



Truth in our House

Provided as a resource to give the big picture on how our legislators are performing in Harrisburg. Offers opposing viewpoints on important issues that are not provided by the local media. Created to keep track of and assist the reform movement to make our state government more open and transparent.

Serving the residents of Carbon, Schuylkill, & Northern Berks

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"All power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness. For the advancement of these ends they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may think proper." - *Article I, Section 2, Pennsylvania Constitution*

Friday, May 11, 2007

☕ ☕ ☕ MORE ON THE SCHUYLKILL COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE...

...from the [Bud Angst Report](#) and some are saying it is clear that incumbent Commissioners Staudenmeier really doesn't understand the numbers and it attributed to this as being "good news". Even his running mate Carl seemed a little leary.

Several others, such as a DOL & I analyst, Commissioner Gallagher, and challenger John H. Schickram all seem to have their doubts.

I think the numbers were always a bogus indicator because of the following:

- 1) They don't tell where the people who work actually live.
- 2) They don't show how many people live our County everyday to work somewhere else.
- 3) The numbers don't account for people who are unemployed but not collecting UIC.

Someone I spoke with last night said if you go by these numbers, we could have 0% unemployment here by 2012 and yet not actually have anybody working.

I could have it wrong; I'm not really good at statistics.

Posted by MJP at [2:46 AM](#)

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9 comments:

Anonymous said...

If I read the article correctly, It seems that the reason the unemployment rate in Schuylkill County is falling is because of a drop in our overall population.

This makes me wonder why do we need a brand new prison or pre-release center for our exploding prison population. It just doesn't add up. If we're losing people then why is our prison over loaded???

Are we just locking up more of our declining population?

[May 11, 2007 6:48:00 AM EST](#)

ben a loozer said...

The prisons are filling up with 64 year old murderers. What we need are more KOZs with their 8 buck an hour jobs to attract more fine intelligent young people to the area.

[May 11, 2007 12:13:00 PM EST](#)

The Insider said...

Talk to any employer with over 50 employees, they'll disagree with your statements.

Hershey lays off 300, in the news for weeks.

But none of this makes the news, just in Schuylkill County we have:

1. New Fed-Ex terminal nearly completed.
2. New Sara Lee Food Distribution building under construction (200 + jobs).
3. New Jeld-Wen Window Factory (150+ jobs) under construction.

A 150,000 sq ft addition was completed last year, can't tell you

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jobs don't know.

4. New Pallet plant under constuction (20+ jobs). Auburn
5. 30,000 sft addition to Poly-Plastics in Delano just approved.

You had one major layoff-Auburn Apparal in the last six months, and Fessler USA offers to hire every single employee

Then think of all the proposed items, coal-to-oil, ethanol, solar plant in Pine Grove, etc...

I think many, many people are ill-informed and I place the blame solely on the Pottsville Republican for not telling the good news.

[May 11, 2007 12:55:00 PM EST](#)

 **Tim Burr said...**

I didn't realize that I was living in a land of milk and honey in Schuylkill County until I read the Insider's comments. I guess the story about the 2000+ people applying for the 280+ jobs at the Hometown Wal-Mart was an exaggeration.

[May 11, 2007 5:21:00 PM EST](#)

 **D said...**

Ooh, more \$8.00 an hour factory/warehouse jobs (that attracts illegals, but not people who want to actually, you know, raise a family, be able to afford a new car, things like that).


Seriously, 20 jobs at a palette plant ranks as evidence of an improving economic outlook? We need white-collar employment, not just driving forklifts into trucks.

Coal-to-oil? Who wants to live around that? Ethanol? Prisons? River dredge? Face it, we're a designated dumping ground. That needs to change. But as long as local and state politicians are willing to look the other way (for whatever reason, but I'm sure you can imagine), Schuylkill County will remain a dumping ground.

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[May 11, 2007 6:16:00 PM EST](#)


 **The Insider said...**

Instead of being happy about 500+ jobs created, you guys complain.

The new Wal-Mart Distribution starts at \$13+ hour. I had a tour of the plant, they told us 20% of the workforce makes more than \$20/hr. The Jeld-Wen, Pallet plant, Poly-Plastic are all manufacturing. The Empire Beauty school expansion (not on my list) I guess meets your definition of "white-collar". What more do you want?

I'll guarantee that 50% of the people who can't get a job can't pass a drug test. I see the results, and I talk to others who see the results, and it is problem #1 for the unemployed.

[May 11, 2007 7:13:00 PM EST](#)

 **tim burr said...**

Dear Mr. Insider:

I have been hearing this SEDCO and TIDE bs for years. You guys are claiming to have created more jobs than there are people in Schuylkill County. Again, why did 2000+ people apply for 280 jobs at the Hometown Wal-Mart? If 50 per cent of the applicants were on drugs, there would still be 1000 applicants for the 280 jobs. I am surprised you haven't provided us with specifics on the success of the KOZ programs in Schuylkill County. As the result of the KOZ prorams, we have some of the best looking vacant buildings in the state. Open your eyes and stop spouting this political bs.

[May 11, 2007 7:45:00 PM EST](#)

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About Me

MJP

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[P Dreyer](#) said...

Sara Lee? Good Company? They buy and close as tax write-offs. And you couldn't live independently on what they paid. I worked for them as a textile lab technician who attended management training and my hourly amount was \$6.00 in 1995 before they shut us down; Scotch Maid - and you also have Morgans; I'm sure there are more. Today, I'd probably be making \$7.00 and still without health benefits - I couldn't afford to pay for them. I refuse to buy their products. Work for them? Never again. I don't mind telling how I was at poverty level working for Sara Lee.

[May 11, 2007 11:29:00 PM EST](#)

[MJP](#) said...

I worked for Sara Lee as well in the Knitting Dept, though they promised when they bopught Morgan's they would keep it open, they lied thru their teeth.

They bought it for the patents, and already sold several of them at a big profit.

They also tried to fool everyone inot believing they moved operations to China as a result of competition.

Very misleading. All of the big money machines were shipped to North Carolina where many of the jobs went- at a much lesser cost to Sara lee.

China got the 100 yr old machines where about 7 of them were equal one high speed.

I will never buy anything from Sara Lee. They are the epitome of corporate greed and have managed to fool many.

[May 11, 2007 11:44:00 PM EST](#)

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"The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them." - Patrick Henry