wanda Tepen, Chairman
Wm. Jerry McKinnon, Commissioner
Joseph J. Swan, Jr., Commissioner

WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

RESOLUTION

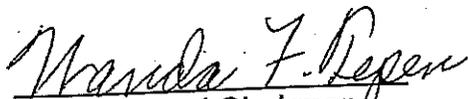
WHEREAS, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

WHEREAS, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism, and other retail economic development activities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Calhoun County Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDS document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee and that the Council hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

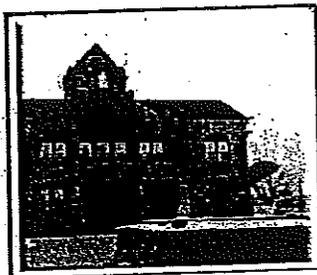
Signed this 17th day of August, 2009.


County Board Chairman

DEBORAH BANGHART

COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER
GREENE COUNTY

519 N. Main St.
Carrollton, Illinois 62016-1033



Greene County
Joe Nord, County Board Chairman
Greene County Courthouse
519 North Main
Carrollton, Illinois 62016

West Central Development Council, Inc.

RESOLUTION

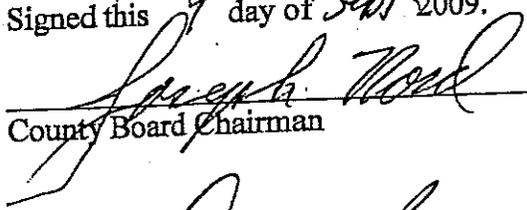
Whereas, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

Whereas; United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities; and

Whereas, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

Now, Therefore, **Be It Resolved** by the Greene County Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDS document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee and that the Council hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

Signed this 9 day of Sept 2009.


County Board Chairman

ATTEST: 

**Christian County
P.O. Box 647
Taylorville, Illinois 62568-0647**

WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

RESOLUTION

R2009 CB 09

WHEREAS, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

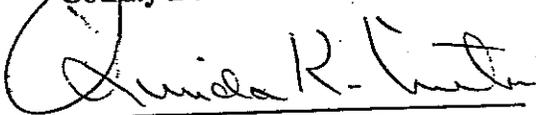
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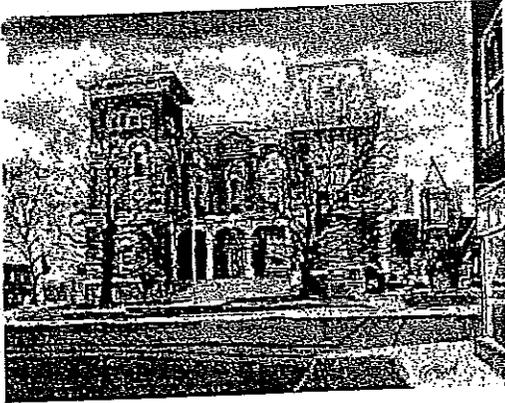
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Christian County Board that Christian County hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

SIGNED this 15th day of September, 2009


County Board Chairman


ATTEST: County Clerk

Seal:



Montgomery County

1 Courthouse Square
Hillsboro, Illinois 62049

WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

RESOLUTION

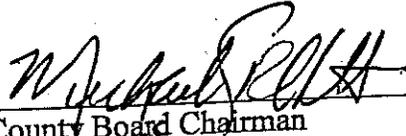
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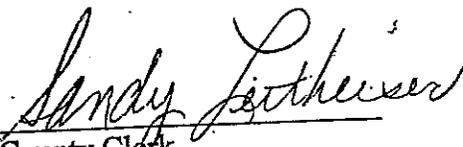
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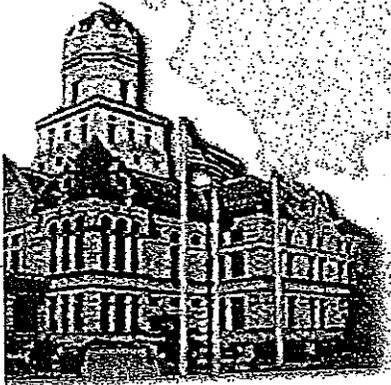
Whereas, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Montgomery County Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDS document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

Signed this 8th day of September, 2009.


County Board Chairman

ATTEST: 
County Clerk



Jersey County Board
200 North Lafayette
Jerseyville, Illinois 62052

RESOLUTION

JERSEY COUNTY BOARD

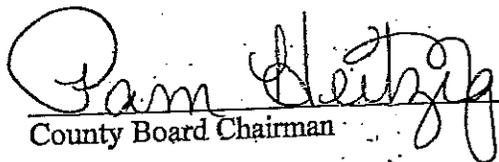
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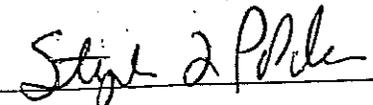
Whereas, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities; and

Whereas, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Jersey County Board that Jersey County hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

Signed this 17th day of August 2009.


County Board Chairman

ATTEST: 

WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

116 South Plum Street

PO Box 260

Carlinville, IL 62626-0260

Phone: 217/854-9644

FAX: 217/854-4765

Michael Sherer
Executive Director

WCDC
Policy Board

Andrew Manar
Chairman

WCDC
Board of Directors

Darrell Bellm
Chairman

West Central Development Council, Inc.

RESOLUTION

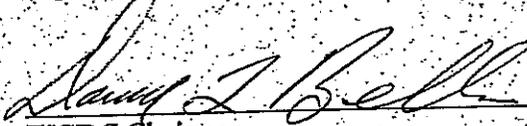
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Whereas, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities; and

Whereas, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional planning commission to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the WCDC Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDs document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee and the Council hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

Signed this 17th day of SEPTEMBER 2009.


WCDC Chairman

ATTEST: *Kenneth Bahr*

WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.**RESOLUTION**

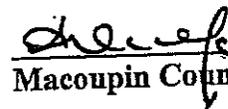
WHEREAS, the West Central Development Council, consisting of the seven counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery, and Shelby was created for the purpose of comprehensive planning and development assistance and for the benefit of the citizens of the seven counties; and

WHEREAS, United States Economic Development Administration grants are available to multi-county regions to provide long-range planning and development activities to reduce unemployment and promote industrial, agricultural, tourism and other retail Economic Development activities, and

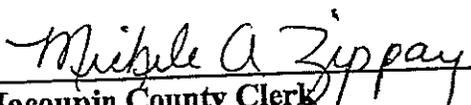
WHEREAS, the Federal Economic Development Administration requires a multi-county regional council to be designated as an Economic Development District prior to an application for federal funds for Economic Development planning grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Macoupin County Board that it has reviewed, discussed and accepted the CEDS Document prepared by the WCDC Strategy Committee and that the Council hereby supports the application of the West Central Development Council for Economic Development comprehensive planning activities.

SIGNED this 8TH day of SEPTEMBER, 2009



Macoupin County Board Chairman



Macoupin County Clerk

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Annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report

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CHAPTER I

District Organization and Administration

INTRODUCTION

The West Central Development Council is composed of the seven Illinois counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery and Shelby. The region is located north and east of St. Louis, Missouri and south of Springfield, Illinois. Beginning in the eastern central portion of the State, the region extends westward across the prairie to the rugged hill country and rich river valleys of the Illinois and Mississippi in the westward boundary of the State.

The Region covers 4,201.3 square miles of land and water surface with a population of 179,449, as of the 2000 census. There are 14 municipalities with a population greater than 2,500, with Taylorville, in Christian County being the largest with 12,595 people. Macoupin County is the most populous county in the region with a population of 49,109 and the least populated is Calhoun County with 5,084 inhabitants. All seven counties are identified as redevelopment areas in the region according to designation by Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Regional population peaked about 1920 and has been subsequently on a slow decline since then. Only Jersey County and to some extent Montgomery County has shown a steady growth in population, primarily because of its proximity to the Metro St. Louis area.

U

DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Creation of the West Central Development Council (formerly known as the West Central Illinois Valley Regional Planning Commission) was established in 1974 by joint resolutions from the counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, and Montgomery. Shelby County joined in 1983. In creating an area-wide association of county governments, local leaders attempted to provide an effective, and responsible method of dealing with problems caused by the complexity of modern government. The WCDC is a not-for-profit corporation funded by federal and state agencies and local share contributions by the seven member counties. West Central Development Council Board of Directors is a representative cross section of economic and social aspects of the Region with three regular members and one alternate member representing each county. The County Board Chairmen are members of the Board of Directors, with the other two regular and one alternate member from each county being chosen by the County Board Chairman with approval resting with each County Board. In total, there are 21 regular and seven (7) alternate members making up the Board of Directors, (see appendix) with each member casting one vote, giving each county a total of three votes at Council

meetings. Utilization of the existing Board as the formal committee for economic development programming would best promote efficient and effective relationships among all levels of government in the region.

The intent of Council By-laws is clearly to be responsive to regional and local needs as they arise rather than to self limit restrictions on operations. Thus, the list of duties of the Body taken from Article II of the By-Laws should be interpreted as a mandate for meeting the varied and specialized future needs of the region from the broadest possible base. These duties as taken from the By-Laws are:

1. To establish regional development objectives;
2. To conduct research on growth and development within the region;
3. To make development plans and programs;
4. To increase public understanding and acceptance of planning;
5. To provide technical service to other government agencies; and
6. To coordinate development activities affecting regional growth.

The West Central Development Council is not empowered with legal authority for taxation, regulation or enforcement. The WCDC staff undertakes work solely at the request of the Council and local government agencies. Further, local government compliance with Council recommendations, policies, and programs is strictly voluntary.

The West Central Development Council has demonstrated in its initial period of operation that it has become the multipurpose planning and development organization for this region. In the future, as local support of the agency increases, it is the Council's intent to be an important and growing factor in helping the people of the West Central Illinois help themselves. Past performance certainly indicates that this intent will be carried out. Therefore, the Council is resolved that with an intensive economic development program, it will meet both the concerns of the Economic Development Administration and the varied and pressing developmental needs of the Region.

Recognizing the need to insure the monitoring and consistent guidance of the Council's intended functions and responsibilities, provision has been made in the by-laws for employment of a permanent professional staff. These by-laws specifically provide for the employment of an Executive Director and "such staff and/or experts as it sees fit to aid the Council in its work." The following pages detail the responsibilities and activities of the Council Staff.

Executive Director: Responsible for overall administration of workforce development programs, community development services, and economic development activities. Directly responsible for supervising all staff: routinely reporting agency progress and performance to the boards, committees, and County Board Chairmen. Promotes the agency by acting as liaison with federal and state agencies, other workforce development agency representatives, other council staff: educational agencies, and human resource agencies throughout the region and state.

Deputy Director of Workforce Development: Responsible for providing supervision, direction, training and technical assistance to staff. Duties include day-to-day monitoring and evaluating of the various programs in the region to ensure compliance. Responsible for oversight and monitoring of the agency's federal and state programs.

Deputy Director of Community Development: Responsible for preparation and administration of various federal and state grants that promote economic and community development. Duties include day-to-day monitoring of existing grants, preparation of new applications, and technical assistance to member communities, counties, and local business.

Grants Manager: Responsible for the management, development, and coordination of workforce development programs and state/federal grants that promote community and economic development. Provide staff support to the agency's Policy Boards and Committees.

Fiscal Officer: Responsible for overall fiscal accountability and bookkeeping operations for the agency, including supervision of other bookkeeping staff, preparation and submission of federal/state tax reports, development of various budgets, etc.

Executive Secretary: Responsible for managing secretarial staff to ensure a smooth flow of clerical duties, assist in the successful implementation of the Council's administrative affairs and other duties as may be required for the efficient operation of the Council. Provides staff support to administrative personnel in the preparation and submission of a variety of grant applications, grant modifications, and environmental assessment documents. Provide general information and guidance to individuals and/or community officials on agency projects and services.

Secretary: Responsible for general secretarial/receptionist duties, provide clerical assistance to the Executive Director and Grants Manager for the successful implementation of the Council's administrative affairs and perform other duties as may be required for the efficient operation of the Council.

Bookkeeper: Responsible for general bookkeeping and other secretarial duties, Works directly with the Fiscal Officer in the operation and maintenance of the manual and computerized accounting system, posts and maintains daily balance sheets, monthly cash analysis reports, and prepares annual workers compensation audit report.

Job Center Assistant: Responsible for providing assistance to customers interested in workforce development programs including orientation, pre-eligibility screening, maintaining resource library and referrals. Duties include day-to-day general receptionists/secretarial and clerical functions.

Career Specialist: Responsible for providing career counseling, client assessment, facilitating informational workshops, and for the compilation and dissemination of local economic information to customers. Provide direct services to individuals interested in workforce development programs, including, recruitment, counseling, testing and placement. Provides direct service to customers and businesses that utilize the Job Center (IETC).

To date, the Council's work program has included population and economic data inventory, and other technical assistance projects to local government. Current work includes writing and

submitting CDAP grants for the purpose of funding public facility projects, the coordination of solid waste activities mandated by the State, and local planning assistance programs and development of economic development programming for the region.

The WCDC has demonstrated in its initial period of operation that it has become the multipurpose planning and development organization for this region. In the future, as local support of the agency increases, it is the Council's intent to be an important and growing factor in helping the people of West Central Illinois help themselves. Past performance certainly indicates that this intent will be carried out. Therefore, the Council is resolved that with an intensive economic development program, it will meet both the concerns of the Economic Development Administration and the varied and pressing developmental needs of the region.

LOCAL CEDS COMMITTEES

Each of the seven counties in the region have appointed a County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee to address and promote economic development within their respective counties. These committees were formed in accordance with the U. S. Economic Development Administration's CEDS Guidelines for Economic Development Districts. Please note that the minority population in the region is less than 3%. The seven county boards made their intent to appoint said committees public knowledge 30 days prior to actual appointments.

RELATIONSHIPS

The WCDC maintains numerous formal and informal relationships with various local governments, state agencies and statewide professional organizations. These relationships often include activities involving planning, promotion and economic development efforts. In some cases the council provides a secondary technical assistance role, while in other cases through contractual agreements, function as lead entity for a community or regional effort. Some examples of these relationships include:

- the council was the lead entity for the development of the West Central Illinois Seven County Solid Waste Management plan. The Council through contractual agreements have been identified as the Solid Waste Coordinating entity responsible for the implementation of the 20-year Plan;
- in 1995, the council was designated as a seven-county location for the Business Development Information Center, through DCBO; and,
- the council has historically prepared the region's annual CEDS report and five year updates.

DISTRICT CEDS COMMITTEE

From each listed local committees each county board appointed four members to serve on the district-wide CEDS Committee. The district CEDS committee met on a regular basis with the WCDC staff to develop this document. The district committee, comprised of members from each

participating county observes the committee membership criteria as outlined in the U.S. EDA Guidelines for Economic Development Districts. These criteria suggest that members of a committee represent local government, business, industry, finance, agriculture, the professions, organized labor, utilities, education, community organizations, public health agencies, the unemployed or underemployed, racial or ethnic minorities, and women. All of these criteria have been met by the recent and past appointments.

ADMINISTRATION

The WCDC has a 28 member board comprised of seven (7) county board chairmen and 21 county board members. The council can be classified as a single county regional planning commission. This means that WCDC is governed by a multiple county commission and serves the surrounding counties and their communities through contractual agreements for a wide variety of community and economic development service.

CIVIL RIGHTS/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The WCDC District Affirmative Action Plan consists of population data, listings of special organizations, actions and methods, staffing and economic development activities. This plan will help insure participation of all special groups, including minorities and the economically disadvantaged.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS FOR THE DISTRICT

	1990	2000		
County	Population	Population	Minority Pop.	Percentage
Calhoun	5,322	5,084	21	1%
Christian	34,235	35,372	183	1%
Greene	15,220	14,761	97	1%
Jersey	20,380	21,668	159	1%
Macoupin	47,057	49,019	622	1.3%
Montgomery	29,871	30,652	857	2.8%
Shelby	22,196	22,893	65	1%
Totals	179,603	179,449	2,004	1.1

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census Bureau Summary of Population and Housing Characteristics, 1990-2000 CPH-1-15

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS AND METHODS USED TO FORM COMMITTEE

At the beginning of the CEDS process, each participating county made every effort to include as many interested persons as possible to fulfill the representation of the segments of population of business, industry, poverty persons, local government, media, banking, agriculture, professional, health/social services, education, labor, and county government. In some cases the individual county already had a CEDS committee in place and simply utilized this existing committee in the regional process. In other cases the counties went through the effort of soliciting input from local governments and community groups as well as interested individuals to participate in the committee formation; this committee, of course would represent one or more of the population segments, including minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

Vacancies on the CEDS committee will be filled in a similar manor of the recruitment process as followed for original formation. The committee will be updated annually as part of the reporting requirement of the EDA.

The CEDS Committee represents all major interests of the communities and the local labor market. The Committee includes public leadership, economic development organizations, workforce investment sector, community-based organizations and other sectors that have a significant impact on the region. Following is a list of the Committee Members and their professions:

Wanda Tepen
Chairman
R.R. 1, Box 185
Batchtown, IL 62006

Calhoun County Board
Calhoun County

Charles Ducey
Hardin, IL 62047

U.S. Postal Worker
Calhoun County

Joseph-Nord
R.R. #1, Box 67
Carrollton, IL 62016

Greene County Board Chairman
Township Supervisor (Labor)

Don Roberts
R.R 3, Box 158
Roodhouse, IL 62082

Farm Owner
Greene County

Maxine Longmeyer
RR 1, Box 442
Greenfield, IL 62044

Newspaper Reporter (Business)
Greene County

Wilfred Goetten
R.R.4
Jerseyville, IL 62052

West central Development Council
Dairy Farm Owner (Labor)

Andy Manar
Macoupin County Board
Carlinville, IL 62626

Macoupin County Chairman
Illinois State Employee

Darrell Bellm
16850 Schale Road
Carlinville, IL 62626

Business Owner (Business)
Macoupin County

Dale Ogden
20 113 Ogden Road
Raymond, IL 62560

Kenneth Barr
R.R. 1, Box 6
Herrick, IL 6243

Richard Reynolds, Jr.
412 North Elm St.
Windsor, IL 61957

Illinois State Police Retired
(Business)
Montgomery County

Construction (Labor)
Shelby County

City Laborer (Labor)
Shelby County

CHAPTER 2

Changes in the Economy

Changes in the District's economy over the past two years have not been dramatic, labor force characteristics have remained fairly stable, unemployment continues at a moderate level, ranging between a low of 5.9% in Greene County to a high of 8% in Montgomery County. This is lower than the unemployment rate during the period covered by the last CEDS report, but consistently remains 1 - 2 percent less than the state unemployment rate. The problem of continuing unemployment remains a prominent concern and major basis for development efforts by the CEDS Committee

There have, however, been definite improvements in the district's economy. Unemployment levels, though high, are gradually coming down. Development is occurring, primarily on a small scale basis, but occurring nonetheless. This includes a wide range of activities, from small business start-up to expanding commercial base. The development activities are occurring as a direct result of local efforts and a renewed dedication to making things happen. This includes successful business attraction efforts in Hillsboro, Litchfield, Jerseyville, Nokomis Hardin, Carlinville, Taylorville, Pana, and Shelbyville.

Regional Unemployment Statistics June 2009

	Workforce	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
State of Illinois	6,542,116	5,930,486	611,630	9.3%
Decatur	52,945	47,764	5,181	9.8%
St. Louis, Mo-II	342,721	310,308	32,412	9.5%
Springfield	110,341	102,873	7,468	6.8%
Calhoun	2,652	2,460	192	7.2%
Christian	17,990	17,990	16,892	6.1%
Greene	7,062	6,648	414	5.9%
Jersey	11,862	11,130	732	6.2%
Macoupin	24,898	23,152	1,746	7.0%
Montgomery	13,626	12,538	1,089	8.0%
Shelby	10,552	10,552	669	6.0%
Total	89,310	83,372	5,938	6.6%

Unemployment rates included upward for most central Illinois area in June due to seasonal losses in education, reduction in census workers and students entering the labor market private sector jobs were stable as the Illinois economy remained strong. Statewide unemployment (seasonally adjusted) rose to 5.5 percent, up from 4.7 percent in March.

Statewide, the number of non-farm payroll jobs rose to a new all-time high of 6,075,600. The diverse services sector led across the board growth except for manufacturing which declined marginally in June.

For a broad range of labor market information, visit the web site <http://mi.ides.state-il.us>. Topics include: Affirmative Action Data, Labor Surplus Areas, Labor Force and Unemployment Data

Occupational Projections, Wage Data and more - for general information concerning the Illinois Department of Employment Security. visit our web site at www.ides.state.il.us.

To obtain national data, contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics home page at <http://stats.bis.gov> or the Federal Interagency council on Statistical Policy at <http://www.fedstats.gov>.

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

For additional labor market information or assistance, contact IDES labor market economist, Ron McPherson at (217) 557-1869 FAX (217) 524-7824

CHAPTER 3

REPORT OF MOST RECENT ACTIVITIES/ DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section is intended to develop the data and analysis presented in the preceding chapters' and presents a series of nine broadly defined, long-term "development goals," each of which contains one or more related, short-term measurable "development objectives." Generally speaking, the District's longterm development goals are intended to provide a degree of continuity from one year to the next relative to the overall direction of the District's economic development endeavors, while the short-term development objectives are intended to provide measurable bench marks against which the organization's annual efforts can be measured.

The Economic Development Districts recognizes that it will be impossible to achieve significant progress in meeting all of it's' goals in any single year, and therefore, has prioritized them in an effort to further provide guidance relative to their overall importance in fostering the economic well being of local residents. Accordingly, an "implied priority" is also to be associated with the District's development objectives, depending upon which of the ten development goals they most relate to. However, for the purposes of this District CEDS document, all development objectives related to a single goal are to be considered of equal importance.

As an initial basis for discussion the Economic Development District staff presented for consideration (by each of the county-level CEDS representatives to the Committee) a carefully thought out set of development goals and objectives. Realizing that these were merely suggestions, the staff solicited further development goals and objectives from the CEDS Committee members. Further mailings were sent out to non-attending committee members in pursuit of finding diversified ideas.

In addition to the above-mentioned processes, the Counties of Montgomery, Christian, and Jersey had their own single-county economic development planning documents updated in 1997. The more localized goals and objectives contained therein were also considered and, to the extent possible, incorporated into the district-wide goals and objectives. In establishing priorities among the district's ten development goals or objectives contribution toward attracting future private sector investments which would, in turn, help retain existing commercial and manufacturing employers within the district, generate expansion of existing commercial and manufacturing employers within the district, generate an expansion of present operations within the sevencounty EDD and/or contribute to a successful location effort.

GOAL A

To upgrade the economy of the region through attraction of new industry which fits the location and basic economic makeup of the district?

OBJECTIVES

1. Attraction of new agribusiness, services; or
2. Attraction of warehousing and distribution wholesale goods and
3. Attraction of new light industry and manufacturing.

GOAL B

Retention of existing industry.

OBJECTIVES

1. Continue to give local support and incentives to resident industries;
2. Aid resident industry in making plant expansions wherever possible;
3. Provide technical assistance with air and water pollution standards to resident industries.

GOAL C

To revitalize existing services and retain activities within the region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the feasibility of new centralized retail centers within the region;
2. To restore the region's local retail centers through consumer incentive and downtown improvement.

GOAL D

To promote regional growth policies which encourage economic activities that is appropriate to the structure of the economy.

OBJECTIVES

1. Initiate measures that would curtail the continuing loss of existing industries and provide incentives for established industries to expand; and
2. Examine ways of identifying and attracting suitable high-growth potential industries into the region.

GOAL E

To develop an adequate system of public services and facilities to insure the protection of public health and welfare and to aid in the orderly development and progress of the region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide the region with adequate systems and facilities for potable water and sewage disposal, and
2. To provide other public facilities necessary for improvement of existing problems and to provide for future needs.

GOAL F

To improve the quality of transportation in the region so that the movement of goods and people is convenient and rapid.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop and maintain a balanced regional transportation system which provides efficient movement of people and goods to nearby economic centers.

GOAL G

To achieve balanced and compatible land use patterns in the region which protect our natural resources, while at the same time meeting the economic and social needs of the people.

OBJECTIVES

1. To insure that future growth or land use changes will occur in a manageable pattern.

GOAL H

To upgrade recreational facilities and programs within the seven-county area to levels which are considered adequate by state and national standards.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop adequate indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities for all citizens of the region; and
2. To foster tourism in those areas of the region which might derive economic benefit from such activities.

GOAL I

To increase the general training and suitability of the workforce in meeting the needs of modern business and industry.

OBJECTIVES

1. To expand accessibility to incorporate unemployed youth into the regional workforce in an effort to curb their out-migration; and
2. To bring characteristics of the labor force into line with state averages wherever possible.

GOAL J

To encourage the establishment of well-organized local economic and community development organizations.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify public and private financial resources for support;
2. To foster a positive local climate for the attraction of new businesses and industry; and
3. To provide technical assistance to local development groups.

Criteria for Resource Utilization

Recognizing that development resources may be limited, to some extent, in order to implement the goals and objectives outlined in the previous section, a strategy of policies governing the utilization of those resources must be established. This strategy takes two forms: the organizational features of the district and the actual work program which follows.

