

# Register-News

## Untapped resources



Jeremy Williams of Mt. Vernon and Jessica Shelton of Wayne City work to prepare ratatouille in the MVTHS Area Vocational Center culinary arts class. Area business leaders were given a tour of the AVC Wednesday as part of a discussion on the "untapped resource" of the center by local industry. TESA CULLI/REGISTER-NEWS

## Businesses learn about MVTHS vocational programs

By TESA CULLI

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MT. VERNON — Area business leaders toured the Mt. Vernon Township High School Area Vocational Center Wednesday in an effort to acquaint local industry to the resources available through students and training they receive.

"There are excellent opportunities that exist here," AVC Director and MVTHS Assistant Principal Rob Knutson said. "The employers in the community and the school are very interested and vested in keeping stu-

dents in our community."

The high school and the Jefferson County Development Corporation recently joined forces in creating several DVDs which highlight some of the career opportunities in the area, and those videos are shown to all freshmen through the career education classes at the school. In addition, parents and students can access the videos through a link on the MVTHS web site.

"They're like mini workshops on the career opportunities right here," Knutson said. "Many times kids know

their mom and dad go to work, but they don't really know what they actually do or other opportunities in their workplace. ... We have many unique and large corporations in our area and there are a lot of career opportunities in each of this. This (DVD) lets them see what happens in the work place. ... They also get to see people they know talk about what they do for a career."

In addition, Knutson said the DVD helps create "interest and excitement"

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## TOUR

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among the students in identifying a career.

Knutson said the tour came about after he heard about the city's comprehensive plan.

"We want to make sure we're in the plan," Knutson said. "The AVC is an untapped resource. With the interstate interchange coming in and industries, we want to make sure Mt. Vernon, Jefferson County and the region have every weapon in the arsenal to promote growth. It's okay to live and work in your hometown. Let's keep these kids here and get them trained and employed before they leave the area."

The AVC will be 40 years old next year, and Knutson said it this is one of 20 communities in the state which still have AVC centers.

"They shut down many because the thought was that they are too expensive to run," Knutson explained. "The schools here believe this was important enough to keep open. They kept this one and I believe it will pay off big dividends for our future growth."

Programs such as culinary arts, which was the first new program added to the AVC in 10 years; child care; technology and engineering; drafting; business; health occupations; manufacturing; transportation; and electronics are some of the classes taught at the AVC, which serves juniors and seniors from Mt. Vernon, Woodlawn,

## Praise for JCDC

Editor:

Now that's what I'm talking about. The two front page articles on Jan. 17 about MVTHS "Businesses learn about MVTHS vocation programs" and "Entering the working world" were a sight for sore eyes.

Looks like the Jefferson County Development Corporation deserves a big congratulations for sponsoring the seminar with the area major employers. It's great to see the MVTHS AVC get the attention it deserves.

Preparing students for the real world is probably the best education they could receive.

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