

Business

THE SOUTHERN ILLINOISAN SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2005

PEOPLE & AWARDS

Lyons takes post
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS — Brenda Lyons of Sandoval will assume the position of the VNA-TIP Vaccination program vaccination coordinator for the Southern Illinois region.

Lyons has and experience in accounting, managements and marketing. She worked most recently as KC Foundation Scholarship Coordinator at Kaskaskia College.

VNA-TIP is the area's largest provider of flu and pneumonia shots. Lyons is in charge of setting up and coordinating the public and private flu and pneumonia immunization clinics in Southern Illinois.

SHARPER! FASTER!

The vehicle aftermarket races ahead

6C



1C

Room to grow

Man-Tra-Con moves into new digs

BY BECKY MALKOVICH
THE SOUTHERN

MARION — With new regional offices in Illinois Centre mall, Man-Tra-Con, the Management, Training and Consulting Corp., is living in the land of plenty — plenty of room for its 23 Marion-based employees, plenty of parking and most importantly, plenty of opportunities for the thousands of customers it serves each year.

Man-Tra-Con held a grand opening Friday to show off the new space and allow the public to explore the 11,900-

square-foot offices that now house the private, non-profit employment and training business as part of the One-Stop Business and Employment Center.

"We love it," said executive director Kathy Lively. "We simply outgrew our old space. We wanted more room for job seekers and we also wanted to step up services to the employers in our area."

The new office has more room for services for both job seekers and

SEE MAN-TRA-CON / PAGE 2C



BECKY MALKOVICH / THE SOUTHERN

The new business services room can be used for meetings, training or presentations.

LOV LET

Dairy industry of transition

led 197 pounds per cow. The herd size is going up. Illinois continues on smaller herd sizes only 1 percent of its over 500 cows in size," compared to other western states, the Illinois milk production, is excellent, Hutjens Illinois, as noted comes in at 18,486 per cow. Wisconsin is producing, on average, 17,796 pounds per cow (Minnesota at 17,499 and Missouri at 15,139). Hutjens predicts that milk prices in 2005 will be lower than the record prices set in 2002 and 2003. With a solid 2004 economic performance, producers have been expanding their herds in western dairy states

per 100 cows. Illinois dairy managers can sell these animals that are worth over \$2,000 as pregnant heifers for income or calve in their herds. Expanding dairy states such as Arizona and New Mexico will be searching for replacement animals."

Hutjens outlined a number of factors that will impact the Illinois dairy industry in the coming months.

"With the increased availability of BST — growth hormone — there is the potential for both milk yield and, as a result, supply to rise," he said. "The continued closure of the Canadian border bars access to a supply of cheap replacement heifers."

A hot summer could create heat stress problems for herds, and forage quality and availability are always challenges. Feed prices, too,

MAN-TRA-CON: Business moves into new offices in Illinois Centre

FROM PAGE 1C

employers, including a training room with 15 computer stations and five laptops, business services and conference rooms and an expanded resource area for job seekers that includes Internet access, an important tool for those searching for employment.

The move is not only a sign of Man-Tra-Con's growth, but also is symbolic of the corporation's commitment to meeting the needs of both job seekers and employers in the area, needs discovered during an audit of the communities it serves.

Job seekers who turn to Man-Tra-Con and its partnering agencies at the One-Stop Business and Employment Center will find a wealth of employment assistance, including job listings, resume and interviewing skills help, skill level assessment tools and career interest survey and workshops.

Employers can, among other services and programs, conduct on-site interviewing of job applicants, gather information on federal and state tax credits and savings, learn about labor and market trends, forecasts and other data, as well as take advantage of recruitment and pre-screening of qualified applicants.

The center also has a rapid-response team that provides immediate assistance for those affected by mass layoffs such as those caused by a plant closure.

All services are provided free at the Marion and Mount Vernon One-Stop centers and Man-Tra-Con's offices in Du Quoin, West Frankfort and Murphysboro.

Man-Tra-Con, founded close to 40 years ago, was originally incorporated as Illinois

'We think this location gives us increased visibility and it's in a growing area.'

KATHY LIVELY

MAN-TRA-CON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Farmers Union-CETA, before changing its name to reflect the comprehensive services available to serve the needs of job seekers and employers for the counties of Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Perry, and Williamson.

The corporation was designated by the Chief Local Elected Officials — county board chairs from each of the five counties it serves — to administer the Workforce Investment Act funds for Local Workforce Area No. 25. Policy guidance and oversight of services provided is administered by the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board, which is appointed by the Chief Local Elected Officials.

Lively said several locations were considered for the new offices but the corporation ultimately selected Illinois Centre mall.

"Illinois Centre was absolutely the most welcoming lessor and (mall manager) Bob Hardy has been wonderful," she said.

"We think this location gives us increased visibility and it's a growing area."

For more information, visit the new office located on the northeast side of the mall next to Dillard's or call (618) 998-0970.

beckym@onediq.net
618-927-5633