Organizational Features of the District

The West Central Development Council will initially consist of seven EDA recognized components. The counties of Calhoun, Greene, Jersey, and Montgomery will be organized as Title IV Redevelopment areas. At present, three of the four counties have been officially designated as such and Montgomery County has been authorized. County CEDS's have been completed and have been accepted by their respective boards.

The County CEDS Committees will be utilized as the local planning and coordinative groups for each county. The programs and projects outlined in this document reflect the individual county documents. In addition to the 4 redevelopment areas, 5 growth centers will be designated within the Region, in counties which cannot qualify as redevelopment areas. After careful analysis, the five municipalities selected were Carlinville, the County seat of Macoupin County; Taylorville, which is the County seat of Christian County; Pana, also located in Christian County, Litchfield, located in Montgomery County; and Jerseyville, the county seat of Jersey County. These five municipalities were selected because of their great local economic impact and their demonstrated growth in the past decade. Each one of the growth centers has a well-developed infrastructure, and is the economic and cultural centers of their respective localities. Investment of EDA funds will basically be channeled through the above components. The district will coordinate all economic development activities within the area and the regional CEDS Committee will generate policies which guide the future utilization of development resources.

District Work Program

The purpose of this section is to describe in detail how the previously outlined policies will be carried out in terms of specific programs and projects.

The scope of this section is divided into two specific areas. The first section deals with planning and assessment activities which must necessarily predate the undertaking of specific projects since present data does not point to a clear course of action in dealing with the specific problems.

The second section deals with specific capital improvement projects which have been identified through past analysis as problem areas having direct bearing on the development situation in the region.

The various components of the work program were designed to have a clear relationship to the established goals and objectives stated earlier. The work program, like the goals and objectives, should be flexible enough to accommodate changes as new local needs arise.

The following activities reflect the West Central Development Council's anticipated course of action for its initial five-year period of existence. However, only the initial year's activities should be viewed as fixed policy. Longer term aspects of the work program will be subject to annual review and modification based upon changing circumstances within the region.

Planning & Assessment Activities

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee will undertake or sponsor several planning and assessment activities designed to indicate the most feasible way of approaching several identified development problems. These projects will serve to provide more data about development potentials in the region.

1. Development of a comprehensive plan for Shelby County and updating of the existing comprehensive plans for Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, and Montgomery Counties.
2. Development of a housing assistance plan for the counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery and. Shelby.
3. Development of a comprehensive transportation plan for the Counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Shelby and Montgomery. (Goal F 1)*
4. Develop a downtown improvement plan for the largest municipality within each county. (Goal C 2)
5. Carry out an industrial site inventory and assessment for each county. (Goal A, B)
6. Develop a county recreation plan for each county. (Goal H 1,2)*
7. Assess individual municipal needs and identify deficiencies within each county. (Goal E 1) *

8. Assess development of industrial promotional materials about each county.
(Goals A 1, 2, 3 and J 2) *
9. Develop a technical assistance program for local development groups.
(Goals B 3 and 11,3) *
10. Develop a program to study how best to foster more efficient exploitation of agricultural products and services for each county. (Goals A 1 and 2)*
11. Develop a regional social service plan in order to coordinate training and educational activities to improve workforce suitability. (Goal 11, 2)*
12. Foster an energy or natural resource development plan for the counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery and Shelby. (Goal C 1) *
13. Develop a mini CEDS for the growth center cities of Carlinville, Litchfield, Pana, Jerseyville, Taylorville and Grafton.
14. Seek industry first to occupy vacant industrial building in Pana, Roodhouse, Litchfield, Carrollton and Schram City.

Note: *Indicates specific goals and objectives related to the program.

Capital Improvement Projects

1. Sewer System improvements for the communities of:

Bunker Hill	Tovey	Bulpitt	Chesterfield	Hettick
Palmyra	Elsah	Carrollton	Greenfield	Hardin
Brighton	Scottsville	Fieldon	Witt	Fillmore
Roodhouse	E. Gillespie	Butler	Jerseyville	Donnellson
Hillsboro	Carlinville	Shelbyville	Taylor Springs	Sigel
Brussels	Schram City	Coalton	Kampsville	Staunton
Herrick	Mt. Clare	Modesto	White City	Gillespie
Standard City	Nilwood	Oconee	Ohlman	Waggoner
Pana	Taylorville	Moweaqua	Kincaid	Harvel

2. Water System improvements are needed for the municipalities of:

Shelbyville	Carlinville**	Brighton	Hamburg	Medora
Waggoner	Nokomis	Hardin	Roodhouse**	Ohlman**
Lake KaHo	Greene Co.**	Brussels	Walshville	Batchtown
Wenonah**	Greenfield	Pana**	Virden	Michael
Carrollton	Taylor Springs	Mt. Clare**	Elsah	Chesterfield
Coffeen	Modesto	Kane	Benld**	Fieldon

Findlay	Herrick	Moweaqua	Oconee**	White Hall
Calhoun Co.	Witt**	Irving**	Schram City	Gillespie**
Bunker Hill**	Jerseyville	Donnellson	Kampsville	Girard**
Brighton	Stewardson	Findley	Dorchester Township	
Audubon Township			Community of Wright	

3. Improvements to natural gas systems in Roodhouse.
4. Heating system improvements for public building in downtown Taylorville.

Industrial Site Improvements

1. Necessary improvement to existing industrial sites in Taylorville, Carlinville, Pana, Litchfield, Hillsboro and Shelbyville.
2. Industrial site improvement in Piasa Township.
3. Rail Spur to Jerseyville Industrial Park.
4. Industrial site improvements for Coalton.
5. Preliminary improvements on the Nokomis Industrial Site.
6. Industrial site improvement to the Pana Industrial Park
7. Water and sewer improvements to the Hillsboro Industrial Site.
8. Rail service to the Litchfield Industrial Park.
9. Develop industrial area in Raymond.
10. Develop an Industrial Park in Taylorville.
11. Development of the South Central Terminal Industrial Park (Owned by the City of Pana)

Transportation

1. Traffic improvement projects in Wenonah and Irving.
2. Bridge widening and improvements to all County and Township roads.
3. Airport facility improvements for Jerseyville, Hillsboro, and Shelbyville.
4. Harbor and dock facilities at Grafton.
5. Harbor and dock facilities at Piasa Harbor. **

6. Improvement of Highways 16, 51, 32, 128, 108, and 48. **
7. Seek funding for a bridge at the south end of Calhoun County.
8. Rte. 67 Corridor serving Greene and Jersey County. Engineering has just recently been completed.
9. County highway improvements in Calhoun County.
10. Bridge improvements in Elsay.
11. Street and drainage improvements in Butler.
12. Street improvements in Hillsboro.**
13. Brick street rebuilding in Pana.
14. Grafton has opened a ferry service to Charles, Missouri.**

**** Denotes projects in progress or projects completed.**

Other Capital Improvements

1. Continued neighborhood improvements (streets, gutters, sidewalks, etc.) in Jerseyville.
2. Renovation of the Elsay, Grafton and Hillview Village Halls.
3. Drainage improvements in Hillview, Rockbridge, and Donnellson.
4. New schools have been built or will be built in Gillespie, Benld and Carlinville.
5. Construct Montgomery County Courthouse in Hillsboro.
6. Lake Land College, Regional Tech Center, Pana.
7. Community Center construction in Schram City, Hillsboro, and Taylorville.
8. Jersey County Courthouse and jail reconstruction.
9. New jail and emergency vehicle storage for Calhoun County.
10. Christian County Courthouse renovation.
11. Street and drainage improvements in Witt.
12. Improve riverbank stability in Kampsville and Hardin.

13. Solid waste facility improvements in Greene, Calhoun, and Montgomery Counties.
14. Fire protection improvements in Donnellson, Irving, and Batchtown.
15. Renovation and expansion of city libraries in Taylorville and Hillsboro.
16. Route 51 Bypass.

Recreation & Tourism

1. Development of a countywide park system for Greene, Jersey, and Calhoun Counties.
2. Renovate Macoupin County Courthouse and Jail.
3. Recreation improvement projects and programs in Calhoun and Jersey Counties.
4. Tourism improvement projects and programs in Calhoun and Jersey Counties.
5. Designation of the Koster Indian Site as a State Memorial.
6. Renovate historic school in Otterville.
7. Build a Reservoir in Greene County between Carrollton and White Hall.
8. Promote the Okaw Valley Project in Shelbyville
9. The Great River Road from Elsay in Jersey County to Eldred in Greene County, has just recently been designated as a scenic byway by the U.S. Department of Transportation. (www.byways.org)
10. Development of Central Illinois Chautauqua Pavilions in Pana, Shelbyville, and Taylorville.

Housing

1. Low rent housing in Greene County specifically, but also throughout the region.
2. Housing rehabilitation programs in Pana, Jerseyville, Hillsboro, Schram City, Roodhouse, Gillespie, Waggoner, Mt. Olive, and Brighton.
3. Development of a housing plan for the counties of Calhoun, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Montgomery and Shelby.

Numerous accomplishments have occurred in the past few years and other projects are underway in the District since the District CEDS report was adopted and submitted in the Fall of 1992. It was last updated in the spring of 2005.

One of the most important accomplishments is the ongoing work of the CEDS Committee as the

district's leading force in economic development efforts. The committee has served as an effective forum for coordination among the counties communities. The CEDS Committee has brought together the many and various localized development efforts in the communities to focus more broadly on the promotion of the district as a whole.

Community Facilities Improvements

Following is a list of the Economic Development and Public Facility activities since 2000 that been identified as being very important and related to the strategies and objectives of the District CEDS Community.

Calhoun County

Calhoun County Rural Water District	2000	Install rural water lines and construct elevated storage tank.	\$2,000,000.00
Kampsville	2003	Design new water system and extended water transmission lines.	\$ 93,970.00
Village of Brussels	2007	Public Facilities Grant to install new water lines.	\$ 350,000.00

Christian County

Harvel (Christian/Montgomery)	2000	Develop sewer disposal system Design Engineering	\$ 21,500.00
Jeiseyville	2000	Removal of Architectural Barriers	\$ 11,000.00
Owaneco	2000	Planning Assistance-study to construct waste water collection and treatment system.	\$ 24,000.00
Kincaid	2001	Emergency Public Facility Water main replacement	\$ 62,561.00
Tovey	2003	Improvement to Water System	\$400,000.00
Kincaid	2007	Emergency Public Facility to replace water/sewer lines along Rte. 104	\$ 33,750.00
Kincaid	2007	Public Facilities Grant to improve storm water removal system.	\$350,000.00
Bulpitt	2007	Design Engineering to improve storm water removal system.	\$ 58,000.00
Jeiseyville	2007	Design improvements to water system.	\$ 59,500.00

Greene County

Rockbridge	2000	Planning Assistance Grant to study sewer treatment system.	\$ 20,000.00
Patterson	2000	Removal of Architectural Barriers	\$ 6,500.00
Eldred	2002	Planning Assistance develop a water system improvement plan.	\$ 22,750.00
Greene Co. Rural	2002	Installation of water lines.	\$400,000.00
Roodhouse	2006	Install new water system.	\$350,000.00

Jersey County

Jerseyville	2000	Construct a new 500,000 gallon water storage tank.	\$800,000.00
Rosedale Township on behalf of Jersey County Rural Water Company		Installation of rural water lines.	\$305,000.00
Hardwood International	2002	Expand woodworking facilities.	\$502,000.00
City of Grafton	2007	Design Engineering Grant to improve the water system.	\$147,000.00

Macoupin County

Benld	2000	Housing Rehabilitation (16)	\$230,000.00
Eagarville	2000	Construct Water Storage Tank	\$180,000.00
Gillespie	2000	Housing Rehabilitation (16)	\$230,000.00
Hettick	2000	Design Water Transmission Main Palmyra to Hettick and Rural Area	\$ 34,900.00
Palmyra	2000	Construct sewage pump station relief force main and rehabilitate	\$185,000.00

		manholes	
Sawyer ville	2000	Planning Assistance to eliminate chronic water violations	\$ 3,500.00
Sawyer ville	2000	Housing Rehabilitation (16)	\$230,000.00
Bunker Hill	2000	Replace deteriorated sewer lines	\$200,000.00
Eagerville	2000	Construct elevated water storage tank	\$250,000.00
Hettick	2000	Design water transmission line system	\$ 35,000.00
City of Bunker Hill	2007	Public Facility Grant to build water storage tank.	\$350,000.00
City of Girard	2007	Public Facility Grant to build water storage tank.	\$350,000.00
City of Benld	2007	Public Facility Grant to install new water lines.	\$387,764.00
Village of Mt. Clare	2007	Public Facility Grant to replace water lines.	\$109,500.00

Montgomery County

Ohlman	2000	Public Facility Grant to replace water lines	\$400,000.00
Irving	2002	Construction of Sanitary Sewer collection and treatment system.	\$ 19,250.00
Waggoner	2002	Planning Assistance develop plan for sewer disposal problems.	\$ 24,250.00
Witt	2002	Planning Assistance - upgrading water treatment plant.	\$ 20,250.00
Harvel	2002	Emergency Public Facility water treatment plant.	\$ 36,000.00
Witt	2003	Design improvements to Water Treatment Plant.	\$ 68,000.00

Irving	2003	Install new water storage tank.	\$295,000.00
Panama	2003	Install new water lines.	\$340,000.00
Village of Irving	2007	Public Facility Grant to replace water lines.	\$144,388.00
Audubon Township	2007	Design Engineering Grant to install water system.	\$135,000.00
Village of Waggoner	2007	Public Facility Design Engineering Grant to install new water system.	\$200,000.00
City of Witt	2007	Public Facilities Grant to improve water treatment plant.	\$350,000.00
Village of Ohlman	2007	Public Facilities Grant to install new water system.	\$350,000.00

Shelby County

Strasburg	1999	Upgrade water treatment and supply system	\$350,000.00
Cowden	1999	Housing Rehabilitation (17)	\$230,000.00
Shelbyville	1997	Housing Rehabilitation (15)	\$200,000.00
Sigel, Town of	1998	Sewer system improvements	\$150,000.00
Ash Grove Township	2003	Design new Water System	\$ 61,300.00
Richland Township	2003	Design new Water System	\$ 40,000.00
Windsor Township	2003	Design new Water System	\$ 53,897.00
Clarksburg Township	2003	Design new Water System	\$ 63,350.00
Stewardson	2003	Install/new Water System	\$390,000.00
Oconee	2007	Install new water system.	\$350,000.00

Community facilities and services are another important developmental resource which are subject to improvement through investment. Problems arise in rural areas in raising the capital for these types of development. There are some 92 municipalities within the West Central Development Council. Region, and detailed data on all these communities was published in a recent study.

Water and Sewer

Water and sewer systems in the region are generally inadequate for future needs in many localities. According to the 2000 Census, 81 % of the total number of housing units in the region are served by a central water system installed or in the process of being installed. Communities which do not have a central water system are Hamburg in Calhoun County and Walshville in Montgomery County. Approximately 67% of all water systems were considered adequate by local officials, with the remainder needing increased water supply or storage or replacement of water mains. Recent droughts in the area have intensified many water supply problems usually due to inadequate groundwater supplies. Therefore, the need for large supply reservoirs similar to Lake Lou Yaeger has increased greatly. Sewer systems are not nearly as common, as only 69% of the total number of housing units are served by sanitary sewer systems (or in the process of being served). In addition, very few of the systems in the region were considered adequate according to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, or served all the residents within their respective corporate limits. Due to the lengthy time process involved in achieving funding for sewer system construction, necessary improvements are usually difficult to realize.

Recent efforts by WCDC staff have enabled several communities to upgrade water systems and examine sewer system feasibility. Under the EPA sewer system feasibility planning program, fourteen small communities were studied to determine costs for sewer systems. Unfortunately, recommendations from most of these reports call for no action or rehabilitation of septic tanks as selected alternatives. Due to cost escalation of sewer system components in the past few years, most small communities will never be able to implement such systems, unless 100% funding is available from outside sources.

Since 1966 through Rural Economic & Community Development Services (REDCS) programs, and since 1984 through the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP), almost \$120,000,000 has been invested in the public facility infrastructure systems throughout the region. The CDAP component requires that 51% of the people who benefit from the project be of low and moderate income status, a threat to the health and safety of those involved be in evidence, and the community inject 25% of the total project cost be provided by another source.

Fire and Police

Fire and police protection, as with water and sewer, are highly variable from community to community and, as might be expected, larger communities have better protection systems.

Fire protection in varying degrees is available in all communities in the region. In the smaller communities, coverage usually takes the form of a fire protection district serving several towns and rural areas surrounding them. Some of the larger cities have full-time fire departments although none have a fire rating less than 7 (on a scale from 10 to 1).

Police protection is much more irregular. Approximately one third of the towns in the region report no full-time police officer, with most of these receiving police protection from County sheriff's departments. The ratio of full-time police officers to population averages

approximately 1.22 per thousand in the region. According to this survey, only 18.7 percent of the towns sampled have an average or above average number of officers in relation to population, with 2.1 officers per 1,000 populations being the national average.

Housing

A detailed housing study has recently been completed for the West Central Development Council. According to this study, large areas of the region, particularly in the three western Counties, have marginal and sub-marginal housing conditions, according to U.S. Census definitions. Number of greatest housing needs are most pronounced in Macoupin County, with Montgomery, Christian, Greene, and Jersey also showing substantial needs. According to U.S. Census information, there were 27,629 families living in housing units built before 1939 in the region in 2000, with 1.4% of these lacking plumbing and full kitchen facilities. Of the 76,605 total housing units in the region 8,123, or 9.6% of the total are vacant and 17,729 or 22.5% are renter occupied. In addition, 78.2% of the total number of available housing units is actually owner occupied.

Table 13 details statistics on families occupying housing, offering comparisons on a county-to county basis. According to this information, almost two-fifths of all families in the region are classified by Housing and Urban Development as occupying housing built before 1939. Greatest numbers are evidenced in Macoupin, Montgomery, and Christian and Greene counties while the lowest percentages of all families are found in Jersey and Calhoun. Also 10% of all households in the region have been classified as having no telephone.

An attempt has been made to identify and enumerate overall housing needs of the region in Table 14. Substandard units have been divided into two groups; based on the information provided by the census. Census data for value and presence of plumbing indicates that a large percentage of the housing throughout the region is aged and in need of some type of rehabilitation. Minority households are not enumerated, since there is fewer than 400 minorities in any of the seven counties the region with data being unavailable for any grouping of that size.

General conclusions may be drawn from the county data presented above that improvement of the housing stock in the region will be a major developmental priority in the future. Adequate housing is certainly an enhancement which should be sought in order to make the region more attractive to new business and industry.

TABLE-13
WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
REGIONAL FAMILYHOUSING CHARACTERISTICS - 2000 CENSUS

COUNTY	ALL HOUSING UNITS	OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS	PERCENT OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS
Calhoun	2,681	2,046	80.7
Christian	14,992	13,921	76.2
Greene	6,332	5,757	76.2
Jersey	8,918	8,096	77.7
Macoupin	21,097	19,253	79.0
Montgomery	12,525	11,507	78.4
Shelby	10,060	9,056	81.0

Regional Totals	76,605	69,636	78.2
State	4,885,615	4,591,779	67.3

TABLE 14
WEST CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
SELECTED HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS - 2000 CENSUS

COUNTY	TOTAL HOUSING UNITS	BUILT BEFORE 1939	LACKS PLUMBING	LACKS KITCHEN FACILITIES
Calhoun	2,951	950	271	221
Christian	14,640	5,694	110	93
Greene	6,575	3,046	58	103
Jersey	8,216	1,874	79	90
Macoupin	20,068	7,846	265	332
Montgomery	12,456	5,136	164	161
Shelby		3,133	149	93
Regional Totals	74,235	27,679	1,096	1093
% of Totals		37.3%	1.5%	1.5%

County	Total Housing Units on Public Water System	On Public Sewer System	No Telephone
Calhoun	972	572	190
Christian	11,934	10,518	910
Greene	4,629	3,691	662
Jersey	7,200	3,894	467
Macoupin	16,503	12,788	1,292
Montgomery	9,789	8,493	785
Shelby	5,833	5,003	527
Regional Totals	56,860	44,959	4,833
% of Totals	76.6%	60.5%	6.9%

CHAPTER 4

PROPOSED AND CURRENT FDA RELATED DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN TM DISTRICT

City of Hillsboro - Montgomery County

The proposed facility is the construction of a city street to a partial commercial development on the south edge of the City of Hillsboro. The proposed city street and commercial development are to be built in a twenty-six acre abandoned pasture on the east side of F.A. 42 (IL Route 1.27) approximately 1000 feet north of the MOPAC Railroad Overpass.

Presently a retail discount store occupies two acres of the commercial development. The addition of this retail discount store to the Hillsboro Community has assisted in keeping product prices competitive, allowing more employment opportunities for low-to-moderate income citizens, and making goods more accessible to the Hillsboro community and other neighboring communities. The retail discount store is owned by the Duckwall-ALCO Stores, Inc. The Duckwall-ALCO Company currently hires up to twenty-five full and part time employees. The construction of the access road and the commercial development will provide more employment opportunities for the community.

Future development plans include the addition of new businesses. The Hillsboro Area Hospital is committed to building an Extended Living Facility at an estimated cost of \$1,500,000, which will create six new jobs. The Hospital plans to add a Wellness Center and invest approximately \$1,250,000, which will add 10 new jobs, and a day care center with an estimated cost of \$500,000, which would result in 10 new jobs. In addition, the hospital would build an ambulance garage at an estimated cost of \$400,000. Other commitments include McDonough Engineering, which intends to build a new facility at an estimated cost of \$350,000 and plans to add five employees to their staff.

Further, it is estimated that in addition to the creation of new jobs, the City of Hillsboro would benefit by as much as \$100,000 additional sales tax annually. The construction of the proposed roadway will provide easier access to the hospital, junior high school, and high school.

The city is unable to provide all of the funding for the proposed project. The Economic Development Administration grant will provide the City of Hillsboro with the capability to attract new businesses to the community. The City of Hillsboro is ineligible for the Illinois Economic Development Grant because this project involves a retail business. The design and construction of the City Street will meet all Illinois Department of Transportation requirements. Construction of the proposed project should begin as expeditiously as possible so the community can enjoy the benefits of the new rehabilitation activities, CDAP funds may be used to finance acquisition, disposition, clearance and relocation to arrest the decline of an area. Also, CDAP funds may be used for public facilities improvements and/or residential

connection costs which will support a housing rehabilitation project. The grant ceiling is \$350,000.00.

The City of Hillsboro and the Village of Taylor Springs in Montgomery County each have "Brownfield Sites" that need rehabilitated and cleaned up.

PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Provide the exact name and location of the potential grant recipient, along with the name, title, address and phone number of a contact at the organization. If the potential recipient is a school, please provide the exact; name and location of the school district in which the school is located.

City of Litchfield

120 East Ryder Street

Litchfield, Illinois 62056

**Andy Ritchie, City Administrator or Tonya Flannery, Economic Development
Director 217-3245253**

2. Describe the organization's main activities, and whether it is public, private or non-profit entity:

The City of Litchfield is a municipal government/non-profit entity serving the residents of Litchfield, Illinois. The City's function is to provide for the needs of its residents through its Building, Economic Development, Fire, Lake, Police, Street, Wastewater, Water,, and Zoning Departments. The City is fiscally responsible for utilizing funding in an effective manner to best service the community.

- 3: Provide a brief description of the activity or project for which funding is requested. If the request is for health-related construction, please identify the program activity that will be carried out in the facility.

The City of Litchfield is requesting assistance with the extension of utility lines including water and sewer to the west side of Interstate 55. The extension of the utilities to this area would fulfill two primary needs of the community. The first need is to provide a connection to other water resources. The City is a water source for a number of water districts in this rural central Illinois area. The water line extension to the west side not only would allow the City to provide a water resource option to interested parties but would provide an opportunity for the City to potentially link to a large water supplier, thus providing a secondary water source for Homeland security.

The need for a secondary source would be beneficial to the City as it has also been selected as a community for the location of a 110 MGD ethanol plant. The facility's

water need would reach over 1 mgd on an average basis. The City's two lakes provide the City's water source and would be enhanced by the backup supply if able to connect to water suppliers to the west of 1-55, such as American Waterworks.

The second need is that for future expansion. The City is the employment hub for an economically depressed county with an unusually high unemployment rate. The City has been successful with the building of two industrial parks housing nearly twenty industrial businesses employing nearly 1000 people. With the second park nearly full, the need for the City to move forward with the planning for a third business/industrial park is imperative. Available land to the west side of Interstate 55 would provide an excellent location for businesses as it has direct interstate access and is situated midpoint between St. Louis, MO and Springfield, IL. The Interstate network system within the 40-mile distance extends reach to anywhere in the United States. The utilities extension would allow the City to move forward with acquiring land necessary for the development of the Industrial/Business Park. The City has already taken the initiative in its planning to designate funds to the engineering design for the utilities extension and has developed a conceptual master plan to show the area developed as a whole. The Project includes extension of a 16" water main line 1,800' and of an 18" sewer main line 3,700' to the west side of Interstate 55 in Litchfield.

