# Kansans invited to participate in transportation meeting

Hays will be one of eight lo- transportation task force have Convention Center, 3603 Vine levels," Miller said. meetings giving Kansans the op- month of September. portunity to discuss their transbers of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius'

The consultation meeting in portation priorities with mem- Hays begins at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 12, at the Holiday Inn and

cations in a series of regional been scheduled throughout the St. and will include regional discussions on highway and other modal needs (rail, aviation, transit, bike/pedestrian) in the morning, said Deb Miller, secretary of Kansas Department of Transportation.

an opportunity for communities to testify about their particular Transportation-Leveraging Inprojects or concerns.

"It is important that the dis- as T-LINK. troubles, showing weak growth an index measuring economic cussion at these meetings be el-

sation about how transportation should be paid for and what funding approaches Kansans will support."

The meetings will be con-In the afternoon, there will be staff and include representatives of the governor's task force vestments in Kansas, also known

"We will also have a conver- tation approach for Kansas, will cussions about regional priorinot be present at each meeting, a number of task force members will participate in each session. The state's transportation de-

partment also conducted a series ducted by state transporation of local consultation meetings two years ago to hear what types of projects were important to communities.

"It's time to go back to com- kansastlink.com. munities to determine if any Although the full 35-member economic or transportation summaries task force meetings,

oping a new strategic transpor- two years and to continue disties," Miller said.

"Clearly, there will always be more needs than funding, so it's important to think about how transportation investments best support statewide needs."

Summaries of each local consultation meeting will be posted on the task force website: www.

The site also includes full

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## Survey: Job losses coming

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - Eco- with significant variation across nomic activity in the Midwest and the nine states. Plains is still reflecting national and job losses, according to a survey of business executives released this week.

The August Mid-America report overall economic index dipped to 51.4, down a tenth of a point from July. June's index was 50.5.

The index ranges between 0 and three to six months.

"While the inflation gauge was down for the month, it is still telegraphing excessive inflation in the pipeline," Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss said.

The August employment index was 47.5, up from July's 41.4.

Goss, the director of Creighton's Economic Forecasting Group, oversees the survey.

It includes supply managers and business leaders in Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Firms have increased production using fewer workers, said Goss, to continue to rise for the region, ogy as the national survey.

Despite the sobering figures, optimism for the next six months jumped to 50.0 from July's 37.8

and June's 35.1. A stronger dollar and downturns for the nine-state region said the in commodity prices boosted the index, which was at its highest reading since last September, Goss

said. The prices-paid index, which 100. A score above 50 indicates a tracks the cost of raw materials growing economy over the next and supplies, dropped to 86.7 from July's record high of 93.9.

Recent strengthening of the dollar has cooled inflationary pressures, he said, but it would take oil prices diving below \$100 a barrel for the nation to gain any material relief on the inflation front.

Goss said he expects signs of inflation, along with fears of damaging an already weak labor market, will prevent the Federal Reserve from reducing rates when it meets Tuesday, Sept. 16.

The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began to formally survey its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions. The Creighton Economic Forecastwho expects unemployment rates ing Group uses the same methodol-

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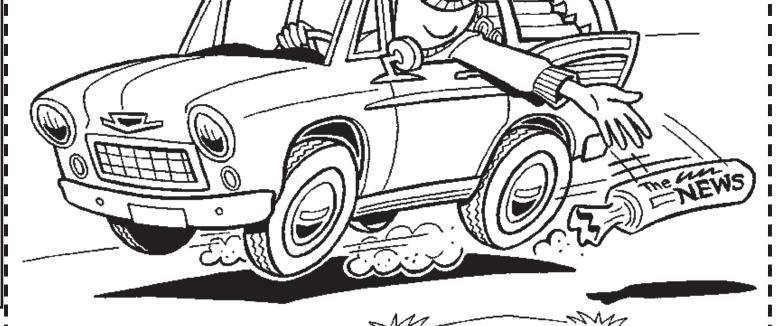
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