The utilities extension is crucial to the project and to the future growth of this rural community.

4. a. What is the total project cost? **\$1,028,500**
- b. What is the amount you are requesting for FY 2009? **\$935,000**
- c. If your request involves more than one year, please indicate the one-year amount.
 The City is requesting the funds in the FY 2009 funding.
- d. Include a breakdown of the requested funding. (For example, salary \$40,000, computers \$3,000 etc.) **Construction costs only: Water Main \$220,000, Gravity Sewer Main \$385,000, and Lift Station/Force Main \$330,000.**
5. a. Are other funding sources contributing to this project or activity? **City of Litchfield**
- b. What amount does each of these funding sources contribute?
 \$93,500 for Engineering and Administrative Costs.
6. Is the entity receiving funding for this activity from any other Federal agencies? If yes, include information on the amount of funds, the years received, and the name of the Federal agency and program providing the funding.

The City is currently not receiving any other funding for the project. It will look to pursue any grants or financing options that may be available.

7. What is the national significance of the project, and what specific federal responsibility does the funding of this project or activity further? For example, what measurable improvements in health status, educational achievement, or similar outcomes will result from this project?

The City of Litchfield is located within Montgomery County, Illinois. The County is considered a Labor Surplus Area by the US Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration. The County's unemployment continues to exceed the national and state averages and was reported for October 2007 at 6.6%. In addition, the City of Litchfield is the employment hub for Montgomery County as well as the adjacent counties. Over twenty percent of the residents in Montgomery County work in Litchfield. The City has a balance of commercial and industrial business which make up this employment. However, it is important that Litchfield continues to provide opportunity for industrial growth through such Industrial/Business Parks to provide good paying jobs to the area residents. Many local residents are employed by commercial or small businesses paying minimum wage, thus resulting in our County being economically depressed. The median household income is \$31,478. Our County needs quality industrial jobs that provide good benefits to its employees. The City of Litchfield has been successful in filling its two industrial parks with quality businesses which have expanded over the years. They are committed to providing the training needed to their employees and have seen longevity in their employment. Our rural central Illinois community is in need of assistance to spur growth, job creation and new investment in the local area.

The impact of extending the utilities to the west side would lead to the development of an industrial/business park as well as additional commercial development. The anticipated result would be creation of jobs, expanded tax base, and an improved standard of living for the residents of Montgomery County as well as surrounding Counties.

City of Litchfield - Montgomery County

This project consists of the construction of a new, signalized intersection on Illinois Route 16 between the City of Litchfield and the 1-55 interchange with Route 16. This intersection will provide a more direct access into the Litchfield Industrial Park on the south side of Illinois Route 16. The north leg will provide the main access for a 121-acre commercial development to be known as Route 66 Crossing at Litchfield. This access road will eventually connect with the Super Wal-Mart.

The design of the intersection has been completed after extensive consultation with District 6 of the Illinois Department of Transportation. The current "free flow off ramp" for vehicles exiting 1-55 north to Illinois Route 16 eastbound will be replaced with a T-intersection in order to provide storage space for vehicles turning into the proposed development. Other highlights of the design include the milling and resurfacing of Illinois Route 16 for the limits of the project traffic signals, which will be coordinated with existing signals at Illinois Route

16 and Ohren Drive (east of the proposed intersection), left and right turn lanes into both the commercial development and the Industrial Park, and reconstruction of the existing concrete medians on Illinois Route 16.

Also included is a sanitary sewer force main which will begin at a pump station located behind the Glicks Store. This force main will be bored under Illinois Route 16 and traverse southerly another 1546 feet to an existing manhole in the Litchfield Industrial Park. Approximate total construction costs - \$1,500,000. Estimated project completion date 2007-2008. This project is presently under construction.

This project will facilitate the growth and expansion of these businesses: Schutt Manufacturing, International Filter Manufacturing Corporation, Napco, Lincoln Land Community College, and Morton Buildings, QB Technology, the New Super Wal-mart and a new motel.

Litchfield is also always trying to maintain and upgrade the public infrastructure facility water and sewer systems that not only serve the residents of the city, but the continually growing commercial development west of the city.

New businesses in Litchfield since February 2003:

Wal-Mart Supercenter	Baymont Inn
Comfort Inn	Rt. 66 Car Wash
Denny's Restaurant	Schutt Sports Distribution
Mobil Mart Convenience Store converted from a gas station to new expanded building.	
M.I. Ford sold to Victory Lane Ford, who moved to an expanded new location. Litchfield	
Meat Market sold to L & W Best Brands Appliances which is now open.	
Always in Style Boutique sold to First to the Finish which is open.	
Dana Corporation Distribution Center	
Skate Zone Roller Rink	
Checkered Flag Slot Car Racing	
Walton Chiropractic Clinic	

The following are new businesses listed with the Chamber of Commerce:

White Buffalo Trading Company Litchfield
Carpet Central Air Services
Baker's Custom Homes Wick
Dealership Bob's Computer Solutions

Village of Panama

This project is considered a priority project because of the environmental impact it might have on the Village and its residents. A creek that flows adjacent to the Village waste water impoundment is gradually eroding the embankment which might eventually cause leakage from the impoundment to the creek. The Village is currently trying to secure funding to correct the problem. Total expected project cost - \$50,000. This project has just been completed.

Village of Donnellson

The Village recently received a grant of \$400,000 to help them, construct a sanitary sewer system. This project is completed. The Village is also seeking enough grant funding to help it improve its water system and connect to the City of Greenville.

Village of Butler

The Village is interested in installing a sanitary sewer system that connects to the City of Hillsboro. Costs are undetermined at this time. Estimated project completion date 2009-2010.

City of Hillsboro

The City is continually trying to upgrade the housing in the blighted areas of the city. In the past two years they have received approximately \$125,000 to bring 25 such homes up to code. Estimated project completion date

Village of Harvel

The Village is interested in constructing/installing a sanitary sewer system that will effectively serve the citizens in the community. It is presently on a septic tank system which is outdated and in constant need of repair. Costs are undetermined at this time.

Montgomery County Rural Water District

The Montgomery Rural Water District has finished construction of Phases I, II, and III. The Montgomery County Rural Water District is preparing to design and construct Phase IV of the project. Estimated project completion date is 2009-2010.

Calhoun County Rural Water District

The Calhoun County Rural Water District has submitted a formal application to Rural Development for funding of a Phase IV rural water project. The Calhoun County Rural Water District sought and received funding for Phase I, II, III, and IV, which have been installed. The proposed water system expansion will continue to use facilities installed under the first 3 projects such as the existing water treatment plant, transmission mains, stand pipe, elevated storage tank, and booster pump station. The Phase IV project will include 50 miles of water line, service connections for 175 new users, elevated storage tank, and related appurtenances. The total estimated cost of this project is \$3,000,000. This project began construction in the Fall of 2005. This project is completed.

Village of Brussels

The Village is trying to develop and design a cost efficient sanitary system that will

effectively serve the residents of the community. They plan to seek funding for part of this project from DCEO by requesting design engineering funds totaling \$85,000. Estimated project completion date of 2009-2010. The Village has received a \$350,000.00 grant from DCEO to help replace/move water lines in the Village.

Greene County

The Greene County Rural Water District has submitted a formal application to Rural Development for funding of a Phase III rural water project. The Greene County Rural Water District sought and received funding for the first two phases which have been completed.

The proposed wafer system expansion will continue to use facilities installed under the Phase I project such as existing transmission mains, ground storage tank, elevated storage tank and master meter. The Phase III project will include 55 miles of water line, service connections for 180 new users, elevated storage tank, and related appurtenances. Total estimated project cost is \$2,250,000. Estimated project completion date- 2004-2005.

Greene County/White Hall

Repair/resurfacing of County Road Seining the Hanor Company

The existing roadway is structurally insufficient to carry the excessive amounts of 80,000 lb. trucks that correctly utilize this section of roadway. It is proposed to construct a bituminous overlay on the existing pavement to provide structural capacity for an 80,000 lb. truck route. The proposed scope of work will be limited to bituminous overlay, pipe culvert replacement, pavement marking, pavement patching, and aggregate shoulder construction. No alignment, drainage, traffic control or other geometric improvements are proposed with this project. No utility adjustments or R.O.W. acquisition is anticipated for construction of the improvements as stated. Total estimated project cost - \$1,100,000. Estimated project completion date is 2009-2010.

Village of Mt. Auburn (Christian County)

The Village intends to request \$80,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs to assist the Village in designing an adequate water transmission system which will include the replacing of deteriorated water lines with larger lines and the contraction of a new, larger water storage tank. The total estimated construction costs are approximately \$750,000. Estimated completion date is 2-897-2\$6

City of Taylorville (Christian County) - Diversified Energy., Inc. (proposed activity)

The mine site will be located on 22,000 acres in Christian County. It contains approximately 150,000,000 tons of coal. Six hundred acres on that site will be used to place the mine opening, wash plant, load out facility and refuse area. It is estimated that within two years production will have started and within another two years it will be at full production. The goal is to

produce 3,500,000 tons of coal per year. In order to achieve this production, approximately 500 employees will be needed. The mine opening, wash plant, and loan-out facility will cost \$20,000,000 and approximately. \$11,500,000 in mining equipment.

City of Taylorville (Christian County) - Expansion of ATY Building Systems, Inc.

In order to expand manufacturing operations in Taylorville, Illinois, ATY is seeking outside financing to be used entirely for the purchase and installation of necessary equipment. By the end of the second year after expansion, ATY will employ 105 people, 85 of those in Taylorville and 20 in Denver, a creation of 59 jobs in the first two years. Financing is being sought through the issuance of a 10-year SBA 7(a) Term Loan in the amount of \$643,000 at reasonable market rates with an additional CDAP Grant resulting in a \$485,000 loan from the City of Taylorville issued as subordinated financing. In addition, ATY will request a \$500,000 conventional Line of Credit to be used for material purchases at favorable prices. Since the initial start-up phase, the company has made great strides in both revenue and profitability. Projections clearly indicate that with expanded and properly equipped facilities in Taylorville, ATY is capable of repaying debt directly from cash flows without hampering normal operations.

City of Jerseyville (Jersey County)

The City plans to request funding for two separate projects within the next 2-3 years. The City would like to upgrade the water and sewer systems which serves the residents on Goodrich and Spruce Streets and replace the remainder of the main water main that serves the entire population of Jerseyville. The cost of these two (2) projects combined is approximately \$800,000. Both of these projects should be completed within two years of grant award announcements. Completion date is 2009 -2010. The City of Jerseyville would also like to build a new water treatment plant.

Jersey County Rural Water Company (Jersey County)

The water company plans to look for funding to plan, design, and construct a water system that will connect rural residents to the Jersey County Rural Water District. The project, if funding can be secured, will serve approximately 225 households and 615 residents in the northwestern part of the county. These residents currently depend on wells or cisterns that are undependable and unsafe to drink. The total costs of these projects will approach \$3,000,000. The projects, if funded, will be completed by the years 2009-2010.

City of Litchfield (Montgomery County)

A new super Wall Mart opened up in 2004 that doubled the previous employment from 200 to 400 people.

A new outlet mall is presently under development located between 1-55 and Old Route 66.

The actual number of occupants has not been determined at the present time. The developer is still in negotiations with several interested businesses.

Taylorville Industrial Park

The City of Taylorville would like to purchase a tract of land from ADM and convert it to an Industrial Park to accommodate the expansion/relocation of two local companies. One company manufactures components for use by CAT, GM, and Wal-Mart among others. The company plans to invest between \$4 and \$5 million and employ 100 people. The other company manufactures steel buildings that are shipped all over the world. They currently employ 40 people and plan to hire an additional 16-24 people. The initial investment will be approximately \$4 million. The Industrial Park will require roads, rail, sewer, water, and other utilities. The City plans to seek financial assistance from federal, state and local financing sources.

Taylorville Power Plant

The Christian County Generation LL, for the Taylorville Energy Center plans to construct a \$1.2 billion 630 meg-a-watt coal gasification plant that would turn high sulfur Illinois coal into a synthetic gas for use in producing electricity.

Summary of Employment Impacts

- Construction of the electric power generation facility will create 1,500 full time and part time jobs in Illinois over the duration of the construction project. Indirect employment of an additional 793 full time and part time jobs will be created in the state.
- Of the indirect jobs generated by construction of the electric power generation facility, additional jobs will be created in the following industries;
 1. 129 in retail trade industry.
 2. 110 in health and social services.
 3. 86 in professional, scientific, and technology.
 4. 70 in accommodations and food services.
 5. 68 in other services.

Summary of Employment Impacts

- Construction of the electric power generation facility will employ 120 employees in Christian County. Indirect employment of an additional 543 full time and part time

jobs will also be created in the county as a result of electric power generation operations.

- Of the indirect jobs generated by the electric power generation facility's presence in Christian County, additional jobs will be created in the following industries:
 1. 106 in accommodations and food services.
 2. 2. 65 in transportation and warehousing.
 3. 3. 54 in the retail trade industry.
 4. 4. 48 in finance and insurance.
 5. 48 in professional scientific, and technology.
 6. 6. 43 in other services.
 7. 7. 39 in wholesale trade.
 8. 8. 37 in health and social services.
 9. 9. 34 in construction.
- For each 100 employees added to the electric power generation facility, 453 additional jobs will be created in the county.

Summary of Employment Impacts

- Illinois coal consumption by the electric power generation facility will employ 416 employees in the state with 158 in the mining industry directly and an additional 258 in other industries.
- Of the indirect jobs generated from Illinois coal consumption by the electric power generations facility's presence, additional jobs will be created in the following industries:
 1. 39 in arts, entertainment and recreation.
 2. 32 in retail trade industry.
 3. 30 in health and social services.
 4. 20 in transportation and warehousing.
 5. 19 in accommodations and food service.

Litchfield Ethanol Plants

The 110 MOD Ethanol production facilities will require an upgrade of the roadway system to the 40 acre plant site to support up to 300 semi trucks per day on 80,000 LB. roads. Rail access will also be required for the project. The project is expected to create 50-60 full time plant jobs, several hundred trucking jobs, and up to 1,000 construction jobs. The economic impacts of spin-off businesses or industries have not yet been quantified.

Grafton Riverboat-Project

The-Riverboat-Resort-LLC has proposed to bring a riverboat to the Grafton waterfront consisting of a unique bed & breakfast inn, relaxation spa, gourmet coffee, 7 desserts shoppe, river ware & gifts boutique, small-event banquet and corporate meeting facility, top deck open-air observation/relaxation area and indoor entertainment facility. Driftwood Restaurant and Bar will feature fine dining for up to 125. The furnishings are antiques from Europe. The pub tables and buffets, along with the plush sofa and matching barley twist chairs, are treasures within themselves.

This project will provide approximately 60-70 jobs and generate additional tax revenues and income, assisting the city to provide better services to the residents and keep property taxes lower for the residents, which equates to higher property values.

Nutwood Levee District

The Nutwood Levee District would like to raise the levees in the district and upgrade the pumping facilities.

Deer Run Coal Mine

Patton Mining Company is developing the Deer Run Mine site which is projected to employ 200 people when coal is mined beginning as early as 2010. All but one state, federal and local permit have been attained and site preparation work was able to be initiated in June 2009.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AND POTENTIALS

Introduction

Thus far, this document has explored various areas of economic concern necessary in defining the region's economic development program. To achieve future success toward better development of the region's economy, local development groups should capitalize on existing developmental potentials while also working to solve development barriers or problems.

Analysis of Potentials

Natural Resources

The West Central Development Council is fortunate in having an abundance of natural resources. Mineral resources include valuable coal deposits and fertile soils which have supported the region's economic base in the past. Abundant coal reserves, combined with the existing aquifer that underlies the western portion of the region, provide an excellent potential new direction toward which the area's coal production may be turned. Coal conversion requires accessibility to these two resources which may in the future provide important opportunities for economic development.

Environmental Issues

The overriding objective of the CEDS is, of course, to foster economic development within the 7 county areas. Such economic gains will prove most rewarding if they are achieved in a proper balance with environmental and cultural objectives. Accordingly, this section will briefly examine and discuss any identified "environmental constraints" upon future development and/or specific environmental problems within the district requiring special attention

Endangered Species

According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Database, there are more than 15 species (both fauna and flora) listed as endangered species within the seven - county district. A more detailed list of these species is available from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Solid Waste

To date, the most economical way to dispose of solid waste is to landfill the material. Other forms of waste disposal, such as incineration, add extra expenses to the cost of disposal. As well, utilizing a local transfer station for collection and long haul to an out-of-area landfill will increase disposal costs via transportation and increased handling of the material.

The Illinois Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act, passed in 1986, mandated that each county be responsible for the planning and management of its solid waste. Each county was expected to draft and adopt a 20-year solid waste management plan which has three main components. These components are: (1) Waste Reduction - source reduction and reuse, (2) HHW, and recycling - final disposal composting, incineration, landfills, and lastly, (3) Implementation - coordination of planning, recycling and educational efforts. Through an intergovernmental consortium, the seven counties prepared a Needs Assessment and adopted a West Central Illinois Solid Waste Management Plan in the Summer of 1996. This plan was approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Water/Wastewater

With the exceptions of the smaller isolated villages, most incorporated communities in the seven counties have direct access to abundant raw water supplies (aquifers, lakes, reservoirs, water transmission lines, etc). Nearly all of the incorporated communities in the seven county districts, with populations of 1000 persons or more, either own their water treatment impoundment facility or have arrangements with neighboring communities and/or water districts to purchase treated water.

Some of the district's larger communities are in the process of expanding their water processing storage capacities to accommodate future community development and to accommodate anticipated peak demands and/or improve treatment quality. At least five rural water districts are in varying stages of development/operation, and at least one other district has been in operation for a number of years. The combination of these developments either now, or will, afford a majority of the district's residents with a dependable, safe supply of potable water.

Due to the fact that very few smaller communities have adequate wastewater treatment facilities, no industrial and few commercial developments are located in such settlements; this is not unique to our District. Most larger communities have adequate existing or expanding wastewater treatment facilities to accept new industrial/commercial developments.

Some communities are considering expanding their wastewater collection lines (as well as water lines) to service existing and future development within their fringe areas.

Labor Force

Even though agriculture has in the past been a decreasing source of employment, the region is still 3 - 4 times as specialized in agribusiness as the national average. Because of the already stable and prosperous agriculture base, there is potential for further exploitation of this sector, especially in manufacturing and distribution of agricultural goods, which could serve as a potential source of employment for the agriculturally - oriented segment of the workforce. Service related jobs are now the number one employer in the district, which indicates that a suitable labor force is already available for this type of endeavor. The educational levels in the region are low compared to national levels, but the region's population is within easy access of educational institutions which serve as potential training centers for the regional labor force.

Transportation

Much of the West Central Development Council region is in the economically advantageous position of being in a direct transportation corridor among the four SMSA's of Decatur, Bloomington, St Louis and Chicago. For this reason, the region has good potential for accessible north-south transportation of goods and people. Major water-based transportation is also accessible to the western portion of the region through utilization of the Illinois and Mississippi Waterways. These factors, combined with flat topography, make an attractive location for light industry.

Organizational Development

Movement toward more sophisticated development organizations has recently become a vital interest at the regional and local level. Five counties, Calhoun, Jersey, Christian, Macoupin and Montgomery, have active planning commissions which will play major roles in future development of their counties.

The West Central Development Council Inc. is available to provide technical assistance to CEDS committees in each county, as well as to other locally active groups. This renewed interest has presented itself as a necessary potential for the region's economic development.

Several municipalities have already developed industrial parks in order to further encourage industrial development.

Demographic Constraints

Employment in agriculture, mining, construction and manufacturing have been on the decline in the recent past. Indications are that this trend will continue. Through this loss of employment, the region suffers loss of population and wealth to neighboring regions which can provide the displaced segments of the workforce with needed employment.

Compounding this problem, the region's population composition by age contains a low percentage of population in the 20-44 range and a higher percentage in the 65 and older age group. This reflects the region's inability to retain younger workers because of inadequate economic opportunity.

Education levels in the Region are considerably below state and national averages of 12.1 years. This educational gap may be of substantial importance to potential industry considering this Region for location. It should be noted, however, that the most significant gap exists in Calhoun county, which presents a special problem due to the county's somewhat isolated location.

Analysis of Problems and Constraints

Facilities and Services

Large areas of the region, particularly the western portion, show substantial need for adequate housing. Improvements to the housing stock would certainly enhance the region's attractiveness for location of new business and industry.

As in other rural areas, the West Central Region possesses generally less than adequate public facilities and services. Water systems in many areas need to be upgraded. Recent efforts have been made to examine sewer system feasibility, but the growing demand for public facilities and services has outpaced the finances of local government. Recreation, fire and police, as well as other human services, have also not kept pace with present needs.

Transportation

Even though much of the region is within the major transportation corridor mentioned previously, there are prevailing constraints on accessible east-west land-based routes. This problem causes considerable hindrance in development of those areas within the region that lie on the outskirts of this corridor. This includes all of Calhoun County, western Jersey County and a large part of Greene County.

Coal Mining Impact

Macoupin County has been especially impacted by the mining of coal. Much of the historical economic development of the region may be traced to the discovery of rich coal deposits in the late 19th century. Coal mining became the major non-agricultural income producer as extensive mining took place from 1900 through 1990. In the late 1920's, however, a long period of economic decline and resultant population loss began. Automation of the mining, the enactment of the Clean Air Act and increased use of other fuels began to slow the one-industry economy. The declining coal industry, combined with a reduction in farming employment during the depression, led to a substantial out-migration from the region which was only recently stabilized.

Extremely large areas underlying Macoupin County have been undermined. Subsidence has

occurred in some cases, and further subsidence is expected. Problems associated with this are varied, and they will have to be resolved in future years.

Today, even though costs of other fuels have risen dramatically, the region has not experienced a rebirth of the coal industry. Two mines are still in operation in Macoupin County and one in Christian County. The coal mine located in Coffeen closed down in the mid 1980's.

With the reality of mines closing and a decrease in future coal production, the county must expect mine workers and their families to search for employment elsewhere with a potential for relocation. The depressed coal industry will be disastrous to the region due to the fact that county municipalities are already experiencing distressed economies.

Macoupin County has great potential as an energy producer however; present problems must be addressed and future problems resolved so as not to hinder extraction of this resource while at the same time making provisions for the increase in population and the various services and facilities which will be required

Organizational Development

In the past, local communities have been lacking in organized efforts dealing with economic development. Those groups that were in existence eventually lost interest due to lack of progress and technical assistance. Without showing progress, these groups have a hard time justifying their existence to the always - present faction at odds. With renewed support and coordinated efforts from the local communities and the region, this trend may be reversed and these efforts given new impetus.

Participant Groups

The following work program will be carried out in cooperation between the following groups and governments:

- The Shelby County CEDS Committee
- The Macoupin County CEDS Committee
- The Christian County CEDS Committee
- The Greene County CEDS Committee
- The Calhoun County CEDS Committee
- The Montgomery County CEDS Committee
- Jersey County CEDS Committee
- The municipalities of each County Government
- The West Central Development Council
- Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce
- Calhoun County Planning Commission
- West Central Illinois Health Systems Agency
- Illinois Department of Conservation
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Two Rivers Resource Conservation & Development Committee
Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, local office
Soil Conservation Service, local office
Christian County Economic Development Corporation
Pana Industrial Development Corporation
Taylorville Industrial Development Corporation
Other state, federal and local agencies and organizations

CHAPTER 6

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The development strategy for the West Central Development Council represents the "link" between the analysis of the district's economy, which makes up the bulk of this document and encompasses both the potentials and barriers to development in the region, and the programs, activities and projects that will be undertaken under the CEDS.

The development strategy has two major parts, the first being a discussion of the policy guidelines and implicit assumptions which culminate in a set of goals and objectives for economic development in the region. The second part deals with the actual work program designed to achieve the goals and objectives from a multi-year standpoint and sets forth how the staff and committee efforts will be utilized to carry out the course of action selected.

Policy Guidelines and Assumptions

In formulating a set of goals and objectives for economic development, certain general assumptions about the outlook for the district's economy, the causes of its problems, the suitability of certain economic activities to the region and the course of future demographic changes in the region, should be examined. Their assumptions are stated explicitly below in order to better understand the goals and objectives which follow.

Outlook for the Region's Economy

It is assumed by the CEDS Committee that the future outlook for the region's economy is critical, and that the factors which have led to its decline are in a holding period. This is based partially on the recent demographic and economic data presented in this report and also on the commitment of the district's leaders in bringing about the changes necessary to boost the economy. Never in the region's history has a coordinated effort aimed at changing the structure of the regional economy been undertaken.

A second major assumption is that the external or macro-economic situation will not be such that this reversal is impossible. Thus, at least modest national growth (with no wars, large natural disasters or major economic setbacks) is assumed. The Desert Storm War, fought between Iraq and Iran, did not help the economic situation in the United States.

The Causes of District Problems

It is assumed by the CEDS Committee that the major underlying causes of the economic ills of the region are as follows;

1. Past dependence of the economy on mining and agriculture as direct sources of employment resulted in a lack of diversification and an ultimate employment decline as these sectors changed.

2. An increasing population loss was a result of the above situation which, in turn, affected all sectors of the economy.
3. The relative isolation of certain portions of the region, both in a physical sense (such as Calhoun County) and more generally, remoteness from a major "corridor of commerce" between SMSA's for example, western Jersey County, most of Greene County and southern Montgomery County.
4. One widespread problem of all rural America is the lack of external stimulation through government spending and private investment. The flow of tax dollars from rural areas in the midwest have been diverted through state and federal expenditures toward large population centers throughout the nation. Thus, there appears to be a net loss of wealth to the urban areas and more widely recognized, depressed areas such as Appalachia.
5. Lastly, a general lag in education and other demographic characteristics have occurred among a large group of disadvantaged persons. This trend is hopefully being reversed to some extent by local, state and federal social service agencies.

Suitable Economic Activities

The C.L.D.S. Committee assumes that certain economic activities will be highly unlikely to locate within the region for reasons discussed elsewhere. The major types in this category would fall under the heading of Primary Production of Heavy Industry.

The Committee also assumes that the best course of action is revitalizing the regional economy which involves the diversification of those sectors and which now forms the economic backbone of the region. Thus, it is assumed that no major structural shifts will be made in the region's economy.

Population Growth

The committee assumes from the most basic standpoint that the regional population declines of the past half - century leveled off and is to some extent remaining constant. Minimal, if any, growth is expected. This assumption is borne out by population projections prepared by both the state and the region

The committee further assumes that the areas of fastest population growth will be located in those areas adjoining the metro-areas of St. Louis and Springfield, primarily southern Macoupin and Jersey Counties and northern Macoupin, the panhandle of Montgomery County and northwestern Christian County. Shelby County may experience minimal growth because of its proximity to the college towns of Mattoon and Charleston and the construction of the Future Gen Plant in Mattoon.

More modest, but important, population growth will also take place in the district's growth centers; Carlinville, Taylorville, Pana, and Shelbyville.

CHAPTER 7

CEDS Goals & Objectives

The West Central Development Council, Inc. supports a regional vision of seven west central counties of Christian, Greene, Shelby, Macoupin, Montgomery, Jersey and Calhoun. The regional vision is to create a climate that encourage economic expansion, has information and data available to all citizens interested in economic opportunities or general characteristics of the seven county regions, and gleans maximum benefit from regional economic incentives available. The WCDC's member municipalities envision a region that provides adequate public safety services to its residents, and a region that fosters a desirable quality of life for its residents through parks, libraries and tourism opportunities.

Goals

The WCDC has many goals to accomplish over the next several years in order to achieve even a portion of the region's vision change. These goals are also to:

- Expand the region's economic base through sustainable utilization of geographic advantages and natural resources in the region.
- Expand employment opportunities for residents of the region.
- Strengthen and diversify local economies.
- Increase capabilities of local communities to support and survive economic development shifts.
- Provide a state-of-the-art Regional Data Center for the WCDC Region, providing access to a host of information and information sources concerning the seven west central Illinois counties, including GIS mapping services.

Objectives

The task of economic development would be overwhelming without a determination of a course of action. Decisions regarding a plan of action have resulted from two major sources of information. The first source of information was the exchange of ideas, viewpoints, concerns, indentified problems, potential solutions and other topics included in CEDS Committee sessions, community assessment surveys, planning sessions involved in the other WCDC activities, joint meetings with private businesses, financial institutions and educational providers, and informal discussions with people concerned with development within the WCDC Region. A second important source was examination of existing resources that can assist with development efforts.

The objectives identified in order to obtain the goals set forth by the West Central Development Council are to:

- Take greater advantage of the geographic and location attributes of the region's rivers, interstates and rail system by encouraging further development along these routes.
- Improve or expand production capabilities of industries relying on natural resources such as agriculture, mining and forestry.
- Create new jobs through industrial expansion, new industrial development, small business development, agriculture diversification and establishment of industrial businesses that utilize available agricultural products.
- Increase training opportunities and skill development programs designed to qualify residents for available and projected jobs.
- Assist existing industries and demonstrate expansion potential.
- Provide needed support for industries that will maximize production and employment capabilities.
- Encourage economic diversity in employment sectors throughout the seven counties.
- Expand the tourism industry through enhancement of existing attractions, development of new attractions and establishment of additional tourism support services.
- Provide essential local and regional water, sewer, gas, electric services, telecommunications and public services through technical assistance to local municipalities. Develop stronger highway networks with emphasis on east-west routes.
- Encourage the development of renewable energy businesses within the region.
- Encourage the development of a high speed rail system connecting St. Louis to Chicago.

Chapter 8

Strategic Projects, Programs, & Activities

Suggested Projects

Projects that need to be undertaken in the short term in order to accommodate long term growth are the most important to the residents and leaders within the WCDC Region. Industrial parks and industrial properties that are currently vacant need to have the necessary infrastructure installed to make these properties readily available and marketable to potential investors. Water lines, sewer lines, and primary entranceways to these industrial parks and industrial properties need to be completed. Rail improvements throughout the region need to be made. At the present time, rail access to available property is limited. Main line rail services through Con Rail, Norfolk & Western, Illinois Central Railroad Company, Chicago and Northwestern, Burlington & Northwestern, Chicago & Illinois Midland Railroad Company and Union Pacific Railroads are available in Shelby, Macoupin, Montgomery, Christian, Greene and Jersey Counties. However, local access to these main lines through spur lines and switches are limited. In order for the region to develop as an intermodal transportation hub, the internal rail system within the region needs to be upgraded.

Additionally, the shipping is dependent upon the roadway system. At present, north-south access throughout the region is well advanced and accessible. The east-west access is much more limited. National shipping patterns tend to indicate that growth in transportation is through east-west linkages more so than north-south.

Training programs for residents within the renewable energies field has been proposed. With the onset of ethanol production, bio-diesel production and coal gasification possibilities become more developed within the region, the residents and workers in the region need to be trained in renewable energies fields. This will provide a properly trained and readily available workforce for the potential developments within the region.

Vital Projects

Currently, the focus of the region is providing infrastructure, capital assistance and training for the three major developments on the horizon within the region. Infrastructure improvements including the provisions of water lines, sewer service, roadway construction, and rail line construction at the site of the Illinois Central Ethanol, L.L.C., ethanol production facility is of paramount importance. The Illinois Central Ethanol, L.L.C., is located in an industrial park that is completely undeveloped. The basic infrastructure needed must be supplied before construction of the actual production facility can begin.

Infrastructure improvements and the utilization of the TIF Districts are of extreme importance for the construction of the Verasun Bio-Diesel production facility in Montgomery County. Finally, many improvements regarding land use issues, zoning, incentive development, infrastructure provision, transportation logistics, etc. will be required for the construction and operation of the proposed coal gasification plant in Christian County. The major economic investment brought by this project along with the influx of 1,500 - 2,000 new jobs will greatly strain the infrastructure and current commercial and housing markets within the entire region.

Planning and improvements need to be made to accommodate the economic changes that will be associated with this project.

Projects in Lincoln and St. Charles Counties

Relocating part of Silex and dredging to reopen the Grafton Ferry are among projects funded by \$9.5 million in federal grants by the Missouri Department Economic of Development. Silex, a Lincoln County town damaged by a flash flood in September of 2008, is getting about \$1.9 million to buy out part of the town and move it to higher ground. St. Charles County will get \$117,750 to help pay for dredging to help the ferry, which links the county with Grafton in Illinois near the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. The ferry, now set to reopen July 1, 2009 stopped operating in December 2008 after silt left by flooding blocked its usual passage and forced it to take a longer, less popular route. The state also approved \$461,091 for buyouts of 17 flood-damaged homes along the Mississippi in St. Charles County and \$639,600 to buy out flood-damaged property in Elsberry.

High-speed rail stimulus fund rules

The Obama administration has released criteria for \$8 billion in stimulus money for high-speed rail that appears to give frontrunner status to projects in the Midwest and California. The guidelines released Wednesday by the Federal Railroad Administration are the starting shot in a race among states to build new or revamped networks. Eight midwestern states joined forces to back a network with a Chicago hub that includes a line to St. Louis.

Chapter 9

CEDS Plan of Action

The task of economic development would be overwhelming without a determination of a course of action. Decisions regarding a plan of action have resulted from three major sources of information. The analysis presented in the preceding chapters was one major source of information. A second source was the exchange of ideas, viewpoints, concerns, identified problems, potential solutions, and other topics included in CEDS Committee sessions, community assessments surveys, planning sessions, joint meetings with other related agencies and informal discussions with people concerned with development within the WCDC Region. A third important source was examination of existing resources that can assist with development efforts. Implementation of projects will result from coordinated efforts of the WCDC Economic Development District and various local, state and federal entities. The Policy Board has directed the staff of the WCDC Economic Development District to act on their behalf. Implementation will be conducted in accordance with locally adopted policies, plans and programs and with applicable state and federal guidelines and regulations.

Promotes Economic Development & Opportunity

Development of industrial sites and marketing them effectively is a main goal of the WCDC Region. This entails identifying geographic areas most conducive to industrial development, identifying appropriate types of industries for these areas, and preparing development plans for these areas. This also involves preparing a marketing strategy for the promotion of all industrial sites within the region via advertising, brochures, site databases, and web - page design.

For the local industries and commercial enterprises, the need for low-interest financing that would encourage business creation and expansion opportunities in the rural areas and small towns needs, will be identified. Industrial site information packets that can be distributed upon request will be prepared along with an industrial site database available via the internet.

Fosters Effective Transportation Access

In order to improve transportation to industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural and scenic areas, the WCDC Region supports studies of road and highway improvements to enhance economic functions. This would involve improving access interstates, major highways, industrial areas, rail services, etc. in order to enhance economic development. Improvements to the access to tourist areas would also need to be a priority which would promote the work with other agencies and local government to determine the need and priority of facilities, all in all enhancing tourism in the region. Improving access through signage of structures, sites, and areas of interest would also be a major advantage to fostering effective transportation access. The determination of which structures, sites and interest areas that lack signage or require additional signage to improve accessibility would have to be made. Also the region would have to be willing to work with other agencies and local governments to provide financing, coordination and installation of signs that provide adequate direction to structures, sites and interest areas.

Enhances & Protects Environment

Erosion and flooding are the major environmental problems that affect not only the water quality, but also agricultural, residential and commercial land uses. Loss of soil and crop damage increase the cost of agricultural production in flood prone areas. Although the WCDC Region is a rural economically impoverished part of the state and has historically lacked sewage treatment facilities and potable water sources, there has been an adhesive regional prioritization approach to identifying and obtaining necessary public facilities for the entire region. Recreation and tourism have been major sources of economic growth for the region. This region is rich in its biodiversity, natural habitats, wetlands, woodlands, forests, stream corridors and river corridors. The region has established bike trails and walking trails. It is vitally important to continue to preserve and restore these resources within the region. The region relies heavily on tourism and the natural beauty of west central Illinois that, with proper stewardship, will not only enhance the region's natural resources but will also encourage development because of these resources.

Maximizes Effective Development and Use Workforce

Figures indicate that within the WCDC Region there is good potential for labor force growth. The current labor force represents 49.7% of the region's population. Also, the quality of the regions labor force has potential for improvement because 65% of the older residents have high school diplomas and 12% have college degrees. The region has a history of high unemployment and has had one or more counties in the top ten in unemployment for over the past year. With this type of labor force, it would benefit the region tremendously for economic growth to occur and be utilized.

It is the intent to strengthen and diversify the industrial base by bringing in new industries, expanding existing industries, and encouraging locally initiated industries along with promoting minority industrial development and providing permanent employment of area residents. The effectiveness of the local labor market would be increased by proposing training programs as needed to enhance employability of local workers; and in order to strengthen the industrial base, assistance to local governments and development organizations in establishing business retention and expansion programs have to take place.

Balance Resources Through Sound Management of Physical Development

In order to effectively plan and coordinate the orderly development of the WCDC Region, the protection of sensitive natural resources while promoting development in other areas is necessary. This can be accomplished by taking inventory of natural areas, ecological areas, unique natural communities, proposed wilderness areas, and other areas of geographical or biological significance along with encouraging mitigation procedures for protection of highly sensitive areas. Another task would be to promote orderly and organized growth and development by assisting communities in zoning, county land use planning, comprehensive community planning, growth management and solid waste management.

Obtains and Utilizes Adequate Funds and Other Resources

The WCDC Region partners with many federal and state agencies and departments in order to obtain its community and economic development needs. Over the years, strong working relationships have developed between the WCDC and these agencies. Some of the agencies working diligently in the WCDC Region to increase economic development opportunities and provide sustainable community development are: U.S. Department of Commerce – EDA, USDA Rural Development, USDA Forest Service, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Federal Highway Administration, Small Business Administration, Illinois Bureau of Tourism, Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Chapter 10

Cooperation & Integration With Illinois' Economic Development Priorities

Due to the area's limited resources and population, several major regional organizations have formed over the years in order to serve certain needs of the region. Many of these organizations are seven county providers. This region seems to understand that many things can be accomplished by cooperating over geographic boundaries for programs and services. Economic development in the WCDC Region can be accomplished in a shorter amount of time and in a more cost efficient manner if regional organizations and partnerships are utilized.

Besides organizations in the WCDC Region, there are many other existing and potential partners to aid in the economic progress of the area. These organizations include: Southern Illinois University Office of Regional Economic Development, Illinois Rural Partners, Illinois Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Development Organizations, Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs, Mississippi Delta Commission and Illinois Cooperative Extension. All of these entities have been accessed in the past for assistance with economic development efforts and will be accessed again in the future. There is also a host of other organizations that will serve as potential partners with the WCDC Region in the economic development in the area as they are defined.

Chapter 11

Performance Measures

The West Central Development Council Region understands and encourages the evaluation process within the organization. Evaluation should be a critical element of an ongoing planning process and answer the question, "How are we doing?" in order to make the district as an agency and the region as a whole effective. As a designated economic development district by the Economic Development Administration, the WCDC conducts an annual evaluation of performance based on the goals and objectives provided in its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The results of this evaluation will be included in the annual report submitted to EDA as a part of the requirements of a planning grantee. The West Central Development Council will conduct its annual evaluation based on the performance measures listed in the following pages.

Performance measures will be used to determine areas that are in need of revision or more intensified efforts. It must be noted that not all objectives and activities have been allocated to a specific performance measure. This is due to the overwhelming fact that all the strategies, objectives and activities are inter related when referring to economic development and specific measure of performance cannot be put to every activity or objective. Many of the activities of the West Central Development Council have intangible long-term results; however, they are necessary to bring about a positive change to the economic picture of the WCDC Region.

In addition regional economic indicators will be used as they become available to determine the WCDC Region's overall economic progress or decline. This is an indirect reflection upon the West Central Development Council's progress. If the district is being effective, we would hope to realize some improvement in overall regional economic development indicators over a five-year period.

The following outlines specific performance measures to be used for evaluation purposes within the context of the West Central Development Council's programs and activities.

Number of Jobs Created After CEDS Implementation

Based upon the current projects underway within the WCDC Region and the anticipated projects on the horizon, the number of jobs to be created after implementation of the CEDS is hard to estimate. However, conservatively, the WCDC anticipates that all efforts based upon the CEDS goals and objects will be attributable to the creation of at least 400 - 500 new jobs over the course of the next three years.

Number & Types of Investments Undertaken

The WCDC will aggressively pursue development of TIF Districts, business attraction and retention incentives and encourage participation in the enterprise zones already established in the region. Along with proposed infrastructure upgrades and industrial park developments, it is anticipated that several new investments will be undertaken over the next three years. These investments include a wide range of activities including: five new industrial park tenants throughout the region, ethanol plant construction, bio-diesel plant construction, coal gasification project construction, and the expansion of grain handling facilities.

Number of Jobs Retained

The anticipated economic growth from projects that are currently pending will increase existing businesses survival chances. This will result in the retention of jobs that would be lost if the economic conditions within the region continue to decline. It is anticipated that the WCDC will provide technical assistance or some other form of assistance vehicle that will enable at least 5 businesses to expand or retain employees over the next three years. The job retention potential for these businesses is 75 jobs retained.

Amount of Private Investment after CEDS Implementation

The private investment potential after implementation of the CEDS is incalculable at this time. As a performance measure standard, the WCDC anticipates that at least \$600,000 in private investment will be made within the region annually for the next three years. This is a total private investment of \$1,800,000.

Changes in the Economic Environment

The potential for major changes within the economic environment in the WCDC Region is greater now than at any other time in the past 20 years. With the possibility of three new, large manufacturing ventures on the horizon, major improvements within the educational, cultural, service, commercial, and housing sectors are very real possibilities. Growth can be anticipated within all business sectors. As a performance measure of CEDS implementation, the WCDC anticipates that the service sector will grow as a portion of economic activity within the region by 5% over the next three years. Likewise, the agricultural sector will increase by approximately 20 percent. The overall regional, per - capita income will increase 10% over the next three years. With the potential for a number of job creation opportunities, it is anticipated that the average annual unemployment rate for the WCDC Region will decrease to a level at or no more than 2% of the state unemployment level.

Other Performance Measures

Other more specific measures of performance after implementation of the CEDS will include the following items: The WCDC will assist with the creation of at least one TIF District within the area. The WCDC will provide assistance and/or capital for at least 10 new businesses (commercial, service, or retail). Two industrial parks will receive infrastructure improvements through the assistance of the WCDC.

Conclusion

Annually, the West Central Development Council will evaluate its progress and performance through a self-evaluation process. Members of the Policy Board, the CEDS Advisory Committee, and local community assessments will be consulted to determine the extent to which the WCDC is aiding sufficient economic development progress throughout the region. Areas of poor performance will be reevaluated and adjusted in order to improve the economic development service delivery from the agency.

Performance measures will also be evaluated to determine areas that are in need of revision or more intensified efforts. It must be noted that not all objectives and It must be noted that not all objectives and activities have been allocated a specific performance measure. This is due to the overwhelming facts that all the objectives and activities are

inter-related when referring to economic development, and a specific measure of performance cannot be applied to every activity or objective. Many of the activities of the West Central Development Council have intangible long-term results; however, they are necessary to bring about a positive, holistic change to the economic picture of the WCDC Region.

Finally, regional economic indicators will be consulted as they become available to determine the WCDC Region's overall economic progress or decline. This is an indirect reflection upon the West Central Development Council's progress. If the district is being effective, we would hope to realize some improvement within the region over a three-year period.

An annual report of the West Central Development Council's progress will be prepared and distributed to local governments, CEDS participants, and the Economic Development Administration. The annual report is intended to accomplish the following tasks: adjust the WCDC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy as needed; report the year's economic development activities and significant changes to the region's economic conditions; evaluate the West Central Development Council's effectiveness in meeting established goals, and provide a schedule of achievable objectives for the coming year.

Chapter 12

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development Assistance Program Components

Springfield, Illinois has been very instrumental in furthering the economics of the West Central Development Council area by funding these six different components of its program. All six of these components fund projects that are consistent with the goals and objectives as they are outlined in the Annual CEDS Plan. The six major eligible activities are as follows:

Economic Development

CDAP funds may be used to assist for-profit and not-for-profit firms to carry out economic development projects. Generally, CDAP grant funds will be loaned by the locality to the borrower (business or not-for-profit organization) at agreed - upon terms. The borrower may use the funds for land acquisition; acquisition, construction, reconstruction, installation, or rehabilitation of commercial or industrial buildings, structures and other real property equipment and improvements, and working capital expenses, limited to the following: inventory, employee salaries, general operational expenses and advertising/marketing expenses. Grant funds may not be used as grants to help service or refinance existing debt. In addition to using CDAP funds for low-interest loans, CDAP funds may be used to finance public facilities and improvements in support of economic development (e.g., water system upgrading to serve an expanding business).

Public Facility Construction

Acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or installation of public facilities and improvements are eligible activities. Project areas must be primarily residential in character. (This does not include buildings used predominantly for the general conduct of government.) Funds may also be used to finance costs associated with the connection of residential structures to public facility improvements. The funding priority for this component is for water and sanitary and storm sewer projects. The grant ceiling is \$350,000.00.

Design Engineering

Eligible design engineering activities are final design engineering of large scale projects for new or expanding water or sewer systems. The grant ceiling is \$100,000.00.

Housing Rehabilitation

CDAP funds may be used to finance the rehabilitation of residential buildings, including improvements to increase the energy efficiency of the structures. In conjunction with rehabilitation activities, CDAP funds may be used to finance acquisition, disposition, clearance and relocation to arrest the decline of an area. Also, CDAP funds may be used for public facilities improvements and/or residential connection costs which will support a housing rehabilitation project. The grant ceiling is \$350,000.00.

Emergency Public Facility

Eligible activities are identical to those in the Competitive Public Facility components but which are of an urgent nature and have occurred outside the normal funding cycle. The grant ceiling is \$100,000.00.

Macoupin County

U.S.

	LF	E	U	Rate	LF	E	U	Rate
2007 AA	24,820	23,263	1,557	6.3%	153,124,000	146,047,000	7,078,000	4.6%
2008 AA	24,975	23,040	1,935	7.7%	154,287,000	145,342,000	8,924,000	5.8%
24-month average	48,795	46,303	3,492	7.0%	307,411,000	291,389,000	16,002,000	5.2%
	24,898	23,152	1,746	7.0%	153,705,500	145,694,500	8,001,000	5.2%

Macoupin County's unemployment rate over the past 24-month period is 126% of the U.S. rate.

Montgomery County

U.S.

	LF	E	U	Rate	LF	E	U	Rate
2007 AA	13,676	12,731	945	6.9%	153,124,000	146,047,000	7,078,000	5.1
2008 AA	13,576	12,344	1,232	9.1%	154,287,000	145,342,000	8,924,000	4.6
24-month average	27,252	25,075	2,177	8.0%	307,411,000	291,389,000	16,002,000	5.2%
	13,626	12,538	1,089	8.0%	153,705,500	145,694,500	8,001,000	5.2%

Montgomery County's unemployment rate over the past 24 month period is 135% of the U.S. rate.

Shelby County

U.S.

	LF	E	U	Rate	LF	E	U	Rate
2007 AA	11,247	10,676	571	5.1%	153,124,000	146,047,000	7,078,000	4.6%
2008 AA	11,193	10,427	766	6.8%	154,287,000	145,342,000	8,924,000	5.8%
24-month average	22,440	21,103	1,337	6.0%	307,411,000	291,389,000	16,002,000	5.2%
	11,220	10,552	669	6.0%	153,705,500	145,694,500	8,001,000	5.2%

Shelby County's unemployment rate over the past 24-month period is 113% of the U.S. rate.

Calhoun County

	LF	E	U	Rate	LF	E	U	Rate
2007 AA	2,858	2,471	185	7.0%	153,124,000	146,047,000	7,078,000	4.6%
2008 AA	2,647	2,448	199	7.5%	154,287,000	145,342,000	8,924,000	5.8%
24-month average	5,303	4,818	384	7.2%	307,411,000	291,389,000	16,002,000	5.2%
	2,652	2,460	192	7.2%	153,705,500	145,694,500	8,001,000	5.2%

Calhoun County's unemployment rate over the past 24-month period is 128% of the U.S. rate.

Christian County

	LF	E	U	Rate	LF	E	U	Rate
2007 AA	17,980	17,031	949	5.3%	153,124,000	146,047,000	7,078,000	4.6%
2008 AA	18,000	16,752	1,248	6.9%	154,287,000	145,342,000	8,924,000	5.8%
24-month average	35,980	33,783	2,197	6.1%	307,411,000	291,389,000	16,002,000	5.2%
	17,990	16,892	1,099	6.1%	153,705,500	145,694,500	8,001,000	5.2%

Christian County's unemployment rate over the past 24-month period is 115% of the U.S. rate.

Greene County

	LF	E	U	Rate	LF	E	U	Rate
2007 AA	7,176	6,796	378	5.3%	153,124,000	146,047,000	7,078,000	4.6%
2008 AA	6,947	6,498	449	6.5%	154,287,000	145,342,000	8,924,000	5.8%
24-month average	14,123	13,296	827	5.9%	307,411,000	291,389,000	16,002,000	5.2%
	7,062	6,648	414	5.9%	153,705,500	145,694,500	8,001,000	5.2%

Greene County's unemployment rate over the past 24-month period is 112% of the U.S. rate.

Jersey County

	LF	E	U	Rate	LF	E	U	Rate
2007 AA	11,860	11,183	677	5.7%	153,124,000	146,047,000	7,078,000	4.6%
2008 AA	11,863	11,076	787	6.6%	154,287,000	145,342,000	8,924,000	5.8%
24-month average	23,723	22,259	1,464	6.2%	307,411,000	291,389,000	16,002,000	5.2%
	11,862	11,130	732	6.2%	153,705,500	145,694,500	8,001,000	5.2%

Jersey County's unemployment rate over the past 24-month period is 116% of the U.S. rate.

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Laurie Skrivan • lskrivan@post-dispatch.com
ing (right), of G2 Communications, helps Margaret Cahill set up her free
arter box Friday afternoon. "I called this morning," said Cahill, who
Wellston Senior Housing Complex. "I know a lot of elderly people who
ot afford to make the switch without help."

FutureGen power plant gets boost of \$1 billion

The reaction • "We never gave up" on experimental facility, Sen. Durbin says.

The new goal • Removing 60 percent of carbon emissions, not 90 percent.

BY SEAN ROSE • srose@post-dispatch.com >

WASHINGTON • FutureGen, the experimental coal-fired power plant planned in central Illinois that was derailed by the Bush administration, was formally resurrected Friday with \$1 billion in federal stimulus funds.

The Energy Department made its announcement after 18 months of uncertainty and speculation over whether the project would be brought back to life.

"I think the important thing to remember is that we never gave up," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., an ardent FutureGen supporter. "There was an attempt to kill this project a year and a half ago and many of us refused to give up. We believe in this project and the importance that it holds out not only for the United States but literally for the world so that we can find ways to use coal in environmentally sensitive ways."

FutureGen is a proposed coal-burning power plant that will test the effectiveness of carbon capture and sequestration, where carbon dioxide is separated from the emissions and injected underground so it doesn't contribute to global warming. The plant is to be built near Mattoon, Ill.

The Energy Department is committing \$1.073 billion to FutureGen with up to \$600 million more coming from the FutureGen Alliance, a partnership of public and private energy companies that includes St. Louis-based Peabody Energy.

But that still leaves a significant gap to cover in the \$2.4 billion project. The rising cost of the project was one of the primary concerns of the federal government, Energy Secretary Steven Chu has said.

FutureGen Alliance CEO Michael Mudd said securing the rest of the funds may be the largest hurdle left to clear.

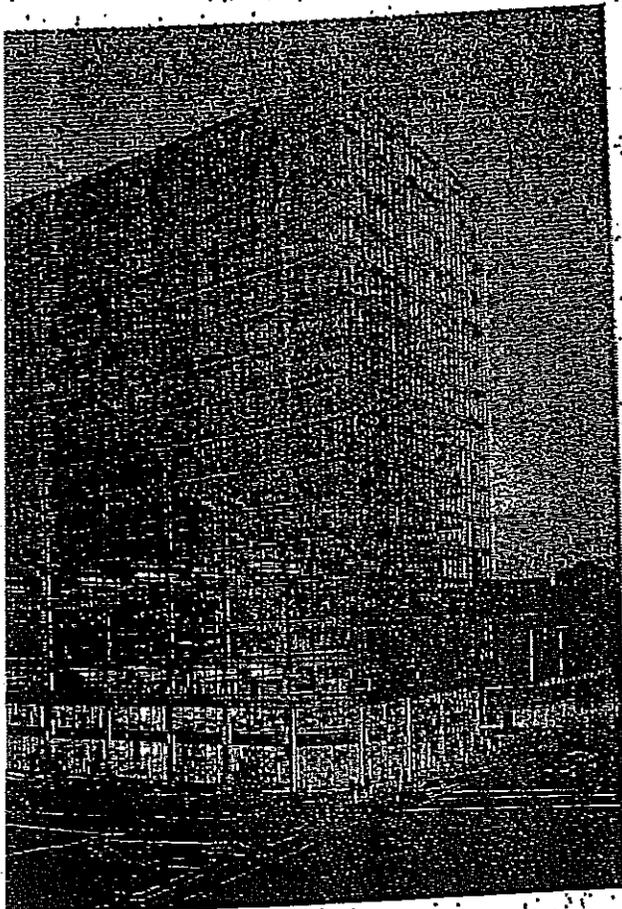
"Funding is clearly a big challenge," Mudd said. "There are always significant challenges in the development of any project like this, either reducing the

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 munications: 314-599-3229
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Its ownership ene Plaza

id secured and closed on the financing
on development.

> 314-725-5758



Cerfene Plaza Tower

co, it had secured
he financing ar-
the development
nde a consortium
S. Bank and Pi-
Sandy McBride, a
erson.
is on target to be

completed next summer. This first
phase will include a parking garage
along Forsyth, a public terrace and
the 17-story tower.

A possible second phase would
include a second office building at
Hanley and Carondelet Avenue.

FUTUREGEN FROM A1

Durbin says he is optimistic about the future
of the experimental coal-fired power plant.

ogy.

FutureGen will start by re-
moving 60 percent of carbon
from its emissions rather
than the original plan of 90
percent.

That is unwelcome news
to environmentalists who
support FutureGen, which
was billed earlier as a "near
zero emissions" plant.

"It's definitely disap-
pointing," said Becky Stan-
field, senior energy advocate
with the Natural Resources
Defense Council. "For coal
generation to be sustainable,
we need to get to the 90 per-
cent range, if what we have
to do to get there is start with
60 percent and ratchet up
from there then we need to
get going."

The Energy Department
said it planned to issue a
"record of decision" next
month, enabling the Future-
Gen Alliance to work through
the rest of the year finalizing
design details; developing a
full funding plan and estab-
lishing a final cost estimate.
A final decision on the proj-
ect is expected in January.

The Bush administration's
refusal to release a record
of decision is what initially

stalled the project. Illinois-
ans in Congress contended
that the Bush administration
soured on FutureGen after it
won out over Texans' pro-
posals in a design competi-
tion.

In March, a federal audit
revealed that the Bush ad-
ministration had made a
math mistake that made
the plant's cost estimate to
appear to be \$500 million
higher than it was. However,
the revised cost estimate
ended up rising anyway,
from the Bush administra-
tion's \$1.8 billion to the cur-
rent \$2.4 billion.

Even with a funding gap
to close, Durbin said he was
optimistic about the plant's
future.

"I would say as impor-
tant as the first part of next
year will be in this decision
process, the fact that we are
moving forward at this point
is a good indication that it is
a promising project," Durbin
said.

When asked if FutureGen
would receive the govern-
ment's final approval in Jan-
uary, Mudd said: "That's my
job to make it happen."

stoday.com

AFTER THE RECESSION

If St. Louis wants to ride the next wave of
prosperity, it needs to reinvent its economic
strategy. See the story, plus company rankings,
performances and profiles, in the Post-Dispatch's

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

<http://www.stltoday.com/annualreport09>

Program is available to veterans and members of the military who are on active duty even if they've purchased homes before.

FutureGen pays record price for last land parcel

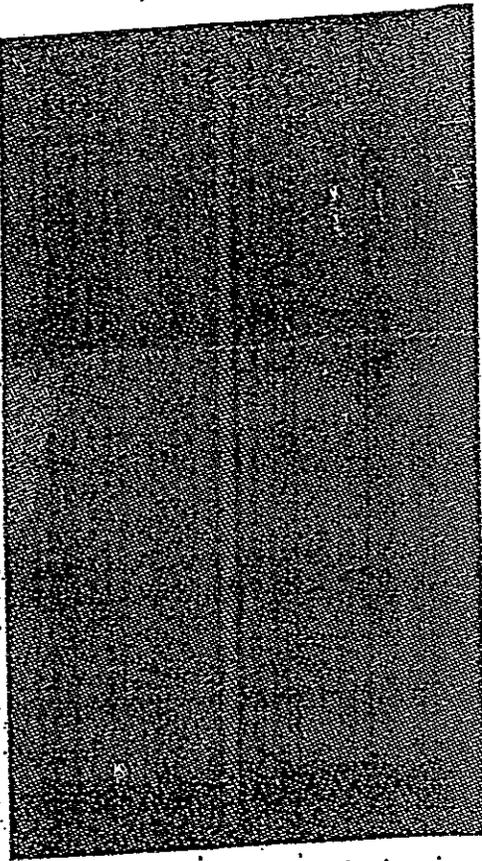
MATTOON, Ill. (AP) - The companies planning to build an experimental coal power plant in eastern Illinois have improved the fortunes of one local family.

The FutureGen Alliance recently bought the final piece of property needed for the plant for \$750,000 from Kurt and Michelle Theriault. The couple paid \$155,000 for the wood-frame house and 4.3 acres in 1971.

Coles County Supervisor of Assessments Jean Tipsword says that's more than anyone has ever paid for a residence in county. The previous record was \$548,000.

The alliance hopes the federal government moves ahead with the project next year. The plant is intended to prove that a large power plant can extract the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from coal and store it underground.

Quinn returns



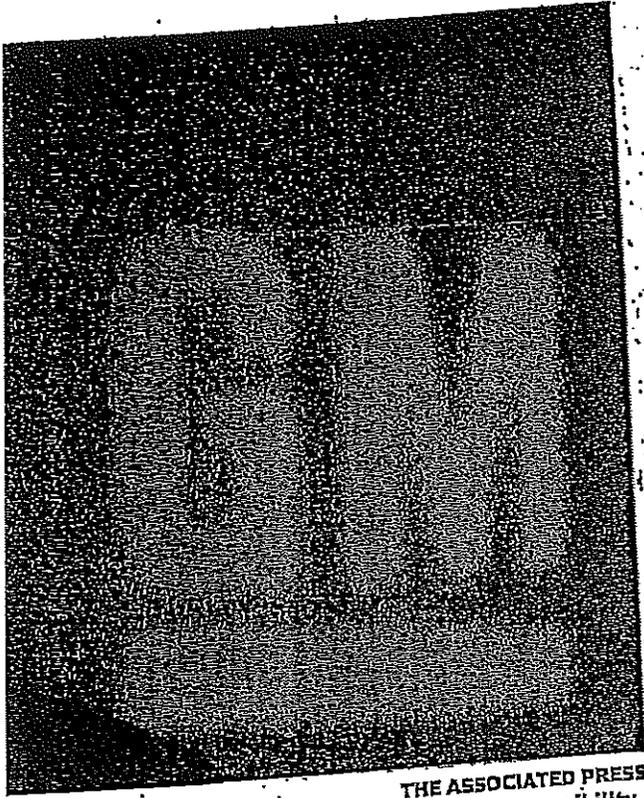
OUT SELLING PLAN - Pre Barack Obama talks about plan for health care reform following a roundtable discussion with health care providers today.

Obama vision

Supporters say listen carefully His plan is different from

7/29/09

Bill
This project
is not in
our district
but it's a
next door
neighbor.
Mike



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Motor's CEO Fritz Henderson was asked about the possibility of something that's high on my list of things to do." With GM's name change, company spokeswoman Susan Garontakos says the move is within the company.

M?

Motor's should rebrand itself.

ake, ing a company is an effort. Experts warn ng a corporate identity s and hundreds of mil- setting dollars, drawing how the automaker is oney under govern- l. And such a colossal ght not win over driv- ors. still righting itself, soon" to think about age, company spokes- n Garontakos said. But ledged the idea is part as within the company. ve want to reinvent the ad want to build it so rethring that will show

worrying about the name of the company. We've only got so much time on our hands trying to get the brands right."

NAME CHANGES

GM's misery has company among other big businesses that changed their names after tough times. • Valujet, devastated when one of its planes crashed into the Florida Everglades in 1996, killing all 110 people aboard, took the name AirTran after buying that company's fleet a year later. It survives under that name today. • Security firm Blackwater Worldwide changed its name to Xe — pronounced like the letter Z — earlier this year to distance itself from its operations in Iraq, including

U.S. Steel taking steps to restart mill in Granite City

About 100 steelworkers being called back to work next week is a 'very good sign.'

BY ANGELA TABLAC • atablac@post-dispatch.com > 314-340-8140

United States Steel Corp. will take the first steps next week to restarting its Granite City Works, local union officials said late Friday, but it's unclear just when the idled steel mill will be back to full production.

About 100 steelworkers will be called back to work next week, said Dan Simmons, president of United Steelworkers Local 1899, which represents most workers in the steel complex.

Two more workers from USW Local 68, which represents the mill's electrical workers, also will return, said Jeff Evans, the union president.

"It is a very good sign," Simmons said. Indeed, it creates hope that about 2,000 workers in Granite City, laid off from the mill in recent months, could soon return.

Granite City Works, one of Granite City's largest employers, makes steel used in construction, automobiles and other industries. Citing a drastic drop in steel demand, U.S. Steel idled the mill in December and laid off most of the workers. About 1,600 people were put out of work.

Another 390 union and nonunion members were laid off in February. At that time, U.S. Steel halted production of coke, a key steel-making ingredient that it had been stockpiling.

A skeleton crew of fewer than 200 hourly workers remain at the plant, according to union officials.

Simmons said he and other union officials met with U.S. Steel Friday and were told that orders for steel appear "strong."

U.S. Steel spokeswoman Erin DiPietro would not verify whether any workers were returning. She added that U.S. Steel is continuing to adjust production to customer demand, but would not elaborate.

"We do not provide updates on our operations," DiPietro said.

Some of the workers returning next week will prepare a blast furnace to go back online, said Jason Chism, president of USW Local 50, which represents workers in the coke and iron-making facility.

The mill could be making iron within 30 days, but U.S. Steel hasn't yet said when it wants the blast furnace to be up and running, he said.

The blast furnace is an important part of the steel-making process. Huge ovens heat coal to make coke, which is then fed into a blast furnace to extract iron, the basic ingredient for steel, from iron ore.

Meanwhile, Evans of USW Local 68 said, some additional electrical workers will return to work the week of June 21 in the "hot strip mill," where coil is made.

Continuation of U.S. 67 expansion a proposed project

By JANE HUH

STATE CAPITOL BUREAU

Among major road projects proposed for central Illinois this summer is a \$2.95 million plan to continue the ongoing effort to widen the U.S. 67 corridor.

The Illinois Department of Transportation also is set to offer Morgan County and Manchester in Scott County a one-time payment of \$1.5 million to take over two segments of roadway along U.S. 67. That transfer would be completed by the end of the year and those segments would no longer be part of the state highway system, said IDOT spokesman Matt Vanover.

The U.S. 67 corridor is 229 miles of state highway that stretches from Alton north to

See U.S. 67 on page 9.

U.S. 67

From page 8

Rock Island. For more than 20 years, IDOT has worked on expanding it to four lanes.

Taking up most of the proposed budget for U.S. 67 in fiscal 2007 with \$1.95 million, are the engineering and contract plans from the Cass County line to less than a mile east of Concord near the Illinois River at Beardstown. Through fiscal 2012, that project's estimated cost is \$13 million.

Though the continued widening of U.S. 67 is among Gov. Rod Blagojevich's most-touted budget proposals, Sen. Deanna Demuzio, D-Carlinville, is taking a wait-and-see attitude. "This is a large project, she said. "We want it, we have questions and we want to know basically what the scope is."

Demuzio, along with other Corridor 67 proponents will meet with IDOT representatives Tuesday to get more specific information on some items, especially a proposed bond program for the Jerseyville bypass at Dearly Creek, she said.

While all the road improvement proposals are important, the overall objective is to address safety issues through resurfacing and bridge replacements, said IDOT Region 4 engineer Christine Reed.

Setting priorities for the work also depends on how the early phases of each project goes. Land acquisitions may hold up the process, Reed said.

"As soon as they're ready, we want to make sure we have the funding to put them under con-

struction," she said.

IDOT estimates it will spend more than \$830 million on Corridor 67 from fiscal 2007, which will begin July 1, to fiscal 2012. The overall project is estimated to cost more than \$1.6 billion.

"I wouldn't say Friday's proposals on U.S. 67 are a huge step forward," said Demuzio, whose late husband, Sen. Vince Demuzio, avidly pushed the highway's expansion. "We'll just take it as a small step at a time."

Among other Springfield-area projects included in IDOT's fiscal 2007 budget plan are:

- \$1.6 million to resurface two miles of Ninth Street (Business 59) from South Grand Avenue to Converse Avenue in Springfield.

- \$1.7 million to begin preliminary planning for a Business 55 bridge at Salt Creek southwest of Lincoln in Logan County.

- \$2.25 million to resurface three miles of Interstate 72/U.S. 36 from a half-mile west of Old U.S. 36 west of Winchester, to the railroad tracks in Scott County.

- \$900,000 to replace a bridge over Illinois 4 at Honey Creek six miles south of Illinois 408 in Macoupin County.

- \$2.3 million to resurface 11 miles of Illinois 48 from the Macoupin County line to half a mile north of McAdam Drive in Taylorville.

- \$700,000 to resurface a mile of Illinois 97/Jefferson Street from half a mile west of Illinois 4 to Meadowlark Drive in Springfield and to upgrade a traffic signal at that intersection.

Jane Huh can be reached at 782-6888 or jane.huh@sj.com.

Exxon coal mine in Illinois to close; 300 will be laid off

By Jeffrey Tomlich
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Exxon Mobil Corp. will close its Monterey No. 1 coal mine in Macoupin County by the end of the year after a potential sale of the mine fell apart. More than 300 mine employees will lose their jobs.

Almost 70 union-represented workers were laid off Friday, and the rest will be let go by year-end when production ceases, according to Donald Stewart, president of the United Mine Workers of America Local 1613.

The announcement Friday confirmed the fears of miners who waited anxiously for more than a year to learn their fate. It's also another economic blow for Macoupin County, which recently saw the Springfield Coal Co.'s Crown II mine close, costing 200 jobs.

Monterey No. 1 employees were notified of the potential sale last summer. In late October, managers said the sale to Pennsylvania-based Carlin Acquisition Corp. would be complete by the end of November, Stewart said. Instead, financing for the deal apparently fell through and Exxon decided to close the mine.

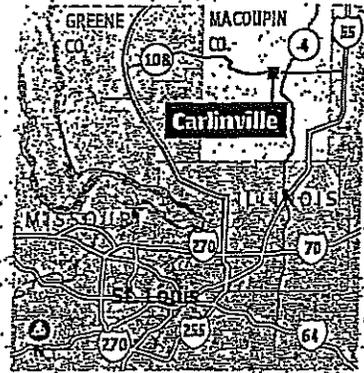
"It was poor communication and total disrespect for the workers out there," Stewart said.

Exxon was in negotiations with potential buyers for two years that "regrettably ... failed to result in a sale," spokeswoman Margaret Ross said in an e-mail statement.

"With no outlook at this time for a sale to proposed buyers, it is necessary to safely begin slowing operations ... and to prepare to cease mining operations," she said.

For Irving, Texas-based Exxon, the decision marks an exit from the coal business. The oil giant also has shed other coal and metals assets to focus on finding, producing and refining petroleum. Exxon has owned the mine just south of Carlinville since 1970. Last year, it produced about 2.8 million tons of coal.

The 300-plus layoffs at Monterey No. 1 and the loss of jobs at the Crown II mine undoubtedly mean an economic shock for Macoupin County. County Board Chairman



ported by miners' wages will also be hurt, Manar said. So will the county, which relied on hundreds of thousands of dollars in coal taxes.

Manar said he and state Sen. Deanna Demuzio met Thursday with Gov. Rod Blagojevich to urge state assistance for workers.

The mine closings come as the Illinois coal industry is looking forward to a rebound — a reversal from the 1990s when environmental regulations led utilities to buy coal lower in sulfur content from mines in western states. That led many mines to shut down and to the loss of thousands of jobs.

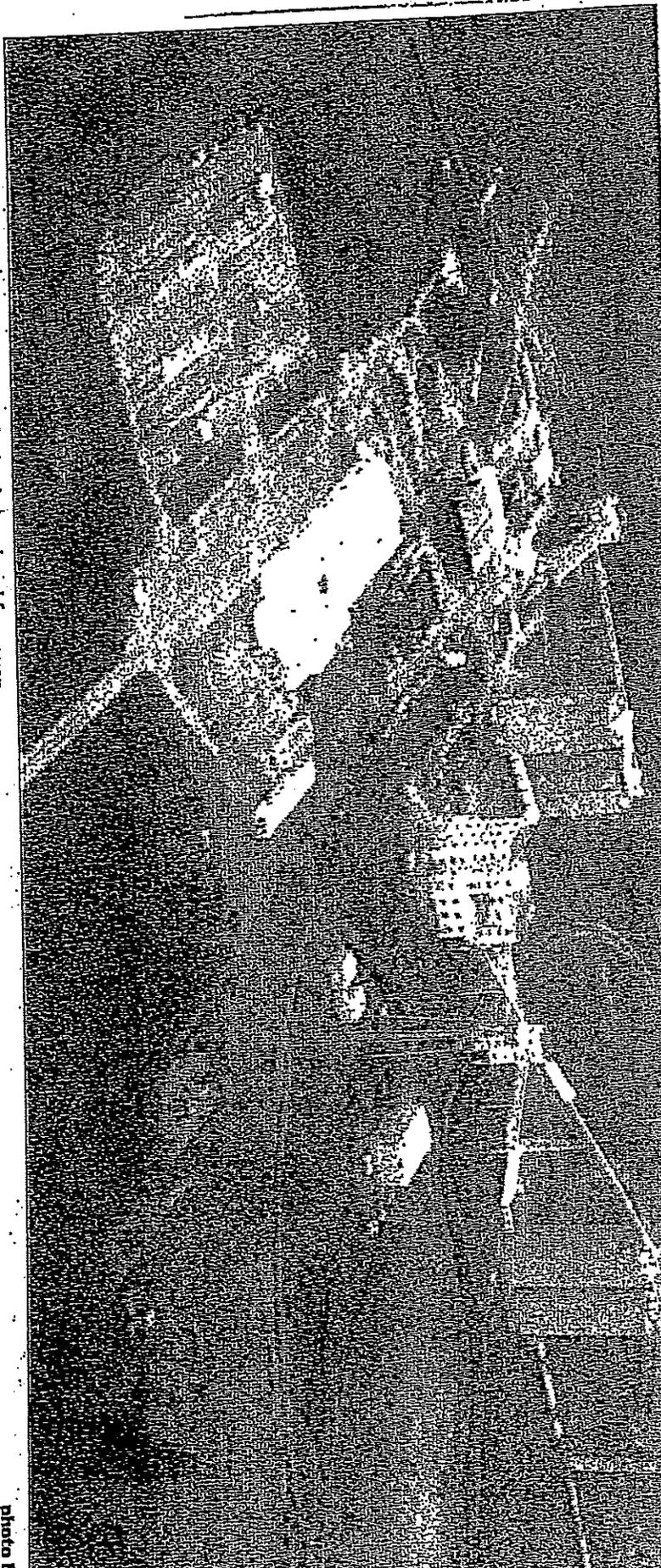
Blagojevich appeared at the Crown III mine in Macoupin County earlier this year to sign legislation to help the state attract the \$1.5 billion FutureGen project, a plant that would produce electricity from coal with near-zero emissions.

"Since then, things have changed dramatically for the worse," Manar said. "And we're left holding the bag of lost jobs and unemployment."

Phil Gonet, head of the Illinois Coal Association, said he's still optimistic about the future of the industry. But that hope has been tempered by the recent mine closings and layoffs. While projects such as Peabody Energy Corp.'s 1,600-megawatt power plant in Washington County are expected to increase demand for Illinois coal, many of those are years away.

"We've got a gap," Gonet said. "It's four to five years away before we start using coal at those sites."

Stewart, the Local 1613 president, said the closing of Monterey No. 1, Crown II and another mine in Wash-



Aerial view of Monterey Coal Mine No. 1 after being closed for a year.

photo by W

Monterey Mine Sold

ExxonMobil has completed the sale of Monterey Coal Mine No. 1 near Carrizaville to Macounpin Energy, LLC, which is part of the China Group.

The mine has been closed since Dec. 31, 2007.

The new owners have made no announcement about when the mine may resume production, or whether or not it will employ union miners. Former miners who were displaced by the mine's closure were represented by the United Mine Workers of America.

Both parties reportedly signed documents to close on the sale at 10 a.m. last Thursday, Jan. 22. The transfer of deed has not yet been recorded in the Macounpin County Recorder's Office, but the documents currently are being held in the Supervisor of Assessments Office.

There is no confirmation on the purchase price, which is said to be between \$40 and \$50 million.

The China Group has made no public comment about the sale or its plans for the mine.

"They're trying to reestablish the ventilation system," said State Sen.

Deanna Demuzio, who has been in contact with representatives of the China Group, "and makes sure all the safety features are in place."

She said the new owners will make announcements in the coming months regarding the reopening. "It's an older mine," she said. "Before anyone comes onto the premises to work, they want to make sure it is a safe environment."

Earlier this week, ventilating fans at various locations around the mine were observed to be on. Demuzio said workers from MIM Electric Cooperative also have been onsite to

reestablish power to lights and other equipment at the mine.

Macounpin County Board Chairman was cautiously optimistic about the news.

"The news of the successful sale is obviously good for the county," he said in an e-mail on Tuesday. "While I have not had a formal meeting with the new owners, I look forward to learning more about their plans."

Without additional information, however, Mawar said he would not comment on the possible impact the sale of the mine may have on finances for the county government.

ExxonMobil's Monterey mine was a relatively "long-standing" annually reviewing contribution to the state and the nation. ExxonMobil spokeswoman said, "as we value to others."

Monterey was the company's

Monterey

FROM PAGE ONE

EssexMobl closed the 40-year-old mine at the end of last December, laying off nearly 300 miners and more than 70 salaried employees. The mine had been a major employer since it opened in 1970, producing nearly three million tons of coal a year for electric utilities and industrial customers in Illinois.

The mine closure came on the heels of the closure of Brecken's Crown II Mine near Virden. A newly created company, Springfield

Coal Co., comprised of former Brecken executives, bought the Crown II Mine and Crown III Mine near Girard, and opted to close Crown II while keeping Crown III open. That closure in September 2007 cost the county about 220 jobs.

The combination of lost jobs and the loss of sales tax revenue from mineral coal dealt a serious blow to the Macoupin County Board's annual budget. The loss of sales tax alone cost the General Fund in the neighborhood of \$600,000 annually. Mayor has repeatedly warned the

County Board, however, that the county may not see a restoration of sales tax revenue if the coal removed from the mine is sold to out-of-state markets.

When word of the pending sale to the China Group leaked in December, Demazio said the best deal for the mine operation, outbidding five other interested buyers. At that time, sources said EssexMobl had given the China Group until the end of the January to complete the deal. Once the mine is reopened,

Demazio said China plans to utilize room and pillar mining techniques, even though EssexMobl had been using longwall equipment for several months. To continue the longwall mining operation would require China to replace equipment at considerable expense, according to Demazio.

Using room and pillar mining techniques will "save time" and allow the new owners to "start mining coal sooner," according to Demazio. It is not yet known whether Macoupin Energy miners will be re-

ported by the UMW, or whether the China Group will hire contractual workers from outside the area. Out-of-work miners in the area have said they are hopeful the new owner will hire back local workers.

Even before the mine closed a year ago, EssexMobl reportedly was in negotiations with the Carlin Acquisitions for the sale of the mine. That deal reportedly was sidetracked by Carlin's inability to get a secondary investor to buy the mineral rights associated with the mine. Last February, Paul Semeschal, CEO of

Carlin, told the County was hoping to secure from the Illinois Dept. of Revenue while Detroit. Even this diligence to buy the mineral rights, Carlin's deal, however, was never

The China Group, Macoupin Energy, Ford 1 in Williamson County, as well as in Camp Energy, 111 in

Jersey hopes to attract workers

Refinery expansion is catalyst

By LAURA GRIFFITH

The Telegraph

JERSEYVILLE — Jersey County is taking a proactive step in getting its share of benefits from the upcoming expansion project at the ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery.

A newly constructed Web site aimed at a generation of 20- and 30-somethings will seek to draw construction workers who are brought in from outside the region to work on the project to make Jersey County their new home.

FROM PAGE A1

Although the construction jobs, more than 1,600 of them, will be temporary, the project is expected to last five years. It also is expected to create 100 full-time jobs.

TALK BACK!
http://telegraph.com or call 465-2583

Brent Thompson, director of the Jersey County Business Association, said

ConocoPhillips is working on a one-stop Web site to attract construction workers and give them information about the project. The Jersey County relocation site, www.welcme.jciba.us, will be linked to it, he said.

"We hope to encourage those construction people to live here while they work on the five-year project," Thompson said.

Thompson said the expansion likely will be approved by the end of the year, so work can begin in early 2008.

WORKERS

By 2011, the project is expected to allow the refinery to process and pump more oil.

Herron said. Jim ConocoPhillips told him that the refinery contracted community ties in a 40-mile radius to get the word out that workers will need to find homes.

In response, the JCBA put together a committee of people related to the housing business to see what the county could do to help and also benefit itself. The committee decided that launching a Web site would be the way to go in this internet age.

The Web site features a welcome page with a slideshow of photos taken throughout the county and links for information about the county's history, infrastructure on homes, schools and health care, and contacts

for real estate agents, contractors, utilities, newspapers, hotels and motels, churches, recreation, grocers, financial institutions and more.

Christy Smay, with Creative Pulse, shot more than 100 photos of the county for the project.

"There are some absolutely gorgeous pictures. No outside shots to snazzy it up," Thompson said. "We have all the jazzy shots we need right here in Jersey County."

Thompson said the presentation of the county on the Web site should draw interest.

"Once you've been here awhile, you kind of get hard-ened to your surroundings," he said. "For me, when you're looking at those pictures with a different train of thought, it's almost like seeing something for the first time. It made me very proud to be here. It brought back the appreciation that I had seven years ago, when I moved here. I got that same feeling. That's what I hope it does for other people."

This is a different kind of economic development project for the JCBA, but an economic development project nonetheless that will create new wealth and job opportunities, Thompson said.

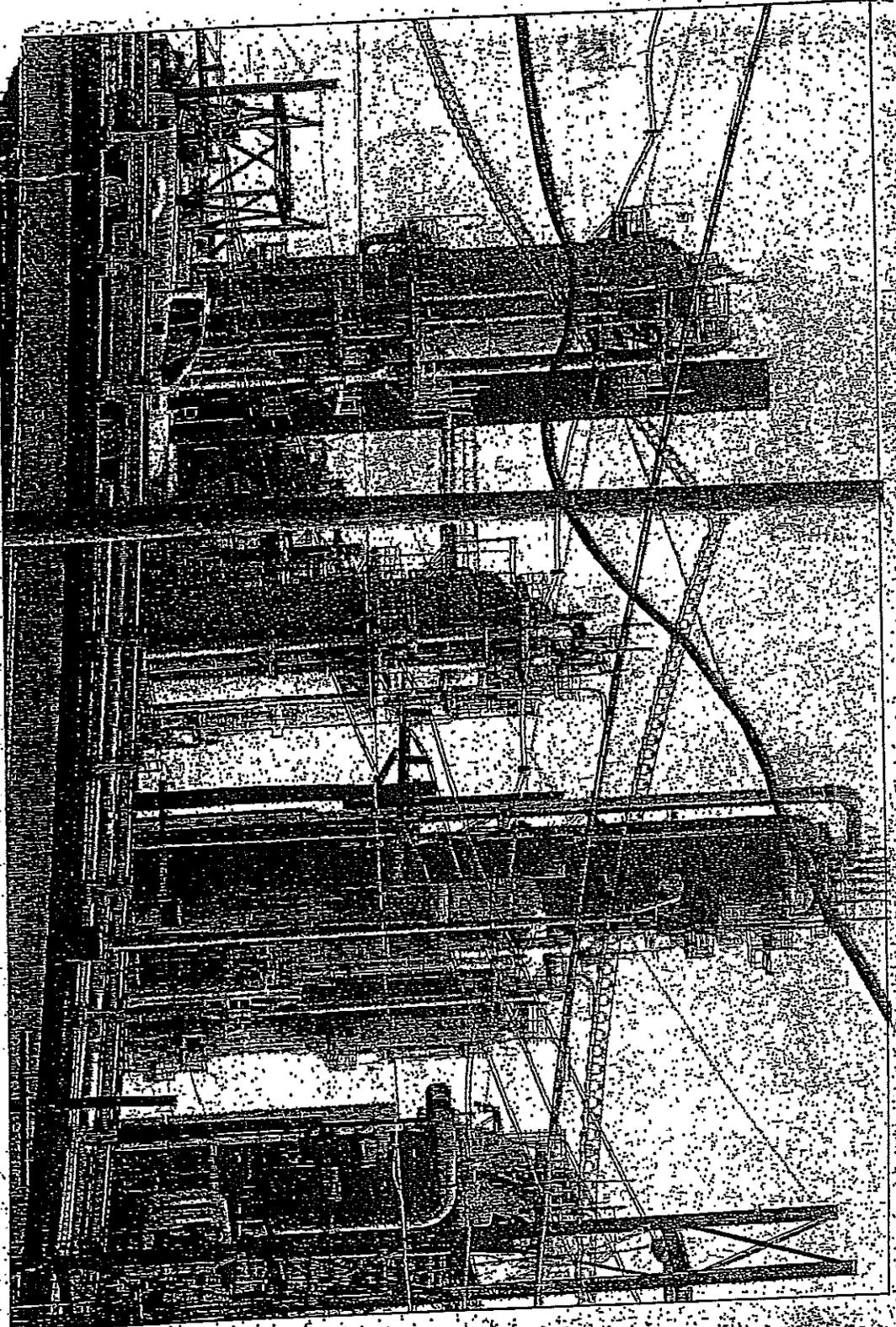
Along with giving workers from elsewhere a choice in housing, Thompson said the sites being linked also might give construction workers in this area access to information about job opportunities.

The relocation site also will be linked to the JCBA's new site, expected to fully launch a week from Monday.

That site, www.jciba.us, will provide information about the association and county and will be accessible from the JCBA's old Web site, www.jciba-il.us.

Laura.griffith@telegraph.com

ConocoPhillips on expansion path



joint venture
to boost output
create jobs

by NICK LITCHEL
The Telegraph

BOXANA — The ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery will be much busier in the coming day phase in the coming

ConocoPhillips

with a Canadian oil company last fall. The refinery managers predicted about 3,000 more construction jobs and 100 additional refinery jobs will be created on the 2,500-acre property.

The refinery in Boxana, which is being built by a joint venture of ConocoPhillips and a Canadian oil company, is expected to create about 3,000 jobs during construction and 100 additional jobs once the refinery is fully operational. The company says the project will create 2,500 jobs during construction and 1,000 jobs once the refinery is fully operational.

EXPANSION

FROM PAGE F1

In early October, ConocoPhillips executives announced the corporation would start a 50-50 venture with EnCana, an oil company that has vast heavy crude oil holdings in Alberta.

EnCana will operate an "upstream" portion of the partnership and ConocoPhillips will operate the "downstream" leg of the partnership at refineries in Roxana and Broger, Texas. The Roxana refinery is the larger of the two, according to company officials.

The Wood River Refinery will boost its oil output from 306,000 barrels a day to more than 400,000 barrels per day by 2013, refinery manager Herman Seedorf said.

In January, company officials announced that they reached their agreement for the joint venture, making the partnership official.

Both EnCana and ConocoPhillips reported healthy financial successes earlier this year and EnCana is set to report the

company's largest annual profit, about \$7.5 billion this

year. ConocoPhillips is trying to obtain permits from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the expansion.

The Roxana-based refinery eventually will refine the Canadian crude oil exclusively. The oil comes from the Foster Creek and Christina Lake projects, which company officials say could hold as much crude oil — about 11 billion barrels worth — as Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia.

Refining the heavy crude is a longer and more intensive process than refining light or "sweet" crude oil, because of its chemical makeup. Additional equipment will be installed to handle the increased oil flow.

Seedorf said after the announcement in October that oil arrives to the refinery via four main pipelines; two of them come from Canada and the other two are from the Gulf Coast.

The announcement came

on the heels of another report that executives at ConocoPhillips would invest about \$1 billion into the refinery in the coming year.

At a question-and-answer session last month with company executives and state officials near Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, James L. Gallogly, vice president of refining, marketing and transportation for ConocoPhillips, spoke of the challenges of refining the heavy and thick Canadian crude oil.

"It's very difficult to refine," Gallogly said. "This is a tough process. It takes a lot of energy to make (heavy crude) into clean gasoline.

Before going forward with the long-term plans for the refinery, ConocoPhillips has to get new air quality permits, which poses a challenge in Madison County, which has had historically bad air quality from the factories and plants that once dotted the area.

nick.jucchi@tribetribegraph.com



Welders were working to make repairs to a storage tank at the Roxana.

Capital improvements to come in droves

By **MAGGIE BORMAN**
The Telegraph

SPRINGFIELD — The fruits of a statewide capital infrastructure improvement plan slowly are becoming apparent.

The latest list of area projects was released Thursday by state Sen. Deanna Demuzio, D-Carlinville, who represents Illinois' 49th Senatorial District, which includes Calhoun, Greene, Jersey and Macoupin counties in The Telegraph area.

"With the number of projects coming to the counties and municipalities of the 49th District, we are hoping to see an increase in employment numbers for the district. This is important, especially when you consider that some of our counties have very high unemployment rates," she said.

Projects coming to the 49th District include renovations for county courthouses, and funding for improvements to primary, secondary and higher education facilities, as well as money to improve various state facilities that provide employment and numerous services for the residents of the district.

"We will see schools, parks and health-care facilities receive funds to improve their buildings and grounds. With these funds, we will see good employment opportunities for residents while improving the infrastructure of many of the municipalities in our district," Demuzio said.

The capital infrastructure improvement plan was a bipartisan effort that passed the Illinois General Assembly this spring. With the signing of the plan by Gov. Pat Quinn, almost \$31 billion in projects statewide will be able to begin, providing jobs while shoring up

CALHOON COUNTY

- \$100,000 for capital improvements to the courthouse.

- \$100,000 for the Calhoun School District for repairs to the roof at Calhoun High School.

- \$342,929 to the Hardin Work Camp for a sewage treatment plant upgrade.

GREENE COUNTY

- \$25,000 to the Greenfield School District for a portable wheelchair lift.

- \$100,000 for capital improvements to the courthouse.

- \$30,000 to the village of Roodhouse for the purchase and installation of emergency warning sirens.

- \$75,000 to the Greene County Sheriff's Department for the construction of a new evidence room and other capital improvements.

- \$350,000 to the Greene County Highway Department for the reconstruction of Pin Oak Road and other infrastructure improvements.

- \$70,000 to the city of Carrollton for capital improvements.

- \$25,000 to the city of White Hall for playground equipment.

- \$95,000 to the Greenfield School District for the purchase of bleachers.

JERSEY COUNTY

- \$100,000 for capital improvements to the courthouse.

- \$221,000 to the Pere Marquette Illinois Youth Center for roof replacement.

- \$621,000 to Pere Marquette State Park for emergency replacement of a sewage treatment plant.

- \$63,279 to Pere Marquette State Park to replace the lodge pool dehumidifier.

and other infrastructure improvements.

- \$100,000 to the village of Godfrey for general infrastructure.

- \$75,000 to Grafton Township for road infrastructure improvements.

MACOUPIN COUNTY

- \$100,000 to the city of Virden for infrastructure improvements.

- \$30,000 to the city of Virden for playground equipment.

- \$100,000 for capital improvements to the courthouse.

- \$165,000 to Blackburn College for parking lot repairs and residence hall upgrades.

- \$100,000 to the city of Girard for capital improvements throughout the city.

- \$70,000 to the village of Royal Lakes for capital infrastructure improvements.

- \$25,000 to the village of Royal Lakes for capital improvements to Royal Lakes Community Center and gym.

- \$100,000 to the city of Bunker Hill for various capital improvements throughout the city.

- \$100,000 to the city of

- Bunker Hill for the construction of the Bunker Hill Medical Center.

- \$300,000 to the city of Benld for reimbursement of previous expenses.

- \$100,000 to the city of Mount Olive for infrastructure improvements.

- \$200,000 to the city of Gillespie for infrastructure improvements.

- \$200,000 to the city of Staunton for infrastructure improvements.

- \$100,000 to the Bunker Hill Library District for construction projects.

- \$50,000 to the village of Shipman to build restrooms at the city park.

- \$50,000 to the village of Modesto for the replacement of fire hydrants and gate valves.

- \$50,000 to South Otter Township to build a storage facility and make improvements to the Township Village Hall.

- \$50,000 to We Care Recycling for renovation and expansion of the facility.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A comprehensive list for Madison County was still being compiled as of Thursday.

maggie_borman@thetelegraph.com

Montgomery County
- \$150,000 to Litchfield Community School District 12 to convert a classroom into a science lab at the junior high.

- \$100,000 for capital improvements to the courthouse.

- \$200,000 for Mt. Olive Trail upgrade between Mt. Olive and Walshville.

- \$350,000 to the City of Litchfield for construction of an underwater sediment catch basin for Lake Lou

Yaeger.

- \$10,015 to Graham Correctional Center for an upgrade of the cooling towers.

- \$35,990 to Graham Correctional Center for an upgrade of mechanical systems.

- \$21,170 to Graham Correctional Center to upgrade building automation and fire alarm systems.

Justice
appears
everyday



WICO

WICO

WICO

POLICE BRIEF

ALTON — Eric T. Stark, 41, of the 3800 block of Coronado Street, Alton, was charged Thursday with unlawful possession of a controlled substance. He allegedly possessed cocaine on Wednesday. Bail was set at \$15,000.

ALTON — Gardell Ballinger, 23, of the 1800 block of Wonderland Drive, Alton, was charged Thursday with aggravated fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer. He allegedly drove away from a police officer, disobeying two or more traffic control devices on Thursday. Bail was set at \$15,000.

EAST ALTON — Anthony L. Spatafora, 20, of the 3700 block of Horn Street, Alton, was charged Thursday with unlawful possession of a controlled substance. He allegedly possessed cocaine in East Alton on Thursday. Bail was set at \$15,000.

EAST ALTON — Joshua W. Dickerson, 29, of the 200 block of South Pence Street, East Alton, was charged Thursday with residential burglary. He allegedly entered a home in the 400 block of East St. Louis Avenue on Thursday. Bail was set at \$60,000.

WOOD RIVER — Julie

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*Caring for the
You Love.*
Eldercare of Alton
Our Bottom Line is
3523 Wickenhauser, Alton

Mayor's Dinner
Friday, August 1

supplies for the children of our school district.

Project Kid Kare was organized 10 years ago to provide students and teachers with needed school supplies. The number of children that are in need of our help each year continues to grow. Supplies are provided to any student during the school year that needs them.

Through the generosity of our communities and organizations we have been able to provide students with the supplies they need to do well in school. Donations may be left at the Bend Library now until August 20th.

To make a monetary donation checks can be made payable to Project Kid Kare. For more information please call Donna Easton at 839-2437 or Mary Newman at 835-4045.

Supplies that are needed are: Fiskar scissors (pointed), Glue Sticks, Elmer's Glue, Pencil boxes, Crayola Brand Broad Line and Fine Point Markers, Crayola Brand Colored Pencils, Crayola Brand crayons - 24 count, Erasers - pink and pencil toppers, Wide ruled notebooks and notebook paper, Folders, Pencils, Book Bags (older graders)

Coal Country Times

New Hours

Mon: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tues: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

for the Public Health Department to issue a private sewage permit, an owner must produce a building permit. According to Kent Tarro, Macoupin County Public Health Department Executive Director, there are problems with the re-

Bend rejects new satellite water contract

The Bend City Council met in a regular meeting Monday at city hall and voted to reject the recent water contract submitted by the City of Gillespie. The contract states that a 15 percent rate increase will go into effect August 1 for satellites that sign the contract. Satellite communities that do not sign by August 1 will experience a 20 percent increase until they either sign the contract or purchase water from somewhere else.

Several council members questioned the legality of the water contract proposed by the City of Gillespie. It was stated that the increase is understandable because of the price of the chemicals used to treat the water, but it is hard

Continued on page 67

Building permits.

quirement.

"The county assessor's office has not done a good job of issuing building permits," Tarro told the County Board during Tuesday's

Gillespie and County to receive over \$60 million Program to benefit Bend and Gillespie

Governor Pat Quinn signed into law bills that will create the \$31 billion *Illinois Jobs Now!* plan.

Under the program, Macoupin County will receive over \$60 million in Capital Development Grants and IDOT projects over the next six years. The projects range from resurfacing a large stretch of I-55 to a \$100,000 grant for City of Gillespie.

It is estimated that *Illinois Jobs Now!* will create or retain over 439,000 jobs over the next six years. Many of the projects will create new "green" weatherization jobs, protect and improve the state's fresh water supplies and advance high speed rail from Chicago to St. Louis.

Kent Tarro

meeting. "The law was passed in June, 1999, after a four year law suit with Mike Storey."

Continued on page 31

The district has also asked for the city's help in providing a safe pedestrian crossing area from a proposed new faculty and staff parking lot which will be placed across Route 16 in front of the high school. "They're proposing to

Continued on page 27

COMMUNITY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	GRANT AMOUNT
City of Gillespie	Infrastructure Improvements	\$200,000
Village of Royal Lakes	Capital Improvements	\$70,000
Village of Madelon	Highway Replacement	\$50,000
City of Island	Capital Improvements	\$100,000
Village of Royal Lakes	Can. Center Improvements	\$25,000
City of Wilcox	Infrastructure Improvements	\$100,000
City of Staunton	Infrastructure Improvements	\$200,000
City of Mt. Olive	Infrastructure Improvements	\$100,000

Illinois Jobs Now! includes a variety of capital development projects for Macoupin County. The Macoupin County Courthouse has been awarded \$100,000 for renovation. Efforts are underway to help prevent further

damage to the building and restore the structure to its former condition.

Continued on page 87

Bring My Ad in Advertising

The Coal Country Times

\$60 Million

(Continued from page 11)

IDOT Projects for Macoupin County

PROJECT/LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
① ES 1.1 ml. S of Rt. 138 to 8 ml. N of Rt. 16	\$15,300,000	Resurface
② Resurfacing of Madison St. (Grand)	\$2,085,000	Resurface
③ Rt. 4, 3 ml. S of George St. to Madison St. (Grand)	\$2,085,000	Resurface
④ Resurfacing of Madison St. (Grand)	\$2,085,000	Resurface
⑤ Rt. 4, Ditch 3.8 ml. S of Sangamon Co. Line	\$375,000	Drainage
⑥ Resurfacing of Madison St. (Grand)	\$3,550,000	Resurface
⑦ Rt. 16, Jersey Co. Line to Rt. 159	\$3,550,000	Resurface
⑧ Rt. 16, Coop Branch, 1 ml. E of Shipman	\$1,375,000	Bridge Replacement
⑨ Resurfacing of Madison St. (Grand)	\$2,800,000	Resurface
⑩ Rt. 108, Rt. 111 to W.C.L. of Carlinville	\$2,800,000	Resurface
⑪ Resurfacing of Madison St. (Grand)	\$400,000	Resurface
⑫ Rt. 115, 1 ml. N of Rt. 108 to 1 ml. S of Rt. 108	\$1,375,000	Bridge Replacement
⑬ Resurfacing of Madison St. (Grand)	\$1,375,000	Resurface
⑭ Rt. 16, Little Plaza Creek, 3.7 ml. S of Rt. 16	\$475,000	Bridge Replacement
⑮ Resurfacing of Madison St. (Grand)	\$2,095,000	Resurface
⑯ Old Rt. 4, Shearless Branch, 1.6 ml. S of Grand	\$1,572,000	Bridge Replacement
⑰ Resurfacing of Madison St. (Grand)	\$1,572,000	Resurface
⑱ Resurfacing of Madison St. (Grand)	\$1,572,000	Resurface
⑳ Resurfacing of Madison St. (Grand)	\$1,572,000	Resurface

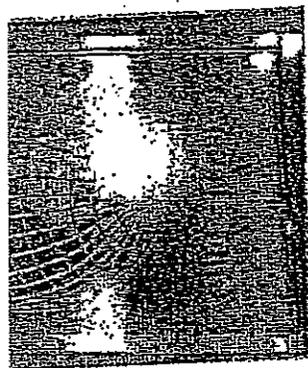
There are eight road resurfacing projects scheduled which are denoted by numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 12, and 14. The stretches of roadway which will undergo resurfacing are highlighted in yellow. The most costly resurfacing project is the stretch of I-55 east of Gillespie which will cost \$23.3 million dollars. There are no resurfacing projects scheduled for Gillespie.

There are nine bridge replacement projects also being funded.

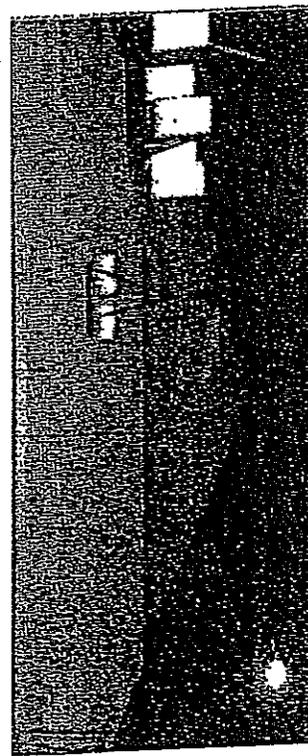
Cornerstone church is a local operation with a global vision

Larry Cooke is the founder and pastor of Cornerstone Ministries in Beld. He and his wife, Judy, have been serving area Christians for 23 years, but the reach of their ministry stretches well beyond the borders of Macoupin County or even the United States.

"We felt the call of God in our



tears." Despite Cornerstone's international connections, Cooke tries to maintain strong ties to the community. He's a member of the ministerial association, although he's not as active as he'd like to be. Cornerstone offered their facility to the school district when Beld Elementary school was condemned even



Most of the grant money for Macoupin County will cover IDOT projects. The vast majority of resurfacing projects is concentrated in the northeast and southwest portions of the county. There are no road improvement projects scheduled in or around Gillespie or Beld.

By far the largest grant will pay for resurfacing a stretch of I-55 running from the Madison County line to 8 miles north of Route 16. Total cost of the project is an estimated \$23.3 million. Several bridges are also scheduled to be replaced as well. IDOT has awarded a \$5.1 million grant to replace a bridge on Hodges Creek on Rt. 108, 2.6 miles east of the Greene County line. Other bridges to be replaced include ones over Coop Branch on Rt. 16, a bridge over Other Creek near Rt. 108 and a bridge on Rt. 111 south of Rt. 16.

JUL-30-2009 11:03 AM

village of hardin

From: Maggie Borman [maggie_borman@thetelegraph.com]
 Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2009 10:32 AM
 To: villageofhardin@frontiernet.net
 Subject: Fwd(2): NEWS FROM ILLINOIS STATE SENATOR DEANNA DEMUZIO - Senator Demuzio discuss
 Attachments: Capital release 23 July 09.pdf; Demuzio Cap Bill projects.pdf

----- Original Message -----

----- Original Message -----

NEWS

From the Illinois Senate
 State Senator Deanna Demuzio

For immediate release:

Further information:

July 30, 2009

John

Michael Combs 217/782-1983

Senator Demuzio discusses capital bill projects in the 49th Legislative District

SPRINGFIELD -- State Senator Deanna Demuzio (D-Carlinville) is pleased with Governor Pat Quinn's approval of the statewide capital infrastructure improvement plan. After a comprehensive search of the projects list, she is anticipating a boost in employment in the near future for the 49th Legislative District.

"With the number of projects coming to the counties and municipalities of the 49th District, we are hoping to see an increase in employment numbers for the district. This is important, especially when you consider that some of our counties have very high unemployment rates," Senator Demuzio said.

Projects coming to the 49th District include renovations for county courthouses, funding for improvements to primary, secondary and higher education facilities as well as money to improve various state facilities that provide employment and numerous services for the residents of the district.

"We will see schools, parks and health care facilities receive funds to improve their buildings and grounds. With these funds, we will see good employment opportunities for residents while improving the infrastructure of many of the municipalities in our district," Senator Demuzio said.

The capital infrastructure improvement plan was a bi-partisan effort that passed the General Assembly this spring. With the signing of the plan by Governor Quinn, almost \$31 billion in projects statewide will be able to begin, providing jobs while shoring up the crumbling infrastructure that plagues the state.

"This package will improve the quality of life for residents, not only in the 49th Legislative District, but statewide. It's a plan that has been needed for some time and I'm pleased to see it finally come to fruition," Senator Demuzio said.

JUL-30-2009 11:04 AM

###

Calhoun

- * \$100,000 for capital improvements to the courthouse
- * \$100,000 for Calhoun Community Unit School District 40 for repairs to the roof at Calhoun High School
- * \$342,929 to the Hardin Work Camp for a sewage treatment plant upgrade

Christian

- * \$100,000 for capital improvements to the courthouse
- * \$75,000 to the City of Taylorville for repairs to Manners Park Pool
- * \$50,000 to the Village of Tovey for repairs or demolition of Tovey Elementary School
- * \$50,000 to Taylorville Community School District 3 for improvements to technology infrastructure
- * \$250,000 to Lincoln Land Community College, Taylorville Campus for construction of permanent facilities
- * \$27,195 to Taylorville Correctional Center to replace Operators and Main Gates
- * \$50,000 to the Christian County Senior Center for building renovations
- * \$1,235,962 in federal earmarks for work on US 51 in Christian and Shelby Counties
- * \$44,000 to Morrisonville Community Unit School District 1 for an upgrade to the fire alarm system

Greene

- * \$25,000 to Greenfield Community Unit District 10 for a portable wheel chair lift
- * \$100,000 for capital improvements to the courthouse
- * \$30,000 to the Village of Roodhouse for the purchase and installation of emergency warning sirens
- * \$75,000 to Greene County Sheriff's Department for the construction of a new evidence room and other capital

JUL-30-2009 11:05 AM

reconstruction of Pin Oak Road and other infrastructure improvements

- * \$70,000 to the City of Carrollton for capital improvements
- * \$25,000 to the City of White Hall for playground equipment
- * \$96,000 to Greenfield Community Unit District 10 for the purchase of bleachers

Jersey

- * \$100,000 for capital improvements to the courthouse
- * \$221,000 to the Pere Marquette Illinois Youth Center for roof replacement
- * \$621,000 to Pere Marquette State Park for emergency replacement of a sewage treatment plant
- * \$63,279 to Pere Marquette State Park to replace the lodge pool dehumidifier
- * \$300,000 to the City of Jerseyville for an upgrade of the wastewater plant and other infrastructure improvements
- * \$100,000 to the Village of Godfrey for general infrastructure
- * \$75,000 to Grafton Township for road infrastructure improvements

Macoupin

- * \$100,000 to the City of Virden for infrastructure improvements
- * \$30,000 to the City of Virden for playground equipment
- * \$100,000 for capital improvements to the courthouse
- * \$165,000 to Blackburn College for parking lot repairs and resident hall upgrades
- * \$100,000 to the City of Girard for capital improvements throughout the city
- * \$70,000 to the Village of Royal Lakes for capital infrastructure improvements
- * \$25,000 to the Village of Royal Lakes for capital improvements to Royal Lakes Community Center and gym
- * \$100,000 to the City of Bunker Hill for various capital improvements throughout the city
- * \$100,000 to the City of Bunker Hill for the construction of the Bunker Hill Medical Center

JUL-30-2009 11:06 AM

P.04

* \$70,000 to the City of Pittsfield for capital improvements to municipal facilities

* \$100,000 to the City of Pittsfield for a feasibility study for capital improvements

City could have two high-speed rail lines

SJR EXCLUSIVE

Inside

► Midwest governors push for an eight-state network
► Amtrak works to put more cars into service. PAGE 2

By TIM LANDIS
BUSINESS EDITOR

tim.landis@sj-r.com

High-speed trains could be whizzing into Springfield on two different routes under a proposal recently submitted to state and federal transportation officials by a high-speed-rail lobbying group.

The Midwest High Speed Rail Association has asked that \$10 million be set aside from federal economic-stimulus money to study the possibility of scheduling 220-mph trains between St. Louis and Chicago via Springfield, Decatur and Champaign.

Those trains would be twice as fast as the 110-mph trains already planned on the existing Amtrak corridor, which runs between Chicago and St. Louis through Bloomington, Springfield and Carlinville.

"We're assuming the 110-mph trains are a done deal on the UP (Union Pacific) line," association ex-

See **RAIL** on page 2



HORSESHOE COMPETITORS AIM TO BE Pitcher perfect

Sexually transmitted diseases on the rise

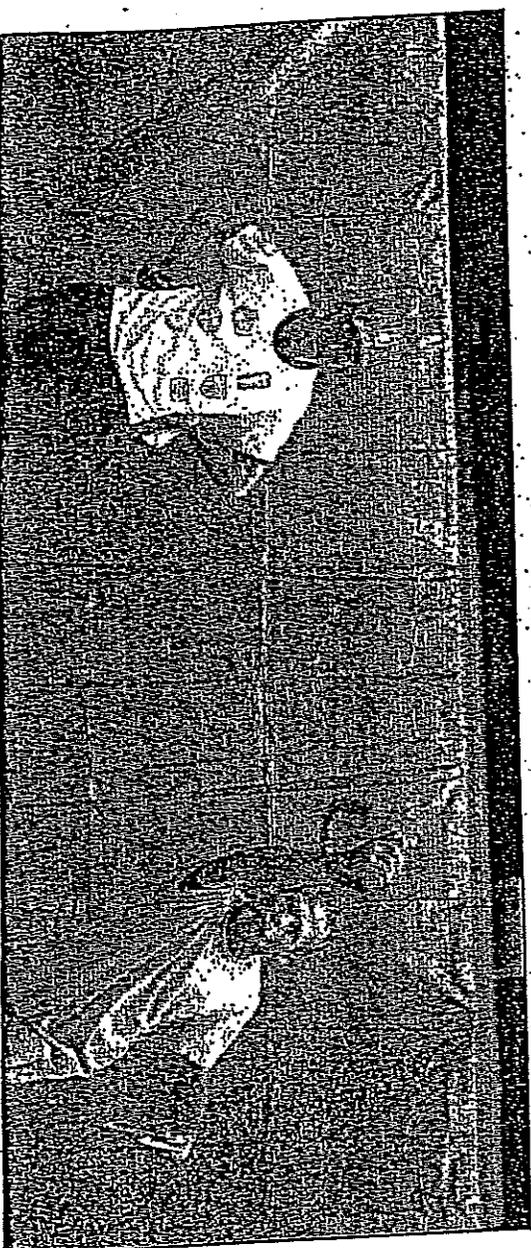
BY DEAN OLSEN
STAFF WRITER
dean.olsen@sj-r.com

Steamy love scenes in the media, out-of-control libidos and a lack of frank talk in the classroom may be contributing to an increase in sexually transmitted diseases in Illinois, health experts say.

"Popular culture glamorizes sex," said Charlie Robbins, chief

Inside

of the STD program at the Illinois Department of Health



3 men in kill of 22

One was soug for CVS holdn

BY RHYSA SAUNDERS
STAFF WRITER
rhys.saunders@sj-r.com

Authorities believe a man held in St. Louis in connec

barely speak a few words before being dismembered in the bedroom of a single-story house, three of his tiny toes chewed off, his face torn away, his head severed and his brains ripped out.

"At this particular scene you could have heard a pin drop," San Antonio Police Chief William McManus said Monday. "No one was speaking. It was about as somber as it could have been."

Officers called to the home early Sunday found the boy's mother, Otty Sanchez, sitting on the couch with a self-inflicted wound to her chest and her throat partially slashed, screaming "I killed my baby! I killed my baby!"

child's brain and some other body parts before stabbing herself, McManus said.

"It's too heinous for me to describe it any further," McManus told reporters.

Sanchez is charged with capital murder in the death of her son, Scott Wesley Buchholz-Sanchez. She was being treated Monday at a hospital, and was being held on \$1 million bail.

The slaying occurred a week after the child's father moved out, McManus said. Otty Sanchez's sister and her sister's two children, ages 5 and 7, were in the house, but none were harmed.

Party schools

Princeton Review names Penn State No. 1

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Penn State University is now the nation's No. 1 party school.

The school known party for its football tailgate weekends and fraternity and sorority scene snatched the title away from the University of Florida in the 2009 Princeton Review survey of 122,000 students nationwide. Florida, last year's winner, finished second in the annual survey released Monday.

It's the first time Penn State has finished first in the dubious category. The school has been on the list the last seven years and ranked third in 2008. The listing covers Penn State's main University Park campus in State College.

"These rankings are not more than popularity contests," said university spokeswoman Annemarie Mountz. She noted that groups on the social networking site Facebook have urged members to make Penn State the top party school.

The rankings were part of the Princeton Review's "The Best 371 Colleges" annual guide. On average, there were 325 respondents to the survey per school, which Mountz said amounted to less than 1 percent of the University Park campus' enrollment of 43,000 students.

The Associated Press

fol caused Jackson's near-to

RAIL

From page 1

Executive director Rich Harnish said Monday prior to a high-speed rail conference in Chicago.

The Union Pacific railroad has submitted plans to operate high-speed trains on the Third Street corridor through Springfield, AL though a group of Springfield-area officials is pushing for consideration of the 10th Street line.

Harnish said much of the Springfield-Decatur-Champaign route would travel on lines operated by the Norfolk Southern and CN (formerly Canadian National) railroads. Norfolk Southern operates the 10th Street line in Springfield.

The eastern route actually would cut travel time to two hours between St. Louis and Chicago, compared with a little less than four hours expected along the UP line. Harnish said faster speeds are possible along the eastern route because a wider right-of-way is available and there are fewer connecting bottlenecks.

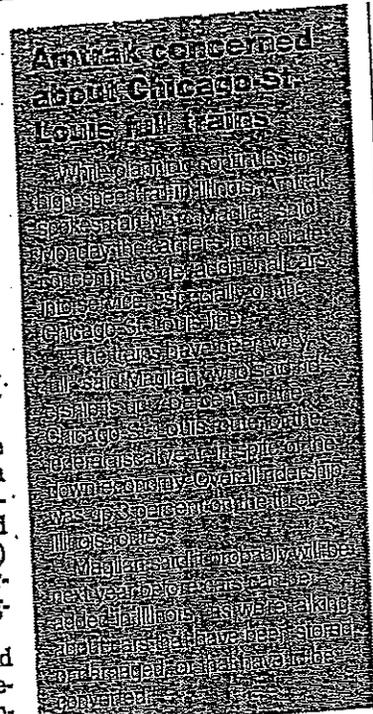
"Some folks in St. Louis and Chicago wanted to see how you could do a two-hour trip, which I think should be the goal," he said. "We wanted to show it's plausible."

"It's also critical that we link them together instead of competing," Harnish said, referring to the two corridors.

It remains to be seen whether money will be available to study the eastern route. The U.S. Department of Transportation reported earlier this month that the agency has received 278 preliminary applications totaling \$102 billion, for only \$8 billion contained in the president's economic-stimulus package for high-speed rail.

Illinois has submitted proposals for \$3.5 billion worth of projects, including \$2.6 billion for high-speed service on the existing Amtrak line. The study funds for the second route through Champaign also are included.

Final applications from the states are due to the federal government in early October. Greater Springfield Chamber of



By the numbers

- Amtrak passenger numbers in Illinois Oct. 1-June 30 (federal fiscal year)
 - Chicago-St. Louis: 419,131; up 7 percent from previous period
 - Chicago-Carbondale: 218,779; down 3 percent
 - Chicago-Quincy: 171,396; up 2 percent
 - Total: 809,306; up 3 percent
- Amtrak

Commerce spokeswoman Sarah Wolin said the chamber hopes to hold meetings in August with representatives of neighborhoods along the Third and 10th Street lines.

"We want to discuss what it would mean with the different proposals for those areas," said Wolin. City and county officials contend the 10th Street rail line would fit better into the city's long-term economic development plans and would result in less disruption from increased train traffic.

Wolin said the group also continues to work on a meeting with Union Pacific representatives.

Tim Landis can be reached at 788-1536.

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Macoupin County

U.S. allots \$2 million to improve unsafe road

By Terry Hillig
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

MACOUPIN COUNTY • A \$2 million federal appropriation has given a big boost to plans to improve the safety of the Brighton-Bunker Hill Road, the county's most dangerous highway.

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., announced the funding during a visit to the county on Saturday. The money was included in the recently approved federal transportation bill.

"On the average, there's an accident on that road once every 10 days," County Board Chairman Andy Manar said. "This is a tremendous safety concern for us."

The road is about 10 miles long and parallels the Macoupin-Madison County line linking Brighton and Bunker Hill. It is narrow and has numerous blind hills and curves. Its blacktop surface is mostly solid but rough in some places and wavy in others. It has no center lines or no-passing zones.

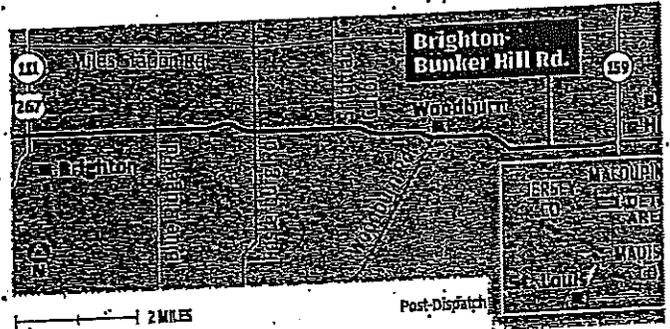
But traffic is on the increase. In recent years, Manar said, the area around the road has seen the fastest residential growth in the county.

In April, Manar wrote to Durbin asking for federal funding for the project. The letter said residential growth is expected to accelerate as the completion of Illinois Route 255 in nearby Madison County makes possible a faster commute to the St. Louis area.

Manar said the \$2 million will be a big help, but it is too early to know how much the project might cost.

In February, the County Board voted to spend \$110,000 to hire Heneghan & Associates, a Jerseyville-based consulting firm,

Senior High School, where she served as the choral director un- Runge was a private music teacher and was a pianist in the town, 600



ROAD | FROM B1

U.S. allots \$2 million to improve unsafe road

“We are by no means close to starting construction,” Manar said. He said the study won't be done for a year or so and said meetings will be held to gather users' views before county officials decide what to do.

Options could range from eliminating some of the worst hazards to rebuilding the road.

Manar said a complete reconstruction could cost \$9 million to \$10 million and that course of action would require more county money and, probably, financial help from the

state. State Sen. Deanna Demuzio, D-Carlinville, said the road improvements are crucial for the continued growth of the surrounding area. She said state funding is unlikely in the short term but may be available in the next several years.

Durbin on Saturday also announced \$200,000 in additional federal support for a new medical clinic being built by Community Memorial Hospital in Staunton.

thillig@post-dispatch.com | 618-659-3638

SHOOTING | FROM B1

Railroad detective kills in East St. Louis

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County OKs Rural Transit Assistance Program

By MAGGIE BORMAN
The Telegraph

HARDIN — The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approved a Rural Transit Assistance Program at Monday's meeting.

The Rural Transit Assistance Program provides a source of funding to assist in the design and implementation of training and technical assistance projects and other support services tailored to meet the needs of transit operators in non-urbanized areas. RTA has both state and national program components.

Ed Heflin, manager of the Rural Transit Assistance Center, a unit of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University, presented information about the program to Calhoun County Board Chair Wanda Tegen and board member Joe Swan.

Board member Jerry McKinnon was absent from Monday's meeting. RTAC delivers the Rural Transit Assistance Program for the state of Illinois, providing training, technical assistance, and research for rural transit providers.

The federal program does not require local matching funds. For Calhoun County, the first year of the program would allot \$14,000 for the local program and, in total, about \$32,000 for a total of three years.

After some discussion, the commissioners and Heflin agreed that the funding most likely would go to the county's senior citizens' van, which transports seniors to various medical services within and out of the county.

The program already is being utilized by several Illinois counties and is in the process of implementation in many others.

In other business, County Supervisor of Assessments Brandi Kiefer and Dr. Kermit Bell, board member of the Calhoun Medical Center, which currently is used by a dentist and a doctor, discussed an issue that Bell raised at last month's meeting.

Bell had asked for the medical center to be tax-exempt — something Kiefer said her office cannot do, because it must be done at the state level. Bell is protesting the assessment of the medical center by Kiefer's office.

The state has denied his request to have the medical center deemed tax-exempt, but he asked for a second hearing that is scheduled for July 22. Kiefer said Bell may request a hearing at the Board of Review next year to protest the assessment.

Bell also asked the County Board to deem the medical center tax-exempt, something State's Attorney Charles Burch has found to be a ridiculous request.

"The center is not a not-for profit," Burch said last week. "The center's board leases the building to a doctor and, in addition, the center's board pays all the utilities and insurance. If they are having trouble with money, they need to raise their rent on the tenants and have their tenants pay the utilities. If Dr. Bell wants to turn the center into a free clinic, I would be all for making it tax-exempt, and in fact, I would go to Springfield with him to help him do so."

Bell said the center was started years ago via donations by local residents in an effort to bring doctors into the county. In other business, the board approved:

■ having a separate audit of flood damage, as required by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

■ Emergency Services Agency

■ Disaster Agency

■ Coordinator Agency

■ Breiden's request to buy a mapping CD from Rockford Map Co. at a cost of \$306.95.

■ construction of a new work counter for the County Clerk and Recorder's Office to accommodate a new recording system, to be paid for out of the County Clerk's Records Restoration Fund money.

■ the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department's purchase of a 2003 Chevy Impala from the Graton Police Department at a cost of \$3,500. The squad car has all the necessary equipment.

The next regular meeting of the Calhoun County Board is 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6.

maggie.borman@thetelegraph.com



Ed Heflin

A complete rural transit assistance program would include striking Wells, of the department. had a traffic violation from the

Clayton, 21, of St. Louis College is charged in county Circuit aggravated assault of a weapon, after the influence to yield. Legally was

Kids and Clays Tournament shoots to help great cause

For The Telegraph

ST. LOUIS — Ronald McDonald House of Metro

Brighthelm

will be the next morning, Saturday, Aug. 29, at Nido Farms in (ages 14 to 17), ladies

raised more than \$200,000. This year's dinner is hosted by the St. Louis Blues and sponsored by

Painting Co., Summer Group Inc. and AHM Financial Group LLC. The St. Louis Rams are the

Study shows economic impact of refinery expansion

By GYNTHIA M. ELLIS
The Telegraph

ROXANA. — Officials Wednesday released the results of a study measuring WRB LLC, Wood River Refinery's \$3.6 billion expansion project and its economic impact in the River Bend area.

Prior to the start of a vendor showcase at the Fox-Arena, the River Bend Growth Association, WRB, which is operated by ConocoPhillips, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity announced during a

See **STUDY**, Page A7



From left, Edie Koch of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Melissa Ecker of ConocoPhillips look on as River Bend Growth Association President Monica Prestow speaks about the expansion at the ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery and its economic impact on the area.

The Telegraph/
JIM BOWLING

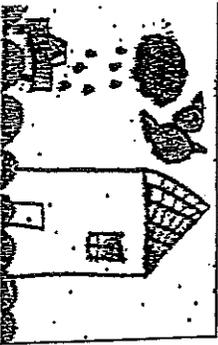
Trio charged with robbing gas station

By GYNTHIA M. ELLIS
The Telegraph

WOOD RIVER. — Three people from Collinsville are facing felony charges after they allegedly robbed a Wood River service station at gunpoint. Sean Grant, 22, Jamie Rice, 23 and Sara Loterbauer, 30, were charged Tuesday in Madison County Circuit Court with armed robbery for allegedly robbing PetroMart, 980 E.

See **TRO**, Page A7

WHAT'S OUTSIDE



Chance of storms

High 95, Low 71
WEATHER/DG
DRAWING BY JADEN DIPACOLA, OUR LADY QUEEN
OF PEACE SCHOOL, KANDERDORFENBER

WHAT'S INSIDE

AREA A5, B
CLASSIFIEDS C4
EDITORIAL A4
LOTTERY A7
STOCKS D4
TELEVISION B3

COMING FRIDAY

Accent: Alton Block Party
this Saturday

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OBITUARIES/AS

Carter, Davis, Dawes, Helmers, Key, King, Kraker, Martl, H. Miller, Miller, Olsen, Randolph, Rawlings, Schelter, Schulte, Scovell, Helene Smith, Homer Smith



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Supervalu tumbles • Supervalu Inc., the second-largest U.S. grocery chain, tumbled the most in four months after saying first-quarter earnings were “substantially below” estimates. The retailer will release results July 28. Supervalu owns Save-A-Lot and Shop 'n Save. (Bloomberg News)

Refinery project's impact: \$1.9 billion • A \$3.6 billion expansion of the Wood River Refinery is expected to produce an annual economic impact of \$1.9 billion in northwestern Madison County, according to a study released Wednesday. Work began last year to enable the 92-year-old refinery to process heavy crude oil from Canada and increase capacity. The study by RSN Economic Group was commissioned by WRB, the Illinois Department of Commerce and the River Bend Growth Association. (Terry Hillig)

KSDK pay cut • Staffers at KSDK (Channel 5) confirm that they've received a letter from owner Gannett Co. informing them of a pay cut, effective on Wednesday. The cut, which comes on top of

\$40,000 to \$49,000 reduction. (Gal)

SBA loans available • Disaster loans for Missouri business nonprofits damaged by May, said the U.S. Administration. \$10 million are available in counties affected by May 16. Business and Washington among those eligible in the St. Louis area. Organizations can apply with the SBA. To be considered for the first call the Federal Management Agency, call 3362. For more information, visit SBA.gov. (Chris)

Big-ticket order • A \$1.5 billion order to U.S. factories for manufacturing equipment for the second time in May, and a key business investment. The Commerce Department said demand for durable goods fell 0.6 percent last month, but is expected to rise 0.6 percent in the second quarter.

GRAFTON > Ferry to reopen • The Grafton Ferry, sidelined since Dec. 1, will reopen at noon Wednesday, Grafton Mayor Tom Thompson

said Monday. The ferry connects Grafton and St. Charles County at the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. Silt from last year's floods blocked its traditional route between two islands and forced it to make a lengthier and more time-consuming crossing. Crossing times doubled to 25 minutes or more, and motorists often had long waits to board the ferry. Faced with increased fuel costs and declining ridership, ferry owners suspended operation Dec. 1.

The old ferry route has been dredged with the help of a \$117,750 federal grant.

Published at
Litchfield, IL 62056 for

Weekend
August 7-8, 2009

Single Copy Price 30¢

Schutt sets date when city must ante up

Litchfield city council and members of the Schutt team sat down Thursday night before a standing-room-only crowd in Corwin Hall.

On the city's side speakers were Mayor Tom Jones, city administrator Andy Ritchie and city economic development director Tonya Flannery.

On Schutt's side, Robert Erb, president and CEO, was the dominate speaker.

Their purpose was to see whether the council would support their finalizing an agreement. An hour and 15 minutes later the seven aldermen attending nodded in the affirmative.

Getting to that point did not come easy for either side. The city still has issues while Erb, after a year of negotiating, has come to the point where a decision has to be made.

According to the discussion, the final agreement must be signed, sealed and delivered by Aug. 31. Groundbreaking on a 90,000 sq. ft. building extension has to take place within the first week of September in order for Schutt to get their products delivered in time for the 2010 football season.

Aldermen were unhappy they did not have paperwork to study before the meeting. Packets were distributed only minutes before the session began.

The package included a copy of a letter from Schutt Sports on the construct of an economic development agreement; a draft from the Bank of America, first lien holder on Schutt property, received late by the city and had not yet been

reviewed by Schutt Sports; and comments developed by the council earlier in the evening.

Erb took the floor. "We have to do this. We're going to do this. Our first choice (in location) is this city," he said.

He outlined Schutt's needs and what the company hopes to accomplish with the help of the city. He promised before a room filled with more than 50 people that if the agreement is in place by Aug. 31, he will bring 100 new full-time jobs to the city in early spring.

He said that while Schutt is asking the city for a sum not to exceed \$5.3 million in new construction, the company is putting up several million more to finish the interior of the building, bring in the equipment and the people, and close down operations elsewhere.

In the end there will be more jobs, both full-time and seasonal, and a wider tax base for the community, he pointed out.

He addressed the company's finances. The company carries debt; it is a leveraged company. The principal owners are private individuals. They have agreed to step back and allow the city to become the second lien holder.

"What are we looking for? We are looking for support. We are looking for belief. We are looking for trust," Erb said.

He believes in Schutt, which has been around for nearly three-quarters of a century, will continue to be around for a very long time. What it comes down to, in his view:

Please Turn To Page 8 **A**

Post office seeks

A

from previous page

"There are no guarantees in life. We are asking you to bet on us and in turn we are betting on this city."

At the conclusion of his remarks, aldermen posed several questions and the mayor read off a list of questions that have been posed to him by the public.

The ensuing discussion can be boiled down to three points:

1. Security. That the company isn't going to take the people's tax dollars, spend frivolously and then disappear in a few years leaving the city in debt.

Erb spent considerable time trying to assure aldermen that Schutt is serious about becoming a more efficient, more productive company and equally serious about its intent to stay in Litchfield.

2. Financing. Whether local banks will and can support the loan of \$5.3 million or take the more costly step of issuing general obligation bonds. Both types of loans as well as alternative bonds have been investigated by a committee that includes local bank representatives.

Three of the bank heads were in the audience Thursday: Kent Redfern of Bank & Trust, Ken Elmore of First National and Frank Fleming of Litchfield National. They reserved comment, stating they too had only just received the Bank of America proposal and had not been able to study it.

Redfern spoke for them. He explained the importance of being first lien holder. Bank of America, as the principal lender for the business, sits in that position. If the company should shut down for any reason, Bank of America would get paid first. Any remaining money would go to the second lien holder which would be the city.

With the new, tougher banking rules coming into place, the question is whether the local banks will be able to pass the scrutiny of bank

regulators and swing the deal in second place, Redfern said.

3. Definitions and clarifying interpretations. City officials want to make sure both sides are talking clearly about the same things. That includes the number and types of jobs involved as well as the pay-back to the city. There have apparently been some conflict on both issues.

Schutt has said it will maintain a minimum number of 301 full-time equivalent positions in Litchfield, defining that number as 271 to 275 full time employees with benefits and 60 seasonal employees within 18 months of final construction and until the \$5.3 million obligation is paid back some seven to ten years down the road.

On the city side, the concern lies in the definition of "equivalent positions."

The city has offered to give credit for maintaining jobs over the 10 year period that will reduce Schutt's overall obligation to the city.

There is a stipulation in the proposed agreement which will allow the city to recoup its expenditures if Schutt should close its doors here within the first three years of the agreement.

Under that stipulation, Schutt would be liable to pay back to the city 100 percent of the city's costs associated with the project.

To sweeten the pot, Erb said his bank, Bank of America, has expressed willingness to limit its first lien position in favor of the city. He cited his lawyer background and said he supports the proposed intra-creditor agreement.

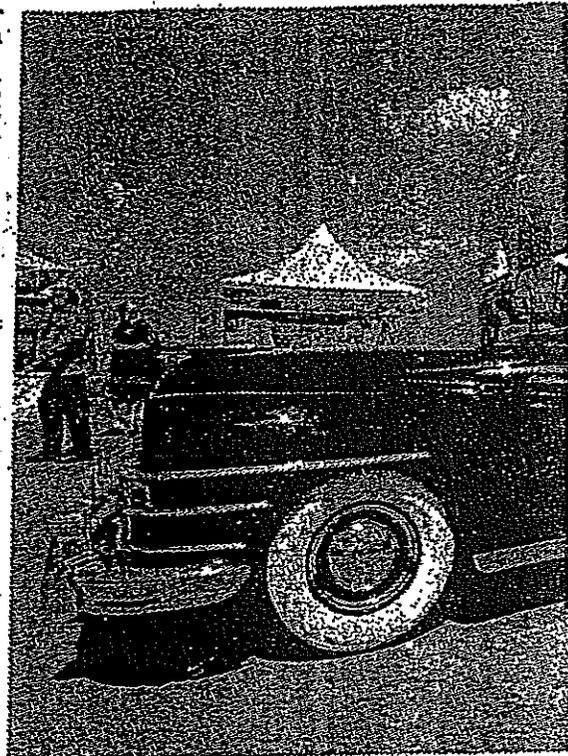
City attorney Brad Hantla, city administrator Andy Ritchie and the aldermen agreed they want to check that out.

All of the parties believe they can get the fine points ironed out before the Aug. 31 deadline.

C

from previous page

Children are on the priority list for the first doses of swine flu vaccine, but because of time needed for testing and manufacturing, inoculations can't begin until school has been in session for more than a month; the government is aiming for Oct. 5. Many questions



AUTO RACE SYMBOL - Amber Bacha of Bradford, Pa. gets out setting up n of the Zippo II Car, a 1947 on the NAS Chrysler New Yorker custom-

AP source: Do sedatives before

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Hours before Michael Jackson's death, his doctor administered multiple sedatives along with a powerful anesthetic the pop star used to sleep, according to a law enforcement official. It's a safe combination if done properly; potentially lethal if not.

The official said the type of sedatives Dr. Conrad Murray gave Jackson were benzodiazepines, often used to calm patients before surgery. Murray told investigators the doses were within normal medical guidelines, said the official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Even at acceptable levels, benzodiazepines can intensify how the anesthetic propofol depresses breathing, so strict monitoring and careful dosing is required. The balance can be tricky, a slip-up disastrous.

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Questions O If a twice-ogy report 1 drugs; the a question "W Jackson?" wi medical and cially if aut. Murray knew was taking. T any prosecuti If the resul stuff together is sky high it tough to give. one drug," sai

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SKY-VIEW DRIVE-IN THEATRE
LITCHFIELD, ILLINOIS
The Last Drive-In Theatre In Illinois
On Historic Old Rt. 66
\$5.00 Per Person

A from previous page

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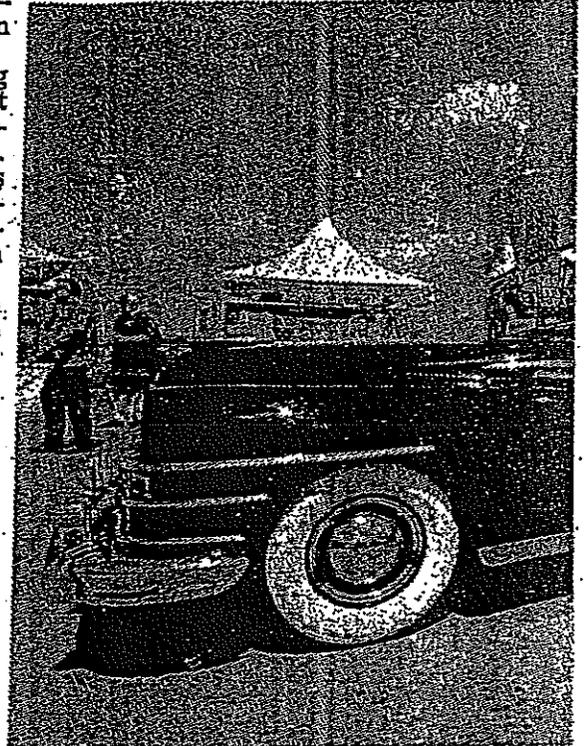
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Published at
Litchfield, IL 62056 for

Tuesday
August 11, 2009
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The Litchfield

News-Herald

Community Daily Newspaper of Montgomery and Macoupin Counties

Founded in 1856



Long talked about Streetscape construction begins

After nearly a year in the planning, work on the Streetscape project in downtown Litchfield has begun. The contractor, Korte Luitjohan, began tearing up sidewalk on the east side of

Monday.

The nearly \$700,000 project is expected to be complete by year's end. It involves new sidewalks, lighting, a few benches and trash receptacles in a pe-

age of most of downtown.

Once the "T" zone on Union avenue between Monroe and Madison streets and the 400 block areas are done, work will progress south in a zig zag pat-

tern, one block, one side at a time, through the 300 and 200 blocks of North State.

Goal of the project is to make the downtown area more attractive to business developers.

CITY/STATE

THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER • SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Gary Schieffer,
metro editor: 788-1517
gary.schieffer@sjr.com

Taylorville hospital expansion approved

BY DEAN OLSEN
STAFF WRITER

dean.olsen@sjr.com

Taylorville Memorial Hospital won approval from a state regulatory board Tuesday for a \$21 million project that will give the facility a new entrance and replace the current emergency, radiology and surgery departments.

"This allows for a major modernization of very important outpatient services," Daniel Raab, president and chief executive of

Board OKs \$21 million project, nursing home proposal

the 25-bed Taylorville hospital, said after a 3-0 vote by the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board.

The board, meeting in Springfield, also approved a proposal to build a 64-bed nursing home as part of the Concordia Village retirement complex on Springfield's west side.

Raab told the board that the Taylorville project — a new out-

patient-services building — is complicated because it will connect the existing 55-year-old hospital building to a just-completed physician office building.

He has estimated that the project will be completed in 2011.

The board's 3-0 vote on the Concordia project was a reversal from the March board meeting. The vote at that time was 2-2, but one of the board members voting

"no" has since resigned, and another who voted "no" — Courtney Avery of Chicago — changed her vote.

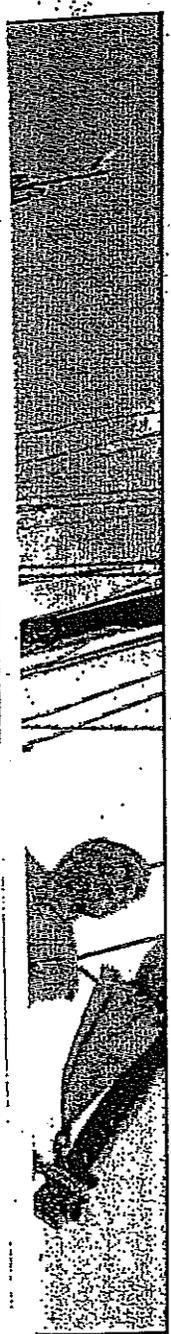
Officials from St. Louis-based Lutheran Senior Services, which owns Concordia Village, were jubilant after the board's rare change of heart.

"It's going to be a very high-quality skilled facility, bringing state-of-the-art technology, bring-

ing the 'neighborhood concept,'" said Paul Ogier, Lutheran Senior Services chief financial officer. "It's just going to offer a new, better alternative — more choice."

The Concordia Village nursing home will be added to a recently completed expansion of the Concordia complex at 4101 W. Hes Ave. The nursing home will open in about two years and employ about 100 people, Ogier said.

See **HOSPITAL** on page 21



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asn't having any luck home phone rang at 1. last week. Frank M. widow, Dana, was on e. ury to call so late," she I have been out of town. back and I had to call as heard your message." as n't upset about being d.

was," she says. Lois told Dana the story of how the envelope had been found and where it had been all these years. The two women made arrange- ments for Dana to pick up the en- velope.

"I said I would be serving lunch at church because we have a fu- neral," Lois says. "I told her she could come by there, if she could find it."

Which church is it? Dana asked.

It's Third Presbyterian Church on North Seventh Street.

Dana said she certainly knows where that church is.

"That's where Frank and I got married," she said.

Everybody has a story. The problem is that some of them are boring. If yours is not, contact Dave Bakke at 788-1541 or dave.bakke@sj-r.com.

His column appears Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. To read more, visit www.sj-r.com/bakke.

E
n page 17

hurt hunting success too. ns says many sites were o get sunflowers — which ves — planted in time, but nt farmer at Jim Edgar Creek got them planted uddy conditions. and wet weather meant was delayed until the last and Wickens said he liter- wed the combine, adding ; stakes in the machine's

t cool weather probably ation off to an early start, y hunters said they feared ves already had moved on. bout 15 minutes before ; hours commenced at

noon, two flocks of a dozen or more birds flew overhead.

The first hour was slow, with few shots fired, but Elmore found a kindred spirit in hunter Jim Correll of Springfield, who was assigned a spot just a few yards away.

Soon the two were joking about all the equipment they needed to make the day more comfortable.

Elmore suggested an umbrella — painted in camouflage pattern, of course — to keep the midday sun off. Correll countered that Elmore probably would want a small refrigerator next.

Both men joked that the doves had little reason to fear their marksmanship skills.

"If they just knew that, they'd fly over here to be safe," said Correll.

Chris Young can be reached at 788-1528.

On July 28, Dugan submitted a guilty plea in the 1983 murder of 10-year-old Jeanine Nicarico, with the hope a jury will spare his life because he accepted responsibility. Jury selection is to begin Sept. 18.

phone call with an ABC producer. Dugan's phone calls from the jail are monitored.

Greenberg acknowledged talking to the producer but insisted there were no plans to arrange an interview with Dugan.

HOSPITAL

■ From page 17

Concordia Village opened 10 years ago with 33 independent-living apartments. Lutheran Senior Services has spent \$30 million to add 78 more independent-living apartments, 16 independent-living patio homes and 48 assisted-living apartments.

Residents of those units will have priority for admission to the nursing home, Ogier said, but anyone else from the Springfield area also can be served there.

Charles Foley, a Springfield consultant working with Lutheran Senior Services, told the board Tuesday that there's a state-certified shortage of nursing home beds in the Springfield area.

Some Sangamon County nursing homes have vacant beds because they don't offer the higher level of nursing home care — known as "skilled care" — that many people need when they are discharged from a hospital. As a result, he said hundreds of people are being discharged by St. John's Hospital to nursing homes outside the county. The Concordia Village facility would help to fill that need locally, Foley said.

Avery said the clarification helped change her vote.

Dean Olsen can be reached at 788-1543.

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WELCOME

The 46 cardiologists of Prairie Cardiovascular welcome to their Springfield practice

Dr. Bernard Lim,
formerly: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

Dr. Lim is an Electrophysiologist specializing in rhythm disorders. Prairie Cardiovascular Electrophysiologists. The addition of Dr.

Aldermen to meet again on Schutt

Blue ribbon group putting advice in letter

A special meeting of the Litchfield Economic Development Commission was held in city hall at 5:30 p.m. Monday. Aldermen were invited and notice was posted in city hall late Friday afternoon.

Five aldermen - Gary Wise, Gary Law, Bob Ostendorf, Bill Dees and Gene Cailey - attended the session along with Mayor Tom Jones and city administrator Andy Ritchie. The meeting was conducted by Paul Osborne, chairman of the commission.

Osborne immediately called for an executive session to address "purchase or lease of real property," more specifically for "the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired."

They were behind closed doors for the better part of an hour. When they came out they approved the chairman's drafting a letter of recommendation to the city council concerning Schutt Sports "after review of the revised inter-creditor agreement."

The meeting then adjourned. It was 6:30 p.m.

Ritchie told news media at least one, possibly two, special meetings of the council can be expected within the week. Aldermen get \$25 each per special meeting.

The council will meet Aug. 27 for its regularly scheduled finance meeting, formerly known as "over-

sight" session. However, because the city and Schutt have an Aug. 31 deadline to meet on whether the project will be a go, or no-go, the special sessions will be called.

Schutt has promised to provide 301 full-time jobs in the past and is now wanting to cut that to 271 plus 60 seasonal workers to start. Within the year, Schutt has promised to bring that number up to 301 full-time jobs, the mayor explained this morning. He called it "reasonable."

The city council has been asked to help Schutt expand one of buildings in the Litchfield Industrial park at an estimated cost of \$5.3 million.

After months of negotiations the sticking point is that Schutt's principal banker, Bank of America, is first-lien-holder and the city would have to take second.

Ritchie and Jones both explained this morning that puts the city at too much risk. The city needs first lien holder on its \$5.3 million share of the project.

They explained if something would happen to cause Schutt to close its doors here, the city would be holding not only the \$5.3 million debt but the interest and fees on that debt, a figure in the neighborhood of \$13 million over the next ten years.

Figure in the loss of jobs and the empty buildings and that makes for even greater hardship for residents, they pointed out.

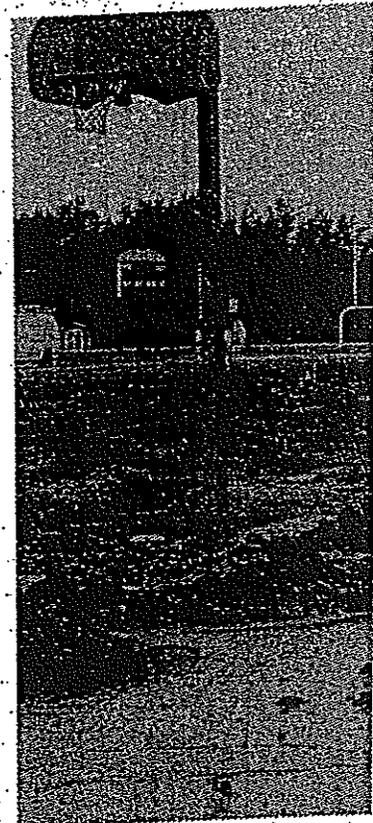
Through out the negotiations, the city has asked that Schutt guarantee it will stay in Litchfield for the next ten years. In that time, city officials feel they can realize a return on the city's investment.

New law should put more 'sunlight' on Illinois government, says Quinn

Published at
Litchfield, IL 62056 for

Tuesday
August 18, 2009
Single Copy Price 30¢

Modulars



FUTURE SCHOOL - Ground the south end of Gilles Middle School is ready and waiting for the modular classroom facility to be installed. Preparation was taken Monday just out

Craine of 1st Banc Financial Group, vice president, and first & Gift Shop, treasurer of CCCC; Andy Bloom, Agency Sales Manager of Dairyland Auto and Cycle, vice president, and Insurance Agency; Judy Morrison, president of CCCC; Eric Braasch, FNB/Bend Bank Branch Manager; and Rob Wirth, owner of Wirth Design Services of Gillespie.

Economic Development group conducting survey for business retention in Gillespie

The newly formed Macoupin County Economic Development Partnership, in conjunction with the City of Gillespie, is embarking on a campaign to assess the health of Macoupin County's economic portfolio.

In the coming months, MCEDP will contact company officials in Gillespie to set up meetings to learn about each company, trends in their respective industries, their views of the community as a place to do business and other business trends.

The portfolio approach will allow leaders to better understand individual companies and the overall business community," said Shari Albrecht, Executive Director of MCEDP. "This information will enable economic development officials to give community leaders a solid foundation for making economic development and program decisions, and then allocate resources accordingly."

Nothing is more important to Macoupin County's economy than local businesses that generate payroll, local spending and taxes, according to Albrecht. The future of these individual companies will have a substantial impact on the growth of the area's economy.

MCEDP will use the Synchronist Business Information System, provided by Ameren, to identify and respond to the needs of Macoupin County's business portfolio. The Synchronist Business Information System, a product of Blane, Canada Ltd., is designed to assist communities in understanding companies' roles in the community. Additionally, Synchronist aids officials in organizing, managing and analyzing the information gathered to identify the critical success factors for companies in the community.

Economic Portfolio Management is a movement in the U.S. and Canada. MCEDP is among a select group of leaders in economic development who are implementing the concept in Illinois.

"The participation of area business owners and managers is important," said Gillespie Mayor John Hicks. "We hope that everyone will take this opportunity to meet with MCEDP to share your views when contacted."

MCEDP is a public-private economic development organization formed to address the needs of economic development on a county-wide basis. In addition to the city of Gillespie, partner communities include Carlinville, Stanton, Bunker Hill, Mount Olive and Modesto. A number of private firms have also joined area communities and the Macoupin County Board to help grow the organization.

For information on how to become involved, contact Executive Director Shari Albrecht at (217) 556-8696.

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BLOSSELS

are bringing money for highway

By **MARIE BORMAN**
The Telegraph

BDIN — U.S. Rep. Phil brought good news to a County when he visited D-Rock Island, who represents Illinois' 17th Congressional District, and \$475,000 in the Omnibus Operations Act to face a portion of a County Highway which runs south from to Brussels.



additional federal funding for resurfacing the entire 13.46 miles of County Highway 1, as well as the effort to get the state of Illinois to take over maintenance of the road, because it is a through highway. Illinois Route 100 comes into Hardin, but once outside the city limits, it becomes County Highway 1 rather than continuing as a state highway. Webster said the county received \$157,000 from the federal stimulus package, which will pay for resurfacing about one-half-mile of County Highway 1, starting from the Hardin Village limits. Here has secured the \$475,000 from the omnibus appropriations; Webster said that would pay for resurfacing about another 2 to 3

"I want to thank Phil from the bottom of my heart for all the folks in Calhoun County, as this benefits all the people in Calhoun."

PAUL "SNOW" HERKERT
CALHOUN COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN

miles of the road. The estimated cost of resurfacing County Highway 1, upgrading it to accommodate 80,000-pound truck loads, is \$3 million, leaving about an additional \$2.5 million to complete the project. Here, a member of the U.S. House Transportation Committee, said he has submitted the county's request for \$2.5 million from the national Surface Transportation Bill cur-

rently at \$450 million, noting that the good news is that the U.S. Senate has stated it will take the House bill. "I requested the \$2.5 million in my Members Preferred Projects requests, and I feel our chances are pretty good that the Senate will accept the House bill," Here said. "I have spoken to (Senator) Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) of the Senate Transportation Committee, and

she said, 'Get the bill over here, and we will move it through.'"
Here said if the bill goes through as expected, President Barack Obama could sign it as early as October.

Webster said if the county gets the additional funding, the entire project could start in late 2010 or early 2011 and would take about three to four months to complete.

Here said he first heard about the problem of finding funding for the road, which has not been resurfaced since 1996, when Herkert called him a couple of years ago, and Here came to Calhoun County to meet with Herkert and Webster. "I am sure there a lot of roads like this in my district, but when you don't live there,

See **MARIE**, Page C2

CITYSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER



FutureGen,
DOE look
for cost

Two men arrested in connection with bank holdups

BENTON, Ill. (AP) — Authorities believe they've solved three recent southern Illinois bank robberies with the arrests of a man and his half-brother.

Investigators on Monday announced the arrest of 37-year-old Nicholas Hall and 33-year-old Jonathan Bohn.

Authorities were investigating the holdup last Friday at Banterra Bank in Marion, an Aug. 15 heist at First Collinsville Bank and a robbery two days earlier of the Mid-Country Bank in Benton.

In each case, a man armed with a small handgun entered the bank and displayed a bank bag and a note demanding certain denominations of U.S. currency.

The men were arrested Saturday during a West Frankfort traffic stop in which police reportedly found money taken in the Marion robbery the previous day.

They're jailed in Franklin County on \$50,000 bond apiece.

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you don't know if there are problems," Hare said. "It's what I always say at my town hall meetings: You are the eyes and ears out here, so if you know of problems or projects that are needed, people need to call me. I'm not here to tell the people of Calhoun County what's best for them; just tell me what you need and what I can do to help."

Hare and Webster noted that while Calhoun County has a small population of about 5,000, it is a large tourist attraction with its many fruit orchards and great restaurants, and its location sandwiched between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

"Good local roadways are a necessity for the locals and for tourism," Hare said. "And the resurfacing project will also put 30 to 40 people to work."

Hare said the next Calhoun County project he intends to fund for is a new Calhoun County Courthouse in

Hardin, noting that the highway is the first priority.

"I want to thank Phil from the bottom of my heart for all the folks in Calhoun County, as this benefits all the people in Calhoun," Herkert said. "It's so beneficial to us to have the help we need on these roads."

"I hope to be back soon with a big check for you," Hare said.

Hare's 17th Congressional District covers much of west-central Illinois, including Henry, Whiteside, Rock Island, Mercer, Knox, Warren, Henderson, Fulton, McDonough, Hancock, Adams, Pike, Montgomery, Christian, Sangamon, Macon, Shelby, and Fayette counties. In The Telegraph area, it includes all of Calhoun and Macoupin counties, as well as about half each of Greene and Jersey counties, along with a small area in northeastern Madison County.

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the companies' behind FutureGen plan to decide early next year whether to start building the plant, Mudd added.

"My job is to make sure it's a go decision," he said.

Energy Undersecretary Kristina Johnson told reporters that Secretary Steven Chu believes FutureGen holds "great promise" to look for ways to use coal without creating heavy pollution.

Under the terms of the agreement announced Tuesday, the DOE and the alliance companies will:

- Work on a new cost estimate. Some officials say the price tag could be higher than the current \$2.4 billion based on increases in construction materials. However, Mudd said the global economic downturn has reduced demand for construction materials and could lead to "several hundred million dollars" in savings.
- Continue refining the design, with at least part of the focus on cutting costs.

FUTUREGEN

■ Develop a power-purchase agreement with the state of Illinois.

Sen. Dick Durbin, a longtime backer of the FutureGen project, said in a Wednesday letter to the DOE and FutureGen Alliance that he looks forward to working with them to recruit new members and push the project forward.

"I continue to believe that we can address our nation's energy needs in a cleaner more efficient way and that FutureGen is a critical component of how we can continue to use coal without causing more harm to the environment," the Illinois Democrat wrote.

Durbin and others fought to keep FutureGen alive after the Bush administration shelved the project, citing cost concerns. A congressional auditor later said the

Bush administration cost estimates on false project

If built in its planned form, would create construction jobs high-skilled positions.

Mattoon was for the project 2007. The first might be in came in the form from Bush administration DOE Current Energy Secretary Steven Chu is critic of coal, a recently indicated for carbon-capture technology research Coles County development Angela Griffin presence of John third-highest the agency Tuesday's announcement as one of the yet.



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